



Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater – July 26, 2026

Send in the Clowns: A serious Unitarian novelist, poet, and playwright conjures a defense against the American political dark arts

Ron Vierling, UUC member

Ron will connect a story joke about and for Unitarians to several Unitarian Principles of Belief and Practice as psychological relief from the wide-spread emotional confusion and depression that too many Americans find ourselves suffering during what the Minister of Magic in the Harry Potter novels and movies labeled the “dangerous dark arts” that threatened to undo us all.

Our Vision: An inclusive religious community, a beacon for reason, meaning and bold social action.

Our Mission: To celebrate dignity and respect for all, nurture lifelong spiritual growth, act for justice and equality, and serve the wider community.

Pre-service Music

Played by Roger McCormick

Welcome

Margie Manning, Worship Associate

Tingsha

Prelude

““Put on a Happy Face”

Composed by Charles Strouse

Played by Roger McCormick, pianist

Call to Worship

“Building Belonging”

By Rev. David Breeden

Delivered by Margie Manning

Chalice Lighting

Written by Rev. Michelle Collins

Delivered by Margie Manning

We light this chalice in honor of the families we build, the circles we choose, the bonds shaped by care. May this flame remind us that love is the tie that makes us kin.

Story for All Ages

Margie Manning

Singing the children to the classroom Hymn #414

“As You Leave This Friendly Place”

Joys and Concerns



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Featured Music:

“Send in the Clowns”
Composed by Stephen Sondheim
Elyse Fenstermacher, soprano
and Roger McCormick, pianist

Sermon

Send in the Clowns
Ron Vierling

Hymn #1064

Blue Boat Home

Offertory

Extinguishing the Chalice

“Go in peace, go making peace, live gently, love mightily and bow to the mystery”

Postlude:

“Change the World”
Composed by Kaoru Wada
Played by Roger McCormick

Our Grateful Thanks:

Worship Associate: Margie Manning; **Service Technical Support:** Colin Brink, Phil Brown, Jeremy Dillow, Rich Cann, David Feick; **Zoom Host:** TBD; **UUC Choir:** Barbara Bedingfield, Matt Bouchie, Rich Cann, Linda Carroll, Gretchen Craig, Anne DiNatale, Elyse Fenstermacher, Jocelyn Ganoza, Pan Godchaux, Sue Hand, Ed Kraemer, Chris Parliman, Bruce Peller, Donna Polhamus, Susie Safford; **Slides and Video:** Margie Manning and Jeremy Dillow; **Ushers:** TBD; **Visuals:** Ana “Soledad” Vaquer; **Staff:** Anne Gilbert, Campus Administrator; Rev. Amy Kindred, Developmental Minister; Roger McCormick, Pianist; Dr. Susan Robinson, Choral Conductor, Zoraida Santana, Custodian; Gary Strauss, Security Guard; Lori Thorn, Lifelong Learning; Barb Tobin, Lifelong Learning; Eric Williamson, Handyperson; Dale Zwick, Bookkeeper; **Pastoral Associates:** Bill Foley, Pan Godchaux, Eloise Hardman, Kathy Krohn

SUNDAY FLOWER DONATIONS

If you would like to supply the flowers for an upcoming Sunday service in honor of a special event or person in your life, please email Ana "Soledad" Vaquer at soledad.globalre@gmail.com. She will help you coordinate your contribution.



Hymn #414 “As You Leave This Friendly Place”

As you leave this friendly place,
love give light to ev’ry face;
may the kindness which you learn
light your hearts till you return.

Hymn #1064 “Blue Boat Home”

Though below me, I feel no motion standing on these mountains and plains.
Far away from the rolling ocean still my dry land heart can say:
I’ve been sailing all my life now, never harbor or port have I known.
The wide universe is the ocean I travel and the earth is my blue boat home.

Sun my sail and moon my rudder as I ply the starry sea,
leaning over the edge in wonder, casting questions into the deep.
Drifting here with my ship’s companions, all we kindred pilgrim souls,
making our way by the lights of the heavens in our beautiful blue boat home.

I give thanks to the waves up holding me, hail the great winds urging me on,
greet the infinite sea before me, sing the sky my sailor’s song:
I was born up on the fathoms, never harbor or port have I known.
The wide universe is the ocean I travel, and the earth is my blue boat home.