



Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

The Light

VOLUME 63 ISSUE 3 March 2020

Celebrate Diversity · Strive for Justice · Inspire Love



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For a full list of Ministry Teams and Leadership,
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Coffee & Conversation every Sunday from 9:00am-10:00am

Mar. 1: "A People of Wisdom" with Rev. Alice Syltie and Bob Gerold, UUCP Member The theme for March is Wisdom, leading us to ask, What does it mean to be a people of Wisdom? Does greater wisdom require the accumulation of knowledge or data? What do we gain from study and reflection of our own lives? In a two-part presentation, March 1 and 8, Bob Gerold and Rev. Alice will consider what wisdom has to say about our judgement, choices, and decisions.

Mar. 8: "A People of Wisdom" (continued), with Bob Gerold, UUCP Member In March we explore the topic of Wisdom, leading us to ask, What does it mean to be a people of Wisdom? In the second part of this two-part presentation, Bob continues to explore these ideas...does greater wisdom require the accumulation of knowledge or data? Do we gain from study and reflection of our own lives? And what does wisdom have to say about our judgement, choices, and decisions?

Mar. 15: "The Sweet Spot: Small Numbers – Infinite Possibilities" Our March 15 service will be a **Breakfast Potluck**. You are invited to join us in the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. for our service and for fellowship, as we conclude our 2020-2021 Budget Drive. Everyone is invited to enjoy our members' contributions to a delicious morning meal and service, led by Rev. Alice. Join your fellow congregants in a celebration of UUCP's Infinite Possibilities.

If you have not turned in your pledge form, please bring it with you – everyone who turns in their pledge form by the end of the service on March 15, will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate to Bubba's Sweet Spot!

What to bring? If your last name begins with:

A-L Please bring a breakfast main dish or protein

M-Z Pastry, bread, or fruit



Mar. 22: "Give Peace a Chance: Songs of Peace and the Heartbreak and Futility of War." A musical service with one of our favorite UU musicians, **Ken Sizemore**.

Mar. 29: "Some Humor is Needed Here" with Bob Ortiz, UUCP Member Bob will be talking about the late comedian George Carlin and sharing some of his quotes. George could find humor in almost anything: politics, religion, psychology, etc. These quotes offer a much-needed dose of laughter, irony and reassurance in this crazy and disorderly world. Some will make you think! *Our Fifth Sunday offering today benefits the Humanist Society of Northwest Florida's reading project, LFLs. These are "little free libraries" placed in neighborhoods by individuals and groups. They are designed to foster reading across all age groups. Library users are encouraged to take or leave a book.*

From Your Minister

This month I'd like to share with you some thoughts from our exploration of the question, What Does It Mean to Be a People of Wisdom? When the topic of wisdom comes up, so do the usual images. Walls and walls filled with dusty old books. Elders with the wisdom of many years carved into the wrinkles on their faces. Diplomas framed and filling one's office wall. Endless letters placed in front and behind your name (Dr., PhD., LCSW, JD, Rev., etc.).

The message: wisdom is about accumulation. If you want to be wise, you need to pile it on. More knowledge. More experience. More books to read. More gurus to follow. More degrees to get.

But then words like these sneak into the conversation:

Knowledge is a process of piling up facts; wisdom lies in their simplification. - Martin H. Fischer

There is no need to "acquire" the knowledge of God. There is only the dropping of the illusion and forgetfulness. - Omid Safi

Besides the noble art of getting things done, there is the noble art of leaving things undone. The wisdom of life consists in the elimination of non-essentials. - Lin Yutang

It's a reminder that the math of wisdom is often the opposite of what we think. It's more a game of subtraction than addition. Often, accumulation of knowledge doesn't get us closer to wisdom; it's just in the way. There's a sorting, simplifying and stripping away that needs to occur. It's about unknowing as much as knowing.

Just think about how deeply we get tangled up in those cultural messages about money and success. Or the way degrees, IQs tests and SAT numbers get mixed up with status rather than the pursuit of truth. Or the way political parties, religions and even science claim to have all the answers. Maybe this is why the Sufi poet Hafiz wrote:

*The Beloved sometimes wants
To do us a great favor:
Hold us upside down
And shake all the nonsense out.*

And with all the nonsense shaken out and stripped away, maybe what we notice most is not so much the pearls of wisdom themselves, but the sources of wisdom we've forgotten.

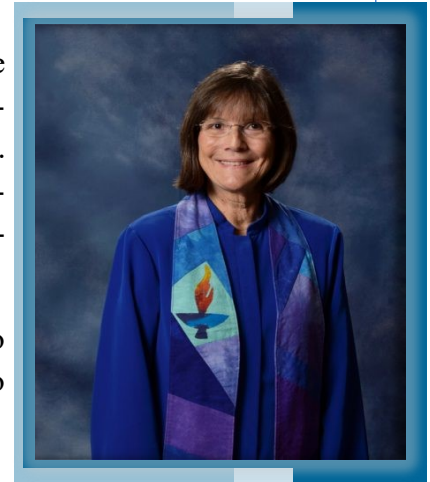
When reason and logic hog the spotlight, the wisdom of the body rarely enters the room. When week-long retreats with the newest guru define the path to wisdom, we stop asking what our failures and mistakes are trying to teach us. When "experts" sit in the center, the wisdom of those on the margins is lost.

So many untapped sources. So much wisdom waiting to be known.

Makes one think that maybe the wisest question of all this month is: "Where have I not looked before?"

In Love and Hope,

Rev. Alice



How do we inspire love?

President's Column

Relationships move at the speed of trust. Relationships thrive and deepen when trust is high. When trust is low, relationships falter or stall out. These important observations from author and educator Stephen R. Covey were shared in the recent UUA webinar on “Being the Beloved Community.” In his writings, Covey asserts that fostering and safeguarding trust are essential in all types of relationships, including those in a congregation such as UUCP.

Trust is contingent on honesty and reliability. That means we must be trustworthy with one another, individually and in groups such as our congregation and our ministry teams. We also must show up and follow through with our commitments — or take responsibility when we cannot. Commitments could include participating in the life of the congregation, making a financial pledge, volunteering on a ministry team, and joining our social justice efforts through JUST Pensacola.

The congregational covenant that we recite together during each New Member Welcome Ceremony includes details for building trust for healthy congregational relations. The covenant states, in part, “We value honesty, direct speaking and courtesy in our conflict, courage in our speech, and integrity in our action.” Covenants such as this are aspirational — meaning we aspire to fulfill all the promises we make in the covenant but often fall short since we are human. Still, we are encouraged to affirm and reaffirm our promises and continue working at relationships, as exemplified by our ceremony on February 16. That day, we welcomed seven new members into covenant along with four children who attend with their family.

The webinar on “Being the Beloved Community” concluded the monthly Smaller Congregations series that began in October. Congregants and Board members have been attending to learn more about being our best as a small congregation. The “Beloved Community” webinar was affirming as we realized that UUCP practices many of the habits suggested for building community. For instance, our church helps families feel comfortable by providing a kids’ corner, step stools in the bathrooms, and activity baskets for children during Services for All Ages. Hearing assistance devices and ramps increase the accessibility of our space for differently abled folks. We offer opportunities to engage in small groups such as Coffee & Conversation, the Theme Circles that Rev. Alice has introduced, and rotating meals in members’ homes (Circle Dinners). And, of course, established covenants guide how we interact with one another and how we live in the world.

Where we can improve is in welcoming and involving historically marginalized groups, such as African-Americans and Latinx folks, LGBTQIA folks, and the working class and working poor. From the words and music in our Sunday Services, to the artwork and images displayed in our building, to the people we greet and speak to during coffee time, we can demonstrate radical inclusion, acceptance, and love.

Part of the practice of inclusion, love, and justice involves educating ourselves about the stories and experiences of those who are different from us. We at UUCP have at least two upcoming opportunities to do this.

1. **Justice Rally on Monday, March 30, at 6:30pm**, location TBA. The rally is part of the build-up for the Nehemiah Action to demand justice in education and criminal justice in the Greater Pensacola area through the JUST Pensacola coalition.
2. Study of the UUA Common Read “**An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States**” by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. **Book discussions begin Sunday, March 29 after the Sunday Service.**

I hope you will join us for these important gatherings, which promise to be powerful. In the words of our congregational covenant, may these events and others help us to be “true to the vision of the beloved community we are ever becoming.”

Until next time,

Lauren Anzaldo, Board President





One Room Sunday School

"UU Kids...have brains in your head.
YoUU have feet in your shoes. YoUU can
steer yourself any direction you choose."
Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!

DR. SEUSS HAPPY BIRTHDAY QUOTES

**I AM WHAT
I AM! THAT'S A GREAT
THING TO BE!
IF I SAY SO MY SELF,
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME!**

DR. SEUSS

Greetings my families and friends, take note:

- ◆ March is starting off with a nice salute to our Girl Scouts, young and old. Currently registered GS should wear their uniforms on **March 8** to be recognized for their involvement in GS.
- ◆ Teens (Youth Pathfinders) will meet the first and second Sunday this month. I hear there is talk of redoing their room with fresh paint, shelves, and maybe a gently used seat or two that is new to the room!
- ◆ Children's Chapel has been canceled for March to make room for a yummy potluck breakfast in the sanctuary on March 15.
- ◆ There will be a multi-age activity on the 22nd, TBD.
- ◆ AND we have been invited to join our friends by Salma (from the Islamic Center) on the first Friday of each month. Invitation as follows: "We were planning on trying to do something with our combined youth groups. Our Youth and Young Adult (teens and ages 18 to 24) Circle is starting an interfaith gathering every first Friday of the month. We would love for your Youth and Young Adults to join us. We meet in the main hall at 5:30. There will be food." Emma Mulvaney is the contact for more info.

Peace,
Sarah Stubbs CREC

Children's Religious Education (CRE) Advisory Team

Coordinator: Sarah Stubbs (850-437-5979)

Team Leader: Open

mssarahstubbs@gmail.com

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

Feel free to contact any member with comments or suggestions!

***On Class days the students will start in the Sunday Service to be sung out to class.**

***On Children's Chapel day each month the students will start in the Chapel.**

***Nursery drop-off starts at 9:45am.**



What will your rainbow bring?

March Schedule

- Mar. 1: Classes and Youth will meet
*CRE Team Meeting after the Service
- Mar. 8: Classes and Youth will meet
- Mar. 15: TFAA: Potluck Breakfast!
- Mar. 22: Classes

CRE ACRONYMS and JARGON EXPLAINED

- CRE: Children's Religious Education
- CREC: Children's Religious Education Coordinator
- Children's Chapel: Mini-Service for small folks
- ORSS: One Room Sunday School
- SFAA: Service for All Ages
- TFAA: Time for All Ages
- Youth: Children 13-ish to high school senior

Our New ORSS 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 grades are in the ORSS in the Rainforest Room.
7th - 12th grades are in the Youth Pathfinders (Teen) Room.

Our Caring Community

Was it the weather, the post-holiday renewal or procrastination undone? Whatever the cause, several UUs recently took time out – willingly or otherwise – for infections, surgery or physical uplift. Cases reported seem now to be coming along nicely.

Billye Cutchen suffered a urinary tract infection a month ago – a problem often detected when the patient experiences a state of confusion – which happened in this case. When Lisa Hudson, Billye’s dear friend and household helper, came by a day after her previous visit, she found, reports Billye, “I was still seated in the same reclining chair and wearing the same clothes I was wearing the day before.” Lisa called 911 and Billye was admitted to the hospital for four days, treated with antibiotics and sent home. Her daughter Cindy came from Kerrville, Texas, and stayed a couple of weeks to be with her, then was followed by daughter Beth, who lives in El Paso, arriving for another couple of weeks. You may have noticed, as Billye affirms: “I’m recovering nicely.”

And now – more recently – there’s more news from Billye Cutchen: She will be moving in March to a condominium at The Verandas, a retirement community located on Pine Forest Road. Her daughter Beth will be helping with the move.

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For Brent Terry, the need was surgery, and the outcome – yes, actually – was “a part of my large intestine. It doesn’t affect me,” he says stalwartly. “It makes me feel better and I’ll probably gain a little bit of weight. Apparently, there was like a growth or something on it, like an oversized polyp... The good part: no cancer.” He was home in two days, eating what he pleased, and soon back in church, as he accurately predicted.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Laura Keith King also had surgery – the cataract variety on one eye, with the second scheduled for similar vision improvement in June. “The surgery went well and I only have some teensy complications, nothing to worry about. I look forward to this process being in the past, but I’m still grateful that it’s possible.”

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Michael Trudeau has been promoted from aircraft mechanic to aircraft inspector at ST Engineering at Pensacola International Airport. ST, which began operations in Pensacola in 2018, is a 50-year-old Singapore-based global technology, defense and engineering group with worldwide locations and approximately 22,000 employees. At latest count in January, ST employment locally was reported to be 163, the total for the first phase of its Pensacola aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul facility. Recent grants totaling \$210 million have been approved for ST’s Pensacola expansion, expected to bring as many as 1,325 additional jobs to the airport.

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It’s commonly understood that charity is a good thing for both the gifter and the receiver. And for UUs, that’s a given. Lately, at the midyear Congregational meeting, we heard reports of donation amounts from some of last year’s Fifth Sundays – well worth repeating – and lately, we’ve also become aware of how our semi-annual Yard Sales benefit not only the buyer and the donor, but also charities that receive leftovers.

Take a look at what our membership generosity has accomplished recently in both categories.

Fifth Sundays in 2019: March 31, Earth Ethics, \$168; June 30, Animal Allies Florida, \$274; September 29, JUST Pensacola, \$430; and December 29, Florida Cares, \$335.

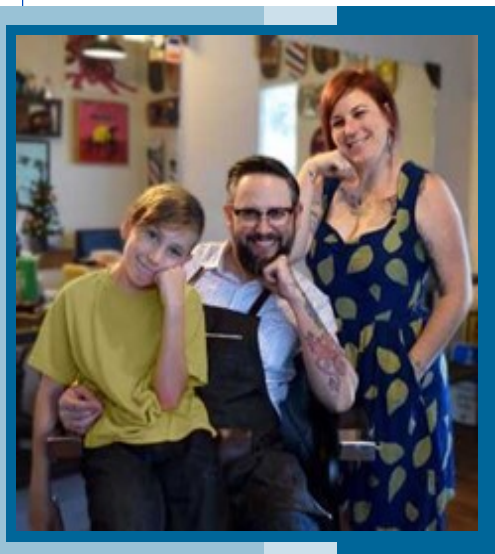
Our first Fifth Sunday of 2020 is coming soon: March 29, to benefit the Humanist Society of Northwest Florida’s reading project, LFLs. These are “little free libraries” placed in neighborhoods by individuals and groups. They are designed to foster reading across all age groups. Users are encouraged to take or leave a book.

Unsold Yard Sales items are donated to non-profit organizations. Leftovers are given to Teen Challenge; books go first to Open Books and then to a local library (usually Milton Public Library); health equipment is given to Council on Aging; and leftover linen and pet supplies go to Pensacola Humane Society.

And in February, we donated 214 pounds of food to Manna! Keep up the good work!

Charlotte Crane

Welcome new members – Steven, Laura and Etienne DuPont. We're Glad You're Here!



Laura DuPont traveled the globe for a year with a goth band — also known as gothic rock. And husband Steven claims he caught his dream job when he worked awhile on the Grounds Crew for the Houston Astros.

So what is this family — including Taurus-born Etienne, turning 11 this coming May, doing in Pensacola? (That's besides joining UUCP.) Answers: Steven is a licensed barber at East Hill Barbershop — where he invites you to have a seat in his chair sometime — and Laura is enrolled at UWF to complete her Bachelor's in General Studies and then a Master's in Library Science. As for Etienne: “working toward a career in video game design,” states Mom.

The move to Florida was so Laura could complete school at UWF, and came after a series of household moves to South Carolina, Tallahassee, Texas and North Carolina, purposed to live near each of Etienne's grandparents. Notes Laura, “The move to Pensacola marked the first move that didn't involve living near family. We are searching for our tribe!”

In Pensacola, she adds, “We are meeting tons of awesome people who are teaching us more about Pensacola. We love it here!” As for leisure-time leanings: “Huge Houston sports fans!!” — and also playing games; “we are always looking for people to play Catan with.” Among other pastime pursuits are music, reading, art, community volunteering and lobbying for a cause.

Steven is from Houston, TX. Laura is from Charleston, SC. Etienne “has been living the gypsy life since he was born and doesn't claim one particular place home,” says Laura.

Both Steven and Laura grew up Christian, but both believe there is more than one way to think about life. “Energy connects us all and each religion and spiritual practice is essential to the world's makeup and should be respected. UU is the closest representation of that ideology.”

And at UUCP: “We love the openness and the variety of people in the congregation.” Asked if there are any changes they would like to see, that's too early to ponder, they feel. “But we also are excited to have a voice in potential future changes.”

Charlotte Crane

The Seven Principles

- ◆ Every person is worthy and should be treated with dignity.
- ◆ People should treat each other with justice, equality, and compassion.
- ◆ We should accept the differences that tend to separate us.
- ◆ Everyone should have the freedom and responsibility to search for the truth.
- ◆ We should strive to use democratic processes both within UU congregations and the world at large.
- ◆ We should work for peace, liberty, and justice for everyone.
- ◆ We should acknowledge and respect our interdependence.

What Will You Get Out of this Community?

- ◆ A supportive community (religious and social)
- ◆ A place to continue your spiritual journey in safety
- ◆ A place to be renewed and inspired once a week in the company of friends
- ◆ A place where you may join with others to do good works in the larger community

What Will You Give to this Community? If you become part of our community you will be asked to do three things:

- ◆ Find a small group where you can make friends and continue your spiritual journey;
- ◆ Help with the work of the church through one of its committees; and
- ◆ Support it responsibly with your financial gifts.

Luunch Buunch

For 3/11/20, March's 2nd Wednesday, we will return to [All In One Kitchen Ministry](#) (850-466-3891) a part of the Englewood Missionary Baptist Church, at 1100 W. Scott. The doors on the sides, preferably west ("H" side), are the most direct entry to the restaurant. The [menu](#) is what you read on the chalkboard (& is shown online). The dining hall is "basic church" with movable tables and chairs. Plan to be there by 1:00 and if earlier, go ahead and get started with the cafeteria line. As usual, Hugh at 850-501-5142 or huturn@juno.com can suggest: from "E" St., west on Scott St. to "H" St. to park near the middle door. (Bill C. did our first intro on AOK and might join us.)



Before I review our 2/12 Ichiban visit, this idea: How about we lunch at the salad bar/steam table in Publix, 9th & Brent. On Wednesdays their entree fare is Asian, with four meats so observed on my recent stop, at \$7.99/# and the salad bar at \$6.99/#, with about 20+ of the usual choices including 4 mixes of greens and six bottles of dressings. No hot veggies on the steam table on Asian day, but the deli counter (20' away) reveals hot veggies at \$1.99 for an 8 oz cup (I think), more for \$ more, and soups on the steam table at higher rates, as posted.

The arrange-able seating: small tables/basic chairs sufficient for our usual 12-16 needs, coffee free and water (and 6-7 soft drinks should you be in need) where you pick up the plastic cutlery....The "dishes" are carry-out of course, either plastic or sturdy folded cartons of a "green" nature (a la Chinese) with medium or large capacity. Your food needs met, you walk over to the nearest checkout (#1), weigh and pay, and walk into the seating area. If mostly empty, we can form up to suit our needs. (This piece is over-long so I'll save my several rationales for this non-standard UU Lunch Bunch event for those that reply with a somewhat positive "maybe?".)

Our Ichiban tour reminded us of what we miss from not enough times with Japanese menus and fare. It would take several visits just to get satisfactory experience with the appetizer section of the menu....Our crowd was oddly slow to gather (not the usual early three - MN, CC & BW) but eventually 13 total, including two oldie-Newbies, Monty and Kaye Mountcastle. Most agreed that their takeout would feed them pleasantly for a 2nd time, and my seaweed salad was a very good and pleasant chew.



"Small Numbers, Infinite Possibilities"

This is the last in the series of 4 webinars designed for small congregations. Please join us for the reprise showing of this hope-inspiring webinar. **It will be shown in the sanctuary after the Sunday service on March 8, at 11:15.** We hope to include some time for discussion as appropriate.

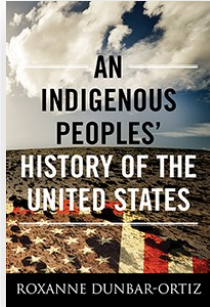
Are You Crafty? The UUCP Needlers group will be meeting on Wednesday, March 25 at 11:30am



Do you knit, crochet or sew? Would you like to join a lunch bunch and work on a personal project? The Needlers 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 restaurant and then head to a nearby member's home to do crafting. In March, we'll meet at Barbara Goggins' house after lunch. Non-crafters are welcome to join us for socializing. Please contact Barbara Goggins (phone 478-2953) for more info.

How do we celebrate diversity?

UU Common Read 2019-20

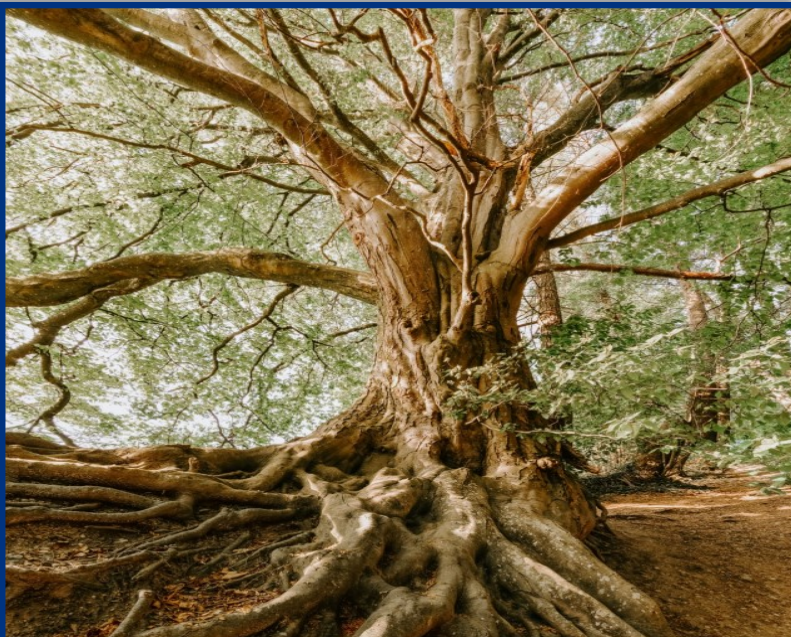


The Common Read Selection Committee is pleased to announce that *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (Beacon Press, 2015) and *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People* adapted by Jean Mendoza and Debbie Reese (Beacon Press, 2019) are the new Common Read.

In 2015, Beacon Press published an extraordinary book by Indigenous scholar and activist Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz that challenged readers to learn US history through a narrative that centers the story, the experiences, and the perspectives of Indigenous peoples. The year 2020 marks the 400th anniversary of the much-mythologized encounter at Plymouth between colonists and those native to the land. The UUA General Assembly 2020, in Providence, RI, will speak to the truths that contradict the mythology. At the same time, movements in response to global and local environmental emergencies, many involving UUs, are increasingly recognizing the connection between Indigenous rights and climate justice. This Common Read invites UU congregations, communities, and individuals to learn the story of trauma and resilience that is the Indigenous peoples' history of the United States.

UUA General Assembly: Rooted, Inspired and Ready!

To know where we are headed, we must be in touch with our theological and historical roots. A major focus of General Assembly (GA) will be partnership with Indigenous leaders in the Northeast to explore how to co-exist in right relationship with one another and the land we occupy. We will deepen our understanding of Unitarian Universalism's role in European settlement, 400 years since our direct religious ancestors on the Mayflower landed in Plymouth and began the colonization of what is now New England. GA will delve into our theological and historical roots, bringing those threads into the present day and acting in solidarity with Indigenous communities. GA will be held in Providence, RI this year, from June 24-28.



We will meet:
Ma'at, Sekmet
Hathor, Bast
Isis



The Mountain
Retreat and
Learning
Center
Highlands, NC

Journey to the Soul of
Ancient Egypt

The Ancient Egyptians utilized many
Goddesses to help them to understand
their world and to find spiritual guidance.

Join us to meet these amazing
Goddesses.

UUWomenspirit Spring 2020
April 22nd-26th, 2020

Note: This is a NEW and EARLIER time
frame. UUWomenspirit.org



UU Womenspirit is for ***women from all walks of life.*** We've ***journeyed on many paths*** to spirit: earth-based, indigenous tribal, Hebrew, Buddhist, Christian, Wicca and more, ***yet we gather together to honor*** the manifestation of the Feminine Divine.

The Latest from the UUCP Charitable Trust

During the last year of Marcy Moreland’s tenure as Chair of the Trust, she made it a goal to sort through all of the various policies and procedures floating around the files, as well as to collect all the Amendments made to the Declaration of Trust through the years.

The Declaration of Trust is the instrument that was filed with the State of Florida and submitted to the IRS back in 1987, establishing the UUCP Charitable Trust as an entity separate from the church. The Declaration also outlines the restrictions on the use of funds and the powers granted to the Trustees; for that reason, it is often referred to as “the Bylaws.”

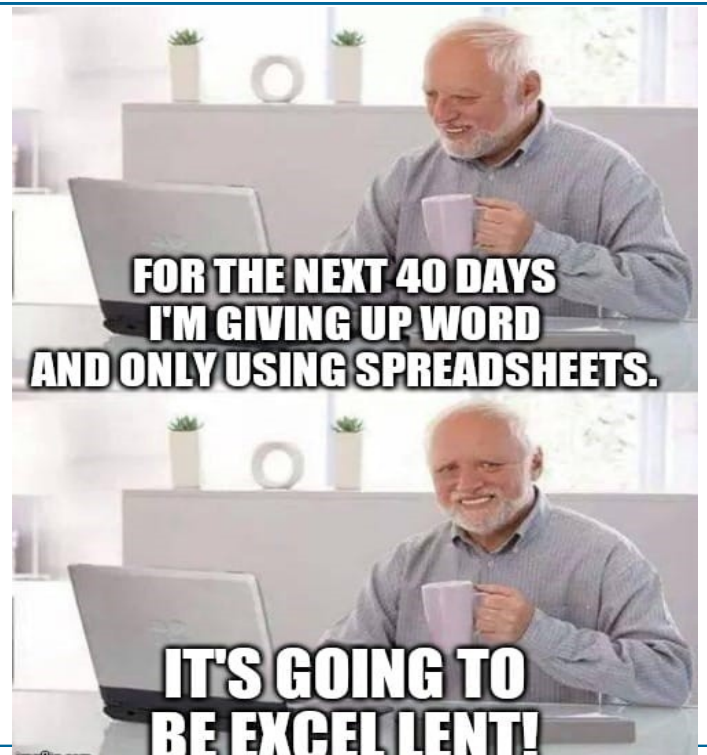
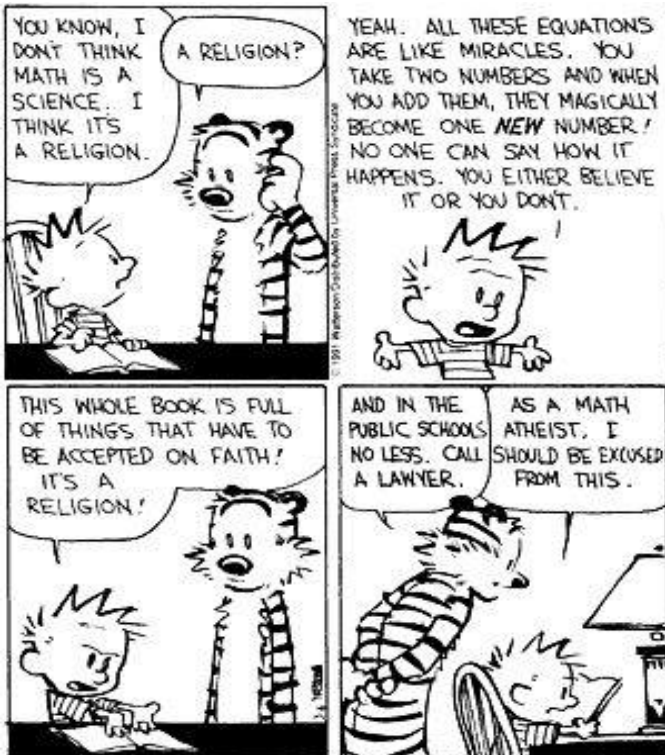
After a steady year of hard work under Marcy’s guidance, the Trust committee (1) amended the Declaration to bring the language up to date (for example, it was still called the PUUF Charitable Trust); (2) created a Working Copy of the Declaration of Trust that incorporates all of the Amendments into the original language so that it can be more easily read; and (3) combined and updated the various policy and procedure documents into one master Policies and Procedures.

The new Policies and Procedures document establishes the various officers within the Trust committee and their responsibilities, clarifies the purpose of the Trust and the types of funds contained within it, and explains the procedures for releasing funds for the church’s use.

These documents have been provided to the Board and are available in the Board Minutes notebook in the church of-fice. They are also available upon request from any Trustee.

The Trustees’ next project is to establish a central location to publicize the Trust and to conveniently provide information on how to donate now as well as how to include the Trust in your estate planning.

If you ever have questions about the Trust, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with one of the Trustees: *Georgianna Bryant (Chair), Gerry Donnelly (Treasurer), Barbara Goggins (Secretary), Erin Renfroe, and Laurie Winterberg.*





How do we strive for justice?



UUCP's Collaboration with Social Justice network, JUST Pensacola

We are diligently engaged with our social justice partners and activity is picking up as we head toward the big event, *the Nehemiah Action*. Although a prophet in the Hebrew Scriptures inspires this action and JUST Pensacola is predominantly comprised of Christian congregations, we all are following our own different religious paths leading to justice. The mission for justice is what unites us.

The research process continues with the Criminal Justice Research Committee, which is focusing on the high rate of arrests for non-violent offenses, and the Education Research Committee, which is focusing on school readiness.

The Criminal Justice Research Committee has interviewed: Deputy Political Director of the ACLU (Pensacola office), Escambia County Superintendent of Schools and the City of Pensacola Police Chief. A meeting with the State Attorney has been scheduled, but the Escambia County Sheriff has not responded to the request for a meeting. What we've learned is that Escambia County has one of the highest arrest rates in the State, including those for children, and that the Pensacola Police Department does a good job of issuing civil citations in place of arresting those who qualify, but the Sheriff's Office does not. Another pre-arrest diversionary option, deprioritizing the enforcement of certain offenses, is the prerogative of the State Attorney who is not supportive.

The Education Research Committee has interviewed: Early Learning Coalition Director, Head Start Program Director, Achieve Escambia Director and the Studer Institute. A meeting with the Montclair Elementary School Principal has been scheduled. What we've learned is that the majority of pre-school age children are not ready to start school, the available school readiness programs are underutilized with a high number of slots unfilled and that parents of eligible children are not applying to programs.

UUCP hosted the Criminal Justice Research Committee meeting on February 4th. Reverend Alice provided a warm welcome to our guests and the opening words. Community Minister Reverend Maggie Lovins participated as well and provided the closing words. Reverend Maggie also attended the DART Clergy Conference in Orlando. UUCP is well represented in this coalition with our clergy and network members.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

Rally, Monday, March 30th, 6:30 p.m., location to be announced, for all UUCP JUST Pensacola network members.

Nehemiah Action, Monday, April 27th, 6:30 p.m., First Baptist Church of Warrington, for all UUCP JUST Pensacola Network Members and their Plus 3's.

JUST Pensacola Celebration, Monday, May 18th, time and place to be announced, for all UUCP Network members to celebrate our success!

If you would like to join in our efforts, become more active, or have questions or concerns about this or the Chalice Lighter Program, please contact Paula Montgomery.

Chalice Lighter Program

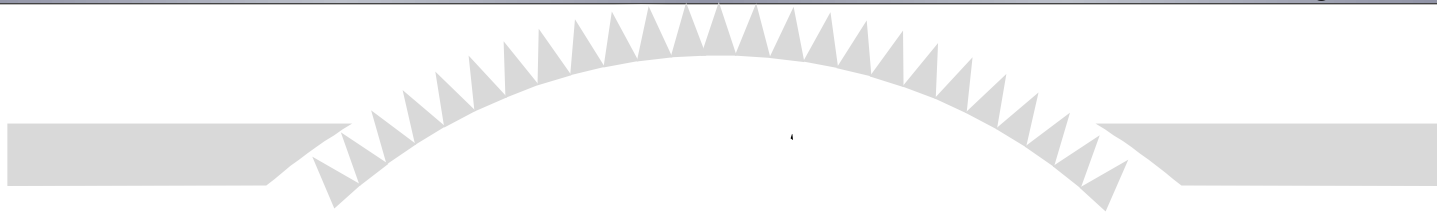
The Chalice Lighter Program is a crowd-funded grant program started in 1984, designed to help congregations grow in numbers and efforts to increase justice, compassion and spirituality. UUCP has been the recipient of Chalice Lighter grants more than once. One readily apparent gift from a grant was the purchase of new chairs after we moved into the Pensacola Boulevard building. The plaques on the backs of the chairs list the donor names and several of them say "Chalice Daughters" which is a funny typo on the part of the plaque maker; it should say "Chalice Lighters."

The program works in a rather unique way. Individuals like you or me sign up to be Chalice Lighters. This means that when asked a few times a year, we agree to help another UU congregation with a project. Initially the suggested gift for each 'call' (request) was \$10. More recently the suggested donation is \$20. We live in the Southern Region and the calls we receive will be from congregations in our area. We will be helping our neighbors, and our denomination. Each individual who agrees to be a Chalice Lighter gets an email request with an explanation of the project. The donation is then made directly to the recipient church via credit card, PayPal or check. If you agree to be a Chalice Lighter you can expect to receive 2 calls from your most immediate region and one from the larger Southern District. This amounts to three calls per year.

There is a team of volunteers who evaluate each request for a grant. Grants can support four types of projects: church staff, building or land, startup congregations or innovative growth. The most recent request that I received was for Georgia Mountains UU Church, which has outgrown its current facility and wants to build an additional structure on their land for their increased need. Another call I remember from recent years was for building ramps and an elevator to make their building accessible for physically handicapped persons. The Chalice Lighter program is a good way to exercise personal generosity while helping our larger church family in a significant way. To sign up go to: uua.org/southern/chalice-lighters.

March 2020


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Manna Food 9a Conversation Hr 9:30a Choir Practice 10a Sunday Service 11a Coffee Hour 11:15a Theme Circle	2 Board Meeting 5:45pm	3	4	5	6	7
8 9a Conversation Hr 9a Choir Practice 10a Sunday Service: Girl Scout Sunday 11a Coffee Hour 11:15a Webinar Reprise	9	10	11 LUUNCH BUUNCH 1p at All In One Kitchen Ministry	12	13	14 Finale to UUA Webinar Series: Time and location TBA
15 9a Conversation Hr 9:30a Choir Practice 10a Breakfast Potluck Sunday Service 11a Coffee Hour	16 SUBMISSIONS DUE for THE LIGHT	17	18	19	20	21
22 9a Conversation Hr 9a Choir Practice 10a Musical Sunday Service with Ken Sizemore 11a Coffee Hour	23	24	25 The Needlers Group: 11:30am see Barbara Goggins for info	26	27	28
29 9a Conversation Hr 9:30a Choir Practice 10a Sunday Service 5th Sunday Plate 11a Sunday Sweets 11:15a 2nd Hour Common Read	30 JUST Pensacola Rally 6:30pm Ask Paula Montgomery for info	31				



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

Return Service Requested

**Deadline for submissions for
APRIL LIGHT:
MONDAY, MARCH 16**



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