

## **Letter from the Minister**

**June, 2024**

The clerk in the grocery store here in Florida said, “Honey, it’s so hot today, the ice cream truck done melted on the pavement.” I recall an elder in Indiana who said, “Look here, it’s so hot even my iced tea is sweating.” And a congregant in a UU congregation in Savannah, Georgia instructed me after I declared that I was sweaty, “Darlin! We women in the south don’t sweat, dear. We glisten!”

In the winter months, people in the north hunker down and stay inside to endure the cold. Here in the south, the summer is heating up and people are slowing down, much of the time staying indoors near the A/C or lounging by the pool. This time of year is the perfect time to relax and play.

I attended a class sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice (UUCSJ). We met with local activists in New Orleans including Ashana, a person who made a startling pronouncement. She said, “There is enormous work to be done here in New Orleans around racial, educational, and economic inequity. One can easily become overwhelmed with so much extreme need. Therefore, our festivals and parties are more than optional events. They have become necessities because we cannot continue to stay in the fight for rights without experiencing moments of joy.”

Come the fall especially, you and I here in Pinellas County will have our calendars filled with activities to address our fight for clean water, women’s rights to healthcare, racial equity, and our struggle for democracy. You and I need the time this summer to play, to dance and to read.

Author Banana Yoshimoto writes, “For me, a page of good prose is where one hears the rain [and] the noise of battle.”

There is work to be done but let this June be a season of rest.

-Rev. Amy Kindred

<https://www.pbs.org/wnet/african-americans-many-rivers-to-cross/history/what-is-juneteenth/>