

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola



Rev. Alice Syltie

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Conversation Hour 9 a.m. / Sunday Services 10 a.m.

Dec. 2 "The Happiest Time of the Year, Right?" Rev. Alice Syltie The season is upon us. For some it comes as brightly wrapped boxes with ribbons and bows, for others it brings bittersweet memories of seasons past. Where do you find yourself this holiday season? Eagerly anticipating a round of parties, great food and family gatherings, or somewhat weary just thinking about making lists and checking them twice? Or perhaps the words of poet William Blake, "Joy and Woe are Woven Fine," speak to you. Having compassion for ourselves and for others may bring comfort and meaning to the holidays. This Sunday let us be there for one another in both joy and grief. *Enjoy fun and fellowship decorating our tree after the service!*

Dec. 9 "Songs of Justice, Equity, and Compassion: The Second UU Principle" Ken Sizemore

In this program, the folk singer returns to perform songs that give musical voice to this essential Principle of UU values. Ken will include songs that address civil rights and human rights for all, including a unique take on immigrants and migrant workers from Woody Guthrie, kindness towards individuals as well as the world, concern for the planet and our harsh treatment of her, a wonderful song for peace in the world, a lovely song especially for the elderly (Ken says this means him!), and, as the saying goes—much, much more as time permits!

Dec. 16 "The Shape of Christmas"

Rev. Alice Syltie

As we enter the last stretch of the holiday season, we will consider how the message and celebration of Christmas has been shaped by contributions of Unitarians and Universalists.

Dec. 23 "A Christmastime Miracle"

Scott Traxler

Even if we are not true believers, when Christmastime rolls around we do expect to hear about miracles. The story of Mary gets lost in the story of Jesus' birth, sojourning Wise Men, stars, heavenly hosts, and shepherds watching their flocks by night. The Marian Miracle is not about suspending the laws of biology; it is far more powerful (and miraculous) than that time-worn trope.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Dec. 24 at 5pm

Bring family, friends and guests for a special service of carols and readings for all ages concluding with a traditional candle lighting. A Special Offering will be taken to benefit our Members' Assistance fund which is used throughout the year to help our church families in need.



Dec. 30 "Annual New Year's Music Service" UUCP Members and



Friends Join a specially assembled quartet for a jazzy start to the new year, with Bobby Van Deusen (piano), Walt Kattner (guitar and bass), Thom Botsford (tenor sax) and Jack Wolverton (drums).

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From Our Minister, Rev. Alice Syltie

In the midst of the holiday season, we receive constant reminders of the world's need for more love, more compassion and more justice. Yet, even as we hear this call, we are surrounded by so many places where fear opens the door to injustice and hate. As Unitarian Universalists we are called to respond from our highest values and principles. Some days that feels like an overwhelming responsibility. Some days we might prefer to pull the covers up over our heads and go back to sleep. Perhaps your hope, which is an overarching theme of the December holidays, seems to be slipping away.



If so, I offer you these words from Unitarian Universalist minister and Soul Matters participant, Reverend Christina Shu, "Advent is a time of anticipation and waiting... [but it] is not the silencing and oppressive, 'Wait,' told to the activist, but rather the internal preparation of holding stillness and building strength before action. If we need to wait, let it be the waiting of a farmer who knows that deep below the earth, her seeds are sprouting their roots. Let it be the waiting of a musician, who knows to count to just the right moment to strike the bell. Let it be the waiting of self-care, knowing that one's body and spirit needs times of activity, and times of rest, in order to be effective."

While we are waiting, we can still consider our responsibility to nurture hope in the young people in our lives. Celebrating the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's Guest at Your Table tradition is one way to do that. The little box on the table is a tangible way to nurture lasting connections to UU principles, build awareness about social justice and human rights, and strengthen the work of our UUSC.

At the end of the Holiday Season, we will have an ingathering ceremony to collect the money from the boxes to send to our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee for its valuable work to defend human rights around the world.

If you have not had a chance to get a box, they are available at the church, along with instructions for participating in the program.

Wishing each of you joy and restoration this holiday season.

In Love and Hope, Rev. Alice



CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

MLK PARADE TEAM MEETING

Marching in the MLK Parade has long been a tradition for UUCP. It is a chance to show our love and support for the work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and so many others who gave everything in the struggle for Civil Rights (a fight which still continues). These include fellow Unitarian Universalists Viola Fauver Gregg Liuzzo, Rev. James Reeb, and Rev. Donald Thompson.

Marching in the Parade is also fun! We've been on the news a few times and even won prizes for our float.

Participation is a good way to enjoy fellowship — both with UUs and with others you'll meet in the community who share our values. *It's also an excellent outreach event and a great way for Pensacola to see exactly who we are.* If walking in the Parade is too much for you, you may ride on our float; another fun way to participate is to help us decorate it! We hope you will join us in the Sanctuary at 11:15am on Sunday, December 9 to help us plan for this event. See Kate Wolverton for more info.

FROM THE BOARD: AHH...DREAMTIME

As the cooler temperatures are upon us, it often invites one to 'hunker' down, curl up and at times sleep a few more minutes. This offers a time of dreaming just a little bit more.

This is an opportune time to stretch our dreamtime to include visions for our church. For development of any kind, the vision always comes before the reality. What could our Congregation be like?

Perhaps more sounds of children in the halls, different accents, more variety of colors, more opinions, more talents, and even more conflicts. How does the dream take form?...the colors, the shapes, the skills, the joys, and the sorrows. People are looking for us, are we ready to accept them?

Over the past two years, the priority for the Board has been to strengthen the infrastructure for the church. This month, the Board members and Ministry Team Leaders gathered to identify what we know and don't know about our teams. We reviewed the prescribed definitions of the teams and the ways they fit into the Five -Year Plan. It was a rewarding, informative experience with discoveries made regarding the areas we have achieved. We acknowledged the **Dreams** created by members five years ago.

Dreams are coming true. Since the church is now well-designed to be competitive for rentals, we will be advocating for more income through this avenue. The Board approved a proposal from the Ad hoc Committee to compensate (from the rental income) a Coordinator for Rental Agreements. We are pleased to have Lisa Hudson accept this position and create new opportunities for utilizing our wonderful facility.

In looking ahead, mark your calendars for our Mid-Year Congregational Meeting on January 27, 2019. This is a wonderful time to recap what has been accomplished and where we want to continue the "vision."

Welcome to the dreamtime!!!

See you in Church,

Nancy Hagman, President

DID YOU KNOW—Who to see about What...Ministry Team Lay Leaders for 2018-2019

Caring Committee...Penny Featherstone (meal, food organization)

Sunday Services...Marylee Donnelly and Bob Ortiz

Communications...Website/computers, Charlie Steed; Facebook, Pam Levitt

Social Justice...Paula Montgomery and Scott Satterwhite

Membership...Laurie Winterberg and Laura Keith King

Children's RE...Pam Levitt

Adult Exploration (RE)... Audrey Preston

Finance/Ways and Means...Laurie Winterberg and Marylee Donnelly

Fun and Fellowship...Specific events: Circle dinners, Linda Cobb; Sunday AM Coffee Organizer, Barbara Goggins; MLK Parade, Kate Wolverton; Camp-Out, Emma Mulvaney

Building and Grounds... Discussion needed, roof/air conditioning, kitchen, maintenance/ongoing inspections **Denominational Affairs Team...** Kate Wolverton

Pastoral Care Support...Rev. Alice Syltie, and others available for her to call: Bill Caplinger, Kate Wolverton, Bob Gerold, Marcy Moreland, Nancy Hagman, Paula Montgomery, Debra Dubose



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HO, HO, Oh, Happy Holidays

I know everyone is making plans to spend time with family and friends near and far. On <u>Dec. 2</u> plan to spend some time with your UUCP family; we will be trimming the UUCP Christmas tree and decking the halls after the service. Please plan to stay with your family to help deck out UUCP and share in the holiday cheer!



The 2018-19 Teaching teams:

Children's Chapel: Pam Levitt & Holly Collins Wanderers: Kate Wolverton & Olivia Drouillard

Adventurers: Emma Mulvaney

Youth Pathfinders: Penny Featherstone & Linda Cobb



This year the kids' Christmas party will be on <u>December</u>
16 during class time. The children will all gather in the Rainforest room for xmas activities including but not limited to making holiday crafts and games. Children should each bring a non-perishable food item for Manna Food Bank. See page 6 of this newsletter for the foods Manna needs the most. Watch the weekly CRE email for more info to come!

Emma, the Adventurers teacher, has been taking her class on field trips to visit with other religious cultures. Last month they visited Temple Beth El. So, mark your calendars for December 8th and come join us at 10am at the Dieu De Buddhist Temple in Pensacola. Thuy Nguyen, a member of the temple since its establishment 25 years ago, will give us a child-friendly tour of the temple, and an introduction to Buddhism and meditation. Wear socks as shoes are not allowed in the Temple. Please let Emma know you plan to come by contacting her or Sarah Stubbs.



December Schedule:

12/2 Classes/Decorate the tree after the Service

12/8 Dieu De Buddhist Temple

12/9: Children's Chapel

12/16 Classes/ Children's x-mas party

12/23 Service for All Ages

12/30 Classes

Children's Religious Education (CRE) Advisory Team

Coordinator: Sarah Stubbs (437-5979) Team Leader: Pam Levitt

mssarahstubbs@gmail.com pmmlevitt@yahoo.com

Team Members: Emma Mulvaney, Olivia Drouillard, Linda Cobb, Holly Collins, Penny Featherstone, Kate Wolverton Feel free to contact any member with comments or suggestions!



WHAT'S UUP @ UUCP?

9am—10am every Sunday we have "Weekly Conversation Hour" in the Library Sunday Service at 10am

From the Treasurer: 2018 giving statements will be sent out in January. Please ensure all charitable donations you wish to be credited to the 2018 tax year are made by December 31. If you would like to see where you are, let Erin Renfroe know and she can send you a preliminary statement to review. Our preference is to send statements via email, so please make sure your email address is correct in Simple Church. Thank you!



SNEAK PEEK AT UUCP ART

A small group of UU artists are working on an opportunity for UUCP artists (members and friends) to display their art at the church. Plans are in the works for a wall of art that will be changed out quarterly. We also plan to include our artistic UU Kids in this endeavor for their own special show. Stay tuned—more details to come in the January *Light*, when we hope to have guidelines in place. We will invite members and friends who would like to display their work to an informational meeting. Feel free to contact me if you are interested in being included in this art adventure! Carol Hemmye

ENTER, REJOICE AND COME IN, Y'ALL



The Membership/Hospitality Team will meet before Sunday services on Sunday, December 9 at 9 am in the Conference Room. One of the activities of this group is to assure that we say, through our words and actions "Welcome - we're glad you're here" to our visitors. And, as people move towards membership, help them find their place and connections with the members and friends of UUCP. We'll wind up the meeting by 9:50 am. Questions or more information — contact either Laura Keith King or Laurie Winterberg.

SUNDAY SERVICES TEAM MEETING

The Sunday Services Team invites you to attend a meeting to discuss Sunday Service Leader duties on **Monday, December 3 at 11am.** This is not meant to change or put the process into a rigid program but to assist the service leaders and speakers in communication. We invite you to join us in an opportunity to discuss the process and provide an easy way to help make our Sunday Services flow. Please consider joining us and bring your ideas. For more information, contact Marylee Donnelly: 251-609-0834 or Maryleedonnelly: 914@hotmail.com.



NEWS FROM UUCP CHARITABLE TRUST

The UUCP Charitable Trust, while a separate entity from the church, receives and administers financial assets for the support of the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Pensacola. While assisting the church periodically with its emergency financial needs, the long-term goal of the Trust is to substantially increase the amount in the Trust's Endowment Fund to provide significant annual interest income to the church through wise investments. We would like to thank the following donors who have financially supported the Trust since January of 2018: Lauren Anzaldo, Georgieanna Bryant, Barbara Goggins, Marianne Kelly, Margaret McLarin, Marcy Moreland, and Scott Satterwhite. However, it is not too late for you to make a tax-deductible donation or a tax-free donation for those 70.5 years and older before the end of the calendar year. Contact any of the Trust's members with your questions: Chair: Marcy Moreland; Secretary: Georgieanna Bryant; Treasurer: Gerry Donnelly, Trustee: Bob Gerold; and Trustee: Erin Renfroe.



Inspire Love

Get Manna's Grocery List Manna stands committed to providing the healthiest food possible to our clients – that's why we pack all of our bags for all of our pantries and programs based on USDA Standards for a Healthy Diet. We are the only provider in the region that packs our bags using these standards. Please help us provide nutritionally balanced food by donating most needed items.

Most Needed Items:

- Canned Fruit in 100% Juice (regular cans and pop-top or peel-off lids)
- Breakfast Items (oatmeal, whole grain cereal, grits; regular boxes and single-serve bowls)
- Canned Chicken and Tuna (regular cans and pouches or kits)
- Canned Vegetables (squash, spinach, carrots, mixed vegetables)
- Peanut Butter (regular and single serving/small jars)
- Shelf Stable Milk
- 100% Juice Boxes
- Microwavable Soups (single serve)
- Microwavable Meals (e.g. Hormel Compleats or similar products)

We also accept and appreciate all non-perishable food donations. To ensure food safety, we cannot take any rusty or unlabeled cans, perishable items, homemade items, noncommercial canned or packaged goods, alcoholic beverages, or items that have been used or opened.

To coordinate a food drive, please fill out the Food Drive Registration Form. For more information, call (850) 432-2053 or fooddrives@mannahelps.org.



Guest at Your Table

UUSC is a 78-year-old human rights organization grounded in Unitarian Universalist values and founded to support refugees and political dissidents feeing Nazi Germany. Through research, advocacy, and partnerships with innovative grassroots organizations, UUSC advances human rights in the United States and around the globe.

Guest at Your Table is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's (UUSC) annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about critical human rights issues.

For decades, **Guest at Your Table** has been introducing Unitarian Universalists to real people impacted by human rights issues – and to grassroots leaders making a difference around the globe. Whether you use our simple cardboard box or simply share these powerful stories around your table, (see materials in UUCP foyer) thank you for being a part of this UU tradition! This year, our Guest at Your Table theme is Justice Across Borders. In particular, we are turning our attention to the thousands of Central Americans fleeing violence in their home countries and making the perilous journey north in hopes of finding refuge in the United States. More info about how yoUU can participate coming soon!



Gulf Coast Kid's House provides gifts to families in need during the holidays with the help of volunteers from the community. To participate, purchase gift cards for \$10-\$25 from locations such as Barnes & Noble Books, Target, Kmart and Wal-Mart and then bring them to the decorated box by our Giving Tree in the church entryway by **December 16**.



Holiday Shopping at amazon.com?

If you do any shopping (holiday or otherwise) at Amazon (including Amazon Prime), help the church by using

Amazon Smile and choosing **UUPensacola** as the nonprofit organization recipient of a percentage of your purchase. Just visit smile.amazon.com.

When you make your Amazon purchase, the church actually receives a portion of your sale.



Happy Shopping!



We Need Buildings & Grounds Leaders

Just as your own home needs you to keep an eye out for problems before they get out of hand, we need people to help here at 9888. Don't worry, you don't have to do the work yourself – we just need people to take on the responsibility of monitoring the condition of the property and seeing what needs to be done to keep it in good condition.

If the whole enchilada seems intimidating, take on just one area, for example:

KITCHEN:

Keep track of maintenance of new equipment Arrange for maintenance of fire suppressors and extinguishers Arrange for grease trap cleaning Monitor needs of dishwasher Check filters for stove hood and fans

BUILDING & GROUNDS:

Heating and A/C maintenance Roof Landscaping Plumbing Insurance



We can provide a check list to get you started. Our building needs us! Can you help? Maryleedonnelly914@hotmail.com.

We Need Kitchen Help

The new kitchen needs help! Are you willing? We have a few dedicated workers who set up the snacks and coffee each Sunday and clean up afterward – and they need help! No long-term commitment required, consider signing up for just a Sunday or two.

This is not a difficult job if we work together. You'll enjoy the fellowship and appreciate the wonderful, newly remodeled kitchen. The Sign-up Sheet is in the kitchen, or ask Barbara Goggins how you can help.

Stewardship

The seventh principle of the Unitarian Universalist Principles and Purposes asserts "respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." Stewardship means taking care of something we value and enabling it to grow. It calls us to take responsibility and to make a contribution of our time, talent, and/or treasure.

"We are all connected to the earth...to all other human beings, to the spinning world, moon, stars, planets, and sun.

We are part of a web. If part of this web is broken, the whole is diminished. We live in and by our web of loves and relationships, each lending support and strength to the other."

"The image of stewardship draws together the many threads of this web: the earth upon which we live, the elements of community we value, and the institutions that forward our values and provide services we think are important. Stewards are caretakers with a forward vision. They hold something in trust. They ensure that it will be there in the future for the benefit of others. Successful stewards not only protect, but help something to improve and grow. Their actions are empowering. This is true regardless of whether we are stewards of the earth, institutions, people, or our Unitarian Universalist faith."

From https://www.uua.org/finance/fundraising/generosity/joy

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L*UU*NCH B*UU*NCH Wednesday, Dec. 12

For the 2nd of December's many Wednesdays, the 12th, we will head for South Market (OK'd by L.W.) at 232 East Main (857-9455) - on which you can't park. But on Zarragoza it's possible; one-way east from Tarragona you may find parking, or via a right turn on the brick driveway between the 2nd and 3rd buildings (closest walk) after Tivoli High (2 story) House; if not there, continue east past the Pensacola

Bay Brewery to Adams St., or to Alcaniz or the ample parking in Fountain Park (south end of Seville Square) or across Main in Bartram Park via a left turn off Main onto Barracks St. With the RSVP responses for George, the reservation process was helpful; please advise Hugh T. at 478-2373 or huturn@juno.com as to your intended presence at South Market.

For 14/11/18, November's 2nd Wed., 10 of us managed to find parking at George (Bistro & Bar), short of the 14 or so I was anticipating, but appropriate for the number of seats that G & Co. could find around 1:15. The waitress, Nadine, was sufficiently solicitous of our needs, and the food seemed to hit the spot. *Pour moi*, the grilled veggies (asparagus, broccoli, red pepper, three of X many) were flavorful but their grilled slipperiness coated the soft "ciabata" bread to make a squishy sandwich, whereby firm grip and jaw pressure resulted in "squirted" green and red stuff. The salad of the more select greens was nicely flavored with light dressing. (They do offer a postcard type comment card, on which I plan to recommend a coarser, drier bread for a better grip...?)



CIRCLE DINNERS-HAVE YO<u>UU</u> JOINED YET?



Do you want to get to know other UUs? How about enjoying some adult conversation or a stimulating evening! **Circle Dinners** are your answer.

Circle Dinners align with UU principles affirming human worth, dignity, compassion, and acceptance of one another. Plus, they're fun! The company's great — and so is the food! They are a wonderful opportunity to meet and get to know your fellow UUs.

Circle Dinners begin with a "*UUCP Circle Dinner Kickoff Party*" in January followed by dinners in February, March, and April. Participants will each have an opportunity to host one month and provide a main dish. Others provide salad/vegetables or dessert/bread. The host will decide on a convenient date by conferring with those assigned. The six assigned people will provide the food, and the host may invite two new UU members or others from the church he or she would like to get to know better. This means there could be six, eight or more adults participating.

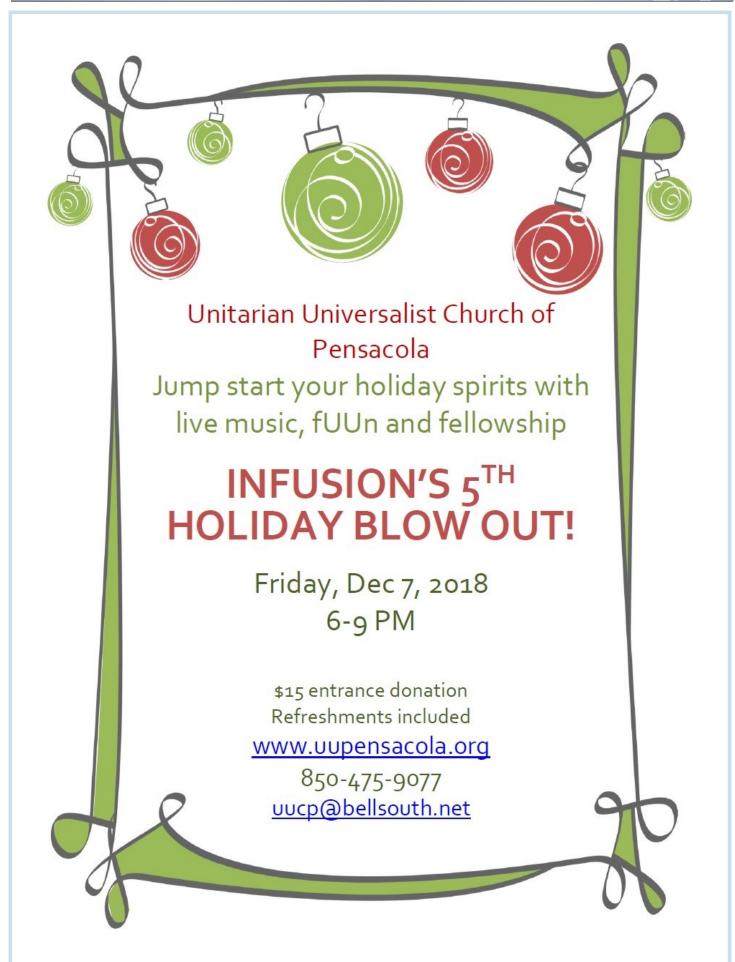
Singles as well as couples are encouraged to join. Substitutes are always needed. Should you be interested in participating – as a regular or a substitute – just indicate on the sign-up sheet in the foyer!

You will be contacted with information concerning the "UUCP Circle Dinner Kickoff Party" and a schedule in late January. I hope to see you there!

*If you are unable to participate in the "Meet & Greet" in January, you are still invited to join our group. Any questions or to sign-up, call/text Linda Cobb at 850-501-3186 or email Lindawcobb@gmail.

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December is a month with five Sundays. For each 5th Sunday Share the Plate, our congregation donates the offering to a non-profit organization doing work that supports our principles. This December the gift will go to the non-profit, nonpartisan Institute for Women in Politics of Northwest Florida. We gladly share our Fifth Sunday plate in December in support of this effort.



Paula Montgomery, co-chair Social Justice Action Team.

The Institute for Women in Politics of Northwest Florida was incorporated

on August 28, 2013, for the express purpose of increasing the <u>number of women</u> serving in elected office in Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa counties.

To achieve its purpose, the Institute will —

- Encourage women to consider political office a worthy endeavor
- Help women see themselves as viable candidates
- Provide candidates the knowledge and the tools to conduct successful campaigns
- Educate Northwest Florida communities on the benefits of electing women to office
- Promote understanding of the obligations and responsibilities of public service.

The Institute is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization and does not endorse nor support individual candidates. It is exempt under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) and registered with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Solicitation of Contributions.

Benefits of Electing Women to Office

- Women represent women. Women legislators have a major impact on the extent to which women's interests are represented in legislatures.
- Women bring a different point of view on policy and power. Women in legislative and executive posts are motivated most often by policy goals, not power or prestige.
- Women are effective legislators. Women are as effective as men in getting legislation passed.
- Women lead differently, and they lead in ways that benefit government. Women leaders are more partial to nonhierarchical collaboration, consensus building, and inclusion than are men.
- Women govern differently. Women lawmakers alter the legislative process, making it more transparent and public.
- Women excite and engage citizens in the political process. Women in government boost citizens' perceptions of government responsiveness and their willingness to become civically involved.
- Women legislators provide greater access to government, especially for disadvantaged members of society. Women spend more time on constituent service than their male colleagues.

This summary, provided by the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, is drawn from extensive research on the subject of women in elected office. See <u>Center for American Women and Politics</u>.

THOSE PESKY PLASTIC BAGS

"'Bag Ladies' use plastic bags to make beds for homeless"

Are you drowning in single-use plastic bags? There is a better way. An environmentally friendly organization called **Mats for a Mission** will use your clean plastic bags to weave mats for the homeless and other needy folks. If you will bring them to church I will gladly make sure they get to the right place. *Paula Montgomery*

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Jazz Music Service

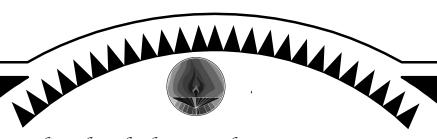
10am

Paving

And More

850-483-9639

2921 N Blue Angel 32506



Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola 9888 Pensacola Blvd. Pensacola, FL 32534 www.uupensacola.org

Return Service Requested

Deadline for submissions for



Celebrate Diversity • Strive for Justice • Inspire Love

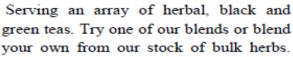
Inside this issue, don't miss:

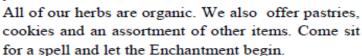
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Paid Ad

Enchanted Teas—Herbal Tea Shop





The Celtic Cauldron Metaphysical Shop



We are a metaphysical shop for all spiritualities. We carry a line of candles, books, stones, essential oils, cards, tapestries and many other items. Stop by and see what we have to offer! Special orders welcome.

Come see us!

You will find both shops at: 1900 Pace Blvd., Pensacola, FL 32502 850-490-7271 — call for hours <u>Like us on Facebook</u> or visit TheCelticCauldron.com

