

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Myers
Order of Worship
February 9, 2025

*** Please rise in body or spirit*

Gathering Music

Welcome Leslie Gatto

To all who are yearning for community,
Come in. Be among us.

To all who are just getting started,
To all who long to go deeper,
To all with tender places needing care,
Come in. Be among us.

To the ones who have healed and have care to give,
For those who are curious and hungry to learn,
For those who know that they have something to teach,
Come in. Be among us.

For the ones who are just beginning to suspect they might
nurture others' becoming,
To the young and the old, the innocent and the jaded, the

fresh of mind and the deeply-steeped,
There is room here for each and every one.
Come in. Be among us.

by Rev. Shari Woodbury

Welcome to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of
Fort Myers. Our mission is to love, grow and serve. Today
we welcome to our sanctuary Scout Troop #3300 who
share our campus and partner with us.

Presentation of the Flags

Call to Worship By Leslie Takahashi read by Rev. Sue

They teach us to read in black and white.
Truth is this—the rest false.
You are whole—or broken.
Who you love is acceptable—or not.
Life tells its truth in many hues.
We are taught to think in either/or.
To believe the teachings of Jesus—OR Buddha.
To believe in human potential—OR a power beyond a single will.
I am broken OR I am powerful.

Life embraces multiple truths, speaks of both, and of and.
We are taught to see in absolutes.
Good versus evil.
Male versus female,
Old versus young,

Gay versus straight.

Let us see the fractions, the spectrum, the margins.

Let us open our hearts to the complexity of our worlds.

Let us make our lives sanctuaries, to nurture our many identities.

The day is coming when all will know

That the rainbow world is more gorgeous than monochrome,

That a river of identities can ebb and flow over the static, stubborn rocks in its course,

That the margins hold the center.

****Chalice Lighting Leslie**

Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses
yearning to breathe free. The wretched refuse of your
teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to
me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door!

Let us now light our flame of radical inclusion.

****Covenant by James Vila Blake Leslie**

Love is the spirit of this congregation and service its
law. This is our great covenant: To dwell together in
peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one
another.

****Opening Hymn #361 Enter , Rejoice and Come In**

A Time for All Ages The Power of Community Rev. Sue

Stones of Intention Leslie

If you picked up a stone as you entered the sanctuary, I invite you to hold it close to your heart. Infuse the stone with your intentions, joys or sorrows and imagine it joining with others in a bowl of sand representing this community of loving support. There are also stones available beside each bowl of sand. On Zoom, you may place your joys and sorrows in the chat box.

I will place the first stone in appreciation for the Scouts, their leaders and families.

Final Stone Rev. Sue

Prayer and Meditation Rev. Sue by Rev. Gretchen Haley

For this one moment:

Know only that you are loved

That you are safe, and whole and loved

Know that you belong here

Here among us, here upon this earth

In your body However tired, or broken Your heart may be

Whatever fear, disappointment, anger you carry

For this hour know you are not alone

Feel the presence of others Surrounding you,

Breathing beside you, and with you,
Discovering together the way our voices rise, and fall together
In harmony, in hope
Claim here a resilient freedom
The choice for love, for light, to live with joy and gratitude and praise as a form of
resistance

Reflective Hymn #123 Spirit of Life (English and Spanish)

Messages Rev. Sue introduces and frames messages

Speakers:

Scott Clere-Chartered Organization Representative (COR)

Matt Weaver-Cubmaster

Julie Frank-Scoutmaster

Preston Timpner-Scout

Offering and Stewardship Moment

This congregation aims to be a force for good in the world, which is made possible in large part through our annual Stewardship Drive. I invite Mary Studer to tell us why she .

This month our Community Sharing partner is RESET which stands for **R**estoring **E**arth as our **S**acred **E**cological **T**rust. RESET is helping restore Earth as a sacred ecological trust by (1) Joining other environmental and climate organizations to help create a healthier environment (2) Administering the selection and the

awarding of the Holley Rauen Environmental Leadership Award. (3) Advocating for FloridaRightToCleanWater.Org (4) Motivating people to participate in the Pachamama Alliance Game Changer Intensive. (5) On March 15 commencing an Earth Listening Circle.

All loose money will go to RESET. If you would like your offering to go to congregational programming, please designate UUCFM at the link online or the offering envelope found at the Welcome Table.

The morning offering will now be generously given and gratefully received.

Offertory/Anthem *Colors of the Wind* UUCFM Choir

****Words of Gratitude** Rev. Sue

By the work of our hands, and the work of our hearts, our love is made real.
May we be grateful for all that is given, and grateful for all that is shared.

****Extinguishing the Chalice** by Elizabeth Selle Jones Rev. Sue

We extinguish this flame, but not the light of truth, the warmth of community or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.

Closing Hymn #407 We're Going to Sit at the Welcome Table

Closing Words Rev. Sue

Rev. William F. Schulz This is the mission of our faith: To teach the fragile art of hospitality; To revere both the critical mind and the generous heart; To prove that diversity need not mean divisiveness; And to witness to all that we must hold the whole world in our hands.

Farewell Words

The Scouts sharing our campus has been a wonderful partnership for many years. Thank you all for joining us today.

Please join us following the service for a fabulous lunch on the screen porch, provided by the Scouts! Turn right as you leave the sanctuary. On Zoom, please stay on for connection and conversation with each other.

After the Scouts and the Worship Team exit the sanctuary, please **Greet your neighbor**. We look forward to seeing you again next Sunday!

Postlude