

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Myers**

**Order of Worship**

**June 22, 2025**

*\*\* Please rise in body or spirit*

**Gathering Music** Mashup of songs from musicals, Jon's choice

**Welcome** Lesley

**Call to Worship** "Seasons of Love" from Rent Sue introduces

It has been a delight leading worship here for the last three years. Each year, a little bit better. It has also been just an utter joy to work with Jon. He is talented, creative, empowering, has a positive attitude and has never balked at my crazy ideas for either him or the choir (and never grumbled when I would ask for something 20 minutes before a service). In fact, it has been the opposite...I would mention something and you could tell the wheels started to turn and soon there would be lists of other ideas and suggestions and soon a whole amazing collaboration would emerge. When we were talking about today's service (a long time ago). We both agreed it should be a joyful, fun and uplifting worship and we both realized that we had never done that one service that we both wanted to do together with all of the music coming from Broadway Shows. So, I said, why not? Let's do it on the last day. So, here we are...and for those of you who hate musicals...I will say the same thing I say to everyone who loves or hates a

particular Sunday. It is only one Sunday...next week will be different as we try to live into our amazing diversity and offer worship experiences that inspire and give hope...maybe next week will be YOUR “favorite” service. And for those of you who do love musicals, enjoy and please sing along! So our opening words are the lyrics to Seasons of Love. Thank you to the choir for indulging us and practicing so many songs. Please feel free to remain seated and sing along.

Five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes  
Five hundred twenty five thousand moments so dear  
Five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes  
How do you measure, measure a year?

In daylights, in sunsets  
In midnights, in cups of coffee  
In inches, in miles  
In laughter, in strife

In five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes  
How do you measure a year in the life?

How about love, how about love  
How about love, measure in love  
Seasons of love, seasons of love

Five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes  
Five hundred twenty five thousand journeys to plan  
Five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes  
How do you measure the life of a woman or a man

In truth that she learned  
Or in times that he cried  
In bridges he burned  
Or the way that she died

It's time now to sing out  
Though the story never ends  
Let's celebrate, remember a year  
In the life of friends

Remember the love, remember the love  
Remember the love, measure in love  
Seasons of love, seasons of love

Five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes  
Five hundred twenty five thousand moments so dear  
Five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes  
How do you measure, measure a year

In daylights, in sunsets

In minutes, in cups of coffee

In inches, in miles

In laughter, in strife

In five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes

How do you measure a year in the life?

How about love, remember the love

Remember the love, Measure in love

**Rev. Sue and Ulises' Gift to the Congregation** (I will add the text of this at the end, since it is a surprise)

**\*\*Chalice Lighting** Ulises Salazar

**\*\*Covenant** by James Vila Blake

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 Song** "Corner of the Sky" from Pippin

Everything has its season

Everything has its time

Show me a reason

And I'll soon show you a rhyme

Cats fit on the windowsill

Children fit in the snow

Why do I feel I don't fit in

Anywhere I go

Rivers belong where they can ramble

Eagles belong where they can fly

I've got to be where my spirit can be free

Got to find my corner of the sky

Every man has his daydreams

Every man has his goal

People like the way dreams have

Of sticking to the soul

Rain comes after thunder

Winter comes after fall

Sometimes I think I'm not after

Anything at all

Rivers belong where they can ramble

Eagles belong where they can fly

I've got to be where my spirit can be free

Got to find my corner of the sky

And maybe some misty day you'll

Waken to find me gone

And far away you'll hear me

Singing to the dawn

And you'll wonder if I'm happy there

A little more than I've been

And the answer will come back to you

Like laughter on the wind

Rivers belong where they can ramble

Eagles belong where they can fly

I've got to be where my spirit can be free

Got to find my corner of the sky

**Reading** FOR A NEW BEGINNING John O'Donohue Sue

In out-of-the-way places of the heart, Where your thoughts never think to wander,  
This beginning has been quietly forming, Waiting until you were ready to emerge.  
For a long time it has watched your desire, Feeling the emptiness growing inside  
you, Noticing how you willed yourself on, Still unable to leave what you had  
outgrown. It watched you play with the seduction of safety And the gray promises  
that sameness whispered, Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent, Wondered

would you always live like this. Then the delight, when your courage kindled, And  
out you stepped onto new ground, Your eyes young again with energy and dream,  
A path of plenitude opening before you. Though your destination is not yet clear  
You can trust the promise of this opening; Unfurl yourself into the grace of  
beginning That is at one with your life's desire. Awaken your spirit to adventure;  
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk; Soon you will home in a new rhythm,  
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.

### **Short Reflection** Sue

### **Song** “This is Me” from The Greatest Showman

I am not a stranger to the dark  
Hide away, they say  
‘Cause we don’t want your broken parts

I’ve learned to be ashamed of all my scars  
Run away, they say  
No one’ll love you are you are

But I won’t let them break me down to dust  
I know there’s a place for all of us  
For we are glorious

When the sharpest words wanna cut me down  
I'm gonna send a flood, gonna drown them out  
I am brave, I am bruised I am who I'm meant to be  
This is me

Look out 'cause here I come  
And I'm marching on to the beat I drum  
I'm not scared to be seen I make no apologies  
This is me

Another round of bullets hits my skin  
Well, fire away, 'cause today  
I won't let the shame sink in

We are bursting through the barricades  
And reaching for the sun  
We are warriors  
Yeah that's what we've become

I won't let them break me down to dust  
I know there's a place for all of us  
For we are glorious

When the sharpest words wanna cut me down



I'm gonna send a flood, gonna drown them out  
I am brave, I am bruised I am who I'm meant to be  
This is me

**Stones of Intention** Melyssa

(piano music to include "Don't Cry for Me" Argentina from Evita)

**Final Stone** Andy

**Prayer and Meditation** Andy

**Reflective Song** "For Good" from Wicked Christy

**Saying Goodbye: Worship Teams**

Lesley Peterson

*All set, but I don't want to place it here. I'd rather that Rev. Sue and Ulysses hear it in the moment.*

**Offertory** Gary

The Alliance for Fair Food (Coalition of Immokalee Workers)

They work together to support farmworkers confronting human rights abuses, including systematic wage theft, sexual harassment, health and safety violations, and in the most extreme cases, modern day slavery in Florida's tomato fields.

You can determine where you would like your funds to be designated, by indicating it on your check or envelope, or in the drop down menu if donating electronically.

All loose funds in the collection will be donated to our Community Sharing Partner. If you don't already have an envelope, and you wish to show support for UUCFM's Congregational

programs, envelopes can be found at the end of the Pews. Unmarked envelopes will be designated for UUCFM.

**Offering** “Circle of Life” from the Lion King UUCFM Choir

**\*\*Words of Gratitude** 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 (Sue and Ulises)

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 Song** “Seize the Day” from Newsies (Sue introduces)

Now is the time to seize the day  
Stare down the odds and seize the day  
Minute by minute, that’s how you win it  
We will find a way  
But let us seize the day

Now is the time to seize the day  
Answer the call and don't delay  
Wrongs will be righted if we're united  
Let us seize the day

Now let 'em hear it loud and clear  
Like it or not we're drawing near  
Proud and defiant, we'll slay the giant  
Judgement day is hear

Houston to Harlem  
Look what's begun  
One for all and all for one

Now is the time to seize the day  
Answer the call and don't delay  
Nothing can break us, no one can make us  
Quit before we're done

One for all and all for one  
One for all and all for one  
One for all and all for one

**Transfer of Ministry to Arthur** Sue, Arthur and Andrea and the congregation

Andrea: Today we stand at a threshold — between what has been and what is yet to come. As Unitarian Universalists, we mark this moment with gratitude, love, and hope. We honor the ministry that has led us thus far, and we open our hearts to the new ministry that begins today."

"Rev. Sue, you have walked with us in times of joy and sorrow, challenge and growth. You have preached to us, listened to us, stood by us, and reminded us of who we strive to be as a people of faith.

On behalf of this congregation, we thank you for your service, your leadership, and your love.

May your next path be full of purpose, peace, and blessing."

**Congregational Response (in unison):**

"We release you from your role among us with gratitude and love. Go in peace."

"Rev. Arthur, we welcome you with open hearts and open minds. As you join us in shared ministry, we offer you our support, our trust, and our partnership.

We look forward to the journey ahead — to the sermons, the conversations, the challenges, and the shared celebrations that will shape us in the days to come."

**Congregational Response (in unison):**

"We welcome you. With great rejoicing"

**Rev. Arthur:** "Ministry is never done by one alone — it is a weaving of voices, hearts, and hands. As we move forward together, may we continue to grow in

spirit, in love, and in service to this community and the world."

Go in peace

**Farewell Words** Andrea

**Party in Hobart Hall after this service!**

Let's say our fond farewells, and show our great gratitude, by having pizza and cake in Hobart Hall.

**Postlude with Singing** "Ease on Down the Road" from The Wiz

Come on and ease on down, ease on down the road

Come on and ease on down, ease on down the road

Don't you carry nothing that might be a load

Come on, ease on down, ease on down the road