



# UPDATE

June 2020  
Volume 51 Number 6

## All Building Usage Has Been Suspended in Response to COVID-19

### 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

I hope that all of you have had a chance to read our UUA president Susan Frederick-Gray's pastoral letter to us this past month. If not, please read this letter: <https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/message-uua-president-updated-guidance-gathering>.

In it she outlines and gives links to resources for plans for when we might be able to re-open our congregations and also states that the UUA's recommendation is that this does not happen until May 2021. Take a deep breath, especially, if this is the first time hearing this date. The prospect of being apart 'til then is a sobering one and we all need the space and time to absorb this information.

We have done what I consider to be a wonderful response to this new reality of physical distancing, wearing masks, and frequent hand washing. We have created avenues for online services with many thanks to **Barb McCrea, John Isham, and Barbara Jensen** who have stretched their skills in new ways to provide us with online worship via Zoom. Many of us have taken advantage of meeting via Zoom for church meetings—board, worship, finance, membership, have all met through this format. And we have done book clubs, knitters 4 peace, a nonviolent communication seminar, weekly check ins using this format as well. But we did all of these with the thought that this would be a short-term exercise and it would be all over in a few weeks. We hoped. We prayed. We kept a stiff upper lip that what we were doing was simply “in the meanwhile” as Late Talk Show Host Stephen Colbert would say.

With the prospect of precautions continuing for another year at least, we are being asked to come to the realization that how we do church is radically

altered forever. It will mean that we will need to find additional ways to connect with one another. We will need to find other ways to reach out into the community to spread our message of hope and justice. This is a time for opportunities that we have yet to discover and explore. The old proverb is true—Necessity is the mother of invention. We are being asked to re-imagine church online.

So, what do we need to be able to do this? We will need to invest in new equipment—digital video cameras and editing software. Our current camera records in analog which requires additional work to stream online. We will need volunteers, possibly new staff who have the skills to edit and splice video to create seamless Sunday morning worship experiences. We will need to explore other formats that are easy for folks to access. Not everyone is able to access Zoom.

This is just the technical aspects. But the goal, the ultimate goal is how do we live our Unitarian Universalist principles in this new reality? How do we connect with one another so that when folks tell their friends about us, they can say, here is a group of folks who connect with one another in profound and life affirming ways? Here is a group that adds value to my life, not just one hour a week, but throughout my week, and week after week. May our journey together find new ways to connect, new ways to invite folks in, new ways to live our Unitarian Universalist values.

Stay safe. Wear your masks, Physically distance. Wash your hands frequently. Stay alive. Stay connected with each other at Manatee Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. We will get through this pandemic together. Blessed Be \*



## **President's Message**

*John Isham*

Engineering Our Personal Fresh Air (or, "Covid-19 droplets have no smell.")

All of us high risk people need to develop habits to follow to be safe and make it through to the time when a vaccine is found and verified. These habits are not only what we are asked to do, but what we must do. They amount to a change in lifestyle and are not so much of a change as to inhibit us, but to exercise common sense, safety and obtain peace of mind. They all follow from one simple concept: do not breathe other people's air. Avoid, with a passion, anyone who does not wear a mask. Not only are they risking their own lives, they are risking yours. Not only are they flaunting their own ignorance, and are in your face with their smug, reckless, and gutless refusal to get with the program, they can kill you and should be treated as such.

So, how do we avoid other people's air? First, we should consider how to assure our own living space as safe. We should take special measures to protect that. If there is any way to keep a stranger out of your air and out of your space, do it. We do need to follow repeated hand washing, sanitize all horizontal surfaces, vacuum rugs often and flush toilets after closing the lid. When we go out, always take our masks, have gloves handy and sanitize our automobile's steering wheel and knobs and surfaces where we place our hands and do not touch our faces. Droplets will land on your skin and will collect in the moisture in your eyes.

When outside, avoid any confined space and especially small confined closed spaces where there are other people, the smaller the space the more dangerous. Look around and evaluate, can air get out of there? If so, how? If not, do not go in. If items are needed from inside, call and have them handed out to you. There has been no scientific opinion on how long it takes dead air to clean itself. The smallest virus droplets emitted in people's breath do not fall to the ground but stay airborne and will concentrate if they are contained in a small area and are being continually replenished. Air conditioning has been shown to move virus contamination around in the air in a room and contaminate others far from

## **ANNUAL MEETING OF MANATEE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**

**Sunday, June 7, 2020  
via Zoom**

**Review of the past year, look ahead  
into next year, vote on proposed  
budget and elect your next leaders.**



the radiating source. I hope air conditioning filters are cleaned or changed when places sanitize.

Unfortunately, many small places are those we like to frequent, specialty stores, hair-cutting establishments, unique restaurants, flower shops, etc. Stay outside, sit separated at separated sanitized tables only for very short periods of time if there are other people present. The safest places to shop, when you must, are the big box stores like Costco and Walmart. They have the highest ceilings and largest volume and therefore should have the lowest concentrations of contamination. Go after they have been sanitized, preferably in the early morning during hours designated for older age groups. Also, most have phone ordering capability with roadside pickup.

It has been found that contamination results from one's breathing in a quantity of virus particles over a period of time that build up and overwhelm one's immune system. Obviously, the quantity of particles to cause immune system saturation varies person to person. No one knows what their limitation is. And obviously the concentration of the contamination in the air you breathe and the amount of time you spend breathing it are going to determine if and when you have overwhelmed your immune system.

Think, sitting in a mild shower of droplets, how long you sit becomes crucial. Sitting across the table from a highly contagious person for five minutes might be

the same as sitting across from a mildly contagious person for thirty minutes. It just takes longer to saturate your immune system. Another unknown is whether the collection of particles in one's system is cumulative over time, from source to source.

Then there is the incubation period up to 18 days. Who knows if continued exposure during that time contributes to the overall severity of one's sickness? No one knows when their system has reached its tipping point or when it may become overwhelmed. It seems that in some, no saturation is reached, but they become carriers none the less. Perhaps their contamination was a smaller concentration but not enough to cause symptoms. (This is why all people need to wear masks.) No one knows if they or anyone else is contagious or not.

All of these factors may become better known over time but sensitivity to contagion will always vary person to person. All this points to one overwhelming factor – avoid, avoid, avoid contamination (avoid other people's air.) Walk outside, keep separations maximum, more than six feet, do not walk behind someone, particularly if you can smell them (perfume hopefully.) Get out of their trail. Get out of their way if they are moving faster. Remember bloodhounds can follow a scent of a trail for hours, perhaps days, after it was made, (so something must have been left in their wake). If you are a former smoker or even a nonsmoker, you know immediately when you enter a room that someone is smoking or someone has been smoking.

But Covid-19 droplets have no smell. When walking outside with people, you know someone is smoking around or up ahead of you because you can smell it. But again, Covid-19 particles have no smell. If someone is spewing droplets into the air near you, they will float and travel on the same air currents as smoke would. You just can't smell them or see them. Walk as often as you can in the open air. Breathe deeply and clean out your lungs. Enjoy your freedom and safety.

There is one caveat. We all are basing our thoughts about the future assuming that overcoming the sickness yields immunity and a vaccine will also yield immunity. This may not be valid. Already it appears that some sailors have been infected twice. As William Bendix as Chester A. Riley in the "Life of Riley" used to say, "What a revoltin' development this is."

## Highlights from the Board

*Carol Bartz*

Some of the items discussed at the virtual board meeting of May 26, 2020 were:

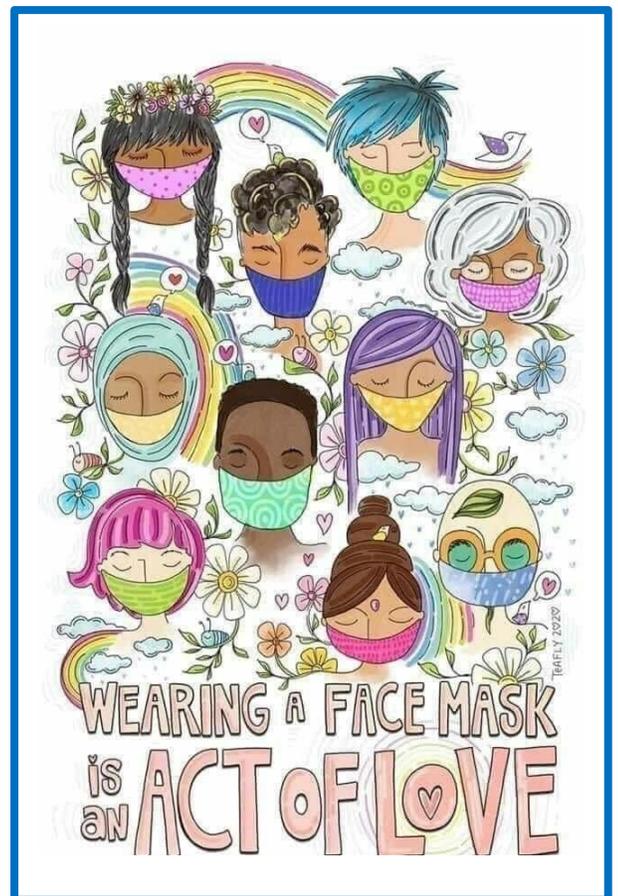
- **Rev. Fred** acknowledged that the impact of quarantining and not being able to gather in our building due to the pandemic is being felt intensely, especially by those who are living alone. Our Sunday services via Zoom and our Thursday morning sessions are helping to keep members connected to one another as well as frequent e-mails and phone calls made by board members.
- **Susan Frederick Gray**, UUA president, sent a pastoral letter with recommendations that UU congregations continue online worship at least through May 2021. A lengthy list of questions we need to keep in mind as we plan for the coming year was included, which can serve as a guide for the taskforce we will be forming to explore the reopening process for when the time is right. **John Isham** raised a number of other items/questions to consider. At present there are many unanswered questions and it will take time to follow the scientific evidence and set up a plan that is mindful of our many members who are in a high-risk group.
- **Rev. Fred** will be taking his holiday time off as well as study leave in the next two months. The board passed a motion to combine the Zoom Sunday service with our Annual Meeting on June 7. On that day Rev. Fred will lead us in a Flower Communion service which will be followed by our Annual Meeting. The Worship Team is working on a variety of on-line services to cover the Sundays he is not with us.
- The importance of the Annual Meeting on June 7 was stressed as we will be voting on the budget for the next fiscal year as well as new officers for the board.
- **John Isham** reported on the Small Business Associations (SBA) loan which we have received in the amount of \$18,895. This will be used for staff wages—there is lengthy

paperwork to be completed to provide accountability to the federal government.

- Our Zoom Sunday services are going well and are well attended. Having recently participated in some services offered by other congregations board members pointed out that MUUF is doing well, especially with **Barb McCrea's** assistance. It is a learning experience for all of us--in visiting other churches' virtual services some seem to rely heavily on pre-recorded messages which can appear impersonal. We seem to have a good balance with live and pre-recorded portions in our services. We may want to explore using YouTube coupled with Zoom as well as other options. Purchase of new equipment i.e. digital video camera, may be necessary, as well as providing technical training so that there are more people with the needed skills.
- How to more effectively conduct the on-line giving, plate donations, and possible special collections was discussed. Perhaps extending the offertory time online with music, adding donating by text, and other ideas were discussed.
- Financially MUUF is staying within the budget. Some expenses such as utilities are reduced with the building not being in use. Our investment portfolio is only 1% down annually in spite of further losses that could have incurred and is expected to rise as the market goes up.
- UUA General Assembly, will be held June 24-28 virtually. **Mary Frances Kordick** and **Lisa Moschin** will be our delegates, along with **Rev. Fred**.
- The Non-Violent Communication (NVC) workshop, led by **John Steinmeyer** went well. It is hoped that more workshops will be planned for the near future.
- Thank you to **Mary McClendon** for continuing to tend to the plants in the Memorial Garden during this time!
- Our Social Justice Committee has not met since March 1. It is hoped that the group could meet via Zoom and discuss one or two areas in which to channel energy and time.

The UU the Vote grant for \$500 from UUA has been received, but due to COVID-19 the original plan of knocking on doors to encourage voters is not possible. Contact with the UUA with an alternate plan needs to happen so that we can move forward.

- Two of the outside groups that had been meeting at MUUF have requested to return or to know when they might begin using the building as a meeting place again. No decisions were made at the meeting as there are a number of factors to consider.
- At this time our members are not volunteering on a monthly basis serving lunch at Our Daily Bread. Perhaps in the future we will resume.
- An e-mail from Community Auction Services indicated that the program is not able to be used for on-line auctions, which may need to be the format for next year. There are other auction services with that capability that we may wish to explore.



## Book Club

*Bill Hayes*

The Book Club is making some last-minute rescheduling for its June meeting. **Carol Bartz** just sent me a note that Marilyn Sewell, the author of the book *In Time's Shadow* we are now reading, will have a virtual reading through *In Spirit Books* on June 2 at 7:00pm. I will send out a copy of the notice. I think it is preferable for us to discuss the book after hearing Marilyn's talk, so I am rescheduling our Book Club meeting for Monday June 8 at 2:00pm. This is a rare opportunity and I hope everyone can take advantage of it.

In July we meet on Monday July 6 at 2:00pm to discuss Sister Jean Prejean's memoir *River of Fire*.

We need to line up a few books for late summer and early Fall. Please bring any suggestions to our next meeting.

## Knit n' Chat Group

*AJ Wolff*

Knit n' Chat group is a group for knitting and handy work enthusiasts. We are currently meeting on zoom. Meetings are Tuesdays at 10:00 on June 2 and June 16. We share our current projects and chat with each other. We miss sharing our time with each other in the MUUF social room, but it is fun to still be able to connect by way of our computers or iPhones.

For all you retired teachers **Karen Salzinger** sent me a fun link to what one elementary teacher has done in this time of school closure and shelter-in place. She knitted a doll of each of her students and shared the image of the dolls with her students and their parents. They were thrilled.

Join us. To get the Zoom link please email **AJ Wolff** at [ajwolffie@yahoo.com](mailto:ajwolffie@yahoo.com)

### **A Teacher Knitted Dolls of each of her Students**



She went to work and made 23 dolls, one of each of her students. Each doll took her about 3-4 hours to complete. The girls who wore cardigans to school, she made cardigans for on their doll. The boys that wore sweaters, had sweaters. She made sure every student who wore glasses or had freckles had them on the dolls she made. When she finished, she showed a picture of her completed dolls to her students and their parents. Without putting names by the dolls, each student could easily recognize their own doll. It didn't take long for them to point out their doll from the picture. *photo via Ingeborg Meinster-Van der Duin*

Do not be dismayed by the

brokenness of the world. All things  
break. And all things can be mended.

Not with time, as they say, but with  
intention. So go, love intentionally,  
extravagantly, unconditionally, The

broken world waits in the darkness

for the light that is you.

L.R. Knost

*Hello Summer*

## Invitation from the Membership Team

*Sally Isham*

“...best-laid plans...” I imagine many people around the world have said those words in the past few months. *Our Plan* was to have a MUUF 101 meeting on Sunday, March 15, following the worship service. **Rev. Fred** and the Membership Team were going to gather with a group who were interested in learning each other’s stories, what brought us to MUUF, our congregation’s history in Bradenton and Unitarian Universalism as a whole. *Our Plan* anticipated this meeting would result in people signing the membership book and then being presented to the congregation as our newest members at the following Sunday’s worship service. On Thursday, March 12, the decision was made to suspend services due to the coronavirus pandemic.

So now we have to be creative. Rev. Fred and the Membership Team want to go forward with the MUUF 101 meeting but it would need to be online, later in the summer. If you have been thinking about membership in this congregation, we would love for you to be a part of a Zoom gathering. Please let me know if this is something you would like to do. Thank you!

**Sally Isham** [sallyisham41@att.net](mailto:sallyisham41@att.net) 561-445-1229.

During this COVID-19 Pandemic, our Office Administrator, Karen Salzinger, has been working alternately between the MUUF office and her home office. The MUUF office phone has been forwarded to Karen’s cell phone so she will be able to answer your call during regular office hours M-F 8-1pm.

Additionally, you may always call Rev. Fred at 205-246-6201



KALEIDOSCOPE

SUUSI 2020

July 19-25, 2020

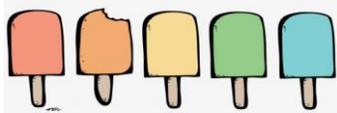


For more information:  
[www.suusi.org](http://www.suusi.org)



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Lisa Marie Allen	6/4
Bernita Franzel	6/12
Walter Hodgdon	6/12
Bill Peruzzi	6/20
Peg Peruzzi	6/22
Mark Chofey	6/23
Lois Stilley	6/26
Ricki Cunninghis	6/30



## DIRECTORY UPDATES

James Grogan  
941-348-7387



Roses are red  
Violets are blue  
I'm sick of this virus  
How about you?

*Carol Alt*



## 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>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. Ask John Isham for the Zoom ID*

## APRIL FINANCIAL SUMMARY

INCOME	\$ 9,688.92
EXPENSES	\$ 12,502.79
USED FROM SAVINGS	\$ 7,200.00



### Fellowship Office Hours:

**Mon – Fri 8am – 1pm**

OFFICE 941-746-0067

Rev. Fred L Hammond: Minister

Email: [muufminister6@gmail.com](mailto:muufminister6@gmail.com)

Karen Salzinger: Office Administrator

Email: [muufoffice@gmail.com](mailto:muufoffice@gmail.com)

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.

STAYING HOME  
[A Sonnet]

From Dr. Robert Tucker



I'm sick of—but not from—this new virus!  
I don't like staying at home—not one bit.  
There's no good news, yet, that can inspire us.  
I'm almost ready to have a fit!



I only go out of necessity  
To the grocery or to the drug store.  
I wear a mask protecting you from me  
And am mad to see the mask you ignore!

I'm old. Catching COVID might do me in.  
And, if I became asymptomatic,  
Going out recklessly would be a sin:  
If you caught it, would you be ecstatic?!

So, though I don't like doing it, I swear,  
Staying home is something that I can bear.

050220 Copyright © 2020 Robert P. Tucker



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

