



Coping and Connecting During Covid-19



9888 Pensacola Blvd.
Pensacola, FL 32534
(850) 475-9077
www.uupensacola.org

Office Hours:

*Closed until further notice—
calls and emails checked Tuesdays and
Thursdays as usual.*

UUCP Staff Contacts

Minister

Rev. Alice Syltie 205-531-5625,
revaluu@gmail.com

Community Minister

Rev. Maggie Lovins.....850-525-6858

Children's Religious Education Coordinator

Sarah Stubbs850-517-5979

Office Administrator/Editor

Terra Shute **850-475-9077**,
uupensacola@gmail.com

Proofreading Editor: Charlotte Crane

UUCP Leadership Contacts

Governing Board

President: Lauren Anzaldo.....850-292-7380

Past President: Nancy Hagman.....850-206-5638

Secretary: Jack Comstock.....561-900-4868

Treasurer: Erin Renfroe..... 208-449-2443

Board Members at Large

Gerry Donnelly.....251-609-0548

Paula Montgomery.....850-485-3063

Marcy Moreland.....850-478-0991

Emma Mulvaney.....850-776-4709

Facilities Contact People

Jay Butcher.....850-324-4812

Gerry Donnelly.....251-609-0548

Ministry Team Leaders

Caring

Penny Featherstone.....850-346-0597

Kate Wolverton.....850-206-6859

Communications

communications@uupensacola.org

Charlie Steed.....850-384-4183

Audrey Preston.....850-512-8577

Finance

Marylee Donnelly.....251-961-3175

Laurie Winterberg.....850-857-9646

Membership

Laura Keith King.....850-530-6714

Laurie Winterberg.....850-857-9646

Social Justice

Paula Montgomery.....850-438-8891

Scott Satterwhite.....352-634-2256

From Our Minister



Each spring the ministers who make up the Soul Matters Sharing Circle create a list of monthly themes for the coming year. The theme chosen for this May was Thresholds. By happenstance, that turns out to be a most appropriate theme for the unexpected situation of this time. Stay-at-home orders in many locations are due to expire on April 30. May brings us to the threshold of more that is unknown about our personal and collective future.

Thresholds are typically transitions into the unknown. The tradition of carrying the bride over the threshold signifies the beginning of a new life, with much to be discovered between the two people who have chosen to make a solemn commitment to one another. Graduations often happen in May. Again, this signifies a time of leaving behind the known and stepping into a new future. In truth, our lives are made up of a continual series of transitions and thresholds.

During this extended period of time at home, I have tried to accomplish a few tasks that have been waiting on me for a long time. One was transferring an embarrassing number of photos from my laptop to an external hard drive, to make space for updates and downloads. Looking through the photos was a trip through years of life transitions. Each one probably prepared me for something else. And yet, the preparation does not mean that if I encounter a similar situation, I will be totally equipped. When someone who struggles with depression recovers and then later finds themselves there again, they don't say, "Been there, done that," as if they know exactly how to navigate the dark time. However, knowing they have recovered once may bring hope. And skills and behaviors may have been learned, which will support healing.

As we stand on the threshold of completely unexplored territory, may we discover deep within ourselves resources we've developed through the many liminal spaces we have already passed, to support us in navigating between the time that was and what will be with strength and grace.

With Love and Hope,

Rev. Alice

President's Column

“Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.”

—Søren Kierkegaard

What might we reflect on and understand more deeply when we look back on these coronavirus times? There is nothing like a global health crisis, a virus that spreads even among people without symptoms, tens of thousands of deaths, economic uncertainty, and weeks on end of social isolation to help us put things into perspective. In our house, we are focusing on some of the simple elements of life: preparing home cooked meals, reading daily, calling or writing to family and friends, and walking outside. I know not everyone is so lucky, and I am appreciative to have what we do and to be able to share some of our overflow blessings.



Last night, we watched the Bill Murray classic “Groundhog Day.” Scott observed that most references to us feeling like we’re living through Groundhog Day come across as negative. However, in the film, reliving the same day over and over had a positive result. Bill Murray’s character Phil evolves from someone who is callous, shallow, and self-centered to become someone who is thoughtful and caring, who pursues lifelong learning, and who is appreciative of music, poetry, and the worth of others. Many of us go through similar transformations throughout life — sometimes many times in the same day!

Church is something we may be reflecting on during this time. We may be considering what our church means to us now that we cannot gather together in person, cannot sip coffee and munch tasty snacks together, cannot chat and hug and greet each other. We may be thinking of these things with some melancholy or loneliness. Feelings of disconnection are particularly strong during this time. Hopefully, you have been able to join us by viewing a video recording of a Sunday Service. Rev. Alice and our musician Denise D’Angelo and the others working on the remote services have done an amazing job providing us with a space to center ourselves each week. It’s almost as good as being there. Almost, but not quite. Maybe you have even attended Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom.

Different practices will continue when we resume in-person services. For example, we likely will have to observe social distancing and safety measures within our building, such as wearing face masks, staying 6 feet apart, and not touching or sharing food or beverages. The reason is that the virus still will be communicable even when there is a decline in the peak numbers we see now. As noted by UUCP member Jean Siebenaler, a retired physician, “Until we have a vaccine, the virus will still be out there.” Part of inspiring love and striving for justice means practicing love and justice in our own community to keep our members and others safe.

In terms of the health and longevity of our church community, we also have important decisions to make about our budget. We at UUCP are feeling and seeing the impact of many shifts, and our budget is one area that has been hit. Our pledges for 2020-21 are lower than expected, so we have a significant gap between our projected income and expenses. Expenses include significant items such as:

- Pay for the talented people who work for us (including our minister, office administrator, and CRE Coordinator as well as musicians and contractors who provide essential services);
- Wind Insurance to protect our church building and property;
- Maintenance, repairs, and upkeep;
- And the programs that are the heartbeat of our church, including our social justice work.

The Finance Team is full of smart and capable people, as is the Board, but the budget and all that it represents is truly in your hands as members of our congregation. Details have gone out or can be requested of our Treasurer Erin Renfroe or Finance Team Co-Leaders Laurie Winterberg and Marylee Donnelly. We are planning several small group online meetings to discuss the budget, provide information, and gather input before our Annual Congregational Meeting on June 14, when we must vote. Watch for and respond to emails that you get about the budget decisions.

Speaking of our annual meeting, it likely will be held remotely. The Board is considering the best options for distance voting. Let me know if you have suggestions. Your voice and your values are important — vital — to UUCP.

Until next time,

Lauren Anzaldo
Board President



How do we inspire love?

Greetings, friends,

It is hard to believe that it has been more than a month since we were together at the church. It seems like eons. I know I miss my Church Family and know you feel the same. We have been keeping busy in CRE. Some CRE students and families have been making Cards of Connection for members of our church family that are staying safer at home alone.

You do not have to be in CRE to send a card to a friend. I think we have forgotten about the happiness we experienced when we got a real letter in the mail. When I was 12 we moved to Mississippi to care for our sick grandmother. I had several Pen Pals back in Atlanta and was always overjoyed to get a letter in the mail from one. It gave me something to look forward to living in a strange town. You might say we are living in a strange world right now and a card from you might bring some joy to a friend. And you never know; they might write back.

Until we meet again keep an eye on the CRE Family FB page and the Church's FB page for news, information and tips.

Be well,
Ms. Sarah

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!

*I'll bring you hope
when hope is hard
to find.*

—Carolyn McDade
VISIT UUA.ORG/WORSHIP



Unitarian Universalism
NURTURE Your Spirit. Help HEAL Our World.

Spiritual greatness lies not in extraordinary capacities and deeds, but in doing ordinary things among ordinary people with certain qualities of faith, hope, and love.

-Harry C. Meserve, Unitarian Universalist Minister

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 Caring Community

What do you do when you're home alone and told not to stray?

You might read a book, clean the cupboards, pick a flower, watch an opera, or share a Zoom meeting, and more.

Several UUCP homebodies recently agreed to talk about their responses to our Pandemic dilemma.

Carol Michalski rises early, greets the 6 a.m. daylight and walks a one-mile loop around her neighborhood, every day. "I carry a face mask in case I see anyone out," says Carol. Once home again, she's likely to be cleaning out drawers in a big hutch, sorting its collection of saved papers, cards, publication contents and more, and "categorizing the throwaways with the saves." Among them is a poem by UUCP member, Jill Cicero, called Seven Principles – "Really a keeper," Carol exclaims. (*Jill's poem was written to help our RE students learn our Seven Principles. You can read it on the next page. — Ed.*) And there's more: "I'm writing memories, in a table of notes, a gift from my son." And there's always a book to read, currently one of some 20 Pickett novels by C.J. Box.

Two down, 18 to go for Marianne Kelly, who's begun spending afternoons tuned to operas, classical gems in a generous supply loaned by her friend, UUCP member Hannelore Musial, who has a vast operatic library. Enjoyed equally so far: "Andrea Lecouvreur" by Francesco Cilea, and "La Favorite" by Gaetano Donizetti. "Those long afternoons of beautiful music are the next best thing to being at Hannelore's house watching with her and Hedwig Anderson," says Marianne.

Marcy Moreland found a way to share Florida's beauty with relatives in snow-blown New York, as described during Sunday's Zoom UU Coffee Hour virtual get-together. What Marcy does: Goes out every morning and takes photos of the flowers blooming in her yard and sends a picture to her northern relatives.

Thanks to Thom Botsford, our church will resume adult education soon with an online discussion of *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz – a book with chilling details, says Thom. The miracle that allows us to have a discussion like this during a pandemic? Zoom. Says Thom: "And it's not hard to use. I'm teaching an English composition class at Pensacola State this term on Zoom – something that neither I nor the students expected. It took only a few minutes to adjust to the new medium."

See you on screen.

And here's what some of our UU young'uns are doing in these hard times: graduating from high school.

Trista Blouin's daughter Liliana, 18, will graduate from West Florida High School of Advanced Technology, where she focused on the agricultural technology program. She plans to attend UWF. As for commencement ceremony, due to Pandemic restrictions, Trista says the school's principal is talking of setting a date, possibly later this year. The school is using social media to put together on Instagram photos of graduates, with symbols of college plans and future majors.



Liliana Blouin, high school graduate and daughter of Member Trista Blouin.

Our Caring Community - continued

UU Seven Principles Poem

1st Principle:

Roses are red, violets are blue.
I am important, and so are you.

2nd Principle:

Roses are red, violets are blue.
Treat all people fairly, and be kind to them, too.

3rd Principle:

Roses are red, violets are blue.
Learn all we can; accept all into the crew.

4th Principle:

Roses are red, violets are blue.
Each one of us is free to search for what is true.

5th Principle:

Roses are red, violets are blue.
We must all have a vote from our own point of view.

6th Principle:

Roses are red, violets are blue.
Working for equality and peace is just what we do.

7th Principle:

Roses are red, violets are blue.
We care for our earthly home, a task we're up to.

By *UUCP Member*
Jill Cicero



Lisa Hudson's son Logan Talley will graduate from Tate High School. While the date set originally was May 26th, at the Civic Center, that may be changed – the school currently has two later dates set aside, in June or July, in case a change becomes fact, says Lisa. The 26th date, by the way, is also Logan's birthday – he will turn 19 – and Lisa already had a double celebration cookout planned -- also now on hold.



Logan Talley, high school graduate and son of UUCP member Lisa Hudson.

“This is the strangest thing happening” for these graduates, Lisa reminds us. “They were born the year of 9-11, and now it's the year of Covid-19.”

And here's a thought from your UU reporter.

Did someone mention that when shopping's a chore, best to eat what you got and make the cupboard your store? With that in mind, one day I decided to use up the long-stocked whole wheat flour in the fridge and yeast in the cupboard to create a couple loaves of bread. Yum!

That, however, led to curiosity about what else might be useful. Among cupboard gems – “sort of” -- were three cans of condensed milk, one with a buy-by date of 2017, another 2018, and the third 2006!

Cook's-19 lesson? Check the shelf occasionally.

Charlotte Crane



SPRING YARD SALE CANCELLED!

The UUCP Spring Yard Sale currently scheduled for the first weekend in May 2020 is cancelled because holding a public event like this in the next couple of months is unsafe due to the coronavirus pandemic. We want our members and our customers to be safe and we don't want to create an event that could spread the virus. It is doubtful we will be able to host it in the fall, but we will evaluate mid-summer. For further updates, watch the weekly UUCP emails and *The Light*. *Georgianna Bryant, Yard Sale Coordinator*. Gbryant2@mchsi.com 850-572-1734.



Elaine Buker — UUCP Honorary Lifetime Member Nominee

Elaine Marie Buker was born a New Englander on June 4, 1933, became a Navy wife and the mother of two sons and spent her professional lifetime in religious ministries, including Baptist and Methodist churches. She also served numerous worthy causes as a social worker. She is today a Pensacola resident and member of UUCP. She was nominated recently to become a lifetime member of UUCP.

“I have a dual religious personality: United Methodist and Unitarian Universalist,” wrote Elaine recently. “My professional ministry began for me in Massachusetts in the 1950s, where I served two American Baptist churches as director of Christian Education. In 1955 I ran the US YMCA Young Cadets at the 200th Anniversary of the YMCA in Paris.



“In 1959, the Boston YMCA invited me to be the first woman on its Adult Education staff. There I met a sailor, John Buker, who was the finest man I have ever met, and besides he liked to sing.” Their marriage produced two sons, Nathan Paul and Joshua Scott.

Elaine counts among her prominent religious contributions her services to her Michigan pastorates, at Big Rapids Parish, Mendon and Portland. Also: “Service on the Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women and World Hunger Committee and lay speaker in Albion and Lansing districts were very satisfying.”

Earlier, in Parkersburg, W.Va., she served an urban cooperative parish as social worker, with support from a United Methodist Church General Conference grant, and later served St. Paul’s United Methodist Church in Parkersburg as pastoral assistant and associate pastor. “I was then called by the YWCA to counsel abused women and seek funding and establish the second domestic assault shelter in the state. Gov. John D. Rockefeller appointed me to the West Virginia Women’s Commission.” Rescued from life-threatening situations were 78 women and one man.

Elaine is a graduate of the Baptist Institute for Christian Workers at Bryn Mawr, PA, and the Duke Divinity School Course of Ministerial Study of the Southeast Jurisdiction. She also received over 150 undergraduate credits from various universities and colleges in cities where John served as a U.S. Navy officer.

Elaine and family began the move southward by wintering at Lillian, Ala., and then settling there, and more recently moved to Azalea Trace in Pensacola, where Elaine lives today. John since has died, as has their son Joshua last October.

Reading is today among Elaine’s favorite pastimes. “I really like books. They are everywhere in my apartment, but I confess I have yet to find time to read many of them. My neighbor Barbara Goggins comes into my apartment, sees my books and just shakes her head. I cannot convince her that the pile is diminishing.”

Charlotte Crane

Welcome New Member Trista Blouin!

The magnificence of nature, the beauty of family relationships and the centering of spirituality are core components of life for Trista Blouin, who grew up in the woods in a small rural community in Minnesota, has traveled and photographed diverse people and places and now has begun a new journey in Unitarian Universalism.

She has focused her career on working with volunteers, helping people and highlighting their accomplishments through photos and storytelling.

Trista found UUCP in 2006 and formally joined earlier this year. In January, she entered seminary at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, working towards a dual Master's of Divinity in UU studies and Theology in the Arts. Says Trista, "I am in the 7-year-long process of gaining ordination and full fellowship within the Unitarian Universalist Association."



Since 2004 Trista has owned and operated a portrait photography company, and enjoyed the opportunity to volunteer her skills to various organizations, including participation in two books – one with photos and stories of individuals involved in hospice, another telling stories of families who had children with autism. In 2009 she started the Women of Inspiration campaign highlighting a woman each month who had overcome extreme adversity, including domestic violence, to go on to make a positive difference in their families and our community.

In 2018, she received a business degree from UWF with a major in marketing and minors in management and psychology. After graduating, she was able to work for 18 months with the Guardian ad Litem program as the Volunteer Resource Manager...enabling her to see resiliency in action -- a program "built on the generosity and love of adults giving tirelessly to children who had faced indescribable hardship." Earlier, in Minnesota, she was for two years the Volunteer Coordinator for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

Trista has three children: Sophia who attends UWF for biology, Liliana who will be entering UWF next year for environmental science, and Chance, who is in first grade. "As I've grown as a mother, I've come to embody the idea of parenting as being analogous to gardening. I can cultivate the soil, plant the seeds, and provide the right amount of tending. But ultimately, their growth and how they turn out will be less about me and more about who they are and the conditions that are out of my control – rain, sun, etc."

In addition to her children, Trista also considers Barbara Goggins part of their family – as do her children. "She is my best friend and a grandma to the kids. We love her unconditionally and she feels the same way about us. Family is not just about blood."

Trista says she grew up in a high-control religion that dictated who and what she trusted. "One of the greatest gifts of being a UU is that each person is given the space and encouraged to take their own spiritual journey.

"The elements that I love most about our church involve the wide range of interests and the embrace of the multitude of talents and approaches to life. Our congregation is a home of love for each other and I miss our family during this time of confinement."

Charlotte Crane

Evelyn Jackson — UUCP Honorary Lifetime Member Nominee

Evelyn Jackson, along with her husband J.J. Jackson, has been a longtime member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola. She has been active not only in supporting the church and its membership, but also in promoting social and national issues and organizations within the Pensacola area.

According to UUCP President Lauren Anzaldo, “Evelyn acted as part of our caring community for years, sending cards of encouragement to members.” In the community, “She has been active in the Democratic Party as well as in political issues, including reproductive rights, for many years.”



Evalyn Narramore, former president of the Democratic Women’s Club, says she first met Evelyn and J.J. in 1999 when her mother convinced her to attend a Democratic Women’s Club meeting. “I was the president of that organization from 2000-2006 and J.J. was the treasurer for all of that time. In 2006, I became Chair of the Escambia Democratic Party and Evelyn and J.J. were very involved, attending every meeting and event.

“Evelyn was particularly helpful during the first Obama campaign in 2008, working several days a week in the Democratic office. I can't recall ever seeing one of them without the other. They were greatly appreciated.”

Evelyn has been nominated, along with Elaine Buker, to be awarded Honorary Lifetime Membership in the UUCP Church. J.J. Jackson received that honor in 2019.

Today, Evelyn and J.J. live at the Homestead Village, a retirement community in Pensacola, where Evelyn mentioned recently in a letter to a UUCP friend, how much she enjoys the Homestead library and recently reading a pair of autobiographies. She and J.J. also have enjoyed getting together for games of rummy or bingo. Today, however, the Covid-19 Pandemic often interferes with normal pleasures, prompting lockdowns and curtailed visits. “All our meals are now served in our rooms,” reports Evelyn.

Among memories of Evelyn for UU friends is a Valentine’s Day card with the words, “So lucky to have you in our lives.” For the friends, it is mutual.

Charlotte Crane

Your Board Needs Your Input!

An email was sent on April 16 outlining the 2020-21 budget process and where we stand right now (if you don't use email, it was sent via U.S. Mail). Believe it or not, this was not a further shakedown for pledges. ***Your input is needed on next year's budget before the Annual Congregational Meeting in June.***

To sum up: At the time of the email, we had \$12,000 more in expenses than in income, and that is after including a record-breaking \$10,000 disbursement from the Trust. Since the email went out, we have gotten confirmation that there will be an Auction in the fall, and we have received over \$2,000 from the Share the Stimulus campaign, reducing our shortfall to \$8,000 after the Trust infusion.

The congregation will vote on the 2020-21 budget (which begins July 1) in June, and the budget needs to reflect the congregation's priorities. We need to know what those priorities are.

Before the June vote:

- Take a look at the draft budget included in the email, see where we are spending our money.
- Decide where you - if you were us - would cut expenses to make up the \$8,000 shortfall.

If you have questions - call or email Erin Renfroe, Marylee Donnelly, or Laurie Winterberg.

What to Do

What do you do when you can't do anything except sit around the house 'cause it's dangerous out there? I found a fallen magnolia blossom this morning on the squirrels' lunch table out back, and brought it inside... and it's given the kitchen a lovely smell. (My success of the day!) I played a game of solitaire on the dining room table; (I lost). I called my relative who's having a birthday today, (She wasn't home.) I fed a pack of cats with nowhere else to go; (We meowed). and I wrote some checks to mail when I dare slip them in the PO slot (when I get the face mask I ordered). Might as well read the book the library just renewed, by phone. (It was already overdue.) Me too.

Charlotte Crane

Share the Stimulus: Sustaining UUCP

The COVID-19 shutdown has had far-reaching economic consequences, and those consequences for UUCP include missed offerings plates and canceled fundraisers. But UUCP is still at work! Here are the ways you can continue to support your church:

- Send a check. Mail is being checked and regular deposits are being made.
- Text GIVE to 850-988-8277.
- Go to [this page on our website](#) or go to our website, click on "Connect" and select "Support UUCP."
- Go to your Giving page on [Simple Church](#) and select "Give Now."

Share the Stimulus: Many members of our congregation will soon receive a stimulus check as part of the federal economic relief plan. Some of our families and households are counting on these funds to make ends meet during this time, but some members who are more financially stable at the moment may be able to designate the stimulus check as disposable income. If you are among those not depending on this money, please consider donating a portion of your check to UUCP to offset lost income during the COVID-19 shutdown. *As we are coming up short on income for next year's budget, all donations will be earmarked for the 2020-21 budget year unless you specify otherwise.* Please select the "Share the Stimulus" fund if you give electronically, or make a note on your check.

Members' Assistance Fund: UUCP has some funds available to help our members who may be in need. Contact the minister, the Board President, or our office administrator if you are in need or have a concern about one of our members. Please also consider contributing to the fund, if you are able. Contributions to the fund may be sent to UUCP, 9888 Pensacola Blvd., Pensacola, FL 32534 with a memo indicating Members' Assistance Fund.



How do we strive for justice?

UUCP Social Justice Network Collaboration with JUST Pensacola



JUST Pensacola's activities have been affected by the COVID-19 emergency, but our community's needs and our work continue. Research committee meetings have been held virtually and the JUST Pensacola Board has pushed out the timing of the large assemblies, the Nehemiah Action and the Celebration, until later in the year.

In their place and on their scheduled dates, JUST Pensacola is holding text studies, through Zoom, which focus on reading Judeo-Christian scriptures through the lens of social justice. The final text study session will be held on Monday, May 18, at 7 p.m. If you would like to attend, please send an email to Aida Bone at aida@thedartcenter.org to RSVP and you will receive a link to the Zoom meeting and text study materials.

The Education Research team continues to research disparities in access to high-quality pre-school education and the link to low school-readiness rates in Escambia County. They will continue to meet with decision-makers to learn how the Coronavirus has magnified the already existing problems with pre-school access. The next education research meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 14 at 6 p.m. The team is also focused on defining their "ask," which is the specific actions to be requested of decision-makers to remediate the identified issues.

The Criminal Justice Research team is focused on finding solutions to reduce the high arrest rates in Escambia County. The team recently met with Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualitieri, who has implemented a successful diversion program for adults and has been able to divert over 100 adults from being arrested.

We are seeing that the unemployment and social isolation caused by the COVID-19 emergency are amplifying community disparities and related issues. May we be ever mindful of the conditions of others and aware of our responsibility in making our community a better place for all.

If you have questions, would like to join the UUCP Justice Network or become more involved in this work, please contact Paula Montgomery or Scott Satterwhite.

Virtual Opportunities

UUCP plans to post Sunday Service videos weekly as well as offer other opportunities for connection until we resume in-person gatherings.

As our remote Sunday Services become available for viewing, there are 3 ways to watch our services.

1. You can watch the services on Facebook; watch for an email on Sunday morning with the link.
2. Check the Thursday Weekly Email for the link, in case you missed it on Sunday.
3. Go to our website, uupensacola.org.

Audio recordings of prior services also are available. [Click here.](#)

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

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

We'd also like to offer other opportunities for connection while we are staying physically distant from one another. If you have suggestions or want to help, please contact Marylee Donnelly or Lauren Anzaldo.

Please reach out if you need anything. We're in this together.

With love and concern,

Your UUCP Leadership Team



An Update on General Assembly 2020



A joint letter from UUA President, the Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray, and UUA General Assembly and Conference Service Director, Ms. LaTonya Richardson, updating information on General Assembly 2020 was released on April 16th.

They report that by February, the GA 2020 planning was off to a great start with almost 2,000 early registrations and a record number of program proposals and guest speakers. Then came the state of emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The letter goes on to explain that, because of the current need for physical distancing and other logistical concerns, the UUA Board has passed a resolution canceling plans for a physical assembly in Providence, RI, and authorizing a 100% virtual GA for 2020. The letter further expounds, “A 100% virtual GA comes at a time when many UU congregations have embraced virtual meetings and virtual Sunday services. Although this pandemic has been challenging for many, a silver lining is that UUs are adapting to and seeing the value of incorporating technology into their religious lives. With so many UUs already online, this year’s GA could well be our highest-attended Unitarian Universalist gathering in history! It will be accessible to a more diverse and global audience. It will also help reduce our carbon footprint, which aligns with our commitment to care for the earth and environment.”

If you have already registered for GA 2020, your registration has been converted to virtual and you will receive a survey regarding the options for applying your refund. If you have not registered for GA 2020, you may do so online by going to UUA.org and clicking on the registration link. Virtual registration for GA 2020 is \$150 per person and is the same process for delegates and non-delegates.

Let’s Read!

Looking for a way to reduce cabin fever?

UU members Paula Montgomery and Thom Botsford are eager to share their favorite Reads.

“This time of constraint is ideal for pursuit of books,” says Paula, who lists reading “among the joys of my life,” and recommends three recent favorites. She also notes: “I will be glad to lend them.” The books:

* *Becoming Eve* by Abby Chava Stein, “an autobiography of a Jewish man who knew he should be a woman, which also provides a fascinating description of life as a strict Hasidic Jew in an 18th Century Eastern European enclave.”

* *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins, an exciting story of a Mexican woman and children on the run to escape a massacre, and the people they meet and the life they live on the road.

* *The Dutch House*, a fiction book by Ann Patchett: “about a brother and sister who maintain love despite their evil stepmother.”

Thom Botsford, who says he tends to juggle half a dozen or more books at a time, picked these three to recommend to UU readers:

* *Music: A Subversive History*, by Ted Gioia. Notes Thom: “It seems that music has always been a ‘wild card,’ ... and musicians have been ‘behaving badly’ for a very long time indeed.”

* *The Botany of Desire*, by Michael Pollan, concerning four plants that seduced humanity: the apple, the tulip, cannabis and the potato.

* *The Brothers Karamazov*, by Dostoevsky: “a grand novel from another day, with subjects including the supposed death of God and the mystical power of love and devotion to God.”


We welcome suggestions for “Let’s Read!” from UUCP Members and Friends. Please make sure your synopses are no more than 2 or 3 lines, and email your suggestions to Charlotte Crane at charlotte@charcrane.net or Terra (Office Admin) at uupensacola@gmail.com.

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

Return service requested

uupensacola@gmail.com
www.uupensacola.org

**Deadline for submissions for
JUNE LIGHT:
SATURDAY, MAY 16**



Inside this issue, don't miss:

From Your Minister	Page	1
From Your Board President	Page	2
Religious Education—How do we inspire love?	Page	3
Our Caring Community	Page	4-5
Member Bios	Page	6-8
Your Board Needs Your Input!	Page	9
Your Board Needs Your Input!	Page	9
How do we Strive for Justice?, Virtual Events	Page	10
GA Update, UUCP is Here to Help	Page	11

WHY NOT GIVE UUCP'S LAWN SERVICE A TRY?

Free Estimate



Licensed & Insured



SAMUEL SAMPLE

850-483-9639

2921 N Blue Angel 32506

- Landscaping**
- Tree Surgery**
- Lawn Care**
- Sprinkler Repair**
- Pavers**
- ...and more!**