



# UPDATE

June 2019  
Volume 50 Number 6

## MUUF'S MISSION STATEMENT

“A friendly beacon for religious freedom, supporting lifelong spiritual growth and working for social justice with compassion and love.”



### Fred's Flavorings

WOW! Hard to believe this church year is almost over! A year ago, we were all abuzz about who this new minister was going to be. I don't know if the reality matches the fantasy! Laughing Out Loud!! But our first year is at a close and we are well on our way to meeting our goals for this fellowship.

In June on Saturdays from 10-Noon **Randy McCrea**, chair of our publicity committee will be leading a four-part discussion and planning on how to get the word out about our fellowship. The first session will be a brainstorming session where all ideas will be gathered. In brainstorming, the trick is to think as wild as possible. Not to judge an idea as impossible or unrealistic or undoable because even wild ideas might beget an idea that is so reachable it would bite us if it was a snake. So, come join us on June 1<sup>st</sup> and the following Saturdays through June 22.

Worship committee will be retreating this month to the wonderful refuge of **Mary McClendon's** garden pergola to do some planning for some major services this next year. Our theme for the year will be “World Religions” but we are hoping to have two, maybe three services that are filled with all the trimmings—perhaps guest musicians accompanying our choir, perhaps a chancel drama, the sky's the limit for what this creative group may come up with to highlight our potential as a fellowship that gathers for powerful uplifting worship. We will be having in the fall, Ken Sizemore to lead a service with his guitar.

We are also in negotiations to bring our Regional Staff here in the late fall to facilitate a discussion with us on who we are, who do we want to be, and what sort of future do we want to nurture for those who come after us. Our ancestors gifted us with the ability to bring on a full-time developmental minister. For them to make that possible took vision and foresight to see a bright future. What is our vision for a bright future?

The publicity workshops, the worship committee retreat, and the discussion on our vision are all part of that planning of a spiritual home, not just for us but for those who follow us.

Blessed Be,  
Fred



Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month Rev. Fred will meet with folks who may be interested in joining the fellowship as a member. This is a casual gathering to get to know one another better and to answer preliminary questions. Meet in the sanctuary about 15 minutes after the service ends.





# MUUF Calendar 2019



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <b>14 JUNE</b> <b>FLAG DAY</b>						<b>1</b> 10-12 Promotion Workshop 1:00 Bridge
<b>2</b> 10:30am Speaker- Rev. Fred Hammond Music-Barbara Jensen 12:00 Social Justice Mtg.	<b>3</b> 2:00 Book Group	<b>4</b> 10:00 Knitting 4Peace 2:00 Overeaters Anonymous 6:30 Zen Meditation	<b>5</b> 10:00 Worship Team 6:00 Toastmasters	<b>6</b> 12:00 Al-Anon 2:30 COSM 7:30 Meditation	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10-12 Promotion Workshop 1:00 Bridge
<b>9</b> 10:30am Speaker- Rev. Fred L Hammond Music- Barbara Jensen 12:00 Calendar Planning Meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10:30 Chalice Circle 2:00 Overeaters Anonymous 6:30 Zen Meditation	<b>12</b> 2:00 Men's Group 6:00 Toastmasters	<b>13</b> 12:00 Al-Anon 7:30 Meditation	<b>14</b> 6:00 Share-A-Dish	<b>15</b> 10-12 Promotion Workshop 1:00 Bridge
<b>16</b> 10:30am Speaker- Rev. Fred L Hammond Music-Barbara Jensen 12:00 Meet & Greet With Rev. Fred Special Collection-Planned Parenthood	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10:00 Knitting 4Peace 2:00 Overeaters Anonymous 6:30 Zen Meditation	<b>19</b> 9:00 Board Meeting Reports Due  6:00 Toastmasters	<b>20</b> 9:00 Our Daily Bread 9:00 UPDATE Articles Due 12:00 Al-Anon 7:30 Meditation	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10-12 Promotion Workshop 1:00 Bridge
<b>23</b> 10:30am Speaker- Rev. Gary Batey Music- Barbara Jensen	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10:30 Chalice Circle 2:00 Overeaters Anonymous 6:30 Zen Meditation 6:30 Board Meeting	<b>26</b> 6:00 Toastmasters	<b>27</b> 12:00 Al-Anon 7:30 Meditation	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 1:00 Bridge
<b>30</b> 10:30am Speaker- Rabbi Michael Sternfield Music- Barbara Jensen						





## President's Message

*John Isham*

Welcoming vs welcoming

We will receive official recognition as a Welcoming Congregation from the UUA if we meet certain criteria involving a number of sermons and a number of programs regarding the LGBTQIA community. The programs are quite comprehensive and eye opening to the uninformed. They are intended to be consciousness raising and teach the member-student to appreciate the complexities and lives of every individual who names their identity within the LGBTQIA community.

Another form of a welcoming congregation is one that goes out of its way to welcome anyone and everyone who comes to the sanctuary on Sunday. We want them to feel like they are coming home, to feel the warmth and the smiles and gifts of being welcomed or welcomed back by the people. To feel accepted, safe, valued and respected touches something very deep within all of us. To give this feeling to those we greet on Sunday is individually self-perpetuating. It makes all of us feel good and want to do it again to the next person and the next.

To some, hospitality comes easily. To others it is not so. But if we are to grow our community, we all need to try. At first, we can begin by being open and loving to those we already know and then be vulnerable by extending ourselves to others we don't know, visitors and members we have not met. After all, why are people coming to the service? To most, I expect it is for a sense of self-renewal and a feeling of confirmation of one's inner self. It is an attraction to a place to be with people who are like-minded, who are also engaged in their own individual search for truth and meaning in their lives. We can engage in deep conversation and examination about the sermon in the social hour. Since we do not preach dogma and expect people to regurgitate a fixed concept of humanity that tells us how we are supposed to think, we are all individuals and can think for ourselves. We can freely discuss where we are in settling our own philosophy. Each will be different and that's what makes it all so interesting. We need to be open and truthfully appreciative of others. We need to be especially nonjudgmental and good listeners. After all, someone might have ideas which can extend your own.

So, let's be a Welcoming/welcoming congregation where all are welcomed with open arms and open hearts. Some may want a few moments to sit and collect their thoughts before the service, others may want to tell you all about their past week. Even others may want to hear about upcoming events and programs they heard about. Maybe a volunteer position or committee membership could be their desire. Let's learn by greeting, engaging and offering warm welcoming hospitality to all.

## Special Collections

*Bill Hayes*

The Social Justice Committee continued its once a month Special Collection to benefit local social justice organizations. In April the collection was for Prism Initiative, a Manatee County gay teenager support group and sponsor of Manatee Pride. We collected \$501.

In May, the collection will benefit the Peace Education Action Center at Fogartyville and its social justice work in Manatee and Sarasota Counties. This includes working on the Move to Amend campaign for finance reform. **Mariano Vera** was the point person on this collection. The suggestion was by **Jo Williams**.

Planned Parenthood will be the beneficiary in June and **Al Usack** will be our point person.

**Bill Hayes, Barb McCrea** and **Bill & Carolyn Denison** are working on suggestions for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Our aim is to balance out our beneficiaries among the full spectrum of social justice needs.



**Flower  
Communion**

**Rev. Fred L.  
Hammond  
Presiding**

**May 12,  
2019**

**Picture  
Credits:  
Sally  
Isham**

## Knitting4Peace

### *AJ Wolff*

The knitting group is a “drop in” open gathering that meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 10:00 am-noon.

In May, **AJ Wolff** continued with our monthly delivery of Peace Pal dolls to Hope Family Services. The dolls are given to the children who come in the shelter as well as given to children in counseling at their schools. Many of these children are recovering from domestic violence. For more information [www.hopefamilyservices.org](http://www.hopefamilyservices.org). and Hope Chest Thrift Store in Bradenton, where you can buy and give items.

Do you have a favorite charity that would like donations of knitted items? We would love to hear about them. Talk to or email AJ Wolff [ajwolffie@yahoo.com](mailto:ajwolffie@yahoo.com)



## Special Collection on June 23

### *Al Usack*

The Collection will be for Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida which operates a number of health centers that provide sexual health services and comprehensive sexuality education to women, men and teens throughout southwest and central Florida. Their approach to health and well-being is based on respect for each individual’s right to make informed, independent decisions about health, sex, and family planning. They are committed to providing age-appropriate and medically accurate sexuality education and advocating for policies that enable Americans to access comprehensive reproductive and sexual health care, education, and information. And, they believe that every child should be a wanted and cared for child, and that the decision to bear children (or not) is private and voluntary.

A member of their staff, Nan Morgan, will give a brief presentation about the services that they provide and about how our contributions can be of help. Please place your generous contribution in the envelope provided and place it in the collection plate. Checks should be made out to PPSWCF.

## Book Club

### *Bill Hayes and Mary Lou Thompson*



The Book Club met in early May and discussed the book *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. We will meet on Monday, June 3 at 2:00pm to discuss Sally Field’s autobiography, *In Pieces*.

We have not decided on further books but will discuss suggestions at the June meeting. The following is a list of suggestions and we are asking that we each investigate them prior to the June meeting. We are suggesting some light reading for over the summer.

They are:

*Sapiens* by Yuval Noah Harari,

*Homo Deus* by Yuval Noah Harari,

*Christianity Without God* by Lloyd Gearing,

*Open Veins of Latin America* by Eduardo Galeano,

*America, the Farewell Tour* by Chris Hedges,

*The China Dream* by Ma Jian - life in a country without freedom.

*Lighting the Fires of Freedom* by Janet Dewart Bell - African American women in the civil rights movement,

*Parkland* by Dave Cullen - the story of a school mass shooting,

*Solitary* by Albert Woodfox - the story of an innocent man’s 40 years in solitary confinement,

*Sissy: A Coming-of-Gender Story* by Jacob Tobia - this could be read in conjunction with the planned workshop on transgender issues

Finally, we decided to read for the December meeting, *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles - this book is 500 pages and needs a comfortable amount of time to complete reading it.



## Art Exhibit

*AJ Wolff*

### June Art Exhibit - "The Colors of Living" Paintings by Elayn Leopold



TIFFANY TOMPKINS-CONDIE / [ttompkins@bradenton.com](mailto:ttompkins@bradenton.com)

Palmetto artist Elayn Leopold has completed a year-long project of 100 oil portraits of "Urban Dwellers."

Elayn Leopold, artist of the month, was born in Harrisburg, PA and attended art college in Philadelphia. She is displaying paintings depicting fruit, flowers, and faces. The portraits come from a series of 100 titled "One People." Works are framed and done in pastel, oil, and acrylic.

Elayn Leopold's most famous work is a project called "Urban Dwellers," which includes 100 oil portraits of the homeless persons at Our Daily Bread where she volunteers to serve meals to the struggling citizens of Manatee County. Elayn got permission from each person to take their photograph, and then painted their picture. "One of the things that I thought this project could serve is for others to see the variety of people who are experiencing difficulty, that they look like real people – grandmothers or grandfathers or daughters instead of someone standing on the curb." (from MUUF website)

Titles of Works in MUUF Exhibit:

1. Southerner 16x20
2. Urban Cowboy 16x20
3. Rock Star 16x20
4. Not Guilty 16x20
5. Jazzed 16x20
6. On the Road 16x20
7. Yellow/Orange Bromeliad 26x31
8. Adams County Apples 17x31
9. Christmas Still Life 24x24
10. Tropical Leaves 21x25

## Publicity Committee

*Randy McCrea*

On Saturdays June 1, 8, 15 and 22 from 10 am to noon there will be a series of workshops at MUUF to brainstorm and prioritize ideas for how to promote MUUF to the greater Bradenton community and increase membership.

We will plan on meeting in the social room. I will facilitate the workshops. The first workshop primarily will be an open brainstorming of ideas and weeding out duplicates. If we run out of ideas or accomplish our goal in a shorter period of time, we may not need the full two hours set aside.

All members and friends of the Fellowship are invited to attend and submit ideas. At the end of the first session we will talk about the goals of future sessions. I encourage you to attend all the sessions as promoting MUUF and increasing membership are critically important to keeping the Fellowship alive and well.

If you plan to attend, please let me know as soon as possible so we may have adequate seating. **Randy McCrea**; my email address is [remccrea6@gmail.com](mailto:remccrea6@gmail.com) and my cell phone number is 512-763-9356. Thanks very much.





## Letters received at MUUF...

Hello AJ,

Thanks so much for the lovely scarves you recently sent to our office. We liked the bright colors in the scarves! The recipients will appreciate your beautiful work.

We would love to share stories with you in our quarterly newsletter...read or sign up here to learn what our community is doing around the world!

<https://www.knitting4peace.org/who-we-are/newsletters>

We are grateful for all you do for K4P. We couldn't do this work without you!

Enjoy the day,  
The Knitting4Peace Staff



Hi AJ,

I'm writing to thank **Bernita (Franzel)**, in your Manatee Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, for the beautiful scarf she sent. We don't have an e-mail address for her; could you please pass along our thanks?

Thanks so much for the beautiful scarf you recently sent. Love the cables, and the color! Your work is lovely and will be appreciated by the recipient.

We're very grateful for all that you and your group do to help us deliver hope, healing and peace in communities around the world and close to home. We couldn't do this work without you.

We invite you to check out our latest newsletter or subscribe here: <https://www.knitting4peace.org/who-we-are/newsletters>

Warm best wishes,

Mary Ellen Garrett  
Knitting4Peace Assistant



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 6/2 Al Usack
- 6/12 Bernita Franzel
- 6/12 Walter Hodgdon
- 6/14 Leslie Roell
- 6/18 Mary Lou Thompson
- 6/20 Bill Peruzzi
- 6/22 Peg Peruzzi
- 6/26 Lois Stilley
- 6/30 Ricki Cunninghis



## Sunday Morning Coffee Hour Hosts

- 6/2 Board of Directors
- 6/9 Membership
- 6/16 Men's Group/Finance Committee
- 6/23 Social Justice
- 6/30 Chalice Circle/Caring Committee

## Chalice Lighter Schedule for June

- |         |                |
|---------|----------------|
| June 2  | Doris Sutliff  |
| June 9  | Sandy McCarthy |
| June 16 | John Isham     |
| June 23 | Randy McCrea   |
| June 30 | Corey Prout    |

## **General Assembly 2019 June 19-23, Spokane, WA**

### **The Power of We**

In a time of great challenge and heartbreak in our world, what does our faith demand from us? At this year's General Assembly, we will explore the power, possibility, purpose, struggle and joy of finding the path forward together as Unitarian Universalists. Attendees will leave inspired, with the tools needed to carry on the work into their own congregations and communities.



## **Board of Directors**

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>President</b>       | <b>John Isham</b>        |
| <b>Vice President</b>  | <b>Carol Bartz</b>       |
| <b>Secretary</b>       | <b>Randy Coleman</b>     |
| <b>Treasurer</b>       | <b>Mary Lou Thompson</b> |
| <b>Asst. Treasurer</b> | <b>Bill Hayes</b>        |
| <b>Directors</b>       | <b>Sandy McCarthy</b>    |
|                        | <b>Doris Sutliff</b>     |
|                        | <b>Pat Rohrer</b>        |
|                        | <b>AJ Wolff</b>          |
| <b>Pres. Emeritus</b>  | <b>Carol Bartz</b>       |

*Board Meetings are the 4th Tuesday of each month, 6:30 pm in the Social Room. All members of the Congregation are invited to attend.*

## **APRIL FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

\$	INCOME	\$5,778.21
	EXPENSES	<u>14,113.87</u>
	TOTAL	\$ -8,335.66

The regular monthly transfer of funds from reserves for the minister's package was not transferred in April in order to lower the balance in the regular checking account. If we transferred money our deficit of the monthly income vs. expenses would have been \$835.66.

### **Fellowship Office Hours:**

**Mon – Fri 8am – 1pm**

OFFICE 941-746-0067

Rev. Fred L Hammond: Minister

Email: [muufminister@manateeuuf.org](mailto:muufminister@manateeuuf.org)

Karen Salzinger: Office Administrator

Email: [muufoffice@manateeuuf.org](mailto:muufoffice@manateeuuf.org)

Website: [www.manateeuuf.org](http://www.manateeuuf.org)

### **The UPDATE**

Articles must be submitted by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month for publication the following month.

# Share-A-Dish

## Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm

*The sign-up sheet is on the table in the social room.*



The sign-up sheet is on the table in the social room. Social hour at 6 PM; dinner at 6:30. Bring a dish to share...and bring a friend!



Manatee Unitarian  
Universalist Fellowship  
322 15<sup>th</sup> Street West  
Bradenton, FL 34205