



Worship

**Sunday services are now hosted on Zoom.
Please read our weekly eletter for updates.**

ONE ISLAND FAMILY SERVICES FOR MARCH 2021:

Sunday, March 7 - Elaine Silver “Scientific Prayer: a Method for Manifesting”

Sunday, March 14 - Rev. Bob Murphy “Stone Soup and Mutual Aid”

Sunday, March 21 - Debby Palmisano “My New Year’s Resolution: to Search for and Foment Hope, The (nearly) Quarterly Report.”

Sunday, March 28 - Rev. Doug Slagle “Bridging Divisions With Love: Spirit Led Ecumenism”



News & Notes

ONE ISLAND FAMILY March 2021 President's Message "Congregational Diversity"

One Island Family's annual certification to the Unitarian Universalist Association is complete! Why do we do this? "This important process determines the number of delegates your congregation receives for General Assembly, the Annual Program Fund giving rate, and year over year trends within our UU faith."

Dave Arnold, Liz Levi and I carefully answered the questions and provided the data for our congregation's yearly report to our parent organization in Boston. I want to share with you some of the questions that are included in the certification package related to Congregational Diversity:

- a) "Of your congregation's members and non-member friends, what percentage do you estimate as people of color (which may include African descent, Asian/Pacific Islander, Caribbean, Latinx, Hispanic, Middle Eastern/Arab, Native/American Indian and other indigenous ancestry, and Multiracial)?"
- b) Of your congregation's members and non-member friends, what percentage do you estimate identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ)?
- c) Of your employed, paid and full- and part-time staff (including ministers, the number which are people of color, including religious professionals and administrative/ facilities staff?
- d) Of your Board/Standing committee, the number which identify as people of color?
- e) How has the leadership in your congregation who identify as people of color changed over the past year?
- f) What changes has your congregation made in the past year, if any, to increase the racial and ethnic diversity of your congregational leadership (e.g. recruitment, leadership development programs, hiring practices?"

In response to questions a) and b) as I have restated them here, we have always chosen the option to "skip" those questions. It is my opinion that we cannot estimate the racial identity or sexual orientation for each other. However, since supporting diversity is one of the goals of the UUA, I would like to hear your opinion on this. Should we expand our New Members questionnaire to include optional questions asking members to self- identify their race and sexual orientation? As we set goals for increasing our membership, what changes could we propose to increase our racial and ethnic diversity?

The UUA would also like to hear our congregation's view on proposed "actions for immediate witness" for the General Assembly. This year the GA will be a virtual event June 23-27, 2021. Congregations are submitting proposals for action which can be found at this link (see descriptions and contact info for each title):

<https://www.uua.org/action/process/planning-aiw-ga>

Title: Address 400 Hundred Years of White Supremacist Colonialism

Title: Amen to Uprising: A Commitment and Call to Action

Title: The Pandemic: a Religious Response

Title: Amend the 13th: end slavery and perverse incentives to the prison industry.

Title: George Can't Breathe but We Can Vote

Title: Thanksgiving Day for All Peoples

Title: End the Use of Facebook and its Subsidiaries For Any Church Business

"Our justice efforts are grounded in our congregationally-driven social justice statements and our call to break down divisions, heal isolation, and honor the interconnectedness of all life and all justice issues. We model these commitments by creating just, welcoming, and inclusive congregations." Any member or friend of One Island Family with an interest in leading a discussion about these or additional proposals for action, please contact me or any board member to share your views! Your leadership will be welcomed!

Marilyn Smith

NOTE FROM UUA Southern Region 2/19/21 Winter Storm check in:

Dear Southern Region Unitarian Universalists,

As the severe winter storms continue to move through our region, and the damage left by the storms becomes better known, please know your Southern Region staff team is holding you in our hearts. Please let us know how you are and if there is anything we can do to help.

For those in Texas in need of immediate aid, please consider reaching out to one of the many **Mutual Aid organizations in Texas**: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rdMnbzYxfXFrG1DefGqN3R1zu_lan2fml2bEYRpMcRQ/edit

As longer-term needs become known, please remember that congregations may apply for grants from the **UUA Disaster Relief Fund**. This relief fund can help congregations care for their buildings and the needs of their members, as well as provide support for their wider community partners, especially those who may not be eligible for other grant programs. Learn more about this fund here: <https://www.uua.org/finance/grants/disaster-relief-grants>. If your congregation and/or members are in a position to help, contributions to the UUA Disaster Relief Fund may be made here: <https://giving.uua.org/disaster-relief>.

Additionally, UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray shares this message:

My prayers are with those across the South, especially in Texas, as they struggle to survive a winter storm that has caused power and water outages, flooding and disruption of critical supply chains for food and water.

And, we know that communities of color, poor communities and the frontline and fence-line communities in Texas that suffered the worst after Hurricane Harvey, will again suffer the worst and longest impacts of this devastating crisis. All during a pandemic.

I pray for those struggling to stay warm and survive. I pray for the families still without power, for the elderly, for those incarcerated without power, for people in care facilities – for everyone struggling to survive. We must not look away.

To Unitarian Universalist congregations: remember the UUA's Disaster Relief Fund is here to support to you and your partners in the community. <https://www.uua.org/giving/areas-support/funds/disaster-response>.

Stay safe and please stay in touch.

In faith,
Your Southern Region Staff Team,
Natalie Briscoe and Connie Goodbread, Co-leads

One Island Family Southernmost UU Presents:
Licensed Science of Mind Practitioner



Sunday, March 7 • 11am Celebration

Go to: oneislandfamily.org for the Zoom Link

www.oneislandfamily.org • elainesilver.com

Here's the link for the UU Justice Florida news letter:
<https://uujusticefl.salsalabs.org/january2021-newsletter>.

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