



# Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

# The Light

VOLUME 62 ISSUE 4 April 2019

*Celebrate Diversity · Strive for Justice · Inspire Love*

## The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola



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## Coffee and Conversation 9-10am, Sunday Service 10-11am

### April 7 "Feeling Anxious"

UUCP Member Bob Gerold

Anxiety is something that affects all of us to one degree or another. I think there are things that are reasonable to be concerned about (primarily those things you can actually do something about), and those things that no amount of worry or anxiety will have any effect on. Come listen to Bob Gerold to hear a personal story of how he addresses his anxiety and what you might be able to do about yours in a positive, impactful way.

### April 14 "Flower Celebration Sunday"

Rev. Alice Syltie

Our Flower Celebration Service, also called Flower Communion, is a celebration of the renewal of life and hope at the center of the Spring season, which includes Easter and Passover. Originally created in 1923 by Unitarian minister Norbert Capek of Prague, Czechoslovakia, it is a time to build lasting



**Annual Easter Flower Communion**  
*Please bring a flower or two to exchange in the Flower Communion which celebrates the uniqueness, inherent worth and dignity of every person.*



memories for our children. Our sanctuary comes alive with the splendor of flowers, representing the variety and beauty reflected in our coming together as people of all ages, with unique perspectives, hopes and dreams. Each person, from the youngest child to the oldest adult, is asked to bring a flower to share, as we participate in the giving and receiving of a flower.

### April 21 "UU Mystics in Community"

UUCP Member Joyce Smandra

Because I was raised in the Russian Orthodox Church, I seem to have mysticism in my genes. During my spiritual journey, my contact with three teachers has guided me on the mystic path. Matt Fox taught me about the Christian mysticism of Meister Eckhart. Brian Swimme showed me how the new story of the universe (the cosmology of quantum physics) validates a mystic point of view; Neil Douglas Klotz, both through the Aramaic Jesus and Sufism, enriched my mystic path. I would like to share that journey with you today, a journey that has allowed me to stop looking for answers and enjoy the mystery.

### April 28 "Widening The Circle"

Rev. Alice Syltie

This month some of our Unitarian Universalist congregations will contemplate our tradition of drawing people in, or widening our circle. How do we remain true to our core values, while continuing to open ourselves to new thoughts and ideas? In this time of divisiveness and fear, how does our unique story guide us in expanding our understanding, while holding the boundaries of our deepest beliefs and principles?

### May 5 "Getting Curious"

Rev. Alice Syltie

Curiosity is the theme for May and I am curious about where the UUs of the Panhandle are headed. What are the dreams driving your congregation? What vision do you share for the future of Unitarian Universalism in your wider community? I'd love to hear your ideas. Talk to me, or email me. On May 5th not only will we consider the possibilities, members will voice their desires at the Congregational Meeting, following the Sunday Service.

## From Our Minister, Rev. Alice Syltie

Spring has arrived. I am always energized by the return of flowers and green leaves. For me it signals the time to truly enjoy the outdoors. I know there are people who dread the heat and prefer winter. I am not one of them. My husband and I took trips to warm places in February, just to shorten the winter. I guess warm is relative, since many people from the north come to our area, especially our beaches, in the winter. I prefer somewhere even warmer, like Miami or the Caribbean Islands. This year I was fortunate to do that travel with my brother and sister-in-law. We met in Miami for a week of exploring the everglades and the keys. We then boarded a ship for the Holistic Holiday at Sea Cruise. This was a first for me. The cruise included chef-prepared vegan meals, lectures and presentations by the top thinkers and professionals in plant-based health and living, including classes and demonstrations on nutrition, cooking, fitness, mindfulness, and wellness. Along with all that happened on board the ship, there were exciting port excursions for education and exploration.



For some, like me, the trip was a first-time face-to-face exposure to the wider movement of leading plant-based physicians releasing cutting-edge research, to nutritionists, animal welfare advocates, and social influencers. Certainly there is a continuum of people just dipping their toes into a new awareness, and those embracing committed activism for the movement. I'll be reflecting on my place in the continuum for awhile.

In the meantime, I will take solace in these words from Elizabeth Tarbox, from a piece in her book "Life Tides," published by Skinner House Books in 1993.

"I stand somewhere between truth and vision, and what I don't know ceases to embarrass me, because what I do know is that the water feels gentle like a lover's touch, and the sand welcomes it. What I have done or failed to do has left no noticeable mark on creation. What I do or don't do is of no moment now. Now I am here and grateful to be touched, calmed, and healed by the immense pattern of the universe."

May it be so.

In Love and Hope,

*Rev. Alice*

## CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

### The Living Legacy Pilgrimage

If you were inspired (as I was) by Reverend Alice's sermon, "From Selma to Today: Looking Back, Looking Forward," you might be interested in deepening your understanding of the history of the Civil Rights Movement and its effect on and within our denomination. We have a unique history and you have a unique opportunity to experience more of that connection. There is a UU project called Living Legacy Pilgrimage. Each year there is a pilgrimage to sites in the South where civil rights events of significance occurred.

Bill (Caplinger) and I went on the tour a few years ago. We were in a busload of UUs from all over the nation and a Canadian UU or two. Between stops, while in the bus, we were treated to documentaries and news clips about the sites we were to see. And we sang the songs of the era led by Reggie Harris, who really raised our spirits. We met with veterans of the era including some of those from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Birmingham that Rev. Alice mentioned. We met the sister of one of the three civil rights workers who were killed in Mississippi and heard her sing by the grave of her brother. It was an immersion experience, both moving and life-changing. This year's tour took place in mid-March. I recommend that you go to the UUA website and look for the Living Legacy Project materials. There is a place where you can sign up to get on their email list and learn about their activities including future events and tours.

*~Paula Montgomery*

## From the Board...

Recently, I have been listening to my first book on audio, *Dare to Lead* by Dr. Brené Brown. In this book she talks about asking the hard questions and learning to ‘rumble’ with the uncomfortable feelings that accompany these interchanges.

It has occurred to me that perhaps our congregation is ready to ask some of these harder questions and to ‘sit’ with feeling uncomfortable. Dr. Brown suggests that verbalizing our thoughts and vulnerabilities can highlight challenges as well as provide more effective solutions.

Dr. Brown writes about her work with groups and frequently the common theme is ‘being tired’ or ‘burned out.’ When exploring the feelings that are deeper with this topic, it became clear that isolation and feeling alone were the deeper emotions. Rejuvenation can occur when you feel heard, respected and have expressed your thoughts and feelings.



My own experience has validated this. When I was supervising Mental Health therapists, we met as a group once a week. Each time we gathered they talked of the overload they felt with record keeping, challenging situations, and demands on their time (coming to meetings). However, at the end of our meeting, the common reflection was ‘glad I was here.’ Somehow, gathering to share their feelings and being with others who understood made a big difference. They appeared to walk away with revived energy and enthusiasm. This was a privilege for me to experience.

Attending church is one way of feeling a part of something bigger. Often participating in the church activities and/or engaging in the leadership can develop deeper relationships. Frequently, this leads to taking ownership of being in a faith community.

Interfaith Justice Ministry is a new organization that is being developed in Pensacola. The local group is part of an organization called DART, a national network of 21 affiliated grassroots, nonprofit, congregation-based community organizations. To date, there are 17 churches in Pensacola committed to the organization and our Social Justice Team is exploring this opportunity for our church as well. There will be opportunities to learn more about this from our Social Justice Team. Reaching out into the larger community as a faith-based initiative...is this where we want to be as well?

Together, we will face the limitations of the financial situation of the congregation. Our finances continue to place our congregation at the door of how to proceed with leadership in Ministry. Some could perceive this as an open—or is it a shut—door? What are the thoughts and effective questions that need to be asked about this and are we ready to ask them? What feelings surface when there are meaningful discussions about our Ministry?

On May 5<sup>th</sup> we will have our yearly Congregational Meeting after the service. At that time, we will approve the budget and the leadership for the coming year. This is an important time for members and friends to learn more about our church and identify for yourself where you can contribute to the overall mission of our congregation.

See you there...*Nancy Hagman*, Board President



## Please Thank Our Building and Grounds and Our Safety Teams - They've Been Busy!

**Bill Caplinger** and **Gerry Donnelly** are working hard to redesign and rebuild our drainage area because of the road construction that has made it unusable. Bill has been in contact with the DOT and has worked long hours outside to make this happen. Many, many thanks, Bill, and thanks also to Gerry Donnelly and **Jay Butcher** who take such good care of our buildings and grounds. We appreciate you!

Have you noticed the new locks on every door, the freshly painted white directional arrows in the parking lot, and our new labyrinth out back? **Kate and Jack Wolverton, Lisa Hudson and Bill Caplinger** have been working hard to help us create safer buildings and grounds.

As part of our continuing safety initiative, on **Saturday April 12, 10:00-3:00** we will be at church cutting square holes in doors to install windows in them. We are looking for volunteers to help...and we will order pizza for lunch. Please contact Kate Wolverton if you can come and help at [wolvkat27@gmail.com](mailto:wolvkat27@gmail.com).



# WAY COOL Sunday School

## APRIL

**Greetings!** Happy Spring, UUCP families! We have some exciting opportunities coming up for our children and youth. On April 14th, we will be celebrating a Flower Communion in a Service For All Ages. The following week, on April 21st, we will be celebrating the earth-centered holiday of Ostara in Children's Chapel, which will include a special egg-themed meditation as a precursor to the Egg Hunt we will have for our children on the UUCP grounds. We hope you will join us! Looking forward to May 5th, be sure to join our Multi-Age Activity/Children's Chapel to prepare for our Beltane/Mother's Day/Teacher Appreciation service the following week on May 12th. Finally, the UUCP CRE and Safety Teams have been hard at work respectively painting the playground surface to help keep our children clean when they play, and creating a delightful labyrinth for meditation in the back parking lot. A special thanks to Kate Wolverton for spearheading those efforts. We hope to enjoy these times and spaces with your families in the coming months!

**April Schedule:**

- 4/7: Classes/Time For All Ages
- 4/14: SFAA Flower Communion
- 4/21: Children's Chapel/ Easter Egg Hunt
- 4/28: Classes

**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

The name of our Children's Religious Education program (CRE) is **WAY Cool Sunday School**.

The **WAY** acronym stands for the names of the three Classes with the following age groups:

- **"Wanderers"** - Pre-kindergarten through second-graders meet in the Beach Room.
- **"Adventurers"** - Third through sixth-graders meet in the Rain Forest Room.
- **"Youth Pathfinders"** - Seventh through twelfth-graders meet in the Teen Room.

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

Coordinator: Sarah Stubbs (437-5979) [mssarahstubbs@gmail.com](mailto:mssarahstubbs@gmail.com) Team Leader: Pam Levitt [pmmlevitt@yahoo.com](mailto:pmmlevitt@yahoo.com)

Team Members: Linda Cobb, Holly Collins, Olivia Drouillard, Penny Featherstone, Emma Mulvaney, Kate Wolverton



# What's UUp @ UUCP?

## INSPIRE LOVE

### Second Hour Information Session: Interfaith Justice Ministry Sunday, Apr. 7, 11:30-12:30pm

An Interfaith Justice Ministry has formed in the Pensacola area and has asked UUCP to be a part of its justice work in our community. This Second Hour will serve as an Information Session for UUCP to learn more about this group and the expectations for joining a coalition of other congregations working for justice. The ministry is a non-profit corporation that includes 17 local congregations of varied faith traditions. The local group is part of a national organization called DART, a national network of 21 affiliated grassroots, nonprofit, congregation-based community organizations that has seen success in campaigns to improve public education and increase access to health care, among other initiatives. Paula Montgomery and Lauren Anzaldo will lead the session in the Sanctuary.

### Membership Exploration Meeting 11:15am Sunday, April 14

Interested in becoming a member of UUCP? Before you become a member, you'll want to know more about the benefits, rights and responsibilities of membership. Co-chairs of the Membership Team, Laurie Winterberg and/or Laura Keith King, will be available to answer your questions and walk you through what you need to know and do to become a member. Child care and refreshments will be available. Need more information? Contact Laura Keith King at 850-530-6714 or [Laura-Keith-King@hotmail.com](mailto:Laura-Keith-King@hotmail.com) OR Laurie Winterberg at 850-857-9646 or at [LaurieAnne1950@gmail.com](mailto:LaurieAnne1950@gmail.com)

### UUCP SPRING YARD SALE FRIDAY, MAY 3<sup>RD</sup> AND SATURDAY, MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>

*Many of you have asked "WHEN" is the next Yard Sale? It is the first weekend in May. Do your "Spring Cleaning" NOW. Don't wait until the week of the sale as we won't have time to get your items priced and hence those items will go unsold.*



1. Bring items to the church beginning **Sunday, April 14th** or arrange to bring your items when someone is at the church during the week or during Office hours, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 4pm. Kitchen items, linens, toys, children's books, outdoor items, furniture, electronics, shoes, purses, hats, knickknacks, tools, jewelry, pictures, collectibles, appliances, gardening and pet items are all good sellers. Items can be placed in the back hallway away from the exit doors. If you can put the items in **stackable boxes**, that would be a "big help."
2. Bring us your **portable folding tables by Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**. Be sure your name is underneath the table top. Tables can be picked up on Sunday, May 5th. We always need more tables!
3. Because of so many tasks associated with planning and coordinating our Yard Sales, we are asking that you make arrangements with other church members/friends to pick up and deliver your large or heavy items to the church ahead of the sale. We need these items by Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> or Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup> to include them in the sale. Thanks for understanding.
4. Plan to **stay after church Sunday, April 28th**, to help with initial set-up. Help is needed to set up some long tables and to bring items from storage to the church foyer. Just thirty minutes or an hour or so would help a lot.
5. Volunteer to help with set up and pricing of items on **Monday, April 29th, Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, and Wednesday, May 1st**, beginning at **9:00 a.m.** (until about 4:00 p.m.) –any shift during these times will be appreciated. A sandwich lunch will be provided. Other food donations appreciated. We need lots of helpers just to organize items so they will sell better. No expertise required. Remember, volunteer helpers find the "early bargains." We may also work **Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>**, if we don't get done on Wednesday.
6. Volunteer to help with actual sale on **Friday, May 3rd** and **Saturday, May 4th**. Any shift you can work between 7:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. would be great. Help will also be needed on Saturday from about 1:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. to help pack up any remaining items for donation to charity.

**Any and all assistance is GREATLY APPRECIATED!!!**

Georgianna Bryant, Yard Sale Coordinator (623-2539 home or 572-1734 cell or [gbryant2@mchsi.com](mailto:gbryant2@mchsi.com))

<https://thecooperreview.com/9-tricks-to-look-smart-in-a-book-club/>

9 TRICKS TO LOOK SMART IN A BOOK CLUB

#4 Make Your Book  
Look Old & Worn



## Readers' Groups Return!

Do you enjoy reading, a lot or even a little? Would you like to casually share your favorite authors, titles, series in a small group once a month? Last year a number of UUCP Members and Friends participated in a 6-month long series of monthly readers discussions. We explored such things as

- what are you reading now?
- your early recollections of reading — good and bad
- reading the same book again - at a different stage of your life, etc.

Each month, we delved a bit deeper into our reading delights, behaviors, history and habits and always sharing recommendations and books.

A form for you to fill out with your preferred day and time are available in the foyer. If you'd prefer, Laurie can email or send the form by US Post.

The target group size will be 6-8 members and **there will be NO assigned books to read**. Groups will be organized based on readers' scheduling preferences. Groups will start meeting in May and will end in October.

Contact Laurie Winterberg at 850-857-9646 or [LaurieAnne1950@gmail.com](mailto:LaurieAnne1950@gmail.com).

LET'S GET  
**Together**

### Lunch Bunch at LIVE!



Yes, it is already April and Springtime ... and to shake off the Winter Woozies, we'll try something new and LIVE!, a challenging "under 30" (? maybe) place your Grand-kids might prefer more than thee, suggesting "100% Raw Vegan" food. One item announces Beet Walnut Burger with ... eggplant bacon strips (1 of 6 items in the entree); ... the "bacon" is thin-sliced "cured" eggplant. I won't suggest the nature of the bread substitute, but it's all healthy and on line. And the soups look pretty good too, all the tasty ingredients listed. ... at 532 West Garden, LIVE! (corner Coyle and Garden), phone 542-4934, for April's 2nd Wed, the 10th. ... As usual, 1:00 in the PM, and we'll wait for you (and arrange a seat) before ordering if you let us know you're planning on losing the Woozies. (The menu soups, on line, were advertised as "hot" on Monday 18/3, perhaps a concession to the day's coolness. But they don't call them gazpacho.)

Wednesday's 13/3 event at Seashore Station was nicely attended by 11, with 2-3 missing but notice of 3 more filled us out. I think most enjoyed the tastes and preps of the mixed cuisine restaurant on the SW corner of Royce and 9th, two short blocks down the hill from Bayou.



## Welcome New Member – Joyce Smandra

Joyce Smandra is a nurse, poet, an English teacher, a mystic, a dancer, a sailor and a traveler.

She was born of Russian ancestry in Homer City, PA, a small town near Pittsburgh, graduated from nursing school, earned a BA in English Literature from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and an MA in English from George Mason University.

“I spent about 20 years my adult life in the Washington D.C. area,” she relates — working as an occupational health nurse at the Office of Management and Budget and as associate editor for the Journal of the American Academy of Physician Assistants. “During my time in D.C. I danced,” says Joyce. “Returning to my roots, I became quite proficient at the polka and waltz, along with Russian folk dances like the silver slipper. I went to the Soviet Union in 1983, looking for ‘old Russia,’ but found soldiers and no ancestors. Now the area is Russia again, but it does not change the fact that my ancestors were killed in Stalin’s purges in the 1930s, since they refused to give up their land during collectivization.”

Joyce also visited England, Italy and France and as part of her celebration with a women’s group of “earth-centered spirituality,” she visited Greece, “following in the steps of the Goddess. I also visited Chichen Itza to watch the jaguar make its way down the pyramid at the vernal equinox.”

Joyce's last career was as a professor at Pensacola Junior College, teaching English composition and Contemporary Literature. “I had so much fun sharing my love for writing and literature that my passion stimulated many a jaded student...At this time my own creative juices were overflowing, so I also attended the University of West Florida as a senior citizen in the MFA program.” And she won the Laurie O'Brien prize for poetry in 2009.

“My latest enthusiasm...is the study of the universe. Contemplating the flexibility of the space-time continuum and black holes keeps my mind flexible, and oft times baffled. This fits nicely with my study of the words of Jesus from the original Aramaic...Like Jesus, poets such as Rumi and Hafiz, with their mystic point of view, see the universe much like the science of the quantum theory now perceives it. Ultimately I feel I am living an awesome mystery, and I am delighted to participate in what Zorba called ‘the full catastrophe.’ ”

Growing up, Joyce attended Homer City’s local Carpatho Russian Orthodox Church. She first became acquainted with our UUCP church in 1992 after noticing a flyer on a bulletin board in Gulf Breeze for “Cakes for the Queen of Heaven” and joined the group. Life’s journey took her elsewhere for a few years, but she returned to Pensacola in 2003 and recently re-joined the church.

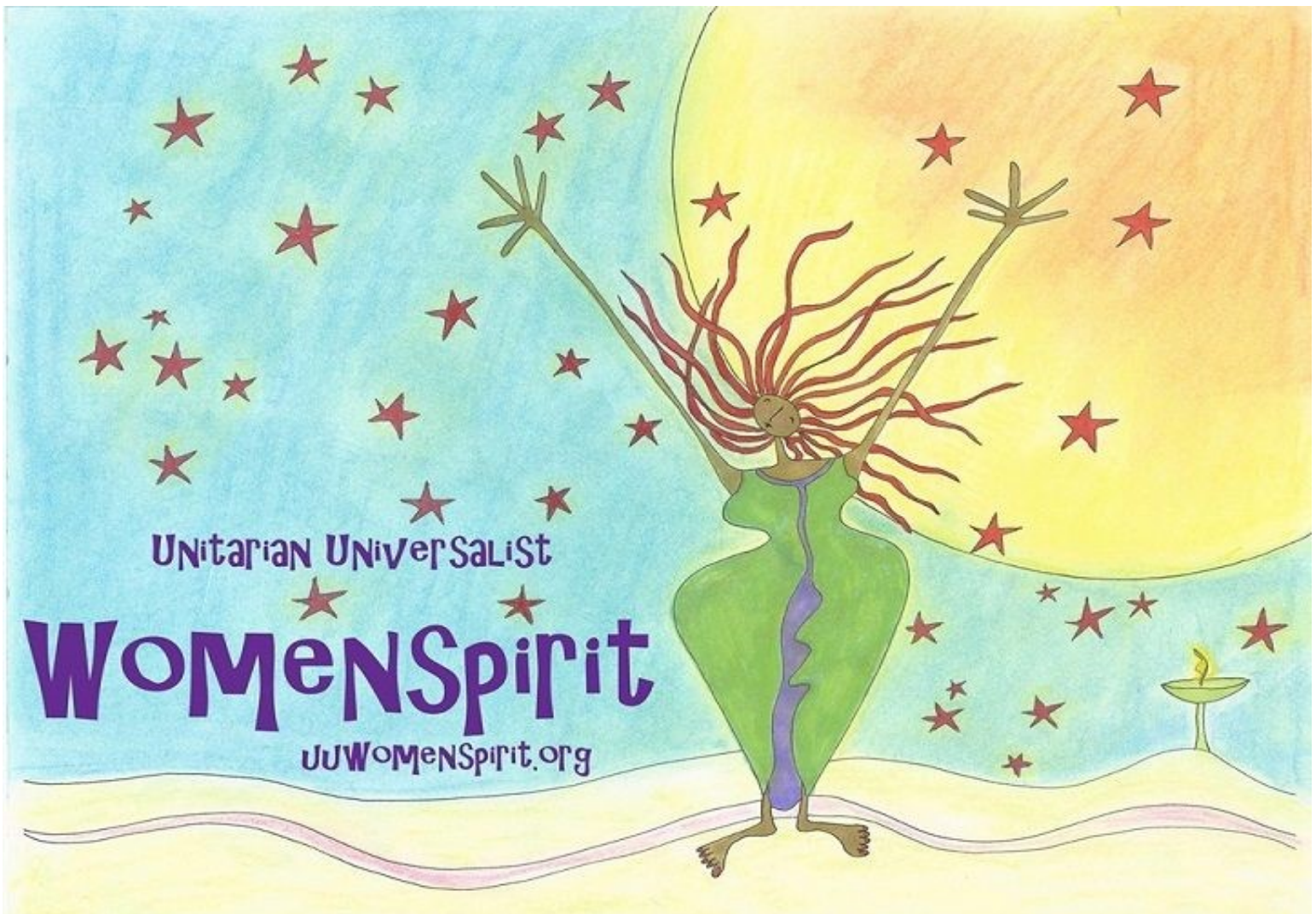
And life goes on.

“About a year ago, I retired from teaching. I have time to meditate, read and spend time at the shore or walk in the local forests. I write with two different groups. I continue to meditate, chant and dance. I open myself to an experience of the Holy rather than keep trying to find rational answers to what is an incomprehensible mystery.”

*Charlotte Crane*



# Celebrate Diversity · Strive for Justice · Inspire Love



## Welcome to UUWomenspirit!

We are an all-women organization that was formed out of Unitarian Universalist traditions with an emphasis on exploring and celebrating the Feminine Divine in her many forms. We offer bi-annual spiritual retreats in the Spring and Fall that run from Wednesday afternoon to Sunday morning. We are run solely by our members who volunteer their time and talents to conceptualize, plan and execute our events. We are based in the Southeastern United States but have members who travel from across the United States to be a part of our unique retreats.

This website contains detailed information about our organization's structure ([Coordinating Council](#), [Herstory](#)) and offerings. Please visit [Events](#) to learn more about our events as well as information on upcoming and [past events](#). Our quarterly newsletter, She Speaks, is released on the cross-quarter days (Imbolc – February 2nd, Beltane – May 1st, Lammas – August 1st and Samhain – October 31st). She Speaks contains original essays, poems and creative works by our members and is a way for us to connect with each other while stretching our creative wings. To view current and past issues of She Speaks, visit the [Newsletter](#) tab. Some of our members earn their living by creating and selling jewelry and other items that celebrate the Feminine Divine. For information on our creative and enterprising members, please visit the [Networking](#) tab. If you interested in joining our organization, you can do so easily by visiting the [Join](#) tab. If you would like to volunteer to teach a workshop at one of our upcoming events, please visit the [Volunteer](#) tab. Questions? Please go to [Contact Us](#). [Thank you for visiting UUWomenspirit!](#)



## How to Make an Announcement Around Here

### By The UUCP Communications Team

We are a congregation of active, involved people who have many accomplishments and events to share. There are several ways to get the word out, but make sure you're choosing the appropriate forum. Here are the general guidelines for each:

**Sunday Service:** Sharing of Joys and Sorrows. This is a time to share momentous events in your life, affecting you or your family directly, for which you would like the congregation's emotional support or shared joy. Please also share news of an absent Member or Friend which may be of concern to the whole congregation.

**Sunday Service:** From the pulpit. Announcements from the pulpit are made by a member of the Governing Board and are meant for time-sensitive items, such as an upcoming UUCP-sponsored event, a church volunteer need, or other UUCP-related news (for example, the proceeds raised by a recent fundraiser). Write your announcement on a slip of paper and put it on the pulpit before the service. In some specific circumstances, the Board member may call you forward to make your announcement yourself, but this will be done on a very limited basis.

**Sunday Service:** Order of Service Insert. This insert is put together by our Office Administrator and features upcoming services and events from the SimpleChurch calendar. The criteria for the announcement is the same as one made from the pulpit: time-sensitive, church-sponsored, and concise. The deadline for the Order of Service insert is Tuesday morning. Please submit your announcement, ready to publish, to [uucp@bellsouth.net](mailto:uucp@bellsouth.net).

**Weekly e-mail.** Published by our Office Administrator, the weekly email is generally sent out on Thursdays. Appropriate material includes after-church meetings and events that will occur in the next two weeks, church volunteer needs, and other UUCP-related news. A section entitled "In Our Greater CommUUnity" is the appropriate place for local news and events that support our mission and which are of interest to our congregation. Please submit fully prepared and edited pieces for the weekly email to [uucp@bellsouth.net](mailto:uucp@bellsouth.net) by Tuesday afternoon.

**The Light (monthly newsletter).** The newsletter is assembled and formatted by our Office Administrator and is generally published the last week of the month. It is available in full color via email and on our website, and in black-and-white hard copy at the church. This is the place to publish events that are more than a couple of weeks away, news of general interest to the congregation, denominational news, and ongoing needs of the church. Submit your fully prepared and edited stories to the Office Administrator at [uucp@bellsouth.net](mailto:uucp@bellsouth.net). The deadline is always the 16th of the month; material submitted after that date will be published only as space and time permit.

**The website.** Our church website is found at [www.uupenscola.org](http://www.uupenscola.org). In the interest of keeping a vibrant and up-to-date website to be our first impression to prospective visitors, ministry teams are encouraged to submit news, announcements, and photographs, as well as to make sure all information regarding team leadership is up to date. Any team who would like the ability to edit their own web presence is welcome to do so. Our volunteer webmaster is Charlie Steed, whose contact information can be found in SimpleChurch, or you may send your publication-ready material via email to [uucp@bellsouth.net](mailto:uucp@bellsouth.net) with a request that it be forwarded for publication on the website.

**Facebook.** UUCP has three Facebook pages, one for the general public and two closed groups.

Along with the website, the Unitarian Universalists of Pensacola Facebook page is one of the church's two public faces, and any news published here should be suitable for the public, present our church and denomination positively, and support our mission. Our volunteer Facebook page administrator is Pam Levitt, whose contact information can be found on SimpleChurch, or you may send your request to [uucp@bellsouth.net](mailto:uucp@bellsouth.net).

**In Our Greater CommUUnity** is a closed group for UUCP Members and Friends to share events and causes at the local, state, and national level that support our mission and are of interest to our congregation. The volunteer administrator of this group is Erin Renfroe; please contact her to be invited to the group.

**UUCP Children's Religious Education Family Page** is a closed group for UUCP Members and Friends who have an interest in our CRE program. As above, the group is by invitation only, and maintains strict guidelines on protecting the privacy of our families. Please see group administrator Sarah Stubbs for details.

All communications online are expected to follow UUCP's Electronic Communications Policy (available upon request), which includes respectful communication, a positive presentation of our church, and adherence to UUCP values, as well as careful protection of each other's privacy. Please direct any questions to a member of the Communications Team: Charlie Steed, Pam Levitt, Erin Renfroe or Terra Shute.



# Strive for Justice



## Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSIA): The Corruption of our Democracy

Many of us are watching with dismay as our democratic processes are attacked and undermined by the very elected officials who have sworn to uphold them. As safeguards for voting, defense of our environment, health and safety of our citizens, the education of our children, and racial and social inequities are increasingly made worse instead of better, what can we do?

There is an underlying problem that is making progress in all of these areas so difficult. And that problem is that the democratic process is being corrupted by money. The government is increasingly favoring corporate interests and the bottom line over the well-being of its citizens.

Since the idea of corporations having rights was first introduced in 1886, the courts have been gradually giving human rights and legal privileges to non-human entities. With the courts' approval, corporations have amassed enormous fortunes and unbelievable power. This is what has led to the democracy crisis by undermining the governing process.

In 2010 the U.S. Supreme court ruled in favor of corporations in a crushing decision called Citizens United. According to this decision corporations have all the rights that our founding fathers wanted to belong only to the people. And to further the destructive force of giving corporations these legal privileges, money was equated with free speech that cannot be inhibited. If money is speech, how can citizens possibly be heard against the roar of billions and trillions of dollars of corporate wealth?

*The issue of Corruption of our Democracy was introduced at the UUA General Assembly in New Orleans three years ago. The process of study and refinement began, led by the UUA Commission on Social Witness. The issue has been vetted by comparison with our values and by our religious grounding. Actions have been suggested to be undertaken by individuals, congregations, and the UUA.*

Adoption of a Statement of Conscience on this topic will happen at GA in 2020. One action which the UUA and UUCP have already taken is to adopt a resolution in favor of a constitutional amendment stating that corporations are not persons with unalienable rights and that money is not free speech that therefore can be limited. The particular wording of this amendment is proposed by the organization called Move to Amend.

*One suggestion for UUCP is to encourage each individual member to sign the petition in support of Move to Amend. This will put your name on the email list of the organization. You will then be notified of local meetings and national events. The petition is on line at <https://movetoamend.org/motion>, or it can be signed on the paper copy found on our Social Justice bulletin board, outside the Conference Room.*

*Paula Montgomery, Social Justice Co-Chair at [montpns@aol.com](mailto:montpns@aol.com)*


## Ever'man Eco-Friendly Charity Bag Program

For the months of March and April, Earth Ethics Inc. has been chosen as the 501(c)3 organization "that supports sustainable environmental practices" as part of Ever'man's Eco-Friendly Charity Bag Program. Since July 1, 2015, at every Ever'man Grocery and Cafe cash registers, all shoppers are being rewarded for shopping with eco-friendly bags. For each eco-friendly bag used, Ever'man will donate five cents to a charity of the shopper's choice. So, when shopping at Ever'man with your canvas bags please choose Earth Ethics!



**Paula Montgomery and Patti Gunderson represented the UUCP Social Justice team in Tallahassee on March 11 and 12.** We joined forces with UUJustice Florida, Indivisible and a public school advocacy group in an evening of fellowship at the Tallahassee UU Church on Monday. Tuesday morning bright and early, after a photo shoot in the rotunda, we met with our legislators. Paula and Patti met with Representatives Mike Hill and Alex Andrade and the staff of Senator Doug Broxson to present our case. The particular emphasis of this trip was environmental concerns as well as the needs of the Panama City Area after Hurricane Michael. There was a press conference on Tuesday noon on the same topic with several speakers from the UU group.

**Monday, April 8th - Join us beginning at 6 p.m. at Ever'man Educational Center, 327 W. Garden Street, Pensacola, FL 32502 for Earth Ethics April Environmental Education Series.** Earth Ethics in partnership with Earth Day Network is celebrating and supporting those who "protect our species." This month we welcome Dorothy Kaufmann, Director at the Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida. Ms. Kaufmann's Giving Wildlife A Second Chance presentation will discuss the organization's care of injured or orphaned wildlife including medical care, fostering, rehabilitation and wildlife release. Sign up for Weekly Emails from UUCP at [uucp@bellsouth.net](mailto:uucp@bellsouth.net) or check [uupensacola.org](http://uupensacola.org) or our [Facebook page](#) for more information on coming activities.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>APRIL 2019</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>7 <i>Manna Donations</i></p> <p>Conversation Hour 9am</p> <p><i>Choir Practice 9am</i></p> <p>Sunday Service 10am</p> <p><i>Coffee Hour 11am</i></p> <p>Second Hour 11:30am</p>	8	9	10	11	12	13
			<p><b>LUUNCH BUUNCH</b></p> <p>1pm</p> <p><i>at LIVE!</i></p> 			
<p>14</p> <p>Conversation Hour 9am</p> <p><i>Sunday Service 10am-Annual Flower Communion</i></p> <p>Coffee Hour 11am</p> <p><i>Explore Membership 11:15am</i></p>	15	16	17	18	19	20
		<p><b>SUBMISSIONS FOR MAY LIGHT DUE APRIL 16</b></p> 				
<p>21</p> <p>Conversation Hour 9am</p> <p><i>Choir Practice 9am</i></p> <p>Sunday Service 10am</p> <p><i>Sunday Sweets 11am</i></p> <p><b>HAPPY EASTER!</b></p>	22	23	24	25	26	27
<p>28</p> <p><i>Conversation Hour 9am</i></p> <p>Sunday Service 10am</p> <p><i>Coffee Hour 11am</i></p>	29	30	27	28	29	30



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

**Return Service Requested**

Deadline for submissions for  
**MAY LIGHT:**



**SATURDAY, APRIL 16**

*Celebrate Diversity · Strive for Justice · Inspire Love*

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