



Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

The Light

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August 2017

Celebrate Diversity · Strive for Justice · Inspire Love

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola



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The Light

Editor: Rose Jansen

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Coffee & Conversation 9 a.m. / Sunday Services 10 a.m.

August 6 — “Landscapes” UUCP Member, Shea Winterberger
Fiction can be an excellent escape from the everyday. But sometimes it also allows us to communicate insights that provide valuable lessons. Metaphors about living that, if provided without the trappings of fiction, might not be as impactful. Let's take a walk through the fiction section and remind ourselves of how we impact the landscapes around us.

August 13 — “Spirituality of Play” Rev. Dr. Julie Kain
Before the summer comes to an end, we'll lift up the spiritual merits of time devoted to play. Spiritual nurture and growth happens when we cultivate our hobbies and spend precious time with friends and family. As humans seeking healing and wholeness in our lives, we often neglect the creative and restorative values of rest, recreation and play.

August 20 — “Compassion, Volunteerism and Social Action”
UUCP Member, Bob Gerold

How much is enough?
In a world where the problems of life seem out of control and keep compounding, how do we interact with people in more need than us. How much is enough? If you wake up in the morning thinking that you should be doing more than you are, what can you do?
Join Bob Gerold in taking a look at the situation we are in and how to get a grasp on what to do. One man's opinion.

August 27 — “The Art of Happiness” Rev. Dr. Julie Kain
We look to our religious community and spiritual practices to help us to be the best people we can be. Can they also help us in our personal quest for happiness?

Annual Ingathering Service
Sunday, September 10

*Don't forget while on your summer adventures,
near or far, to bring a stone, shell or water
to place on our Community Table!*

Julie's Jazz Notes

It was *wonderful* to have such a large group of our members attend the annual General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) when it was held at the end of June in New Orleans. I know that each person has returned back to their home congregation with new insights on what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist living along our beautiful Gulf Coast. Thanks to everyone who attended and who is bringing back to share with our congregation their learning and enthusiasm. We're grateful for the reflections they offered in the Sunday service on July 30.

I celebrated a personal and professional milestone at the General Assembly (GA) by hosting guest speaker, Dr. Mtangulizi Sanyika, for a GA program on the fiftieth anniversary of the Black power era within Unitarian Universalism. This is the culmination of a UU history project in which I have been active since I was a semi-

narian at Starr King School for the Ministry and collaborated with Dr. Sanyika for the first time sixteen years ago. Along with many other UUs who are passionate about our denomination's efforts toward racial justice in America, I look forward to a forthcoming book written by Sanyika about the relevance of this era to our UU history and to current times across the United States.

You will be hearing more in the coming weeks about this General Assembly as the coverage will be shared in our UU World magazine. It included the election of the *first woman president* to serve our Unitarian Universalist Association, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray. An ongoing UU project I know we will be hearing more about is a proposed 8th Principle – “We covenant to affirm and promote: Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by building a diverse, multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accounta-

bly dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.” The 8th Principle project is being spearheaded by longtime UU lay leader Paula Cole Jones. For more information, see page 9 and check out this link, especially under the tab for Background: <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/>

Enjoy your summer!
Rev. Julie



Our Caring Community

Our loving thoughts go to **Holly Collins and family** on the sudden loss of her son Todd, who died in his sleep at the age of 36. A beautiful celebration of his life was held at the restaurant where he had worked for many years in Panama City Beach. Our condolences are with Holly and her family as they grieve this loss.

We hold **Minister Emeritus, Rev. Bob Eddy** in the love of our community as he continues to grieve the loss of his beloved wife Gerry. Bob will be doing some traveling this summer, including a visit with former member Mo Michel in Colorado, before starting a process to relocate to Bloomington, Indiana to be near to his adult children there, Pam and Miles.

Congratulations to **Marylee and Gerry Donnelly** on the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary this summer. The Donnellys met up with **Emma Mulvaney's family** (including her parents who also are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary) during their visit back to Ireland. How sweet.

We offer our deepest hopes for healing to our **Community Minister, Rev. Maggie Lovins**, as she continues to struggle with undiagnosed health issues and to her family and circle of closest friends who provide her with continued support during this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Maggie!

We were saddened by the death of former member **Hilda Huggins** recently.

A lovely Celebration of Life was held with a small circle of family and friends, led by Rev. Julie at the personal request of Hilda prior to her death.

Best Wishes to **Jennifer Morris and her daughters Alexis and Cecilia** as they prepare to make a major move to Portland to be closer to family and begin a new life in a new locale. We are so proud of how hard Jennifer has worked to make this move possible! A festive Farewell Reception will be held at church on Sunday, August 6 after the service.

President's Notes:

Monthly column from our Board President, Kate Wolverton

Sometimes I can't get over just how fast time travels these days! I made it one more time around the sun! Jack and I had a fun, muddy, refreshing, music and family filled New York/ New England trip. Here's hoping you all are enjoying your summer. Looking forward to hearing about your adventures.

I learned a lot at the "Transitions" work shop in June which occurred during the GA weekend. Since Julie has announced her resignation to occur next year, we need to be considering the next steps for UUCP and the transitions therein. Mainly I realized that the UUA has our back. They have assisted in this transition for many congregations, and they have a recommended path forward to make it as easy as it can be. We will take our transition one step at a time, staying aware of our transformation as we move forward.

The UUCP Board will be having our Church Board Retreat on August 19. I am hoping for a fun filled, insightful, and informational event. We have a good, positive, new and experienced team of board members this year, and we will concentrate on our near and long term

goals for UUCP.

We have lots going on this year, including many fun events. One goal for 2017/18 is to celebrate and appreciate all that Rev. Dr. Julie has done for us these past 11 years and prepare ourselves for our future! We will also be celebrating the 60th Anniversary of UUCP!

I hope to see many of you at the UUCP Fall Camp Out on Aug 25-27 at Fort Pickens. This is a time to celebrate the families and friends within the congregation, and to appreciate the beauty of our beaches and surrounding nature.

*Speak respectfully,
listen to understand,
and behave compassionately.*

Kate Wolverton



Do you ever wonder what goes on at board meetings? There is a 3-ring binder in the church office with all the meeting minutes and you're welcome to attend! We want to make sure our UU family is informed and up to date!



From Our Community Minister, Maggie Lovins

Greetings UUCP Members, yes, I, your Community Minister, really do still exist! My health has been challenging, and I am grateful to all of you who have sent cards or visited while I was in the hospital or just feeling under the weather.

Wanted to give y'all an update on a few community related tid-bits that might inspire you to become more involved. The Southern Region, which we are a part of (and I had been a field agent for) has a bi-monthly newsletter that comes out with most all events going on in our Southern Region and in the wider Unitarian Universalist Association. With a brand new UUA president, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, and bold new initiatives coming our way keeping plugged in is something we can all do to help further Unitarian Universalism daily. It's super simple to get the newsletter, go to the Southern Region website at: <http://www.uuasouthernregion.org> where on the left side you will find a purple-ish button that says "Subscribe to our newsletter" and go from there. You can also access the Facebook page from the big blue button as well.

On a note closer to home, the ministry my health has allowed me to perform has been fun and I think meaningful to many. A couple weeks ago my niece and nephew (many of you know them well as they visit every year!)

completed a day of 'Random Acts of Kindness' and delivered cold water and yummy popsicles to the homeless in downtown Pensacola. Then we treated many families of color who were taking time at the Palafox splash pad with water and popsicles as well. All persons were surprised and grateful, but none as much as we were I bet. I hope to arrange more of these Random Act of Kindness days and get more of our congregation involved, keep an eye out, more info to come!

The most exciting thing I'm working on though is my online ministry named *Love will Light the Way Ministry*. It's still small right now but one must start somewhere, right? The idea is simple enough, share our stories- as we are our stories- of how we lit a light for someone who was in a dark place so they knew they were not alone and could make it through or have had someone do the same for us. The Facebook forum is a great first step and I'd like to invite all of you to join the page and start submitting your stories. They can be your stories or stories you hear from other pages or pictures that remind you of such wondrous Agape Love you are moved by them. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/lovewilllighttheway/>

I will sign off for now with Love and Gratitude in my heart for all of you.

Namaste!

Rev. Maggie



WAY COOL Sunday School

Children's Religious Education News:
WAY Cool Sunday School AUGUST!

CRE Goals are to engage Children, youth and teens in meaningful exploration of our Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola community through simple interactions with their surroundings and to develop a sense of our UU identity and a personal commitment to living our seven Unitarian Universalist Principles.

Summer time and everything is fine!

Oops! Where did it go? Summer is winding down and it is time to look ahead at our coming WAY Cool Sunday School Year! This year Olivia Hawkins will be back at it in the Wanderers' room making magic happen with the PreK - 2nd graders. AND Olivia has stepped up to take over the Monthly Children's Chapel! To work with her choir schedule we have moved Children's Chapel from the first Sunday to the second Sunday of each month. Pam Levitt will be assisting Olivia in the Children's Chapel. Emma Mulvaney assisted by Laurie Winterberg will be facilitating in our Adventurers' room. We are still looking for a couple of energetic people to work with our Youth Pathfinders. If you are interested please contact Sarah Stubbs at mssarahstubbs@gmail.com.

It is our plan to start classes on August 20th. Keep alert for more information to come!

Bright blessings,
Sarah Stubbs, CREC

August Schedule:

- August 6: One Room Sunday School
- August 13: One Room Sunday School led by Emma Mulvaney
- August 20: WAY Cool Classes
- August 27: WAY Cool Classes

Please feel free to contact Sarah Stubbs with any questions!

Please take time to get involved and support WAY Cool Sunday School!

Children's Religious Education (CRE) Advisory Team

Coordinator: Sarah Stubbs (437-5979) mssarahstubbs@gmail.com

Team Leader: **OPEN**

Team Members: Melissa Ardoin,
Jill Cicero, Emma Mulvaney, and Pam Levitt

UUCP's FAMILY CORNER



Save the Date for the Fall 2017 UUCP Camping Trip!

Outdoors and camping lovers, mark your calendars for our next camping trip and potluck picnic. More details will follow later.

When: August 25-27, 2017

**Where: Fort Pickens Group
Campsite**

**Cost of weekend: \$5 per person for
the weekend**

Contact emmamulvaney@gmail.com

*See you there with buckets and
spades!*

Looking for awesome opportunities to
spend Family Time together
outside of the home?



Visit the *Pensacola Family Events & More* Facebook Page managed by UUCP Member Jennifer Morris!
[Click here or the Image for the Facebook Page](#)

Check out their Google Calendar to see the upcoming events geared toward the entire family ... from Newborn to 99+



GATHERINGS

Before Service and Second Hour

BEFORE SERVICE:

9am every Sunday we have “Coffee and Conversation”

August 6 & 13: 9:00-9:45 Simple Church app and website login help

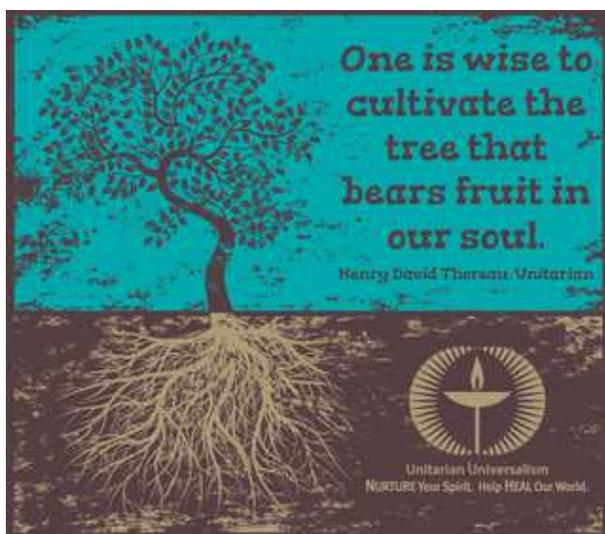
AFTER SERVICE:

August 6 & 13: 11:15 am Photos for Simple Church Directory
(taken in garden, weather permitting)



Adult Religious Exploration

As the new Adult RE Ministry Team leader, I am excited to be scheduling Second Hours, Friday Night Lives, and other Adult and Multi-generational RE events this year. An adult RE session can be on just about any topic and might be facilitated as a lecture, discussion group, or activity. Do you have a set of knowledge or particular hobby or interest that has helped you explore and grow in your UU faith? Let's share it with the community!



Some examples of potential RE sessions are: creating a book group focused on the UUA Common Read, speaking on topics of concern for UUs, sharing a sacred ritual or spiritual practice from a faith tradition you practice or have personal experience in, leading meditation/chanting/tai chi/singing/etc, organizing a group of UUCPers to attend a nearby lecture or performance together, teaching a handicraft, facilitating lessons from one of the UUA adult RE curricula, and many more...

If you are interested in leading an Adult RE session, know an outside speaker, or have ideas for topics/activities that you'd like to see offered then contact me to be put on the program calendar. September dates are quickly approaching! Contact Audrey Preston at audreyloupres-ton@gmail.com or 850-512-8577 to be scheduled.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY CIRCLE

*Has taken a break and will no longer meet until further notice.
Q&A—Audrey Preston*



UUCP

LUunch BUunch

Wed. August 9, 1pm

Location: Captain Joe Patti's

Dear Regular Lunch Bunchers, and any newly interested UU's:

For August's 2nd Wednesday, the 9th, we will return, after several years, to Captain Joey Patti's Seafood Restaurant and Deli at 610 South C. St., 434-3193. (Note that this is not Joe/Frank Patti's main building about 100' south of Main near "A" St., but you can drive thru that lot to Gimble and left on "C" to find the Rest. on the west edge of the property.) From the online menu, I'd say that many dishes are fried, but the salad and soup options look good, and the baskets start in the \$7-8 area. As usual, we'll go for 1 pm, and since most of the furniture is fixed, we'll look for tables close together. ... We'll do our own "reserving" if you'll advise your likely presence to Hugh T. at 478-2373 or huturn@juno.com.

Our July 12 July Lunch Bunch attracted a total of 10, and, when only seen every few years, the Horizen Japanese restaurant decor attracts attention. The menu is equally positive, everyone finding a dish that satisfied, most with "take home" as well. Also instructive, though I'm not sure how, is that their on-line menu strongly differs from the in-house menu; I asked the mama-san about the tofu dishes only on-line, and she implied she'd be happy to supply it in the future. (Nice positive in attendance was Debra's son Asa, who is assisting with Judy Freeman's rehabilitation.)

thank
you!

The Finance Team would like to thank everyone for completing their pledges for the 2016-17 fiscal year and for continuing to pledge to support the church. We entered the new 2017-18 fiscal year on July 1, but if you ended 16-17 short of your pledge and would like to fulfill it, it's not too late! Simply designate your payment as being for the 16-17 fiscal year, and we'll catch you up. If you have any questions, contact Erin Renfro (208-449-2443 or uucptreasurer@gmail.com).



SimpleChurch

Simple Church - Login and Navigate

Want to start using Simple Church to find addresses, phone numbers, emails and other handy uses?

Help will be available on Sundays Aug 6 and 13 from 9 to 9:45 am as well as after services.

If you can't make it and want to learn more contact Laurie at 850-857-9646 OR LaurieAnne1950@gmail.com

Simple Church - APP and Calendar!!

YES - there is a FREE Simple Church app for your smart phone! You can have the church directory at your fingertips. Make calls OR send a text right from your phone!

Download the app to your phone. ([Android](#) or [Apple](#))

When setting it up, you'll need your Simple Church password and our domain name.

Our domain name: <https://uupensacola.simplechurchcrm.com>

NOTE: Login Username is your first name dot last name. ie: John.Doe

CALENDAR - from both the desktop version AND the phone app, you can click on a church calendar of events and activities.

WANT A DIGITAL COPY OF YOUR PHOTO?

Contact our savvy photographer, Laura Keith King by email and let her know! laura-keith-king@hotmail.com

Save the Dates



UUCP 2017 Fall

Family Camping Trip

**Friday, August 25
to Sunday, August 27
Fort Pickens Group Camp Site**

**Cost of weekend:
\$5 per person for the weekend**

Details about meals and activities will be posted as the date approaches. To book your spot, contact Emma Mulvaney at emmamulvaney@gmail.com, Phone: 850-776-4709.

IN OUR GREATER COMMUNITY



UU Justice FL Action Network UUUpdates:

Did you know that there are 1.6 million citizens of Florida who are denied the right to vote? These are not aliens. They are persons who at some time in their past were convicted of a felony offense. These citizens have paid their debt to society, served time and/or paid their fees. They still do not have a clear path to restoring their ability to exercise the vote, the most basic of our rights as citizens. Florida is one of only three states to deny return of voting rights to previously convicted felons. The other two are Kentucky and Iowa. All other states have a mechanism for restoring the vote. In some states it is automatic as soon as all debts to society are paid. This is a matter of fairness, for Florida citizens.

The UU Justice Florida Committee, the ACLU and the Florida League of Women Voters are joining forces to put on the 2018 ballot a proposed amendment to the Florida constitution which would permit the return of voting rights to this group of otherwise eligible voters. The petition would exclude restoring voting rights to murderers and sexual offenders. Earlier this year, Paula Montgomery, who co-leads our local Social Justice Committee with Scott Satterwhite, brought petitions around to the UUs who attended one of our pot lucks. Many of you signed the petition at that time. If you did not, there are some petitions on the bulletin board on the north hall. Please sign one, with your address and birthdate as identifiers. If you are not sure, please consider signing again. It will not count twice, and there is no penalty for not remembering and signing again.

In order to put the proposed amendment on the ballot in the fall of 2018, we need to collect 800,000 signatures from Florida voters. If you have friends who are registered to vote in Florida but are beyond the reach of this congregation, please take some petitions to them and ask them to sign as well. For example, I am asking the members of my book clubs to sign. Think about other groups you know, and see how far our reach can extend. After you collect a signature or several signatures you can either mail them to the address on the petition or bring them to church and give them to Paula or Scott. Make sure they are signed and dated and include the address and either birth date or voter registration number as identifiers. *Thank you for your help.*



Books for Prisoners: This nonprofit organization provides reading materials to inmates free of charge around the state of Florida. *Look for the box in the South exit to donate your reading materials.* Books for Prisoners is sponsored by **Open Books**, a collectively owned, non-profit bookstore started by a group of people involved with the Prison Book Project. **Open Books**, 1040 N.

Guillemard Street, at the corner of Guillemard & Desoto. Visit them on the web at: www.openbookspcola.org

What is your passion?

*Input for 5th Sunday
Offering Needed*

What local organization would you like our UU congregation to help in working toward solving or ameliorating a social justice problem? At our annual meeting on May 21st we voted as a congregation to take measures to protect the democratic process. There are a number of different organizations in town which are active in addressing parts of this problem. We may choose to do direct actions on this issue in coordination with these other groups while giving our 5th Sunday Plate to an organization which is impacted by the lack of protection to our democratic process. However, you do not need to be confined to finding an organization that works on that issue directly. Do not be restricted in your nominations.

In the next church year there are 5 fifth Sundays to consider. They fall in July, October, December, April and July. There is a clip board on the bulletin board in the North Hall where you can register your nominations. Or you can contact the church by phone or email, or call Paula Montgomery (850 438 8891) or Scott Satterwhite (352 634 2256) or Rev. Julie (850 454 6333). We will consider all the nominations and get back in touch with you for further information. What non-profit is addressing an issue close to your heart? Speak up. Let our congregation honor their work."

UWomenspirit Fall 2017 Retreat

INSTITUTE OCT 11-13 • GATHERING OCT 13-15



Embody HER Power

Rise UP SISTERS

Join us! Celebrate! Worship!

Join us this fall as we gather once again in the beautiful setting of The Mountain near Highlands, NC where for 30 years a sacred web of women has assembled to celebrate the power of the Divine Feminine. We will find the courage and strength to meet our challenges and accomplish our goals as we awaken to the gifts we find in the lengthening nights and embrace the lightning in our blood, bringing us to fruition in these times we were born for.

Delving deeply into earth-centered themes of power, we will explore the Goddess through workshops, worships, dancing, drumming, and much, much, more.

Rise Up Sisters!



FOR MORE INFO: UWOMENSPIRIT.ORG

We are living in uncharted times.

Many feel instability and chaos are challenging us, and stretching us to our limit.

Protecting all we love, we find we have strengths uniquely ours - enabling us to endure, resist, and transform.

We come to know we are sovereign to discover and choose our own paths of power.

We discover the power of the sun, moon, storms, earthquakes, volcanos, whose great forces radiate within ourselves, from the Goddess, from the Sisterhood, and from the Universe.

In elemental ways, we become these forces - rocks, flames, water, moon, sky, and stars.

Moving with the planet, we embody Her wisdom, Her energy, Her love.

And we create a world where our remarkable gifts bring healing to ourselves, rippling beyond us into the greater cosmos.

Rise Up in supportive sisterhood to birth new beginnings, plant seeds of change, and feel connected to the Divine Feminine and Spirit of all Women.

IMPORTANT DATES

Wed Aug 16: Registration Opens

Wed Sept 13: Early Bird Deadline

Wed Oct 4: Last day to register





The 8th Principle Project

“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

Where did this come from originally?

Paula Cole Jones, JPD (Joseph Priestley District—the mid-Atlantic district of the UUA, now subsumed into the larger Central East Regional Group, CERG) Director of Racial & Social Justice, developed the idea of the existence of 2 different paradigms in UU circles: the UU 7 Principles and Beloved Community (deep multiculturalism). After working with congregations on these issues for over 15 years, she realized that a person can believe they are being a “good UU” and following the 7 Principles without thinking about or dealing with racism and other oppressions at the systemic level.

UUs and the UUA have done very good work in fighting racism, such as during the Civil Rights Movement and in the 1990’s (passing a resolution in 1997 at GA, after a precursor resolution in 1992, to become an Anti-Racist, Anti-Oppression Multi-Cultural, or ARAOMC, Organization), but the funding and support started to wane in the 2000’s – our accountability mechanism failed us. UU’s also have a mixed record historically in other areas of racial justice: e.g., we had people on both sides of Abolitionism (including people like Jefferson who was a slaveholder), and Unitarians were proponents of Eugenics (leading to some of the racial extremes of Nazism and Apartheid in South Africa).

For people identified as white, it is too easy to ignore these issues, which is exactly what keeps the system of racism in our society alive and in fact worsening right now. We need to de-center whiteness and other dominant cultures in UUism. The 8th Principle came from a feeling that we need something to renew our commitment to this work, to hold ourselves accountable, and to fulfill the potential of our existing principles.

Why Now?

The UUA has just gone through a crisis related to inclusive hiring practices, especially related to whites being hired over highly qualified Latinx candidates, resulting in the resignation of the UUA President.

The New Jim Crow (mass incarceration and the criminal justice system replacing the older systems of slavery and Jim Crow laws), police violence against people of color, recent Supreme Court decisions on Voting Rights and Affirmative Action, and the election of Donald Trump with advisors and followers (including Attorney General Jeff Sessions) openly supporting white supremacists show that the country is moving quickly and dangerously in the wrong direction. UUs need to take strong leadership to reverse these trends.

Why single out racism?

At a global level, this would not necessarily make sense (for instance, the oppression of women is fundamental to poverty and lack of development in many areas), but in the USA, racism stands out. The two worst crises of the UUA (late 1960’s and now) were both related to race. Racism in the US stems from chattel slavery, where people were uniquely legally treated as property that could be inherited, for something (skin color) they had no control over.

<https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/>

ATTENTION NEW

(or Returning)
MEMBERS!!!

If you HAVEN'T had a Welcome published yet, please contact Charlotte Crane or the Church Office as we'd love to feature you!

Sincerely,
YoUUr Beloved Community
uucp@bellsouth.net

- From the UU WORLD -

Three commandments: stay, learn, go

A Gary Snyder poem helps me find my way in our messed-up world.

JEFFREY A. LOCKWOOD | 7/17/2017

I'm angry. I'm mad at climate change deniers; I'm upset with environmental deregulation by the Trump administration; I'm furious over the construction of "alternative facts" in the face of physical data. Modern society seems to be hell-bent on enraging those who have a sense of environmental justice. Being angry is exhausting.

So I want to provide a respite and offer a few positive words about humanity and nature.

One of the most evocative poems about our place and future in the natural world is Gary Snyder's "For the Children." In its final lines, he offers insight as to how we might find our way in a messed-up world:

*one word to you, to
you and your children:
stay together
learn the flowers
go light*

Snyder says "one word," but then provides three admonitions. First, to survive, or even flourish, in the coming days we must "stay together." We must restore and sustain human and biological communities. We must literally stay together as people and as a species woven into the web of life. At a personal level we must integrate the virtues of honesty, compassion, and responsibility. We must keep our lives together—sembled by working hands, informed by wondering minds, and motivated by willing spirits.

This admonition lies at the heart of the Unitarian Universalist engagement with environmental issues. We won't all agree on paper versus plastic or hiking versus gardening, but the center holds. I dearly hope that the same can be said of social justice concerns. As our religion navigates the stormy seas and rocky shoals of racial inequity, I offer the simplest prayer: my friends, stay together.

Next, Snyder tells us to "learn the flowers." I take this to be both literal and figurative. Indeed, we must come to know the flowers—along with the animals, microbes, waters, and rocks—to know nature and ourselves. Unitarian Universalism calls on us to "heed the guidance of reason and the results of science" in cultivating "respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."

In Genesis, we are told that God created the creatures and Adam named them. Naming is important. We name our children with great devotion to family history, cultural heroes, and personal experience. We learn one another's names as the first step towards relationality. The same holds for the natural world. It takes time, energy, dedication, and commitment to learn the flowers. It is not easy to see or know in this way, but it is essential if we are to live well.

Taxonomy is a way of knowing, but Snyder tells us to "learn the flowers" not just to learn their names. If you were to learn everything there is to know about any flower—the entire story of its evolution, the full scope of its relationships, the entirety of its beauty—you would possess staggering knowledge, even wisdom. Another poet, William Blake, proposed that we see a heaven in a wildflower. Yes, learn the flowers.

And finally, Snyder reminds us to "go light." The future is frightening, but little is gained by forecasts of doom. My fellow environmentalists can be a dark and dour lot. In our struggles to change ourselves and thereby change the world, remember to have a light heart, to laugh and play. The leaders of my UU fellowship in Wyoming take their responsibilities seriously, but I've seen them laugh while working—and this, perhaps more than anything, is evidence of a healthy community.

Try to go lightly on this Earth. Do as much good and as little harm as you can. To go light on the land means knowing which tree to cut, which insulation to use, which variety to plant, which campsite to occupy. And be sure to go towards the light, towards that which provides warmth and allows you to see your place in the world. Seek goodness while embracing the joy of the here and now. Let us go light.

So then, Gary Snyder's "one word" includes three elements: stay, learn, and go. These are the essence of being part of a religious and biotic community. I've come to understand that physical staying requires knowledge of a place, that moral staying demands humility and conviction, and that spiritual staying requires the discipline to find meaning in the present moment. And I've discovered that learning the lessons of nature and life demands long hours of private work and intense moments of public struggle. Finally, I've come to realize that to go takes courage, faith, and—most importantly—a vision for oneself, one's community, and our shared Earth.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

August 2017 Calendar of Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 <i>Coffee & Conversation 9am</i> <i>Sunday Service 10am</i> Photos for Simple Church	7	8	9  LUUNCH BUUNCH <i>1pm</i> <i>(See Page 5)</i>	10	11	12
13 <i>Coffee & Conversation 9am</i> <i>Sunday Service 10am</i> UU Book Table Open Photos for Simple Church	14	15	16	17	18	19 Board Retreat
20 <i>Coffee & Conversation 9am</i> <i>Sunday Service 10am</i> <i>Children's RE begins</i> <i>Sunday Sweets</i>	21	22	23	24	25 Family Campout	26 Family Campout
27 <i>Coffee & Conversation 9am</i> <i>Sunday Service 10am</i> RE Classes Family Campout	28	29	30	31	1	2

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Deadline for submissions for
SEPTEMBER LIGHT:
AUGUST 24

Celebrate Diversity · Strive for Justice · Inspire Love

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MANNA

FIRST SUNDAY REMINDER

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The need is great so please give wholeheartedly!

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SUNDAY SNACKS

Please consider donating snacks one week, for after Sunday Service fellowship time. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the foyer. Snacks will not be needed on days when Sunday Sweets are for sale or on Potluck Sundays.