



Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

The Light

VOLUME 62 ISSUE 12 December 2019

Celebrate Diversity · Strive for Justice · Inspire Love

Coffee & Conversation 9-10am, Sunday Service 10-11am



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Dec. 1 "Yule; The Norwegian Christmas" with UUCP Member Rob Pallme. Our celebration of Christmas borrows customs from many lands and sources. The time of Christmas and of many ancient celebrations is the winter solstice – the darkest days of the year followed by very cold weather in the northern latitudes — weather that makes people come together and work with each other to survive. Two ancient celebrations are the Scandinavian Jul (Yule) and the Gothic Noel. Both predated Christianity. Each served practical purposes and inspired some good parties. In this message Rob Pallme will describe spending Jul with his wife's Norwegian family. He will recount how old traditions blended with modern conveniences to create a good time in a bad season.

Dec. 8 "Spirit of the Christmas Tree" with Rev. Alice Syltie and Sarah Stubbs, CRE Coordinator. A collaborative effort on the part of Rev. Alice, Sarah Stubbs and the Children's Religious Education Team to bring to life the spirit of Christmas. "The Spirit of the Christmas Tree" is a Christmas pageant written by Joyce Poley, a Canadian Unitarian Universalist composer who lives in Vancouver, British Columbia. We will adapt this pageant to include traditional Christmas songs, while presenting an understanding of the birth of Jesus, with special meanings for people of all ages. We hope you will find a universal message of love and hope reflected in this ancient story.

Dec. 15 "Celebrate, Strive and Inspire" with Nancy Hagman and Marylee Donnelly, UUCP Members. On this day the congregation is invited to participate in a discussion of what we believe is our New Normal. We have been actively pursuing action within and outside our community. Now will be an opportunity for each of us to talk about where we are and WHY. Discussion will be led by Nancy Hagman and Marylee Donnelly to prepare us for the new year and our understanding of our WHY.

Dec. 22 "Reflections on the Season" Rev. Alice Syltie On this first day of winter we pay tribute to the nourishing dark, as we welcome the return of the light. With poetry and song we celebrate the Winter Solstice.

Dec. 24 "Christmas Eve Candlelight Service" at 5pm with Rev. Alice Syltie and Lesley Ortiz. 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. 29 Chase away the New Year's blues with some real blues. Guitarist and singer Steve Gunter, a longtime UUCP favorite, will lead a session that includes saxophonist Thom Botsford, drummer Jack Wolverton, and others.

From Our Minister

Dear Friends, once again, I must share with you sad news about the loss of a member of our congregation. Betty Myers informed us Thursday, November 27, that Tom Springer had passed away peacefully in his bed that morning. As soon as we know more, we will pass along the information. For now, we hold Betty in our hearts with love, as she copes with this loss of her dear friend and partner of many years. We will share more information with you as we learn it.

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Our theme for December is Awe and our suggested question is, What does it mean to be a people of Awe?



Awe is certainly an element of the stories celebrated in the December holidays. An extraordinary birth, a tiny bit of oil that miraculously burned for eight days, a tree that becomes the path to enlightenment. Who would not be in awe of such events? While it may seem that awe requires an encounter with something outside of us, it is a feeling inside of us that connects us to something beyond us. By the number of photos posted on Facebook, I know I am not alone experiencing awe in the beauty of a spectacular sunrise or sunset. My favorite is when I experience those from a white sandy beach. It's hard to imagine not being awe-struck under a star-filled sky on a mountain top, far from any city lights. What do these moments do for us? I can't speak for you, but for me they are reminders that regardless of what frustration or grief I may encounter, there is beauty to behold and for which to be grateful. Unfortunately, amazing moments of connection to the natural world are not necessarily an everyday occurrence. Therefore, to be a people of Awe we may need to consider a variety of ways to be in touch with a sense of wonderment and amazement. Some would call it reverence.

Perhaps these questions from our *Soul Matters* resources might lead you to some answers:

Who taught you the most about "living in awe"? Has age impeded or assisted awe for you? How has the location of awe changed for you over time? Has it shifted from the stars to the woods? From the birth of planets to the birth of your child? From the physical feats your body allows to the storied wrinkles of your hand? What, when you look at it, now leaves you most in awe?

Perhaps this will give you something to think about or talk about at our next coffee hour.

In Love and Hope,

Rev. Alice

Memorial Opportunity for Non-UUCP Members

If you would like to memorialize a loved one who was not a member of our UUCP congregation, consider purchasing a memorial nameplate that will be displayed in the Memorial Garden. The nameplates will be 2" x 6" and made of a durable, weather resistant material. Included on the name plate will be the deceased's first and last name, their birth year and death year. The cost is \$50 per person to be memorialized.

Although there is no deadline for purchasing a memorial, consider doing so by **Sunday, January 12, 2020** so that they can be on display shortly after Valentine's Day. Just complete a short information form (which will be available on the information table outside the Library).

If you have questions, contact Kate Wolverton at wolvkat27@gmail.com.

FROM YOUR BOARD: PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

“A fish can’t whistle, and neither can I.” This silly quote illustrates an important concept: recognize and accept your limitations, which sometimes are strengths. I came across this quote recently in the book *The Tao of Pooh* by Benjamin Hoff. In this delightful and insightful read, Hoff explains the teachings of Taoism through the character of Winnie-the-Pooh and his friends in the Hundred Acre Wood.

The Tao of Pooh had been on my to-read list for more than 20 years, but reading it now was timely and illuminating. The concept of playing to one’s strengths aligns with recent discussions of the Board and congregation about the exciting current realities of our church. So often, we think about **What Could Be** instead of **What Is**. For us as individuals, **What Could Be** might mean more money, a new relationship, or more time or energy. For our church, **What Could Be** has meant dreams of more members, more money, and more activity. **What Is** means 109 wonderful members, a stable budget and pledge levels, and a handful of activities inside and outside our church that reflect the authentic thinking minds, loving hearts, and serving hands of UUCP members and friends living our mission and our covenant.

The message of the Small Congregations webinar series has been that churches under 150 members thrive when they focus on doing one or two things really well. Our mission reflects the things that we at UUCP value and do best: Celebrate Diversity, Strive for Justice, and Inspire Love. UUCP’s strengths and mission are on full, glorious display in our wholehearted partnership with JUST Pensacola and in our care and support of our members through life’s journeys.

According to Hoff in *The Tao of Pooh*, “The Way of Self-Reliance starts with recognizing who we are, what we’ve got to work with, and what works best for us.” Through the two WHY workshops in October and more conversations to come in December and beyond, the Board and Rev. Alice have been guiding us to reconnect with our values and why we are here and, by extension, to identify what works best for us.

“Do you want to be really happy?”

Hoff asks. “You can begin by being appreciative of who you are and what you’ve got.” May it be so with us.

Until next time,

Lauren Anzaldo
Board President

IMPORTANT TIDBITS:

Holiday Collection for Staff

It is the time of year to take up a collection for a holiday gift for our paid employees to show our appreciation for the work they do for us all year. Cash or check contributions can be given to Lauren Anzaldo, President, or Erin Renfroe, Treasurer, by December 15. Please mark your contribution as Holiday Gift Collection.

Midyear Congregational Meeting, January 26, after church service. Gather for updates on our finances, the Charitable Trust, the Sign Task Force, and ministry teams and highlights of what we already have accomplished this year. A sandwich lunch will be provided.

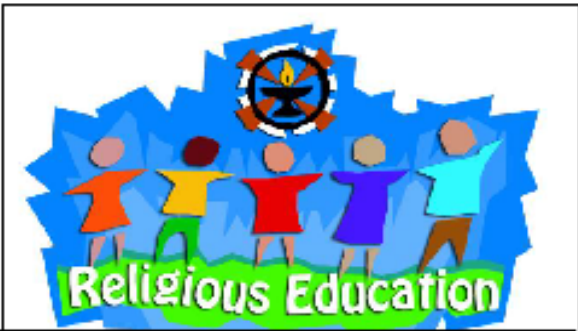




One Room Sunday School



Greetings,
Happy Holidays. Please join us on Dec. 8 for our first Annual Xmas pageant a very UU Nativity!



- On Class Days the students will start in the service to be sung out to class.
- On Children's Chapel day the students will start in the Chapel.
- Nursery drop off starts at 9:45

December Schedule for Sunday school
 12/1: ORSS, Program rehearsal, Holly Jolly Deck the Halls Youth will Meet.
 12/8 SFAA, Christmas Program
 12/15 Children's Chapel
 12/22 Classes
 12/26 Classes & Youth Meet.
DEC CRE Team Meeting TBD

New Age Groupings

I know there is always something new right? To better serve our population we are now breaking the children out as follows:
 Birth - Kindergarten are in the Nursery
 1st - 6th grade are in the ORSS in the Rainforest room
 7th - 12th grade are in the Youth Pathfinders room.

CRE Anachronims & Jargon explained
 SFAA: Sevice For All Ages
 ORSS: One Room Sunday School
 Children's Chapel: Mini Service for small people
 CRE: Children's Religious Education
 CREC: Children's Religious Education Coordinator
 Youth: Children 13ish to senoir in HS

Children's Religious Education (CRE) Advisory Team
 Coordinator: Sarah Stubbs (437-5979) Team Leader: Open
mssarahstubbs@gmail.com
 Team Members: Emma Mulvaney, Linda Cobb, Penny Featherstone, Kate Wolverton, Pam Levitt
 Feel free to contact any member with, comments or suggestions!



Our Caring Community

As a congregation, we celebrate each other's joys and do our best to lighten the load of each other's sorrows.

Our Caring Community

Congratulations to Holly Collins for winning a Jurors Award for her drawing, Mangrove, in the Cinco Banderas Exhibit at Artel Gallery. The exhibit will be on display through Dec. 6th.

“This award is significant to me because I have been creating little art these past years while spending time with my granddaughters,” said Holly. “Before moving to Pensacola my paintings were represented and sold by galleries in Chicago, Atlanta and along 30A.”

Holly has displayed her art work in many exhibitions and received numerous awards. Most of her work has consisted of large abstract landscapes, but the awarded piece currently at Artel Gallery is a pencil drawing.

Several years ago, Holly gave UUCP three large abstract paintings that were hanging for a time in the conference room. She plans to participate in future UUCP artist exhibits.



Besides being an artist, Holly was an art teacher in schools in Indiana, Pennsylvania and Chicago. After earning MA and MFA degrees in drawing and painting, she was a gallery curator and college art instructor in Illinois. She also has served as Gallery director and taught 3D design and museum studies at UWF.

Kaye Kemnitz has gone north to Knoxville, TN, to care for her granddaughter, Carly, 25, as she recovers from an accident. Kaye will be in Knoxville until early December and then in Nashville until after the holidays. She sends a message to UUCP: “Tell everyone I said ‘Hello’. I miss you guys.”

Hannelore Musial, who turned 91 on Nov. 8, celebrated the occasion not just once, but with lots of friends at luncheon dates throughout the week. A UUCP member since 1988, Hannelore is known not only for her happy smile and marvelous Sunday Sweets, but also for her love of opera and the white Christmas stars created by her and her late husband, Victor, and still twinkling among our annual holiday decorations.

Hannelore and Victor moved to Pensacola in 1988 when he was transferred here from Connecticut with American Cyanamid Co. Hannelore spent her childhood in Germany during the Nazi Regime and moved to the United States from Germany in 1952 at the age of 24, after training as an interpreter and becoming employed as an au pair for a family in New Jersey. Victor spent the war years as a German prisoner of war and came to the United States in 1951 as a Polish displaced person. Along with Hannelore, he also joined UUCP in 1988; he died in 2006.

Laurie Winterberg’s doctors had been trying for some time to determine the cause of her recently diagnosed anemia. In mid-November the cause was given a name: multiple myeloma, a form of blood cancer. Laurie started the first round of chemo on Friday, Nov. 15, and was admitted that day to Sacred Heart for an unplanned weekend getaway following a chest X-ray. Laurie won’t be able to have visitors during treatment, as chemo compromises the immune system. Emails (LaurieAnne1950@gmail.com) and texting (850-549-7247) are okay, and cards are lovely as well. But mostly, she would welcome your loving thoughts and healing energy.

Please send news of family events, accomplishments and concerns to UUCP’s newsletter, The Light, for publication in the newly launched Member News feature. Send to Charlotte Crane, charlotte@charcrane.net, or to Terra Shute at the UUCP office, uupensacola@gmail.com.

Welcome new member – Bradley Vinson

Bradley Vinson planned to major in music at Florida State University, based on her clarinet playing, high school touring in a university wind ensemble and singing in choirs and musical productions.

But before declaring her major, says Bradley, “I fell in love with some of my other classes and ended up graduating with a bachelor of arts in anthropology and minors in film and urban planning.”

And then she was a librarian. “I didn’t intend to become a librarian – I just WAS one,” says Bradley. “I had volunteered at my aunt’s library in Jefferson Parish, LA., as a child, and in my local public library in Sylva (N.C.) for many years” ... and in college, she worked at FSU’s Strozier Library. “So when I graduated from college with my somewhat niche degree in linguistic anthropology and non-supporting minors, I went straight to work in the library in Sylva and eventually in Pensacola.”

Today Bradley is in her sixth year at West Pensacola Elementary school, working as a Media Specialist (“though I still call myself a librarian!”), following awarding of her master’s degree in Library Science in 2007 and several years working at West Florida Regional Library, where her roles included Head Cataloger and head of the Children’s Department.

Bradley was born in New Orleans and raised by a single mother in New Orleans, then Winston-Salem, NC, then Santa Fe, NM, then back to the Carolina mountains, living in Sylva from third grade to high school graduation. “I grew up an only child and often wished for siblings, based on the interactions of my friends with their siblings, which led me to wish for multiple children of my own” – a wish which she achieved.

“While at FSU, I met my future husband, Joey, at a Halloween party thrown by mutual friends. Around this time, I was also spending some time getting to know my dad’s side of my family, and distinctly remember a trip my paternal grandmother took me on to meet my cousins and a couple of my aunts for the first time, and walking on a rocky Pacific beach answering questions about myself and Joey – and I knew this relationship was different.” She joined Joe in Japan for the last six weeks of his year abroad, touring, attending the Peace Festival in Hiroshima and riding commuter trains. Upon their return to the U.S., she moved to Pensacola and they married soon afterward, in 2004. Today they have three children: Tori, 15; Wash (Carey), 12; and Althea, 7.

“Our family is fortunate to have multiple grandparents and aunts and uncles and cousins here in Pensacola,” says Bradley. “My mom moved here around the time Tori was born and, like us, appreciates all the history and cultural opportunities Pensacola has to offer. I have also recently learned through Ancestry that I may have another half-brother who was adopted and grew up in Destin. We are hoping to meet him along with his wife when they come down from Washington, DC, for the holidays.”

Bradley’s spare-time interests include reading, traveling (from weekend road trips to trips abroad), crocheting, watching movies, singing in Pensacola’s Choral Society and gardening.

“I am looking forward to being a part of the UU community.

“As a teenager, I appreciated the good work my Methodist Church could do for others, but didn’t feel like the community was inclusive to all. UU feels different: As a group, we can come together and support the wider community, without prejudice or strings attached. As a parent, I also appreciate the different views and approaches to spirituality my children can learn with the UU Church.”

Charlotte Crane

ATTENTION: NEW (or Returning) MEMBERS!

We’re so glad you’ve become a Member of our beloved community. If you haven’t had a Get-to-Know-You Biography published yet and would like to, please contact Charlotte Crane or the Church Office. We’d love to feature you!

Welcome New Member - Joe Vinson

Joe Vinson spent his last year of college studying at Hiroshima University in Japan, then returned to his hometown of Pensacola with little intention to remain – but ended up putting down roots after catching the history bug from John Appleyard. Thanks to that bug, says Joe, he “started appreciating my hometown in a way that I didn’t as a kid. It’s been great seeing the downtown revival.”

Currently assistant director of communications at the University of West Florida Innovation Institute and previously digital director at the Studer Community Institute, Joe began his post-bachelor’s career in 2003 at the Appleyard Agency, first as graphic designer, then in web development and video production and as director of new media – 10+ years in all, in which he also helped the agency win Addy awards and start an in-house studio.

“Definitely a local history buff,” says Joe of his free-time pursuits. “I started the Pensapedia website in 2006 and have spent an inordinate amount of time researching various Pensacola topics, at the UWF Historic Trust archives and on Newspapers.com ... I’ve been working on a poster series called ‘Lost Pensacola’, in which I make advertisements for lost landmarks (like the San Carlos, Casino, etc.) in a style that would have been appropriate during their heyday.”

Nor has Joe – the son of federal judge Roger Vinson and retired elementary school teacher Ellen Vinson – shunned community volunteer service. He currently serves on the boards of the Gulf Coast Kid’s House, Friends of West Florida Public Library, the Japan-America Society of Northwest Florida (also past president), and the Pensacola Heritage Foundation. He is a former board member of AAF Pensacola, Choral Society of Pensacola, Escambia County Public Schools Foundation and ACLU of Florida Panhandle chapter. He’s helped organize three Startup Weekend Pensacola events and helps Pensacola MESS Hall with marketing materials.

Joe graduated from the IB program at Pensacola High School in 1999 and received a B.A. in English literature in 2003 from Florida State University, which is where he met Bradley, his wife. They married in 2004, and have three children: Tori, 15; Carey (also known as Wash), 12; and Althea, 7. Joe describes the children: “amazing, creative, music-loving, sweet kids.” Also family are two rescue dogs, Willuf and Peshier, “who enthusiastically terrify anyone walking by our house.”

The year at Hiroshima has been Joe’s greatest life adventure – especially so when Bradley joined him during the final weeks. “When my studies concluded we traveled all around by train. We tried to climb Mount Fuji but were ludicrously unprepared and had to turn back two stations before the peak so we didn’t freeze to death. We’ve returned to Japan a couple of times since then and want to take the kids at some point.”



Joe was baptized at First Baptist Church, joined a Trinity Presbyterian choir in high school and around that same time discovered the idea of universalism. “I actually wrote my IB senior paper on the Christian belief in hell and how it evolved over time (I think I got a C).” Joe and family visited UUCP a few times earlier before joining; “having friends at UUCP helped bring us back more permanently... we have been longing for the fellowship of a church community without all the dogma.

“I like that UUCP welcomes and accepts people from all faiths and backgrounds. I also like the format of the services, basically serving as a weekly lecture series on a diverse range of topics. I have a few ideas for service programs and will try to lead one sooner or later.”

Charlotte Crane

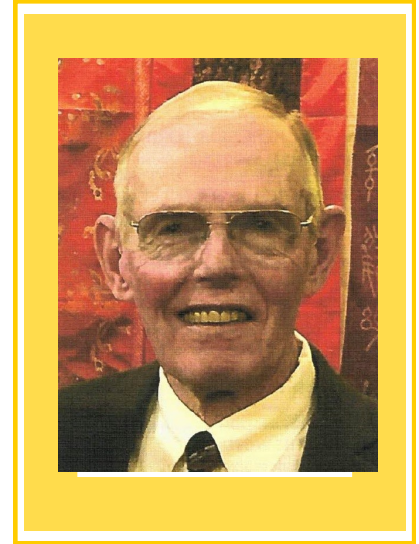
We Will Miss You, Mo Michel

Pensacola Unitarians are among family, friends, fans and spiritual folks mourning the passing of Mo Michel, a UUCP member from 1998 to 2013, who died Oct. 18 in Littleton, CO.

Mo was a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, a seven times board member of the Theosophical Society of America, a religious explorer and, according to a close Pensacola friend, Bill Caplinger, “he was a searcher his whole life.”

Mo and his wife, Lucy, settled in Pensacola after he retired from the military and from an administrative job with Hughes Aircraft. They moved in 2013 to Colorado, their longtime residence in prior years, and to be close to family members there.

Mo died of a disorder that caused brain bleeding, at age 81, and after suffering in August the last in a series of strokes through the years. That last stroke, said Lucy, came the day after they returned home from a much enjoyed Roads Scholar trip to Columbia River Gorge and several national parks. Internment of his ashes is scheduled for Nov. 20, with military honors, at Fort Logan National Cemetery at Denver.



While in Pensacola, Mo was appreciated by many friends for the living room discussions on spiritual topics that he and Lucy hosted. For a number of years, said Lucy, Mo was involved in Buddhist meditation, and he also became very active in the Theosophical Society, founded in 1875. According to its web site, the society “encourages open-minded inquiry into world religions, philosophy, science and the arts.”

Bill Caplinger has many memories of Mo. “He was very much a nature person and a biker. He would bike to Mobile and back, and to the beach from their Spanish Trail home. Mo and I did yard work at the church; I would bring the mower and Mo mowed the church lawn.

“He was devoted to Lucy. And when Lucy decided that the rituals of the Catholic Church spoke to her, he respected that.”

Lucy said her husband was also active in charitable work in Littleton. An organization called BakPak, sponsored there by the Light of the World Catholic Church, provides weekend food bags for children in need of supplemental food. “Mo and I worked in it for five years, packing 10 to 18 items for each bag, and then delivering to the schools. The church does 230 bags every week, at 20 different schools.”

Remembrance gifts for Mo can be made to BakPak, to the Theosophical Society based at Wheaton, IL, or the Denver Audubon at 9308 S. Wadsworth Blvd., Littleton, CO 80128.

Charlotte Crane

Sad news of Joshua Buker

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the recent death of **Joshua Scott Buker**, beloved son of **Rev. Elaine Buker** and brother of **Nathan Buker**. We will share more information regarding a memorial service as we receive it. There is an obituary on the Pensacola News Journal website.

The Luunch Buunch



Greetings of the season to all Lunch Bunch-ers who'll be here on 11 December, the 2nd Wednesday of December. On that day at 1 PM (as usual), we will visit a place unlikely to add weight after Thanksgiving and in advance of the usual Christmas eating— Taste of Jerusalem, 707 North Pace, 466-3648/206-3166. ... The menu online doesn't note some of the more basic and less expensive standard vegetarian items. ToJ is more take-out than sit-down, but has tables and chairs to meet our usual "middle east" crowd; I and GD volunteer to stand up if we get some 1st-timers interested in lamb, Jerusalem-style liver & onions, etc. As usual, let me know to save you a seat (501-5142); and if you come in from "W" Street at Cervantes, note that the old Oscar's is being "fixed" to be the New ToJ.

On 13 November, 18 total UUCP-ers gathered at Founaris Brothers (US 29 "between" Honda and Toyota, to geolocate in more local vernacular). If I had been sure of meeting their "reserved room" minimum, of \$150, we could have been isolated 25 feet to the north, but it worked out pretty well. ... From the constant hub-bub level, it seemed that all were maintaining their side of the conversations. I reflect that it allows those who (usually) sit on the south side of the sanctuary to get to talk to those who (usually) sit on the north side. And likewise, the down-front crowd with the "back benchers"...Which suggests to me that we're missing some CRE folks.

Food wise, most everyone seemed to leave with a good part of their next meal. I had the eggplant parmesan, pretty good, but no hot sauce available. The waiter, Irvin, did a good job of keeping our orders straight and delivering while very warm, at least on my end of the 9-persons-long setup...I don't usually pay attention to the now usual Tip Hints, with 18-20-25 % calculations based on your total bill printed on the bill, but eating there again on Saturday, I noted that the percentage amounts were based on the TOTAL bill, including tax, thereby asking for a tip on tax; accidental software or intentional?

LET'S GET
Together



Holly Jolly Kick-Off Party

Adults and children alike are invited to our Holly Jolly Kick-Off Party on Sunday, December 1 after the service. We will have music and goodies combined with the joy of bedazzling our church. New this year: the kids will be invited to place their hopes/wishes for our world/community on a note that will be placed on a dove ornament on the tree (and retrieve it after the season ends). If you'd like to bring a goody to share or have any other questions, please let me know. Thanks for supporting this fun event! For more info, Trista Blouin, tbphotog09@gmail.com, 850-712-1513.

Second Hour Talk Back, December 15 at 11:30

Gather after service to continue the conversation from today's Sunday Service on our New Normal. This Second Hour is part of the focus started earlier this year about where we are and the purpose that unites us.

Are You Crafty?

The UUCP Needlers group will be meeting on Wednesday, December 18. Do you knit, crochet or sew? Would you like to join a lunch bunch and work on a personal project? The Needler's group is for you. We welcome any experience level and any handcraft you can fit in a bag and bring along. Meeting times and places vary, though we usually meet for lunch at a nearby restaurant (TBD), then head to a member's home nearby to do crafting. This month we'll meet at Lesley Ortiz's house after lunch. Non-crafters are welcome to join us for socializing. Please contact Barbara Goggins (phone 478-2953) or Lesley Ortiz (lesortiz710@gmail.com) for more information.



Webinar on Small Congregations: alternative viewing days/time

We are offering a daytime alternative for those interested in seeing the Webinars on Small Congregations, but who may have missed a chance. Hold open your Thursday mornings at 10 AM in January.

Join us for a viewing and discussion of small congregations. We will select two Thursdays in January: The exact dates will be published the end of December. We are hopeful that this will give an opportunity for those unable to attend the evening showings of the webinar to view and discuss ideas that are relevant to UUCP. The 3rd & 4th Webinars on Small Congregations will be broadcast in January and February. We will plan to schedule Thursday morning showings for these also, once they are available.

For further info or to confirm you are interested in attending please contact Marcy Moreland at: morelandmarcia@gmail.com or 850-488-099.

LET'S GET
Together
AGAIN

Personalize Your Nametag with Debra DuBose and Friends

Reverend Bob was known for chiding us to "WEAR YOUR NAMETAG." Debra DuBose has offered to not only turn his reminder into a creative hands-on activity, but perhaps even more meaningfully, to help us find a way to make our own personal statements of personality, a way to express our convictions and a great way to better get to know each other.

Join Debra and her assistants on Sunday morning, December 8th at 11:30am, after services in the Foyer. Bring your nametag. All materials are provided as part of our beloved Judy Freeman's generosity. If you're so inclined, you can drop a donation in a jar to help defray costs. Find inspiration in the photo of Debra's nametag. Make Reverend Bob proud and get to know someone new. And maybe you'll get a prize for being "caught" wearing your nametag!



Circle Dinners, An Adult Dinner Group

Do you want to get to know other UUs? How about 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 have an opportunity one month to host 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! We are signing up now.

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. For any questions or to sign-up, call/text Linda Cobb at 850-501-3186 or email Lindawcobb@gmail.com.



What's UUp @ UUCP?

UUCP Governing Board Meeting at 5:45pm on Monday, Dec. 2.

Children's RE Holiday Party, Sunday, December 8 at 11:30 to 12:30 in the Teen Room

Featuring holiday movies, popcorn and snacks! See Lauren Anzaldo (laureanzaldo@gmail.com) for more information.

Sunday Sweets after the service in the Foyer December 22...

Delicious homemade treats for sale after Sunday Service. All proceeds go to benefit UUCP! Buy some extra goodies and *treat the hard workers on the Sign crew!*



New Sign for the Rear Entrance

Check out the new sign at the rear entrance to UUCP on Old Palafox Street. A team of volunteers created and installed the sign, which includes light-reflective strips for better visibility in the dark. Big thanks go out to Jack and Kate Wolverton, Jay Butcher, Gerry Donnelly, Michael Newcomb, Madailein Anzaldo-Satterwhite, Nancy Hagman, Lauren Anzaldo and Jan Hervieux for making this project possible.



Dec. 24 "Christmas Eve Candlelight Service" at 5pm with Rev. Alice Syltie and Lesley Ortiz. 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.



6th Annual Holiday Bash with

INFUSION

**December 6, 2019
6:00 pm**



An evening of music and celebration!

Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola
9888 Pensacola Blvd., Pensacola, FL

**\$15 suggested entry donation
Snacks and wine provided**



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. For info, the Charitable Trust currently has about \$340,000 invested which includes about \$40,000 in interest funds available to the church for emergencies at the Board's request. Only a few thousand dollars of interest is earned each year so it should be noted that the \$40,000 of interest funds currently available is an accumulation from several years.

We would like to thank the following donors who have financially supported the Trust since January of 2019: **Georgianna Bryant, Barbara Goggins, Margaret McLarin, and Marcy Moreland.** Totaling **\$2450**, these gifts reflect donations given in memory of our members and friends and additional generous donations to support the Trust.

However, it is **never too late** for you to make a tax-deductible donation or a tax-free donation for those 70.5 years of age and older. Contact any of the Trust's members with your questions: Chair: Marcy Moreland; Secretary: Georgianna Bryant; Treasurer: Gerry Donnelly; Trustee: Barbara Goggins; and Trustee: Erin Renfroe.

Member or Friend, What's the Difference?

The question has been asked recently: What's a "Friend" of the congregation?

Our by-laws contain very well-articulated definitions of the several categories under the umbrella of Membership, one of which is "Friend." Here's the 'Cliff Notes' version:



A Friend is a person whose beliefs, values, etc. are aligned with Unitarian Universalism and UUCP. However, they do not wish to become a member. Friends are expected to do two things – attend/participate in congregational life and/or make recurring financial contributions to the church. Checks, bank transfers, cash – are all appreciated. Cash should be put in an envelope with the donor's name on it.

What Friends cannot do: Vote in elections and hold office are two of the more significant things unavailable to non-members.

Friends are listed on our Simple Church account – which is like having a copy of the church directory and calendar with you right on your smart phone. You can text, phone, get driving directions and view the church calendar from the Simple Church app. And it allows other church members and friends to get in touch with you.

Being a Friend has been described as 'membership light.'

If you've been attending UUCP and like what you've experienced – but maybe are not ready to become a member – consider becoming a Friend.

Info – questions and answers, etc., Contact Laurie Winterberg at 850-857-9646 or LaurieAnne1950@gmail.com.



How do we Strive for Justice?



JUST Pensacola Update UUCP's Community Partner's in Social Justice Action

We have entered the Phase 2 in the JUST Pensacola social justice process. As you know, JUST Pensacola stands for Justice Unity Seeking Transformation. In connection with training from DART, we are standing with more than 20 other congregations of many faiths in addressing local social justice issues. In the first phase we were *Listening* to community members regarding the social injustices that were troubling them. Our congregation had a total of six small meetings, mostly in members' homes, where we were encouraged to voice our concerns. All the other congregations were doing the same process. At the end of the *Listening* phase, the congregations met together in the sanctuary of First Methodist Church on November 4th in a Covenant Assembly. The meeting was packed. We had 36 members present. Each person who attended voted for selection of an area to study and look for ways to make meaningful improvements guiding our community toward justice. The two areas chosen were Education and Criminal Justice, both of which are of interest to our congregation.

The next phase is Research. This is the time when we look in depth at the areas of interest and identify a double project that has the potential to make a difference for our community. The research will involve looking at trouble areas in our locale and how these troubles have been addressed in other communities. We will talk to the people who might have the power to make the changes we want. Examples of people to talk to include school board members and superintendents of schools for education, or the police chief or judges or lawyers for criminal justice.

Since JUST Pensacola is part of a larger and much older organization network called DART (Direct Action Research and Training) we will have access to the records of communities who've faced similar issues. We'll see how they have approached their problems and what successes they have had. This will also be part of the Research.

All of this is getting us ready for the final phase which will be our Direct Action. We'll gather with many other citizens of the area who are also led by their congregations and present our stories and hopes to the leaders who can effect change. That action will take place in April or May of 2020.

This is where we are. Six of us are signed up as interested in participating in the research phase. If anyone else would like to research with us, please contact Paula Montgomery 850 485 3063. These are exciting times!

Fifth Sunday Donation to Florida Cares

As is our custom, the offering plate for the 5th Sunday will be given to a charity organization whose work is consistent with our UU values. In December we will be donating the plate to Florida Cares. Florida Cares is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of our incarcerated citizens through visitation, advocacy and other programs. Anne Williams, who has a family member in the prison system, will tell us more during the service on December 29th. Please be prepared to be generous with these often-forgotten fellow human beings. For questions contact Paula Montgomery at 850 485 3063.




December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>Donate to Manna Conversation Hour 9a Choir Practice Sunday Service 10a Coffee Hour 11a Holly Jolly Kickoff 11:30a</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Board Meeting 5:45pm</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6th Annual Holiday Bash with Infusion! 6pm</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Conversation Hour 9a Choir Practice Sunday Service: Christmas Pageant 10a Coffee Hour 11a Children's Holiday Party Getting to Know You 11:30</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>LUUNCH BUUNCH 1pm</p> <p>Taste of Jerusalem</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Conversation Hour 9a Choir Practice Sunday Service 10a Coffee Hour 11a Second Hour Discussion Talk Back 11:30a</p>	<p>16</p> <p>SUBMISSIONS FOR JANUARY LIGHT DUE DEC. 16</p> 	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>The Needlers Group 11:30a See Lesley Ortiz for info</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Conversation Hour 9a Choir Practice Sunday Service 10a Sunday Sweets! 11a</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Rev. Alice Sytie 5pm</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Conversation Hour 9a Choir Practice Sunday Service for All Ages with 5th Sunday Offering 10a Coffee Hour 11a</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>NEW YEARS EVE</p>	<p>1</p> <p>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</p>			



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

Return Service Requested

Deadline for submissions for
JANUARY LIGHT:
 **MONDAY, DECEMBER 16**

Celebrate Diversity · Strive for Justice · Inspire Love

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