

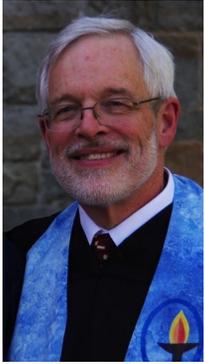


UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION of
GREATER NAPLES

Naples UU News

6340 Napa Woods Way, Naples, Florida

August 2015 *We are a welcoming congregation freely seeking intellectual and spiritual growth.
We strive to create a larger community of peace, justice and love.*



Connecting Points

“Holy Mackerel!”

My wife Ann laughs at me when I utter my usual wide-eyed response to something amazing or unbelievable. And so it was this week when I said, “Holy Mackerel! Do you realize that it has already been a year since I wrote my first newsletter article!?”

And I am amazed how time has flown. Looking back it seems like just the blink of an eye and yet we have accomplished a great deal! During my sermon on June 14, I shared what I saw as a litany of good things:

- Another successful year of the forum with wonderful speakers and great attendance
 - A Fall and Spring Beyond Sunday program that surpassed our expectations
 - A Progressive Voices series that was one of the best ever
 - The creation of a new vision of our church for the year 2020.
Something that will guide and frame our goals and decisions over the next five years
 - For the second year in a row, a successful stewardship campaign that has started us on the road to financial health with the help of steady guidance from a strong lay leadership
 - A Religious Education program that has kept our children engaged and informed and which has added to our overall sense of community
 - A Social Justice committee that is bursting with people and ideas while continuing to serve and teach
 - Two new committees in Leadership and Communications and Technology that are looking to find ways to support our communications process and our leadership capabilities
 - And speaking of new committees our buildings and grounds has split so that energy can be focused more directly on the needs of our buildings and on our beautiful gardens, including beautiful new plantings in the front
 - There’s also a new Garden Weddings committee that has created a new outdoor space and new publicity to introduce others to the wonders and appeal of our grounds
 - A Music and Worship Committee that has managed the creative side of our endeavor with skill and aplomb and who will be challenged again as they face expected and unexpected changes
 - The addition of a Worship Associates program that will become more visible next year, but that has already begun the process of looking at the shape and flow of our worship to make it even more meaningful
 - Our membership team works so hard to be sure that everyone who walks through our doors is welcomed warmly and engaged in a way that is memorable and meaningful offering a path to membership that has served over thirty people this year!
 - We have a wonderful hospitality crew that has stabilized our coffee hour situation admirably!
- There has been tremendous activity behind the scenes as well:
- Your Board of Trustees and Program Council have pushed and pulled this congregation into believing in itself as a program church with the structures and the bylaws in place to make it work well.
 - On the pastoral front the Caring Committee has continued their rounds with those who are homebound and ill and just in need of a warm presence from this community.
 - And we have a staff that is doing great things and is fun to work with to boot!
- (If I’ve forgotten anything let me know and I’ll put it at the top of next month’s article.)

And so again I say “Holy Mackerel!” You guys are awesome! What do you want to do this year?

Thank you! Thank you! Thank You!

TONY

Upcoming Events

Please refer to the foyer Event Board for detailed flyers.

First Friday

Friday, August 7 at 6:30p.m. at Steve Espinosa and Ken Miller's

First Friday in August will be hosted by Ken Miller and Steve Espinosa.

DAWN

The next DAWN (Dining Around the World in Naples) dinner will be held on August 14th at 5:30 pm at Thai Udon Café which is located in Magnolia Square on the corner of Pine Ridge and Goodlette Frank. Address is 5926 Premier Way #116, very near where Winn Dixie was until recently. Ph is 239-596-7331. Please note reservation time of 5:30 as you must order by 6 if you want the Early Dining Special which is a 3 course meal for two including a glass of wine for \$39.95. Regular menu may be seen at www.thaiudoncaf.com. If you'd like to join us, please e-mail Joan Looney by August 9th.

Circle Dinners

Don't forget to sign up for circle dinners! Our circle dinner group meets each 3rd Friday of the month in each other's homes, each guest brings a food item for the table. If you like to cook, welcome people into your home, enjoy intimate easy evenings, or maybe your house is small and you would like to co-host by shopping for groceries, setting tables, cleaning up etc.; either way join us, and you will get to know each other just a little bit better, and have a fun evening. If you would like to join us for the months of August and September please contact Jack Ritter. There is also a sign-up sheet on the table in the foyer (please write clearly so that we will be able to contact you). October forward please contact Marjorie & Sal Corrallo.

Aging Wisely

The **Alternate Aging Wisely** is at 12 p.m. on the Patio on Thursday, August 13 for those who can't make the night meeting. The **Aging Wisely** group will be meeting Tuesday, August 25, 7-8:30 PM. *Aging Wisely* is a monthly gathering for women which focuses on various aspects related to the aging process. All women are welcome regardless of your chronological age. You do not need to commit to coming every month. We begin with a check-in, brief reading and then break into small groups for discussion. If you have any questions or would like to know more about this program, feel free to contact Ann Fisher .

Exciting Art Group at UU !!



Art in the Garden welcomes all artists or "wanna be artists" to join us this summer. We have had so much fun in our painting group we decided to become year-rounders. The U.U. garden is a beautiful inspiration and we have produced some wonderful paintings. Maybe we will have a show next fall. Group Members contribute \$20. to U.U. at each meeting. So far we have raised about \$400 for the church. We meet the last Sat. A.M. of each month from 10:00 till 12:30. Our painting session includes sketching in the U.U. garden and then completing the work on the shady patio. We share our creations and ideas at the finish of each meeting. Those who choose, have lunch together - resulting in exciting new U.U. friendships - a wonderful bonus. If you would like to join us or want more details please call Anna in the church office or Rona Steingart.

Upcoming Sunday Services

August 2: We Must Be the Leaven," John Lynch

August 9: "The World Doesn't Stop," Rev. Tony Fisher

A message about living in the moment in order to be our best.

August 16: "God, Man and Religion," Leonard Lash

August 23: "Bad to the Bone," Maureen Armour

August 30: "Driving Under the Influence of Love," Rev. Tony Fisher

Random thoughts and shared readings from driving to Maine and back - twice - this summer!

A PROJECT HELP SUMMIT PRESENTATION

Driving Like Crazy In Search of "Normal"

Wednesday, August 12, 2015 from 4:00pm - 5:00pm at Project Help: 3123 Terrace Avenue, Naples, FL 34104. The program is free to the General Public . To Register, contact Shaina Anderson. Speakers: Deena Baxter, author and mental health advocate and Jacquelyn Metcalf, Dir. for Communications & Donor Relations, NAMI-Collier. Ms. Baxter shares her journey after sudden loss, highlighting helpful ways to get anchored and safely navigate when our personal world spins off its axis. Handouts will be available, including material about the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Collier County programs and services. Baxter has partnered with NAMI-Collier on a book and website project (www.WriteOnMyMind.com) to "Give mental illness a life-affirming voice."

Calling All Sunday Flower Sponsors

Thank you to all who have sponsored flowers to adorn our sanctuary on Sunday and later, your home. Please remember to return the vase to the church so that the florist may use them over again. Leaving them in the kitchen is fine.

Additionally, these are open dates looking to be filled by sponsors. SEPT 20, SEPT 27, OCT 4, OCT. 25, and NOV 1st. You may celebrate an event or memorialize a loved one. If you are a seasonal member and sponsor a date while you are out of town, a photo of the floral arrangements will be sent to you. Call the church office to sign up.

Thank You to Kathy Ripin from a Grateful Congregation

You may already be familiar with the gardening expertise of our own Kathy Ripin who has given of her time, talent and treasure to enhance our beautiful gardens. Some of you may not know, however, that Kathy donated a floral arrangement one Sunday each month during season. Her arrangements are noted for their unique artistry of flowers and greens, and we extend our collective THANK YOU to Kathy for dressing up our sanctuary in season.



UU Book Club

The UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST BOOK CLUB is proud to announce its list of selected books for the 2015-16 season. This season's selections offer a wide spectrum of fictional genres which will make interesting reading for all. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month and new members are always welcome. If you want to learn more about the UU Book Club you can call Joann Anthony. Enjoy!!

October 15	<i>A Thousand Acres</i> by Jane Smiley
November 19	<i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> by Zora Neale Hurston
December 17	<i>The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry</i> by Gabriella Zevon
January 21	<i>The Glass Room</i> by Simon Mawer
February 18	<i>To the Lighthouse</i> by Virginia Woolf
March 17	<i>Bel Canto</i> by Ann Patchett
April 21	<i>The White Hotel</i> by D.M.Thomas

Our New Piano!

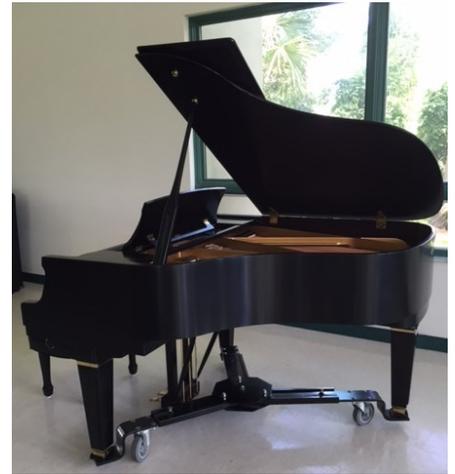
For those of you who were in our Sanctuary on Sunday, May 24, the service featured a unique experience — our new Sohmer piano was played for the first time!

Since that day, it has received accolades from all who have either played it or heard it played. The Board of Trustees had authorized an advance of funds to purchase it, and upon its arrival, UUCGN began accepting contributions to cover its cost from those still in Naples. The happy result is that now, two months later, we can announce, with pride, that our piano is “paid in full!”

Contributions have been gratefully received from Jeannette Boucher, Roger and Sandra Brown, Ann and Frank Burgeson, Adrienne and Dennis Cady, Ann Fullarton, Dave and Kati Griffith, Herbert and Suzanne Herman, Barbara and Michael Kurko, Glen and Joan Looney, Dick Macken, Bill and Maria McCormick, Johanna Parkes, Kathy Ripin and Leonard Sayles, Janice Rogers, Ric Sommer and John Myles, Lyle and Anne Warnock, Nora Wujcik, Becky and Jon Zoler, and an anonymous donor.

It is felt that this fine piano will be cherished by our congregation for many years to come.

Jeannette Boucher, Music Coordinator



August Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Anniversary

Joan and Glen Looney

Mac & Marilyn McQuistan

John Myles & Ric Sommer

Laura and Richard Novosad



Have we missed you?

If you would like your birthday or anniversary to appear in the monthly newsletter, please call the office at (239)455-6553, or email Anna at office@uunaples.org

August Calendar

To view the full and updated calendar for June and the following months, please visit our website or

[Click Here!](#)



Maureen Armour

Bob Borneman

Donna Carty

Russ Duggan

Patricia Freydberg

David Griffith

Jan Jurgens

Rowena Kolhatkar

Laura Novosad

Jean Prokopow

Chris Sachs

Nancy Van Valkenburg

Paul Van Valkenburg