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### FROM OUR MINISTER

As July begins, we are in the fullness of summer. The heat is obviously not minimizing the effect of the virus. States are either reversing previous decisions to allow more interaction, or extending safer at home requirements. It is becoming clear that we are in this for longer than many of us expected. I'm sure the scientist and medical research people are not surprised. They were trying to warn us. If you are like me, you are having an amazingly hard time understanding how anyone can look at what is happening, listen to what the medical people are saying, and believe they would be lying to us. As we cling to our Unitarian Universalist values and principles, we are called to support each other more than ever in holding fast to what is required of us to be good neighbors, and to affirm our commitment to honor the interdependent web of existence, of which we are a part. Right now, that means that out of love, we are having to tolerate a lot of physical distance from people we would like to be with. It also means not engaging in activities that we previously considered essential to our mental and physical health. All of this creates additional stress, which may affect us, even in ways we are unaware. For example, weakening our immune systems. A minister colleague of mine who pastors a large congregation thought he was doing fine, when all of a sudden he had a first ever outbreak of shingles. He's younger than the typical victim, and was convinced at first it was poison ivy, from working in his garden.

Here are some statistics from a recent survey of the American Psychiatric Association.

- Nearly half of Americans (48%) are anxious about the possibility of getting coronavirus.
- Nearly four in ten Americans (40%) are anxious about becoming seriously ill or dying from coronavirus.
- Far more Americans (62%) are anxious about the possibility of family and loved ones getting coronavirus.

I share these numbers so that you will know you are not alone, if you are noticing heightened anxiety these days. Anxiety may cause strong emotions in adults and children and can also exacerbate or trigger other stress reactions like panic or depression. People also have a number of coping strategies, some of which work so well they even mask our anxiety from ourselves. Over-functioning, under-functioning, and conflict are three of several that may present themselves in a situation like Covid-19.

Because we operate in relational systems, it helps to be aware of our own coping mechanisms. They will be different depending on the situation and the people with whom we interact. And the people with whom we interact may react differently to our coping behavior.

This is a good time to pay attention to how you are feeling, and perhaps to indulge in activities that are engaging and interesting to you, or that bring you peace, joy, or calm. It's also a good time to call or email a friend or a trusted confidant, if you are feeling especially vulnerable to the situation.

When we first jumped into this new way of doing and being church, I imagined it being for a discrete amount of time. I see now that we are moving into a new way of being that may last longer than we at first imagined.

I don't mean that we won't be gathering again. I just mean that when we do, we will have been forever changed and things will be different. So much has happened in the last four months. While a lot of it is frightening and disturbing, there are also hopeful signs of raised awareness that much of what we have tolerated or lived with for decades has been exposed and may no longer be accepted, or ignored.

I am always available to talk, if you want to call or email me. Together we can help each other through.

In Love and Hope,  
Rev. Alice





Rev. Elaine Marie Buker  
June 4, 1933 — June 4, 2020

UUCP members and the wider religious community are saddened by the passing of Rev. Elaine Buker, who died June 4, on her 87<sup>th</sup> birthday. She was a resident of Azalea Trace in Pensacola and was the widow of John Buker. She is survived by her son, Nathan Paul, of Lillian, Alabama; another son, Joshua, preceded her in death last October. Elaine spent her professional life as a religious leader in the Baptist and Methodist churches, and, most recently in the Unitarian Universalist church. UUCP honored her posthumously with designation of an Honorary Lifetime Member, planned earlier and awarded at the church annual meeting June 14, in appreciation of her longtime membership and service. A memorial service is planned to be held in future, when Pandemic restrictions allow.

# How do we inspire love?

## BOARD PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Big things are happening. The month of June saw these developments:

- Sustained demonstrations against racist police brutality across the nation and internationally,
- A massive shift in views on race held by most Americans,
- A powerful mass gathering to end poverty held by the Poor People's Campaign (<https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org>),
- And two landmark Supreme Court decisions that the U.S. President referred to as “shotgun blasts into the face” of conservatives. The court determined that the firing of an employee for being gay or transgender violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. The court also ruled against the president's attempts to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

For many of us who have vocally supported these justice issues for years, these developments brought feelings of excitement and relief along with thoughts of “It’s about time!” There is some comfort in having our convictions and our experiences validated on a broad scale. However, the blood, sweat, and tears of people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, immigrants, and the poor who have been fighting for their humanity are worth far more.

As significant as the recent events may be, our work is not done. In fact, we actually are continuing efforts that began decades ago and that have witnessed steps forward and backward in those times. World history and our UU legacy demonstrate that justice and equity require commitment and deep transformation at the individual and systemic levels. The UUA recently released a report called Widening the Circle of Concern that was prepared by the Commission on Institutional Change after UU leaders of color in 2017 identified major problems within the denomination. Introduced at the 2020 General Assembly in late June, the report presents findings and recommendations for a process of truth and reconciliation within our congregations. Each congregation will receive a copy from UUA, and the full text of the report is available at <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/cic/widening>.

In the Final Thoughts, the report states, “In spite of the promise of our movement, we still need to address the bias and oppression within our systems to build resilience in our living tradition for the times we are in and strengthen it for future generations. Making these changes will allow us to stay relevant.” In part, the recommendations are to prioritize transformation of our systems, to practice authentic hospitality and self-awareness, to show empathy and compassion, to demonstrate humility, and to continue making progress rather than losing focus over time.

Like our communities, states and the nation, we as UUs are at a crossroads with important decisions to make about where we go from here. Our congregation has an opportunity to study the findings in the Widening the Circle of Concern report and to act on the recommendations. How we respond may very well decide the future of our denomination.

Until next time,

Lauren Anzaldo  
President of the Governing Board

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOUU, FLO FULWILER!

For the last 7 years, many of us have celebrated our oldest living member's birthday. Flo turned 98 this year on June 26th. Georgianna has been chief organizer of her yearly celebration of luncheon, dessert and plenty of UUCP friends, and we thank her very much for conducting the interview below.

That gutsy lady still lives on her own in a house she and husband Leo bought in the 1950s. She has a little dog that keeps her active. And she's an avid reader to boot. She actually listens to books and always has very good recommendations. And she still does a lot of her own cooking. And mail order shopping!! Favorite is LLBean.



### ***FLO FULWILER'S ANSWERS TO INTERVIEW QUESTIONS for 60th Anniversary of UUCP***

*How and when did you find your way to UUCP/PUUF?*

My good neighbor was a Presbyterian minister. He took my children to his church, but the children came home with beliefs that I did not believe. I decided I needed to find a Unitarian church. By mistake, I went to Unity church in Pensacola. I was told that I needed to go to the USO to find Unitarians. I went to the USO and met Bruno and Eleanor Johnke. My daughter Alice was 2 years old so it must have been in 1960. The Unitarian Church was started by Penny and Ralph Salzer a couple of years earlier (Ralph was a counselor at PJC community college). Our church group met at the USO for a few years. Then they relocated to the Jewish temple at Cervantes and Palafox with about 15 or so members. We were only there a short time, and then moved to the YWCA. We met there for several years. Agnes and Audie Adkinson donated a piano which helped with services. Children sang songs. Then we moved to Scott Street.

*Were you raised in or did you practice a particular religious/spiritual tradition, and, if so, how did that relate to what you encountered at UUCP/PUUF?*

Both my parents were Jewish. My mother kept a kosher house, but my family did not attend temple. I had questions about religion from my parents and the Jewish faith, but they were not answered to my satisfaction. For example, I asked if God could perform miracles for the Jews, why didn't he perform miracles for the Christians too? My mother got very angry. I attended various churches with friends but did not receive satisfaction in terms of my beliefs. I heard about the Unitarian faith when we were stationed at Norfolk, VA in 1955. I called the Unitarian Church in Norfolk and spoke with the minister. I was looking for something for my children, but in the conversation I gave a litany of things I did not believe in. At the end of the conversation, the minister laughed and said I sounded like a Unitarian. I planned to take kids to the Unitarian church, but my husband came home and said we were being transferred to Milton, FL.

*How have you grown as a person since coming to UUCP?*

I believe I have been more receptive to diverse ideas since I grew up in a very diverse culture and neighborhood. In fact, when I was a young person, none of my friend's parents were born in the USA—they were all immigrants. I was surprised to find so many people who looked at the world from the same viewpoint that I have.

*What events, activities or projects at UUCP have meant the most to you?*

I enjoyed working in Children's Religious Education when my kids were little. I enjoyed the evening monthly potlucks we had on Scott Street—each month the food had a different theme. These dinners preceded the Circle Dinners.

I enjoyed helping with my husband Leo and our kids when we did yard work cleaning up at Scott Street. I am also proud that my husband Leo helped build the 'children's area' building on Scott Street. Additionally, I am proud that my husband, Leo did the chalice carving on the wood lectern in our church.

*What have you created, done or given at UUCP that we should know about?*

I enjoyed helping with the yard sales we had on Scott Street. These yard sales also included food that was sold. I served as Secretary for the church office for a while.

*What special people here have helped this to feel like your beloved community or made you proud to be UU?*

I can't remember her name, but she played the piano when we met at the YWCA. She did a lot for the children and held picnics at her home. Rev. Bob Eddy—he was wonderful when my husband Leo died—he really took a load off my shoulders (and it should be noted that he was not our church minister at the time). Eleanor and Bruno Johnke—they were very good friends and I am glad I knew them. Enjoyed Christmas potlucks at Charlotte's house when we were on Scott Street.

*Share a favorite or important memory or story from UUCP.*

One church family lost their home to a house fire. The family was very poor and there were children needing many things. Many of the men of the church purchased supplies and rebuilt the entire home. The women of the church helped with furnishings such as linens and items for the kitchen and the children. I am very proud we were able to do this good deed.



Our  
Current  
Work  
in  
Progress!



Greetings!

We have been trying to stay busy here in the virtual world of CRE. First, we sent out “Cards of Connection” to members. We have made two “Puzzles of Connection” via US mail. We have had two One Room Sunday School meetings via Zoom. And several of our youth are participating in “Pen Pal Connections” with UU congregations on the west coast. It is a “Summer of Making Connections!”

If your youth is interested in having a Pen Pal send me their name and a brief description of their interests.

We will continue to meet via Zoom on Mondays at three pm. If you are not getting my emails and are interested in participating, email me at [MsSarahStubbs@gmail.com](mailto:MsSarahStubbs@gmail.com) or text me at 850.221.6717.

Looking with Love,

Ms. Sarah

**Children's Religious Education (CRE) Advisory Team**

Coordinator: Sarah Stubbs (850-437-5979)

Team Leader: Open

[mssarahstubbs@gmail.com](mailto:mssarahstubbs@gmail.com)

Team Members: Linda Cobb, Penny Featherstone, Tamara Grimes, Emma Mulvaney and Kate Wolverton

Feel free to contact any member with comments or suggestions!



**CRE ACRONYMS and JARGON**

**CRE:** Children's Religious Education

**CREC:** Children's Religious Education Coordinator

**Children's Chapel: Mini-Service** for small folks

**ORSS:** One Room Sunday School

**SFAA:** Service for All Ages

**TFAA:** Time for All Ages

**Youth:** Children 13-ish to high school seniors



“Cards of Connection” mailed to Members by CRE children and youth.

**ORSS Age Groupings**

Birth – Kindergarten  
1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grades  
7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

“Welcome Back!” sign made by mailing “puzzle” pieces to CRE families, children and youth to decorate and send back .

## Our Caring Community

Half-time Floridian and devoted UUCP member Marianne Kelly is again making the summer switch to her lakeview house near Albany, NY, where her son Donald and family, including her high-school age granddaughter, are just eight miles away.

There's more, says Marianne, "My flower garden is calling me. Winter is over and the dandelions and grass are taking over. I'll plant a few annual seeds, like the pink and white cosmos flowers." Her flight from Pensacola is July 1, and her return scheduled for November, looking for warmth.

As for the summer journey, regrets hover: "I reluctantly leave my church family and hope by November we will be able to get together again" – including at a musical favorite, the Friday home operas with Hannelore and Hedwig.

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"I have discovered something very interesting to do with my time while staying at home," reports Bob Gerold. "I have discovered yoga."

First thing every morning, Bob and his wife, Alice, go to "Yoga with Adriene," a "Yoga for Beginners" feature on YouTube. "I have been amazed at how stiff my body is and how much I have progressed by doing this 40-minute session every morning," says Bob. "The yoga instructor, Adriene, is very good at letting you proceed at your own pace. ... I couldn't do many of the beginner moves at first, but after staying with it consistently a month now, I am much more limber and flexible than I was at the beginning."

Regarding exercise to stay healthy, Bob points out that there are three types: cardio, like walking, running and biking, is intended to get your heart rate up and burn calories; resistance training, e.g., classical weight lifting, builds strength; and the third is stretching, performed in yoga. With the exercise regimen for him: "I feel calmer, stand a little taller and my back doesn't bother me as much as it used to."

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A note from Dolly Berthelot regarding the Balcony Wave and Shout which she created back in April at her residence at Riviera 615 Condominium, and was featured in the June issue of *The Light* -- a correction: While she cooked up the first party against the pandemic, it was other residents, inspired by Dolly's example, who initiated their own galas – clapping, waving, leaning over their balconies to greet others, and even celebrating birthdays and enjoying music. "The spirit was contagious," explains Dolly. "All I did was get a simple idea, make it happen and watch it take off after that." Cheers, Dolly.

### GARDENING IS GROWING IN FLORIDA UU-LAND

Trista Blouin's lately launched exploration of the real-dirt underground is producing tomatoes, cucumbers, watermelon vines, pineapple plants and strawberry banana plants — and more.

Erin Renfroe has nailed together a six-by-four portable greenhouse for when winter comes.

Carol Hemmye is nurturing clusters of herbs and flowers in her front yard's raised herb box.

And Margaret McLarin's six-foot potted coffee tree is about to poke at her dining room ceiling.

"Gardening is meditative for me, and my days that start in the garden always seem to be more serene," says Carol. "I know a lot of people are turning to their gardens since they are choosing not to expose themselves to a possible Covid infection. I have a home on a double lot that my husband and I bought 2.5 years ago

## Our Caring Community - continued

and this is the first year I have done anything really substantive with it.”

Pandemic rumor also tipped the spade for Trista, prompting her to take up vegetable gardening. “I wanted an endeavor that would give the kids and me something beautiful and productive I could put my energy into.” Tomato varieties grown so tall, such as Black Plums and Cherokee Purples, already have given 8-year-old son Chance exciting harvest opportunity. One tomato plant, grown to almost eight feet, is up to the roof of the house.

“I let Chance pick the fruitage (on all the plants) when possible so he can feel that excitement and have a positive association with gardening as he grows up,” says Trista. Among the tasties: Muncher cucumber plants yielding “a cuke a day,” and two kinds of basil. “We love basil as I cook a lot of Italian.”



When summer ends and cool weather comes, Erin is prepared, thanks to her handmade “Ogrow greenhouse.” “It’s very lightweight and has some shelving and a couple of windows for ventilation. I probably won’t get it revved up until the weather cools off. Right now I’m using it to store my pots and soils and to start a few seedlings.”

In her outdoor summertime garden meanwhile, she’s growing green beans, cherry tomatoes, kitchen herbs, and “a cucumber plant which is about to take over the world. I’ve made freezer pickles until my freezer won’t hold anymore. I think I’ve enjoyed the basil the most – I love pesto. And I’ve had plenty of peppermint to infuse into water in the fridge – a nice refresher after yard work.”

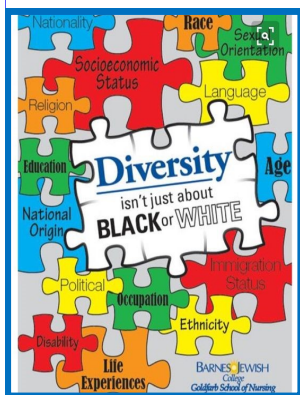
Whereas gardening isn’t new for Margaret — “I’ve always had a green thumb” — sometimes outcomes are. The latest hot percolator? “Someone gave me a coffee tree maybe 10 years ago. It was then about the size of a Dixie cup, with a stem the size of a matchstick and three little leaves. It is now so tall, I will soon have to build an atrium for it or move it to a different location. It has beautiful white blossoms which smell so good. Last fall I harvested a cupful of coffee beans — they’re bright red and at their fullest at Christmas time.”

Anyone hanker for a cup of tea at day’s end? When someone mentioned comfort tea, it turned out she meant comfrey tea — a garden’s delight, but not for the gardener, however. Check with Carol — she has the recipe, but also the warning: Don’t drink it!



*By Charlotte Crane*

# How do we celebrate diversity?



## WIDENING THE CIRCLE OF CONCERN

A report prepared by the UUA Commission on Institutional Change provides findings and recommendations for addressing systemic bias and oppression within the UU denomination. The commission was formed in 2017 after leaders of color identified major problems within the denomination. The commission was charged with “supporting long-term cultural and institutional change that redeems the essential premise and ideals of Unitarian Universalism.” The release of the Widening the Circle of Concern report affords our congregation the opportunity to study, reflect, and act with commitment, humility, and empathy to make lasting

change. Each congregation will receive a copy from UUA, and the full text of the report is available at <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/cic/widening>.

*Lauren Anzaldo, Board President*

## BLACK LIVES MATTER PROTESTS AT THE PENSACOLA GRAFFITI BRIDGE

It was the weekend after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and protesters were gathering all over the country – including in Pensacola. And it was the day after a mural of George at the Graffiti Bridge downtown was defaced, arousing local protesters even more than before. And it was then that UUCP member Denise Gunn became a protestor too.

“My neighbor and people from her church went to the bridge and repainted the picture of Floyd, and she told me there would be a candlelight vigil the following evening. I asked my neighbor ‘What can I do?’ She said, ‘We need white faith leaders.’

“Before I got involved, I saw the story about the murder of Ahmaud Arbrey in Georgia, killed while jogging in a white neighborhood; that really troubled me. Then when it happened with George I was just decimated. I decided I was not going to be silent.”

Denise joined the vigil, standing at the top of the bridge for 1.5 hours, holding the sign, Black Lives Matter. Enough is enough. “I was just proud to be there.”

Other UUCP members joined too. Among them: Bill Caplinger and Paula Montgomery, Scott Satterwhite and Lauren Anzaldo and their children, Madailein and Desmond.

Scott Satterwhite also wrote of local protests of the George Floyd death for the Independent News, and again for The Light, putting the Graffiti Bridge outbursts in perspective. After the George Floyd mural was defaced, “people gathered in large numbers, occasionally using civil disobedience to help push demands of the City of Pensacola for its recent history with police killings.

“Not surprisingly, several members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola were in attendance at nearly all of the protests,” says Scott. “As the UUCP has remained active in social justice issues in Pensacola, the tradition continues at the Graffiti Bridge protests.”

*By Charlotte Crane and Scott Satterwhite*



## LET'S GET TOGETHER — VIRTUALLY!

### YES, EVERYONE CAN ZOOM

Did you notice that all invitations to Zoom conferences include a **telephone number**? This is so people without internet access or the equipment to video conference can still participate in these events.

You can even use a landline! The best number to use is the Chicago number, which is **1-312-626-6799**. Your face will not be visible to other participants, but your name will appear and your voice will be heard. You will be able to hear everyone else, too, just like in a telephone conference. (Be aware that if you are using a landline, there may be long-distance charges. Our UUA-sponsored account does not include an audio plan so we do not have the ability to request toll-free numbers.)

So don't miss out on our Coffee Hours or other events just because you're not tech-savvy or fully equipped. If you need help figuring out how to do it, call a friend and ask - we're all happy to help. *We miss you!*

### MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ALSO ARE INVITED TO THE:

**UUCP VIRTUAL ZOOM COFFEE HOUR at 12:30pm on Sundays:** Please join us at 12:30pm Sundays for a virtual Coffee Hour through the Zoom platform. Look for the Facebook post each week or a separate email from Rev. Alice with info on how to get into the Coffee Hour online.

To join the Zoom Meeting, you'll be sent an email that will give you the link, the Meeting ID number and a password to use.

**UUCP VIRTUAL ZOOM HAPPY HOUR at 5:30pm on Fridays:** Trista Blouin says, "Please grab a beverage and join your UUCP family on Friday evenings for a time of light-hearted conversation. We're finding it to be a great time to just laugh and let go of cares for an hour. The link below will serve as the recurring link for each week. Hope to see you there."

To join the Zoom Meeting, you'll be sent an email that will give you the link, the Meeting ID number and a password to use.

**UUCP VIRTUAL ZOOM READERS' GROUPS** For the last two years we've had small, face-to-face, monthly groups for folks who like to read, share recommendations and often, share books. When asked if they'd be interested in continuing the Readers' Groups meeting a la Zoom, the folks who've participated in previous years answered, "Yes!" How about you?

There will be two sessions per month—one in the morning—and perhaps one on a weekend for working folks—for the months of July, August and September. Past participants have told me their preferences for which days and times work for them. Later we'll evaluate to see if Zooming should continue into October. In the past, our face-to-face season was 6 months.

Notices will be sent via email to all UUCPers, so anyone who's a Member or Friend will have the login info. Please contact Laurie Winterberg with questions or to sign up for the group whose schedule works best with yours.

### WHO'S READING WHO

Readers' Groups will resume soon via Zoom. Here are some of previous participants' author recommendations:

Linda Cobb - Malcolm Gladwell & Kate Quinn

Paula Montgomery - Louise Erdrich & James Lee Burke

Marcy Moreland - James Rollins & Kaye Kellerman

Hannelore Musial - Isabel Allende & Kristin Hannah

Lesley Ortiz - Elizabeth George & Jodi Picoult

Laurie Winterberg - Jacqueline Winspear & Margaret Maron

Who would you recommend? Find more information about ZOOM Readers' Groups in this edition of the Light.

### READ A GREAT BOOK, SEEN A GREAT SHOW? A CALL FOR REVIEWS

We're all looking for ways to pass the time and enrich our lives during the Covid-19 shutdown. If you have enjoyed a book, movie, tv series, music album, podcast, or other cultural content that you would recommend to your fellow UUCP congregants, please write a review and send it to [uupensacola@gmail.com](mailto:uupensacola@gmail.com) to publish in a future issue of *The Light*.



# How do we strive for justice?



## JUST Pensacola

On June 18<sup>th</sup> the JUST Pensacola Board of Directors hosted the event, 'A Time to Listen.' Local officials, clergy and Board members were invited to listen to testimonials from 7 JUST Pensacola Clergy members in response to the systemic racism plaguing this community and its individuals. Mayor Robinson, Escambia County commissioners and law enforcement candidates were invited to this event. June 28<sup>th</sup> the JUST Pensacola Board is hosting 'A Time to Listen' to our community leaders.

The clergy who spoke offered instances of racism that affected them, their families and loved ones. A white pastor shared that having conversations across racial lines is sometimes a difficult thing to do, but if the conversation is not uncomfortable perhaps we are not asking deep questions or listening deeply enough.

One pastor shared his story as an American story. His father had told him to just keep putting one foot in front of the next. But the pastor made clear to his bright sons that it is important to stand up and be seen.

A Rabbi shared when he visited a concentration camp at age 17, he wondered how the community a kilometer away did not know what was going on, or at least smell the burning flesh from the crematorium. How could they not respond? How can he stand by and not respond to the systemic racism he sees in our community?

Several said that they emphasized one story out of hundreds of personal experiences such as being stopped by the police for things for which a white person would not have been stopped. And nearly every person of color has "the talk" with their children emphasizing the importance of coming home alive and how to make that possible if they are stopped by police.

Being visible and taking action to make justice a reality is necessary. The Nehemiah Action which was scheduled for July is postponed but will happen. We are also planning virtual house meetings similar to the ones we had last fall in which each person was invited to share their response to the question, 'What keeps you up at night?' This helps us choose where we intend to focus our research and attention. Please let me know if you are willing and able to host a meeting. We will have training for hosting virtual house meetings.

Please be supportive in our involvement in Justice United Seeking Transformation in Pensacola. You may contact Rev. Maggie Lovins, Arnie Ondis, or Penny Featherstone to ask questions or get more involved.

## BECOMING A SAFER CONGREGATION

Keeping everyone safe while meeting the mission of the church has always been paramount. This latest development began earlier this year when a small ad hoc committee was formed to reassess building and grounds security. Our research discovered that the UUA developed a comprehensive approach to risk management, known as *Safer Congregations*, that is an umbrella covering many aspects of risks to which congregations are exposed. Some of these categories of exposure are: disruptive behavior; building and grounds security; active shooter and lockdown situations; financial safety; religious education and children; safety in youth ministry and social media communications.

It was apparent to our task force that many of these risk exposures had been previously addressed, but with the loss of urgency and the passage of time, pieces of information including approaches and resolutions have been lost or misplaced. We realized that we needed to approach risk comprehensively and to collect and retain information, including directives and practices, in ways that would preserve institutional memory and provide readily available resources when needed. At that point, the governing Board approved adopting the UUA Safer Congregations risk management model to be tailored to UUCP-specific needs. The group was just beginning to dig in when the COVID-19 shut down started.

While it will address any safety-related issue that emerges, the Safer Congregation Committee is currently focused on developing a reopening plan that will unfold in phases. It will draw timely information from the CDC, UUA and local public health authorities and apply those safe gathering recommendations to specific church functions and activities. Those categories of services and activities include: Sunday worship services; ancillary services; children/youth programming; church business; use of facilities; special events and rentals. We will open incrementally as we are able.

The Safer Congregation Committee is a resource that functions in an advisory capacity to the governing Board. Members serving are Gerry Donnelly, Leslie Grill, Denise Gunn, Marcy Moreland, Jean Siebenaler, Jack Wolverton and Arnie Ondis. If you have any ideas, questions or concerns, please reach out to any of these members.

## Somewhere Over the Rainbow

*(A meteorological phenomenon caused by reflection and refraction and dispersion of light in water droplets resulting in a spectrum of light appearing in the sky.)*

It has been a couple of strange months; unexpected and uncontrollable. I imagine many of us have wished for things beyond our reach, and I hope you all have experienced some silver linings in our time secluded from each other. I have caught myself daydreaming schemes a few times.

*Way up high, there's a land that I heard of once in a lullaby,  
Somewhere over the rainbow skies are blue  
Clouds high over the rainbow, makes all our dreams come true.*

Lisa Hudson, Erin Renfroe and I are reflecting on our fundraising goals, refracting our plans to accommodate current times, and working on seeing clearly our 2020 Auction...“Over the Rainbow.”

*Someday I'll wish upon a star  
Wake up where the clouds are far behind me*

The Auction is currently planned for November 15. As in past years, Bobby van Deusen will play a live concert.

*Where trouble melts like lemon drops  
High above the chimney top*

If it is decided that we cannot gather at that date, we will set up auction items at the church to be viewed and post them on an online auction application (overseen by our technology rock star Erin Renfroe).

Last year the Gift Baskets were a huge success! Please consider making a Gift Basket. There are all kinds of ideas: Book Lovers, Movie Lovers, Wine Lovers, Date or Game Night, Beer Lovers, Pet Lovers, and Eco Basket to name a few. They can be purchased just in time for our gift giving season!

*That's where you'll find me,*

We are hoping for a Pot of Gold on the other side of this rainbow adventure and you can help!

*Somewhere over the rainbow, blue birds fly  
Birds fly over the rainbow  
Oh why, oh why can't I?*

Let's fly high and reach big!

*I see trees of green and red roses too  
I'll watch them bloom just for me and you  
And I think to myself*

We can do this!

Please contact Kate Wolverton (850-206-6859) or Lisa Hudson (850-380-4382) if you want to commit to a gift basket, have items you would like to donate (minimum value of \$25), would like to share a meal, or share an adventure or service.

*Oh, what a wonderful world*

We will produce a Pot of Gold at the end of our rainbow to benefit our church.


*I see skies of blue, clouds of white  
The brightness of day, the dark, say goodnight*

*And I think to myself  
Oh, what a wonderful world*

*Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola  
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 **Deadline for submissions for  
AUGUST LIGHT:  
THURSDAY, JULY 16**

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