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Old Spain Canyon
Highlands Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
107 Main Street, Highlands, NC 28741
www.uuhighlands.org

October 2021 Newsletter

Highlands Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Deadline for October newsletter: Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2021

Worship: 10:30 a.m. - Multi-platform: In-person in our Old Stony Meeting House and on Zoom

Zoom link opens at 10:15 a.m.

Click here to join Sunday Worship!

Sunday October 3
"How are We Doing?" will be the question of our Worship Service. We have been hit by ridiculously and ceaselessly we have been hit by the pandemic, by the ongoing effects of COVID and much else... and we still hring in gathering, here, this one ourselves? What are we learning? How are we growing?

Sunday, October 10
We are pleased to have as our guest preacher, Rev. Mary Katherine Morn, the president of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Her sermon will be titled "Bringing Light and Power: Now will share the sermon for the service.

For over 80 years, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) has been bringing light and power to people in the most difficult circumstances, world who are confronting unjust power structures and challenging oppressive policies. Rev. Morn, president of UUSC, will share stories of dignity and power in the face of oppression for a more just and equitable world.

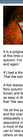
Sunday, October 17
The United Nations will be hosting a critical climate crisis summit in Glasgow, Scotland, beginning on October 31. Our focus in mind, Kent's sermon will be: "How Glad We Are I am a Burning World."

Sunday, October 24
"Is Everything a Season" will be Kent's sermon. As the days shorter and the bright autumn leaves begin to fall, Kent will reflect on the question of whether everything is a season. Is life a series of passages from beginnings, what purpose is there for now for you, for us?

There will be an Interfaith Remembrance service at 2:00, hosted by the Highlands Unitarian Universalists, in honor of those who died in the past year. We will be sharing the leadership of this service of remembrance for all those we've lost during this time of COVID from whatever cause. It will be held outdoors at Rosenbaum Parish in South Highlands. (www.stjamesbpc.org/ outdoors)

Sunday, October 31
This will be our annual Old Stony Remembrance Sunday, hosted by our Worship Committee. Kent will bring the service we will solicit Old Stony members and friends who have died during the past year, and also name our dear ones who have died at any time in the past.

Kent will be presenting an updated sermon from years ago: "I Know Where Happy Comes From."



From the minister's desk
Musing
One of the verses of Gordon Bok's song, "Autumn Leaves" goes:

Never October's greeter this year
Remember's comin' home.
Well, I'm thinkin' of those who are and those who are not
the sad things that you've seen.

It is a poignant song, and one of my favorites. I often listen to it or play it myself at the time of year – the autumn it is and we celebrate seasons of autumn. For it is also a song filled with hope, as the chorus reiterates again and again:

If I had a thing to give you, I would tell you one more time
That the world is always turning toward the morning.

A few leaves have begun to turn around here. Soon we will be surrounded by fiery autumn reds and golds... then all too quickly, as it will seem, turning to brown and then, gone. Yet, the song reminds us, "Autumn leaves are not as easy in the cold to feel the darkness of the year." But the song reminds us that "the world is always turning toward the morning."

Yet at this point, these days, these years, we are trying to be said that the timing of the turning is not certain. The turning is not inevitable. The turning is not adequately understood! Which makes it more challenging to find comfort and hope in the turning. It is easier to see the darkness of the year, the darkness in front of the other, taking care of ourselves and each other, doing what we can to heal and help, knowing that many others are doing the same, billions of others on earth humanity. Yet

If I had a thing to give you, I would tell you one more time
That the world is always turning toward the morning.

Peace and Blessings,
Kent
cell: 561-435-2380
shenkfm@gmail.com

Board of Trustees President's Newsletter

Greetings all –

Last Sunday was my first time back in the Meeting House for our church service. It was wonderful seeing others in person even with a mask on. We will be continuing to improve the multi-platform experience throughout the next few weeks and months.

A special Board meeting was held on Thursday, September 16th which was attended by all Board members. The Board approved the Mission Statement of the special meeting was to review the decision made by Interim Ministers Kent Shenk and Rev. Kathy O'Grady to hire Kent Shenk. The Board agreement. We want to thank the committee for their dedication and expert guidance during the project with Atlantic Development.

A follow up special meeting of the Board will be held on Thursday, September 23rd. We will review and update the roles and responsibilities of the committees.

Our Board meeting on last Sunday, our package was in review is the revision of our Policies and Procedures. We will be reviewing the Committee Charters and Committee Roles and Responsibilities. Committee Chairs will be meeting with Board Members for discussion of the Committee Charters. Each Committee will be joining the October 2nd Board meeting to review each Committee Charter. Please bring any discussion challenges along with how the Board can support the goals.

We plan to invite committee chairpersons to each upcoming monthly Board meeting.

Interested members and friends of Old Stony who would like to serve on a committee, please contact the committee chairperson to learn more. Committee Chairpersons are listed in the INFO.

Happy autumn to everyone,
Ginny Parsons
President, Old Stony Board of Trustees

Nurturing Community

Among Us

A memorial service for Harriet Carter will be held at Old Stony on Saturday, October 2, at 2:00 p.m. Harriet's family and friends are invited to attend. Her ashes will be interred at the Old Stony Meeting House Columbarium.

Betty Costanzo has moved from her hull home. She is now living in assisted living at:
The Linden
1000 Hendersonville Road Apt. 310
Arshevi, NH-28208
704-687-8111
Betty's personal phone, but enjoys mail and visitors (please call ahead).

Jean Hobich continues to retain at Rose Court in Forest Hills after her fall at the Meeting House two weeks ago. Jean hopes to be back for apartment at Rose Court in a few weeks. Jean's family thanks all for the cards and continued healing thoughts for her. Lancaster, recovering from her injuries sustained in the same fall.

We send healing prayers to Kathy O'Grady, who has just returned home following a long stay in the hospital.

Pastoral Care Leadership Team

Our Pastoral Care Leadership Team, also the "Pastoral Care Leadership Team", meets each month to share any concerns members and friends of Old Stony have, to discuss any significant challenges, and to coordinate responses. If you have a concern/request to share with our Team, please feel free to contact any member of the group:

Ralph Brown
Liz Fritz
Elaine Gomez
Ginny Parsons
Pat Leonard
Ann Rosenbaum
Carol Valentine
Ann Wagner
Ann Ward-Brown

Musical Notes

Dear Old Stony,

How wonderful to see this in the Meeting House
Unfortunately, I haven't been able to bring myself to see people well through those church doors after so many months away. I think I have forgotten what it feels like. However, as soon your familiar faces (or at least familiar top of your masks) are there, I'm sure I will be back in my seat and feel right at home. My anxiety subsided instantly. What a tremendous sense of community. Thanks for the reminder. Thanks for your patience and kindness. I'm a common purpose. I hope you can feel that too.

Though many things are starting to feel normal or normal-ish, singing together hasn't yet come back in full force. We are taking steps to do that as soon as we can safely and feel ready to do so. Until then, I'm sending you some music to help you sing together from our voices filling the meeting house with song. That is definitely something to look forward to! I want to thank you for your patience and continued willingness to be flexible. Wishing you the best for a beautiful October.

Musically Yours,
Christopher

Wisdom of the Poets

A ode from Elizabeth Tenny and Ken Read-Brown

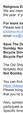
"This month's excerpt is from Mary Oliver's poem
"In September Woods"
She ends the poem with these words:

"To live in this world

you must be able
to do three things:
to love what is mortal;
to hold

fast to what goes knowing
that nothing, finally, comes of it:
and, when the time comes to let it go,
to let it go."

The entire poem is available online.



Children's Religious Education

Nursery care for the very young is provided each week in the Parish House nursery.

Sunday morning programs:

All programs are in person, and will begin with attendance for the first part of the worship service at 10:30 am in the Meeting House.
- Nursery care (ages birth-preschool)
- Neighboring Faiths Sunday Religious Courses (K-5)
- Coming to Worship (ages 6-8)
- Father Bill's Lunch Meeting - 4th Sunday of each month (all ages)
- Celebrations (all ages)

Other programs
- Coming to Age (Grades 9-10) - This is a family favorite and important class for this age group. Helpful for an email or a call regarding details on timing (i.e. possible sleepovers, the last time offered / and start dates, Covid-19 protocols, etc.)
- Connection - Adult Religious Education Program (Sundays, 9:30 am)
- Celebrations - Adult Worship, Theme Discussion and Teachers. Sunday afternoon, October 10th.

Please review the *fall 2021 DRE year at uuhighlandsfl.org*

Religious Education Coordinator
We are intending to be a 10 hour per week religious education coordinator for our church. If anyone in you know might be interested, please let us know!

For more information
Please see Kristen
(religiousedcoordinator@uuhighlandsfl.org), upcoming emails or
email: dre@uuhighlandsfl.org. Thank you!

Save The Dates!
Fall Festival
Bicycle Drive
Trick or Treat and Open Tour!

The Old Stony youth group is hosting a regional donation location for the fantastic Boston based organization, with local and work wrist impact. **Bikes Not Bombs here on the afternoon of November 7.**

You can find more info here:
https://bikesnotbombs.org/
Bikes, helmets, and other bicycle used used bikes, bike parts, accessories or gear that you've been considering passing along.

Also, spread the word to your neighbors and friends as they may want to participate in the bike drive.
Specific time on Nov. 7 will be noted closer to the event date.
For additional information contact Maureen Bailey

Life Learning Offerings

Contact Kent to join our Zoom Life Learning classes.

Ongoing groups and gatherings
Starting in late-mid 2021-2022 Life Learning classes:

Bodhisattva Study Group – Continues to gather each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m., for the time being all on Zoom. Kent leads the group. Starting with each month, then Read Brown leads the group through meditation and discussion of Buddhist teachings. Contact Kent if you are interested in joining the Convertione. "Or attendee Sundays members of the group but have not been participating in the Bodhisattva Study Group, Kent will be sending invitations and for the Zoom link, soon.

Mary's Breakfast – Hands on the second Sunday morning of each month – our next gathering will be October 10. Contact Pastor Kristen or Vicki Elliott for information and, since we are meeting but the time being still on Zoom, the link.

Women's Breakfast and Conversation – Meets on the fourth Sunday morning of each month as the next meeting is October 24, as usual from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Contact Ann Rosenbaum for information. Anyone who can attend, send an email to Carolyn McPhillips and she will send you the Zoom link. Ann Rosenbaum, Carolyn McPhillips, and Ann Ward-Brown will lead and enjoy your amplifier's conversations. Conversations are confidential and all are welcome!

Sacred Texts Meditation Group – Meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 4:00 p.m. for meditation and conversation based on a shared sacred text. Contact Ann Ward-Brown for information. Anyone who is added to the email list and to receive the Zoom link for our gathering on Thursday, October 14th.

Cellists! – Gathers on the first Tuesday of each month. So our next monthly gathering will be on Tuesday evening October 5, at 7:00 p.m. Bring the particular danger of show spread through singing, we will once again gather on Zoom. Contact Ann Ward-Brown for information about cellists or for the Zoom link to attend. (ann0ward@gmail.com)

Life Learning Classes in October

Gender in the 21st Century
first Tuesdays, Oct. 5 – Nov. 2, 7:00 p.m.
Contact Kent for the Zoom link.
led by Kelly Diamond-Hensley and Diane Elliott
What are current understandings of gender? What is gender? What are all the different ways people have been and are understood in various cultures today? What do youth and young people have to say about gender nonconformity? Join us on Free Parish Zoo Group Circle for a Relaxed Conversation on Gender Nonconformity in Contemporary Culture. Based on the Unitarian Universalist Church's Congregation Circle, it is a peer video series in which people from various backgrounds and perspectives can get the Zoom link if you plan to participate remotely, contact Kelly or Diane.

Life Reading the Bible
two Saturday mornings, *(not pertain, in person and Zoom)* 10:00 – 1:00, starting Oct. 9th
led by Ken Read-Brown
Ken will be reading the Hebrew scriptures (which Christians call the Old Testament), and session two will focus on the Gospels. These workshops are for participants who want to read the Bible in a group setting, and who want to flash-hearing for our lives. For further information, to sign up, and for the Zoom link if you plan on attending remotely, contact Ken.

Coming to November

First Age-ing to Sage-ing
two Saturday mornings *(both pertain)*, 10-1:00, Nov. 6 and 13
led by Ken Read-Brown
Ken will be leading the latest on the book by the same title by Zalman Schachter-Shalomi and Ronald Miller. Ken will be reading from the book and will be sharing his own experiences. Reflections on the ages and stages of our lives around us? Can we discover that who we are is as important or more important than what we do? For further information, to sign up, and for the Zoom link if you plan on attending remotely, contact Ken.

The Wreath Makers are at it again

This time of the year is approaching, and preparations are on the way for our annual Wreath Making Workshop and Holiday fireplace. These gather simply intelligent joyful, big and little wreaths, and also, for those who prefer, smaller wreaths, reduced to large – shells, and any perfect, greenery, time fungus, hydrangeas, or other garden items that you may see on your turf – or other places. We especially need pine cones.

We need many bags of these items, please bring them to the Old Stony Meeting House on Sunday, October 31st, and place them in the Wreath Bin. On this year Carol Wagner that we will have 3 memorial wreaths to be made, and we need a few more people to help with the wreaths. We have a few heavy decorated wreaths – best to contact Pat Bracco to enter a special, large decorated wreath or a dedicated wreath on Old Stony.

I think it is written somewhere - "blessed are the wreath-makers, for they bring joy to the world."

Pat Bracco

Marine Market! Already?!

Yes indeed, it is time to start preparing for Marine Market!
Save the date - Saturday December 4th, from 9am until 2pm.

As Covid guidelines are ever changing from the CDC, local Plymouth County Health Department, and the UUA, Marine Market will be a hybrid event this year. We are still planning now as if it will happen, because as you know, it takes time and strategy to create the event.

We are hoping to have as many tables as possible, all at Marine Market will happen in the Fellowship Hall. We will not be using the parlor or the kitchen and we'll not be offering books and toys. We will be refinishing what our kitchen can offer, but we will be using the Fellowship Hall for our tables. Masks will be required, and we will be following the guidelines. Stay tuned!

PLEASE DO NOT leave donated items in the Parish House! While we welcome donations, there will be specific drop off times at the Parish House and at the Meeting House. Please wait for the specific drop off times and hours of parking and clean up post Marine Market. Stay tuned for those drop off times. We will be using the Meeting House for drop off and pick up. Please can come to your free place and bring in need of bookcase and silent auction items, and thank you in advance for your generous donations of these valuable items and services.

Wreaths will be made and sold even if Marine Market is unable to happen. We will be using the Meeting House for wreath contact Pat Bracco or Carole Jordan if you have these natural items to offer.

Thanks everyone, and let's hope this year will be a Marine one!
Carole Jordan and Ann Wagner
Tom Wagner Director and Carole Jordan ?

The Old Stony Calendar

The Old Stony Church calendar is available on our website by clicking here.

If you have an upcoming event or meeting and you want to see it on the calendar, please contact Laura Lancaster.

Additionally, if you contact information has changed, please email Laura so she can update the Old Stony database.

Upcoming Committee Meetings on Zoom

Board of Trustees - Thursday, September 30, 7:00 p.m.
Board of Trustees - Thursday, October 7 7:00 p.m.
Social Justice Committee - Saturday, October 30, 9:00 a.m.

Contact Lee for links or information about these meetings.

Wreaters Wanted

It is time to begin planning for our annual wreath-making. We need people to make wreaths and Parish House items to experience wreaths. If interested please contact Laura Lancaster or the office.

Serving Others

News from the Social Justice Council
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Rev. Kathy O'Grady will be leading a Zoom Chalice Circle at 9 a.m. on Zoom. All are welcome to join in supporting social justice service and spiritual growth. Contact Kathy for the Zoom link and Chalice Circle Guidelines for the month of October.

October Special Plate Collection – Due to the emergency need for funds to help needful evacuees from Afghanistan, we have moved their cause which had been announced as our October special plate to last month's newsletter! In a letter received from our District Office, we learned that Rev. Kathleen Rogers, Afghan Evacuee Resettlement Program of the International Institute of New Jersey, is working with families who have been in the United States for two and years, and their work continues to be important in helping refugee families who have arrived in the United States and continue to need support. The UNC offered Summarized small English language learning, cultural orientation classes, training, and observing programs to more than 200 people from 100 different countries. Rev. Rogers, who is a UU, has asked for our support and we will honor it our area. The goal of the program is to move newly arrived refugees from total insecurity to stability through a year-long program of support and assistance. Rev. Rogers has asked for donations of funds, food, and items. It is very important here for us to support those who have lost everything and are now in a new country with no family or friends. Please bring your donations to the plate. More information about UNC can be found on their website. Rev. Rogers has also asked for donations of funds to help relocate using the Venmo donation menu. Additionally, the plate offering at the October 17th service in the Meeting House will be given to IRM.

Hingham Food Pantry – We are again collecting canned meatballs, unopened, and unexpired food for the Hingham Food Pantry as part of our Summer Outreach Program. Please bring your donations to the Meeting House cupboards. Donations may also be left in the box in the vestibule of the Parish House. Please remember to bring your donations to the Meeting House during the hours of parking and clean up post Marine Market. Stay tuned for those drop off times. We will be using the Meeting House for drop off and pick up. Please can come to your free place and bring in need of bookcase and silent auction items, and thank you in advance for your generous donations of these valuable items and services.

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Tom Wagner Director and Carole Jordan ?

Important Parish House Reminder

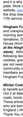
Launch Moving from Old Stony
We have been very pleased to hold "Launch" for the past several years, a program of the Unitarian Universalist Association and exceptional organization for individuals with disabilities by accessing work and social opportunities in a fully community-based setting.

Launch moves to the Hingham Community Center as of October 1, as we've been anticipating and preparing for this transition for a year. Our Parish House partnership is one of a partnership we have valued and will be appreciative. We of course want Launch at the best, and hope that we might be able to work together in the future, as we have been for many years.

Mark and Cross Corner, our neighbors, will be completing a thorough cleaning of the Fellowship Hall and sewing the floor over the weekend of October 2-3. We will be able to meet again be able to schedule programs and events in the Fellowship Hall.

UU World
The Magazine of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Many of you reading our newsletter receive the UU World magazine, published twice a year spring and fall. The print magazine is mailed to all members of UU congregations.



From time to time the World updates their list based on information from congregations, so we have recently learned that our subscriptions had lapsed. We have ordered a subscription for our congregation, which is a special current financial contribution to Old Stony. This means that some of you who have received the magazine in the past will continue to receive it, and some no longer, unless you subscribe individually. Fortunately for all, the content of the print magazine along with much else is available for free at the web site: www.uuworld.org.

Let Lisa Dietz or our office know if you don't receive the full issue later this month and believe you should, and we will be able to make the connection.

from your friends at Old Ship Church!