



Worship

SUMMER GATHERINGS:

SUNDAY JULY 14, 11 am, at One Island Family:

"What are we, if not an accumulation of our memories?"

Join us for a roundtable discussion facilitated by Joy Taylor.
Bring along all your ideas--and your memories!

SUNDAY JULY 28, 11 AM-2 PM:

Join the fun for a cool-by-the-pool PARTY at Sunset Marina Residences on College Road. Bring your swimming gear plus a finger food to share. Beverages provided. Please contact Joy Taylor at 305-587-7833 or jbt22ster@gmail.com for entry code.

See you there!

Now put on those creative thinking caps and let us know your suggestions for the rest of (off)season (July through September). Contact your service coordinators Claire, Joy and Marilyn via jbt22ster@gmail.com to offer an offsite 'party' location or an onsite discussion or craft/art/fun idea!

We will resume weekly services in October.

**Whoever you are, we welcome you.
Wherever you come from, we welcome you.
Whatever you worship, we welcome you.
Whomever you love, we welcome you.
We ARE One Island Family!**



News & Notes

OIF President's Message JULY 2019 Marilyn Smith

As I write this, the UUA General Assembly is happening in Spokane, WA (June 19-23, 2019), and I've been watching some of the events live streaming on the UUA website. The invitation to this year's GA "The Power of We" offered these highlights: "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. Join us as we work for collective liberation inside and outside our faith."

The UU World recently included a message from our UUA President, Rev. Susan Frederick- Gray, titled "The Power of We" which said, in part: "Has there ever been a time when you wanted to give up?" I was asked this question on a recent podcast. "Have you ever wanted to give up in activism or in ministry?" My answer was, of course, "Yes." There have been times when my heart has been so broken by disappointment, or times when the work of building beloved community, both inside and outside the walls of our congregations, has felt insurmountable. In these times, I cannot deny wanting to throw in the towel.

One of those moments was after the deportation of a beloved community member in Phoenix. It happened at a time after there had been so much positive momentum, so many cases that had been won. It made me question if our efforts really could make a difference. But what I did next is what made this moment of doubt temporary.

I reached out to a colleague and friend, someone who was also deeply involved in the movement. She offered me her witness. She listened to my grief, my anger, my fear. And finally, she prayed for me. It wasn't a prayer for answers; it was a prayer for compassion and healing for my own heart and spirit. The next day I got up and went back to work.

Remembering this story, I realized that what kept me going is a reflection of our theme for this year's General Assembly, "The Power of We." In a moment of tremendous doubt, reaching out to someone else reminded me I'm not alone. It's a lesson I learn again and again. We don't create any real positive impact alone. Community gives us strength. Love gives us courage. Remembering we are not alone—remembering the people, the family, the community, the ancestors we belong to—gives us resiliency and power to keep on loving, keep on acting, keep on working for the values and commitments we hold dear."

I suspect I am not the only one who has ever wanted to give up. It's not just about the long-haul work of justice making. I know there are times when, as members and leaders in our congregations, we want to give up. Disappointment is a part of human community. We come to expect it from our elected officials and from our workplaces, but it is far more painful, more personal, when we experience it within our spiritual community. Right alongside the "power of we" is the "struggle of we."

In movement and justice work, a shared commitment to a larger cause helps bond people together into a powerful "we." It's one of the reasons that mission is so important to the health and vitality of a congregation. In the absence of mission, we can easily see ourselves as merely a collection of individuals. Purpose reminds us that we are in it together."

The Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray (UU World, 3/25/2019) Spring 2019

ATTENTION MEMBERS and FRIENDS:

Your Program Coordinators are always looking to organize for our regular 2019-2020 schedule of services, resuming in October. If you have an idea for a lay-led service; if you have a favorite local 501(c)3, the director of which you would like to make a presentation; if you have a favorite pastor/religious leader who might like to visit the Keys and share their message with us-- let us know! Contact any one of us!

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Photos from our Summer Gathering at Ft Zach. We had a good turn out and lots of young people! (Max & Julia are back for a visit).





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