



Worship

MAY SERVICES

MAY SERVICES will be held in person at One Island Family and also shared on zoom!

May 1: Billy Davis "Making a difference in our community"

A Positive Step of Monroe County has been serving Monroe County's highest risk kids and their families since 1999. APSMC seeks to identify unmet needs within our community, and to provide innovative evidence based services to meet those needs. "Our ultimate goal is to improve outcomes for the juveniles and families we serve while protecting the public by reducing juvenile crime and dependency in Florida."

May 8: Joy Taylor "Mother's Day—Not Just a Hallmark Holiday"

Let's look at Mother's Day with an eye to the historic / culturally different/ changing and important roles of motherhood. We invite your participation: share a favorite mother memory or story!

May 15: Paul Ward "Activating Hope"

We welcome the return of guest speaker Paul Ward, PhD. He is a leadership and life coach; an author of "The Inner Journey to Conscious Leadership"; founder of 2Young2Retire, LLC.; and is a hot air balloon pilot! Paul is a past President of the Board of Trustees and member of the Endowment Committee of the First UU Congregation of the Palm Beaches. He divides his time between Portsmouth, England and West Palm Beach, FL.

May 22: Jim Smith " A Memorial Day Message about Colonel Jimmy Thompson, US Army."

Come hear this story: the Colonel spent the last 20 years of his life in Key West, retired from the US Army. He was a Viet Nam veteran. Most people are unaware that he was the United States' longest-held Prisoner-of-War, not just in the Viet Nam war, but any war. He survived for almost 9 years as a POW, representing his country.

May 29:

One Island Family celebrates Memorial Day with a picnic! Watch for location (weather dependent) and more details!!



News & Notes

PRESIDENT'S NOTE MAY 2022

Mary Oliver asks "What will you do with your one wild and precious life?"

I guess that's a thought question for each of us, but let's consider how that applies to our One Island Family UU congregation! What matters to us? In particular, what values and social justice issues do we collectively want to stand for? How can we make a difference?

What causes do you care most about? I care about Reproductive Rights. I've marched with the National Organization for Women supporting Women's Right to Choose. Back in the 1970's our Manhattan NOW chapter demonstrated on the steps of St. Patrick's Cathedral with a coffin in memory of women who had died in illegal abortions. But the legislative battle continues today! On April 7, 2022, I attended a forum sponsored by Florida ACLU and Key West NOW. We heard from the Florida Alliance of Planned Parenthood and the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice. Their message: Reproductive Rights are in Crisis in Florida! Over 500 abortion restrictions have been introduced in 41 states, including ours. It will take the collective effort of many organizations and individuals to protect our Reproductive Rights!

I am proud to belong to the Unitarian Universalist Association, which is organizing and mobilizing people all over our county to stand up for Reproductive Justice. From uua.org we find this position statement: "Decisions about children, families and sexuality are some of life's most profound. We advocate not only for the freedom of those choices in each person's life journey, but also for the ability of all families and communities to realize a sense of wholeness with regard to their sexual and reproductive lives. We create safe and healthy environments for children in our faith communities and campaign publicly for just and compassionate laws for family planning, reproductive health, and gender equality."

Another cause I care about is LGBTQ Justice. My maternal aunt and her life partner were never able to marry, because marriage equality legislation was not passed during their lifetime. They spoke up for the Equal Rights Amendment in Florida at my urging, but Congress still has not recognized the ratification of that amendment. Here in Florida in 2022 legislators passed the "Don't Say Gay" bill, and anti-transgender legislation. Our Unitarian Universalist Association position: "Each of us has worth and dignity, and that worth includes our gender and our sexuality. As Unitarian Universalists (UUs), we not only open our doors to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, we value diversity of sexuality and gender and see it as a spiritual gift. We create inclusive religious communities and work for LGBTQ justice and equity as a core part of who we are. *All of who you are is sacred. All of who you are is welcome.*"

Another issue that has my attention is Climate Change. Living close to sea level, with a house on a canal in Key West, I care about the melting glaciers in the Arctic and the indigenous people on islands around the globe losing their homes to sea level rise. I'm proud of Unitarian Universalists working on Green Sanctuary Programs, Ministry for Earth, and Ethical Eating initiatives. As UU's we believe: "All life is interconnected. Creating a sustainable way of life is central to our view of a just and compassionate world. We act knowing that those who are most impacted by environmental destruction are often with the least power." Our SE Florida UU Cluster is hosting a panel on April 30 at 1:30 (available also on Zoom) to raise awareness about "Big Money, Sugar & Racism", to expose the risks that burning the sugar cane fields for harvest in Florida poses to the environment and health of the surrounding BIPOC communities. (I will be attending by Zoom! Preregister for Zoom link at vicepresident@seuucluster.org)

I am also proud that Unitarian Universalists are activists for Racial Justice. Our Florida legislators have passed laws that I believe will limit the teaching of truth in American History including reconstruction and the construct of race. From my friendships with people of color, I am aware of the racism in our society and our judicial system are very real. Belonging to the UUA supports this view of racial justice: "Every person has value as a member of the human family. The suffering caused by racism must be ended if we want to create fair and loving communities. We work to end racial discrimination and injustice, starting within ourselves and moving out into the world around us. We support multiracial, multiethnic congregations and advocate for stopping racist policies like mass imprisonment and attacks on voting rights. Our multicultural ministries will continue until there is peace, liberty, and justice for all."

Finally, I believe that change may be possible if enough people who support UU values vote and mobilize others to vote. Several members of our One Island Family congregation are active with the League of Women Voters, working to educate citizens about legislative issues and increase voter registration and turn out. Nationally, the UUA promotes "UU THE VOTE". For that mission: "UUs are called to join forces with all people who want to organize our communities and our nation to #VoteLove and #DefeatHate. Let's UU the Vote to defend democracy and voting rights."

Where do you want to jump in? How will you make a difference? With your one wild and precious life!! Collectively we can make a difference! Let me hear from you!

Marilyn Smith

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Monthly Calendar: <http://www.oneislandfamily.org/calendar>