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CONSULTING MINISTER

THE REVEREND BETH MILLER

THE FRIENDSHIP

FELLOWSHIP

AT PINEDA

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THE FRIENDSHIP FLYER

Volume 25 Number 5

Our mission is to promote living with love and reason

May 2017

DATE	SPEAKER	SUBJECT	SERVICE LEADER	GREETER	TOUCH OF BEAUTY	HOSPITALITY HOST
May 7	Rudy Alminana Psychotherapist	Buddhism- 4 Sublime Attitudes	Spike Wilds	Sally Gourd	Marcia Berry	Sue Holland
May 14	Dr. Robert Tucker, Minister Emeritus of The Lakeland UU	Special Moments (Mothers Day)	Emily Curry	David Peterson	Betty Allison	Ruth Rodgers
May 21	Mike Armenia	Three Atomic Humanists	Andy Petruska	Donna Klamm	Rosemary Stroda	Birthday Cake:
May 28	Rev. Bob Macdonald			Kitty Linton	Kitty Linton	

Spring is here with blooms, grass to mow, fires and hay fever! We watch the weather in various parts of the USA and gloat in the weather we are blessed with here in Brevard County. Let's appreciate what we have.



We have a Fellowship of people who believe in goodness and acceptance. Yes, there is always an element of change and change is good. Did you catch that ... let me repeat this mantra ... "Change is Good." As we age and as we get complacent in our ways remember one of the mottos of Amazon, "you can disagree but do it anyway!"

Let's keep open minds when it comes to change for our nation, our community and our Fellowship. Don't like what you see? Speak up, write letters into the Florida Today, show up at town hall meetings, and show up to the CLC. Raise your voices, but always respectfully, and recognize what you are trying to accomplish. Ask if this will improve life for others as well as for yourself, ask if what you are doing is a positive force or are you just venting? Ask If, in 20 years, it will matter.

Spring is a time for renewal, a time to reevaluate who we are and what we might want to accomplish. Let's work together, in a positive and nurturing atmosphere in all things we do. The 4th and 5th lines of our covenants reflect how change might be a positive force:

"A free and responsible search for truth and meaning" and "the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process".

Let's put these to work in the coming months to better our nation, our community and our Fellowship.

Laura P.

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Touch OF Beauty Change

After many years of sharing her knowledge of Ikebana with our members, our beloved Sensei, Betty Allison, is retiring. It is now time for members to **step up and sign up** on the Monthly Volunteer Sheet. It is not necessary to make an Ikebana arrangement, a simple bouquet or plant would be just fine.

HOSPITALITY CHANGES COMING

It's been bantered about for years and finally the CLC decided that it was time for change. Hospitality for 70+ people has become a burden.

Burden was never the intent. When hospitality was first started it catered to about 20 individuals and that was doable in terms of purchasing and serving. But, we are now over 70 people at each service.

Hospitality will now only require of its volunteers making the coffee and busing the clean up. Cookies will be purchased once a month and stored in the refrigerator for the month. It has been figured that it takes about 8 boxes of cookies for each Sunday.






One extra collection each month will be taken up for the cookie and coffee donation. Please be generous or this coffee custom will be less and less. Should an individual want to do more they will confer with Sally gourd who is in charge of hospitality.

It was never the intent of hospitality to become a burden it is one of the markers of our lovely UU services – to break bread and share conversation at the end of the service. We unite friends, guests and members together and this is a tradition we long to continue.

You still will be expected to host a Sunday. but there is no longer an expense to you, only a little effort.

May 2017

Comings, goings, and doings for FF@P

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Girl Scouts Sundays-April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 2:00—4:00 PM Coffee House (Diane Richards)</p>	1	 <p>Choir Practice: Every Tuesday 7:00 PM Friendship Hall</p>	3 League of Women Voters Committee Meeting: 6:00 PM	4  Women's Friendship Circle: 10:30 AM Coffee House	5	6
7 Sun Svc 10:30 AM Sunday Morning Discussion: 9:15-10:15 AM Coffee House— CLC Mtg: Friendship Hall,	8	9	10 Spring Film Discussion Series: (<i>Rabbit-Proof Fence</i>) Australian girls taken from parents. Friendship Hall, 1:00 PM	11	12	13
14 Sun Svc 10:30 AM Sunday Morning Discussion: 9:15-10:15 AM Coffee House—	15	16 Daily Bread Volunteers meet Tuesday at Daily	17 Social Justice Meeting: 4:00-6:00 PM Friendship Hall (Kathy Kelly) Science Posters	18  Women's Book Club: 10:00 AM Coffee House	19	20
21 Sun Svc Sunday Morning Discussion: 9:15-10:15 AM Coffee House—	22	23	24 Spring Film Discussion Series: <i>Transamerica</i> (transgender father meets son for the first time) Friendship Hall 1:00 PM	25	26	27
28 Sun Svc 10:30 AM Sunday Morning Discussion: 9:15-10:15 AM Coffee House— Music On The Hill 4:00 PM	29	30	31	 <p>The Editor needs your June inputs by Sunday May 21 (Sooner is Better)</p>		

Dear Members and Friends of FF@P:

Thank you so very much for the lovely send off after the service on April 9th. The luncheon was beautifully presented and very yummy. Your gifts and tributes were heartfelt and touched me deeply. Helen's poem, the pussy hats in the beautiful box (which now houses my pictures after I sorted and culled my collection), the keepsake engraved paperweight, the big card with all your loving notes, and the \$1000 check are all very much appreciated. Special thanks to those who organized the event. It was wonderful.



Even more than the farewell, however, I have appreciated the openness, respect and affection you have shown me over the four years I have served as your part time consulting minister. We've been through some challenges together as a congregation. We've celebrated several milestones. I've had the privilege of helping you celebrate the lives of our members who have passed away. Through all of that, I've grown to love you and I will always cherish the memory of my time with you. Thank you so very much.

I have agreed to continue consulting with the Lay Pastoral Care Associates (LPCA) team while FF@P is without a contracted minister. I will meet monthly with them as a group by Skype and individually by phone and email regarding pastoral needs and situations in the congregation. I want to take this opportunity to say how grateful I have been, and hope you are as well, to this team: Barbara Kurtz, Ed Breakell, Marcia Berry, and Vicki Barlow. They applied almost four years ago when the CLC and I agreed that such a team was needed to meet the pastoral concerns of the congregation with only a 1/4 time minister living an hour away. They were chosen, trained by an outside facilitator, and I have supervised and supported them continually, even through the summers when I've been in Massachusetts. They are the frontline pastoral face of the Fellowship to our members and their families needing pastoral care and support, keeping me informed and seeking my advice as needed, and always maintaining confidentiality and appropriate boundaries. Short of deaths and critical illnesses, they have handled it without my direct involvement. This whole congregation supports and helps one another in times of need, but sometimes a specific kind of presence is needed. LPCA team members are there for you in such times. Whether you've ever availed yourself of their services or not, I hope you appreciate all they do for FF@P.

Yours in Faith and Fellowship,

Rev. Beth

Emergency Information Update

On May 7 and 10 the Caring Committee will have two EMERGENCY forms available which we hope you will complete.

The white form is kept at the Fellowship. As you will see, we request that you "fill in as much information as you feel comfortable with". As a bare minimum, we urge that you enter your name, date of birth and contact information for family or friends to facilitate your care in case of an emergency. But do remember, the more information available the faster your difficulty can be handled.

The yellow form is for you to take home. You will see that it asks for details that will be necessary in the event of critical illness or death. Inform close family or friends about where this form will be found. The back of the yellow form is devoted to "Notes for my Eulogy" which will be helpful in planning any remembrance you or your loved ones may choose.

SIGHT and SOUND: *FFP's Multimedia System*

... Kathy Kelly

Have you noticed our new media system? How about our state-of-the-art listening assisted system? The system is now up and running—and its uses are expanding as we learn its capabilities. There are still some glitches and learning curves but the AV volunteers (Kathy Kelly, Laura Petruska, and Cliff Saylor) are happy with our progress and results.



We are now able to show presentations and videos from anyone's computer, tablet (as Bill Scott demonstrated with his MLK videos), or smart phone. We are using these media for Sunday Service, Helen's Films, Social Justice events and other FFP events. While we still have some exploring to do, we are ready to offer some training for anyone interested in learning more/helping with presentations.

**Inputs to the *Friendship Flyer*
June 2017 edition
are due to the editor
by Sunday, May 21**

April 16, 2017—"The Gift of Life"—Robert P. Tucker, Ph.D.



In three of the four Gospels of the New Testament, Jesus is described as having "risen" after his crucifixion, but not in the Gospel of John. In John, Christ himself speaks to the two women at his tomb, and says "I have not yet ascended to the Father." No mention is made of the resurrection itself. Two things, said the Reverend Robert Tucker, minister emeritus of the UU Congregation of Lakeland, are important about John's version. First is the reminder that neither Jesus himself nor anyone else during the New Testament period believed that Jesus was a deity. This idea did not become official church dogma until hundreds of years later with the doctrine of the "Trinity." Second, Jesus does not say that he "raised" himself from the dead. As a human, that was beyond his power, and the early Christian belief was that the god Yahweh—not Jesus—had performed the resurrection. This belief is clearly seen in Paul's letters to the Corinthians, in which he uses the term "was raised" to refer to the resurrection. Early Christians understood that Jesus was a flesh and blood man who lived and died. If he came back to life, it was not of his own doing, but a gift from Yahweh.

This idea that life is a gift is also found in the Old Testament. It is not something earned or deserved or self-created. Nevertheless, it is a gift worth keeping and worth working for. When gifts come our way, we should be grateful for them and treat them with respect. Tucker told the story of George Bernard Shaw coming across a copy of one of his works in a secondhand bookshop and discovering that it was personally inscribed to a friend, "with esteem." He promptly bought the book and returned it to his friend, adding "with renewed esteem" to the inscription.

Abraham Lincoln provides a poignant example of how life can truly be a gift for which we should be grateful. During the Civil War, a Union soldier, on his third straight night of guard duty, fell asleep at his post. The punishment for such dereliction was death, and some of his friends came to Lincoln to plead for his life. After meeting and talking with the boy, Lincoln told him that he would not be shot, but said that he must pay him back for the gift of sparing him by "promising to do your whole duty as a soldier." The soldier agreed and became a model for his William James wrote, "Believe that life is worth living and your belief will help create the fact." The gift of life is precious, but it is also fragile. It must be shared for us to reach our full potential. Herb Miller, in one of his books, wrote about someone named Robert Hall who wanted to become a minister but was so crippled as a child he could not walk to school. A friend carried him to school each day on his back, and he did well enough to earn a scholarship to a university. While there, he met a surgeon who performed an operation that remedied his crippling, and he was able to walk on his own. He fulfilled his dream of becoming a minister, but none of this would have happened if it hadn't been for the friend.

continued at the bottom of the next column



May's Charity is Serene Harbor

Serene Harbor operates a domestic violence center that since its incorporation in 1992 has assisted 10,000 women and children in need of shelter and counseling. Serene Harbor also operates a 24 hour hotline (321-726-8282) as one of its outreach programs. Your donations to support and fund these programs will touch the lives of the victims of domestic violence here in Brevard County. There is a continuing need for items we can donate: Clorox, cleaning items, Kleenex, liquid detergent and gift cards. See a member of our Social Justice Committee if you are able to donate any of the items listed on Serene Harbor's wish list.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Kitty Linton Sue Huseman

Helen Bennett Kathy Lees

Carole Italiano

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Surely, concluded Tucker, life is what we make of it. It is up to each of us to overcome our fears, seize our opportunities, and share what we have with others. Life is a gift, and that is why we call today "the present." ...rr

**“April 23, 2017—“Tenderness: A Learned Quality—“
Dr. Gillian Ahlgren**

Dr. Gillian Ahlgren, Founding Director of the Institute for Spirituality and Social Justice at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, began her talk on what she had learned from writing her book, *The Tenderness of God: Reclaiming Our Humanity*, an inquiry rooted in her work on Francis and Clare of Assisi's discovery of God at the margins of their society. These, she said, were two people who early in life saw violence and inhumanity woven into the society and culture around them and sought to find new ways of combating that culture with tenderness, not only toward others but toward the earth and all of nature around them.

Tenderness is not so much a quality that some possess while others do not, but a capacity within all of us that can be cultivated and developed. It is the bridge that moves us from being human to being humane—to being able to feel deeply, to connect with and cherish one another and the world. Tenderness is a learned habit, reflecting keen interest in the lives, struggles, and joys of those around us. Although the word might suggest “soft,” tenderness is not always soft, for it is also about standing up for others in the face of injustice and mistreatment.

Tenderness involves compassion and wonder. In her poem “Messenger,” Mary Oliver states, “My work is loving the world,” and Pope Francis, in his papal document, “Joy of the Gospel,” describes it as “the mystery (or mystique) of living together.” All of us have the potential within us for connectedness in making the world a better place. Tenderness is living well in our relationship with ourselves, with others, and with our environment. When we allow ourselves to be vulnerable and open ourselves up to others and resist whatever diminishes us, we can find life to be a sacred pilgrimage.

Ahlgren outlined three elements of tenderness: active care for one another, solidarity and shared union with others, and resistance to injustice and sin. When those elements are in place, a community is ready to self-monitor and grow socially and individually. A community is a process, not a location. It eludes us if we go directly after it, but emerges naturally as we care for one another. It is a byproduct of commitment and struggle.

THE CREATIVE ARTS FOUNDATION OF BREVARD, Inc.

Presents

MUSIC ON THE HILL

(MOTH)

Music on the Hill
will resume in
August



Welcome to monthly music concerts, performed by the most talented young artists in Brevard County, including: violinists, cellists, pianists, flautists, horn players, percussionists and vocalists . . . ranging from opera to Broadway to country. A fun event for all.

When: The Last Sunday of Every Month at 4:00 PM. Shows are generally 60 to 90 minutes in length.

Where: The Unitarian Fellowship Hall, 3115 Friendship Place, Rockledge, FL, 32955 . . . just off US Hwy 1, 2/10 of a mile North of Suntree Boulevard.

Cost: Free, but Donation (say . . . \$5) is requested per person.

Tickets: Pay at the door.

Dress: Casual.

The Creative Arts Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting exceptional artists throughout Brevard County who have needs for assistance.

Information: 321-254-3398 Visit Web site: www.CAFOB.org

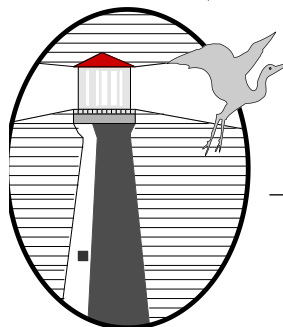


GUESTS

We extended our Friendship Welcome to these guests . . . and we encourage them to return again and again!

Phil Lindsley	The Villages
Ross McCluney	Cape Canaveral
Rebecca Cooke & Russel Lorraine	Springfield, PA
Julie Welch & Rick Tomlinson	Potsdam, NY
Jane Cirona	
Gail Krill	Traverse City, MI
Gregg Fenley	Melbourne
Suzanne Bryant	Satellite Beach
Tony Armes	Satellite Beach
Michael Orlando	Rockledge
Fay Picard	Grant
Greg Sherman	NYC
Larry Timmons	Patrick AFB
Carol Stitson	Falmouth, ME
Rachael Caudil	Mims
Matt Ahlgren	Cincinnati, OH
Kirstin & Steve Biery	Rockledge

THE FRIENDSHIP FLYER



is the monthly newsletter of
THE FRIENDSHIP FELLOWSHIP
AT PINEDA
A Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
District 62, Society #2923

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Sunday School
available for children at 10:30 AM

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Find us on the web at www.uuspacecoast.org

CONSULTING MINISTER

The Reverend Beth Miller

CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

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