

QUEST



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine Newsletter
St. Augustine Beach, Florida

December 2019

2487 A1A South, St. Augustine, FL 32080
3/4 mile south of State Road 312

uufsacontact@gmail.com <http://www.uufsa.org/>

Fellowship services are held Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

A program for youth is provided at 10:30 a.m.

Refreshments are served after the service so all may socialize.

Audio transcripts of most presentations are available on our website.

In This Issue

| | |
|--|-------|
| From Your President..... | 2 |
| Sunday Programs | 3-7 |
| Programs for Children and Youth | 8 |
| Adult Education | 9 |
| Other Announcements and Team Reports | 10-14 |
| Calendar..... | 14 |
| Beyond Our Congregation | 15-16 |

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|------------------------------|------------------|
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The *Quest* is published monthly September through July.

Materials for the January issue are due by December 20.

Don Brandes, Editor: donaldbrandes@gmail.com

Thanks to Adele DelSavio for proofreading and

David Wright for printing each issue of the *Quest*.



From Your President



As I expected, things are getting very busy, both for me personally and also happenings around the fellowship. The first thing I would like to note is we have had several people sign the membership book recently, so watch for our new members and make them welcome.

There is much activity around our building, both inside and out. The outside of the building has been painted and I think we will soon see other work. After the building is painted we will have a refurbished Chalice on the wall facing A1A, and there is interest in addressing the area of the Memorial Garden, and installing better lighting for our outside walks.

Inside, the Beautification Committee is working on plans to make improvements to the sanctuary and there is also a project to convert our lighting for greater energy efficiency.

It is gratifying to me to see people step up and give of their time to keep this fellowship functioning and to support one another in good times and during times of need, in small ways as well as large. The Care Connection sometimes puts out emails seeking assistance for our members; watch for them and if you are in a position to help, know that you will be part of a large group of people whose efforts together make UUFSa a true fellowship. If you need assistance, don't hesitate to reach out.

Enjoy the holidays – I will see you at church.

Jerome Fosaaen
904-417-7344
fosaaenj@gmail.com

Sunday, December 1, 10:30 a.m.
“Elizabeth Cady Stanton”
Jo Anne Engelbert

Service Leader: Nana Royer
Music: Taffy Rook

Unitarian Elizabeth Cady Stanton wanted far more than voting rights for women. In her day a woman had “fewer rights than a male inhabitant of an insane asylum.” Stanton found the roots of inequality embedded in passages of the Bible that portrayed woman as “an inferior being, subject to men,” a bias that was an integral part of Judeo-Christian tradition. In 1895, Stanton published *The Woman’s Bible*, a collection of Bible texts with sharp, witty comments. Though written with reverence for the moral beauty of the Bible, the book shocked Victorian sensibility and produced a split within the feminist movement itself.

Jo Anne Engelbert is a long - standing member of our Fellowship. She is Professor Emerita of Montclair State University, where she taught women’s studies courses within her program of Latin American Studies.



(This service has been re-scheduled from September, when Hurricane Dorian had us in its sights.)



Sunday, December 8, 10:30 a.m.
“Peace Corps Service –
Work for the World – Work of a Lifetime”
Christopher Lins
and Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

Service Leader: Chris McDermott
Music: Alex Soltow

The US Peace Corps website opens with the call: “Work for the World.” Viewers are asked if they are inspired by hands - on, grassroots – driven projects, working side - by - side with locals to make a difference. After 58 years, how has the Peace Corps stayed relevant and inspirational? The Peace Corps’ mission is to promote world peace and friendship. This overall mission fits well with the UU sixth principle of working toward a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

Peace Corps recruiter Christopher Lins will discuss the current status of the Peace Corps. Several UU Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) will discuss how their Peace Corps service has shaped their post - Peace Corps lives of activism and community service.

- Nana Royer RPCV Colombia 1965 – 67
- Patricia Maguire RPCV Jamaica 1977 – 79
- Calvin Marshall RPCV Jamaica 1977 – 79
- Chris McDermott RPCV



Christopher Lins grew up in Gainesville, FL but attended Reed College in Portland, OR where he was a student activist; apartheid was still the law, old - growth forests were being decimated, and the US was actively involved in the destruction of Central America. After a year of backpacking through Mexico and Guatemala and upon graduation, Chris hoped to be a positive change - maker by joining the Peace Corps. He served as a Small Enterprise Development volunteer in Paraguay 1996 – 1998, mainly working with a cotton farmers cooperative. After three years in South America, Chris worked as Peace Corps Recruiter in New England. He then spent five years at the Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine until the call for service came again and he went to Tanzania 2014 – 2016 as a Health Extension volunteer, focusing on HIV education, but also planting 160,000 pine trees and raising bees and pigs. After six months in San Francisco working for Immigration (the good side of things), Chris returned to northeast Florida to work as a Peace Corps recruiter again.

Sunday, December 15, 10:30 a.m.
“Florida Has a Water Problem”
Bob Patterson

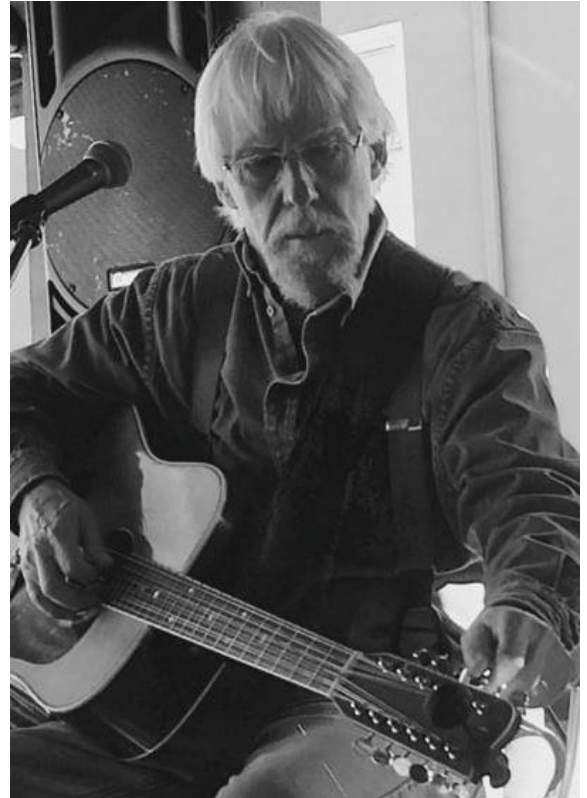
Service Leader: Robin Mahonen

Music: Alex Soltow

Third Sunday Food Collection

Bob will be dispensing information, both in song and word, about Florida waterways of which many folks are unaware. Bob will talk about his special education project which stresses the importance of teaching our young people about water and the environment.

Bob Patterson was a personal friend of Florida icon Gamble Rogers, and is one of the original co-founders of the Gamble Rogers Folk Festival. He has functioned as the Artistic Director for 24 years, booking acts and, creating programs, benefits, and lineups. For more than 20 years, he has produced ‘The Music for the Birds Concerts’, which were significant fundraisers for the HAWKE Wildlife Association. In 2011 he was awarded the ‘Fellow Man and Mother Earth Award’ by the Stetson Kennedy Foundation. The award recognizes performers and composers whose lives and works have reflected their concern for the environment, human rights, and traditional culture. He has served as a board member for the Florida Storytelling Association and in 2014 received a Lifetime Achievement Award.



In 1968 he signed a contract with Vanguard Records with his folk rock band, Elizabeth, and recorded his first album. That album is now #14 on the list of the Top 50 Psychedelic Bands You Should Hear Before You Die. Since those days, Bob has recorded eight albums and published two books (*Forgotten Tales of Florida* and *Dorothy*; both loaded with Florida history and folklore), he has received numerous awards for his fine art photography; was a 2019 first - place winner in the Best Florida Song Contest; has released a DVD commemorating fifty years as a performer, was nominated for a Florida Folk Heritage Award, and was inducted into the St. Augustine Music Hall of Fame.

There will be a mini - concert following this service!
12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Love Donation

Sunday, December 22, 10:30 a.m.
**“Why a Good Cause is Not Enough – Bringing
Marketing and Communication Tools to the Fight”**

Nicole Crosby

Service Leader: Chris Fosaaen
Music: Taffy Rook

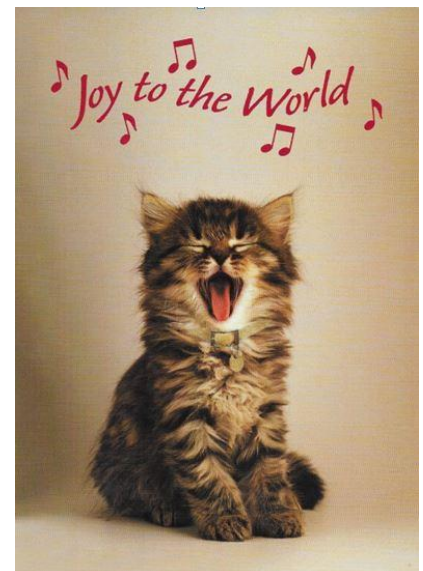


You have an incredible cause. But how do you motivate people to take action? How do you influence public policy? You can apply Madison Avenue marketing techniques to causes in your own community and make a big impact without spending big bucks. This case history shows you how. Learn how 100 acres of conservation land was saved from the bulldozer (for now!), and be inspired to make a difference in your own community.

Nicole Crosby graduated from the University of Texas School of Communication with a degree in Advertising and she went on to work for Doyle Dane Bernbach, New York where she became Sr. Vice President and a Creative Director. She has garnered many awards for advertising creativity and effectiveness. Nicole currently runs a family business called the Texas Fireframe Company. She markets a fireplace grate for a hotter, easier fire that her physicist father invented. Like her father, Nicole has always been involved in advocacy work, and three years ago, she co-founded Save Guana Now. The organization successfully stopped a developer from taking the first step towards development of 100 acres of conservation land, and she remains focused on protecting the property.

Christmas Eve Music Service
Tuesday, December 24, 2019 7:00
– 9:00 p.m.

Join us for a special Christmas Eve presentation of music and holiday tales with Taffy Rook and Palmer Short. Bring a story to share!



Sunday, December 29, 10:30 a.m.

“Peaceful Activist: Legacy of Love”

Ellen Bukstel

Service Leader: Robin Mahonen
Music: Alex Soltow



From Menopause to Marijuana! Peace to Politics! Poignant to Provocative! Ellen Bukstel writes and sings about it all and more. This type of happy-sad, life-embracing, fear-overcoming emotional schizophrenia truly captures the spirit of modern music.

With more than 40 music and video awards and acknowledgments since 2002, Ellen Bukstel has won multiple nationally acclaimed songwriting competitions including: Hollywood Music Awards, Music to Life, Breaking the Silence in Song, Wildflower Music & Arts song competitions, New Zealand’s PEACE song competition and she was a finalist in the coveted John Lennon Song Competition. In addition she has been recognized with 12 international music video awards.

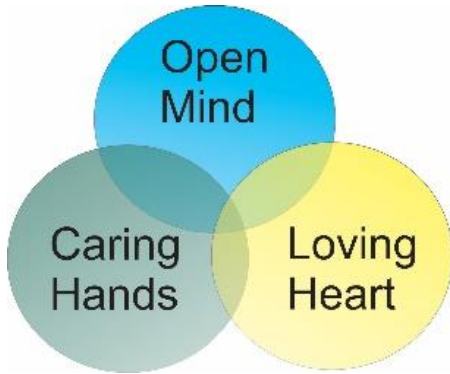
Hailed by pop star Michael Bolton as “... an amazing artist and spirit,” Ellen is a multi-faceted break-the-mold original – a consummate artist. From hilariously funny to moving compositions of love, remembrance, and social awareness, her songs always hit home, bringing her audiences to laughter and tears, sometimes both simultaneously.

For more information: www.ellenbukstel.com

There will be a mini - concert following this service!
12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
Love Donation



Programs for Children and Youth



Our children celebrated Halloween with Robin Mahonen. They decorated cupcakes and themselves. Great fun. Thank you, Robin! What a great way to start the holiday season.



In early November, we helped Barbara Brenner celebrate the authors of children's books with a Story for All Ages, read by Jindy Gelow, called *Dreamers*. It is a story about a recent immigrant to the United States from Mexico who found her spiritual home in the libraries of the United States and has become an award-winning author of children's books.



In the coming weeks, we look forward to helping our children celebrate and gain a greater understanding of the meanings of the upcoming holidays. We are also preparing for the Guest at Your Table (GAYT) fundraiser for the UUA Service Committee.

If you have questions about our Programs for Children and Youth or would like to volunteer to work with our children, please contact Jindy Gelow (jindyms@yahoo.com) or Barbara Battelle (battellebarbara@gmail.com).

We also welcome Madison Jacobs to our teaching staff.



Skeptics and Believers: Religious Debates in the Western Intellectual Tradition 2019-2020

What are we doing when we profess belief in God? When we pray? When we join others in rituals of worship? Modernity is a historical period characterized by advances in science and new models of reason. New questions about God, faith, and religion began to be asked. How do we know that God exists? Is religion a force for good in human life, or is something that belongs to a past age, a symptom of the childhood of humanity?

December 10 “Liberation Theology” Yosi McIntire

Tuesdays: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m., downstairs meeting hall, UUFSA
Series Coordinator: Surindar Paracer, Co-chair, UU Adult learning
Contact Surindar Paracer at 904-217-3802 sparacer@worchester.edu.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Topic</u> | <u>Discussion Leader</u> |
|-------------------|--|--------------------------|
| January 7 | Kierkegaard's faith | Chris McDermott |
| January 21 | Kierkegaard's Paradox | Chris McDermott |
| February 4 | Nietzsche and Genealogy of Morals | Nana Royer |
| February 18 | Nietzsche – Religion and the Ascetic Ideal | Nana Royer |
| March 10..... | Freud – Religion as Neurosis | Louis Post |
| April 7 | Barth and the end of Liberal Theology | Chris McDermott |
| April 21 | Modern Jewish Philosophy | Louis Post |
| May 5..... | Judaism and Modernity | Louis Post |
| May 19..... | Secular and Postmodern Theologies | Chuck Chambers |
| June 9..... | New Atheisms | Richard Lahey |
| June 23..... | Pluralisms – Religious and Secular..... | Jane Mahoney |

UUFSA Sunday Coffee Hour Overwhelmingly Popular

Coffee Hour hosting has become one of the most popular activities at UUFSA!

Palmer Short arrives early every Sunday morning before his choir practice to prepare two large urns of coffee – one decaf and one full octane – and heats water for tea.

We encourage our UUFSA members to purchase their fair-trade coffee where we purchase ours, namely from Purity and Martin Kabaki, founders of Growers' Alliance at 322 Anastasia Blvd.



Thanks to one of our Fellowship's founding members, Ann Wilke, we enjoy a delicious home-made cake every third Sunday.

Thanks to the following Fellowship members and friends who fought for and won the opportunity to host a Sunday coffee during the fall months:

- Ruth Weber & Don Brandes
- John Miller & Joyce Peterson
- Adele DelSavio & Nana Royer
- Claudia Atkins & Robin Russo
- Kathleen & Surindar Paracer
- Fred Dolgin & Chris McDermott
- Gina Jonas & Michael Read

To win your very own chance to host a Sunday coffee hour this winter, just sign up on the calendar in our Social Hall. Or call or text UUFSA Hospitality Coordinator, Rosi Angeli, at 904-315-4284.



Flowers for Sunday Services

If you enjoy seeing flowers at our Sunday services, please sign up on the calendar downstairs in the Social Hall to bring them. If the flowers are in honor of a special occasion or person, just write up and hand the commemorative text to the Sunday Service Leader who will read it as part of the service announcements. Or, make your own announcement as part of "Joys & Sorrows." Please remember to take your flowers with you after the service so you can enjoy them all week long at home!



Unitarian Universalist Justice Florida
Bending Florida toward Justice

UUJF Legislative Days January 27-28, 2020

Registration is now open for Unitarian Universalist Justice Florida Legislative Days.

UUJF invites all UUs and friends to participate in this important annual event. This is your opportunity to visit our state capitol, have dinner at the UU Church of Tallahassee, and learn how you can influence your state legislators to vote on issues important to us as UUs. The next day we meet with our legislators or their staff in their offices. Lodging is included free of charge at the local Days Inn. Several members have already attended and have found it a very interesting, informative experience. The antidote to despair is action – and actions such as this can be very healing.

Go to this link for further info

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=rm&ogbl#inbox/FMfcgxwDrbtRxPrpPKIFVvQLkGqksNv>

In the past we have carpooled and can do so again. Please contact Nana Royer (nana@nrdp.net 904-377-1600) for more information.

Holiday Flowers

Soon after Thanksgiving you will see poinsettias at UUFSA. Enjoy the holiday cheer at our church and then remember that they are also for sale as a UUFSA fundraiser. Purchase one for your own holiday decorations or to give as a gift. Call or email Annette Jones for purchases or just to answer questions: 386-225-4453, 904-402-1676, or ajones@greyvictory.com





Book Group

Tuesday, December 17, at 1:00 p.m.

The book for discussion is *The Rent Collector*, by Cameron Wright. Pat Hall will be discussion leader.

Bobbie Brenner
Group Coordinator

Green Sanctuary Team

Please remember to save your dental care products: empty toothpaste tubes, packaging, used plastic toothbrushes, and used dental floss containers, and drop them into the marked box downstairs.

Great Decisions

Great Decisions will not meet in December. Meetings will recommence in January.
For more information, please contact Yosi at jomcintire@bellsouth.net or 904-461-3175.



Friday Darts Nights

December 6 and 20, 7:00 p.m.

Darts nights are held at the Pub UU (downstairs at UUFSa) at 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month and the fifth Friday if there is one. Contact Palmer Short, palshort@gmail.com, for details.

From the Food Pantry



Chris Fosaaen, Ruth Weber, Robin Russo and Cherie Dolgin have joined a newly formed Fund Raising Committee at the Food Pantry. We will be exploring ideas for increasing revenue for the Pantry via fund raising in our individual churches and in the St. Johns County community. Stay tuned.

The Pantry is specifically asking for food donations, for single people, who do not have cooking facilities. We are talking about homeless people or those who may rent a room. Types of food that would be good to donate are cans of fruit or chicken, pouches of tuna or nuts, granola bars, etc. – any room-temperature food that could be a single serving. Often people do have a can opener but self-opening cans or pouches are better.

On behalf of all the Food Pantry volunteers, I want to wish each of you a joyful holiday season. When you think about how much more each of us will probably eat in the month of December vs. other months, please keep in mind our neighbors who are not so fortunate. This is the season of giving!

UUFSA Food Pantry, please contact Co-coordinators:
Cherie Dolgin (904) 461-1604 or Chris Fosaaen (904) 673-5630

Care Connection



Our Care Connection group provides short-term support and assistance for members of the Fellowship during times of difficulty. We thank everyone for their generous support with transportation to medical appointments, making meals, assistance with errands, visiting and sharing. The Care Connection serves everyone in our Fellowship willing to receive and give support at times of difficulty. Contact one of our members listed below if you are in need of assistance or would like to be involved in the Care Connection Team. We accept and appreciate donations.

Claudia Atkins, Chair 386-717-6765
Adele DelSavio 315-529-6287
Cherie Dolgin 904-461-1604
JoAnne Engelbert 904-460-1190
Pat Hall 914-787-9184

Maureen Herth 904-463-1032
Cynthia McAuliffe 904-863-1303
Rosemary Wheeler 352-339-4157
Anne Wilke 904-797-1944

Dining With Dignity

Our next opportunity to provide a nourishing meal for the homeless will be **Sunday, December 1, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.** For more information, contact a member of the Dining with Dignity Team:

Mary Kellough, 904-217-9837



Palmer's Pic December 27, 6:30 p.m.

THE HOUSE WITHOUT A CHRISTMAS TREE

Embittered by the death of his wife, James Mills (Jason Robards) refuses to buy a Christmas tree for his ten year old daughter, Addie. Undaunted, Addie (Lisa Lucas) wins a Christmas tree but will her angry father let her keep it? The setting is 1946 Nebraska. This was first shown on TV in 1972. It was adapted by Eleanor Perry from a story by Gail Rock. Children 12 and under are admitted free.



The five dollars you donate to view the movie helps pay for the license to show the movies. After the license fee is paid, the rest of the money goes into the UUFSA general fund. You see a good movie and help the Fellowship at the same time. Thanks for your attendance.

Palmer

December Calendar



- 1 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 2 – Program Team 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 6 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 5 – Indivisible St. Augustine 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 9 – Board of Trustees meeting 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 10 – Adult Learning, Liberation Theology 5:00 – 6:30
- 13 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 15 – Third Sunday food donation during service
- 15 – Bob Patterson mini-concert Noon – 1:00 p.m.
- 17 – Book Group 1:00 – 2:45 p.m.
- 20 – Deadline for January Quest contributions
- 20 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 22 – Christmas Eve music and holiday tales 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 27 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 22 – Movie, *The House Without a Christmas Tree* 6:30 p.m.
- 22 – Green Team 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
- 29 – Ellen Bukstel mini-concert Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Beyond Our Congregation



For information about events beyond our Fellowship, check the UUA Southern Region event calendar at <http://www.uuasouthernregion.org/home.html> and the UUA website at <http://www.uua.org/>

GA 2020: Rooted, Inspired, & Ready! June 24-28, Providence, RI

The theme for [General Assembly](#) in June 2020 is Rooted, Inspired, & Ready! We are in touch with our theological roots, we are engaged in transforming our faith and we are fired up to take action in the wider world.

Early Bird Registration Open!

[Early Bird Registration](#) is open through March 15. Full-time registration rates are \$400 for adults, \$250 for high school youth and retired and candidate ministers, or \$150 for off-site participants.



Propose a Program for GA 2020

You are invited to [submit a program proposal](#) for the 2020 General Assembly. We are especially looking for proposals that address the 2020 theme Rooted, Inspired, & Ready! Proposals are due by Tuesday, November 26 at 3:00 p.m. EST.

Rails to Trails Festival Saturday, December 14

The 8th Annual Rails to Trails Festival will be celebrating the Gullah Geechee cultural heritage at Armstrong Park (4950 Harvey Ave., Elkton, same side road that leads to the St. Johns County Fairground parking area.) A bike ride will start at 9 a.m., and then the festival starts at noon with live music, dance, the Geechee Gullah Ring Shouters, local and Gullah Food Vendors, and crafts. DJ Danny Fro sets up at 8 p.m. A poster has been pinned to the Social Justice Board downstairs. Contact Mary Kellough for more information: 904-460-9406, 904-217-9837, Lkellough@comcast.net.



Scorching temperatures. Rocky terrain. Hunger and thirst. Physical and emotional exhaustion. These are the things migrant families face every day as they travel through dangerous routes in search of freedom. Since the mid – 90s, the United States has employed an immigration policy the government calls “prevention through deterrence.” Militarizing areas along the U.S. – Mexico border forces migrants to attempt travel through inhospitable and often deadly mountainous areas

If you have ever wondered what that journey must be like for families who are desperate to escape violence in their home country, [I can tell you what I saw firsthand from being in that desert landscape for just a few days.](#) I traveled to the southwest alongside several other activists and volunteers who participated in a [UU College of Social Justice experiential learning trip to the border.](#)

My experience showed me what it means to rely on community and require compassion. It taught the vitality of water and the importance of food. Without these things, survival is unlikely — a heartbreaking fact made evident by the remains of more than 3,000 people our partner, No More Deaths (No Más Muertes), has helped recover in the Sonora desert.

We must live out the words inscribed on the water jugs we left in the desert: *no estas solo* — you are not alone. We must band together as people of conscience during this time when rights are under attack. And we must join our voices in unison to ensure the practice of targeting acts of compassion ends.

It’s more important than ever to speak truth to power, telling those who seek to undermine compassionate acts that humanitarian aid is never a crime. [Please learn more and join us this week in expressing solidarity with Scott Warren and our partner No More Deaths.](#)

Rev. Laura Randall
Associate Director of Development for Congregation Relations