



Coping and Connecting During Covid-19



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*For a full list of Ministry Teams and
Leadership, please visit our church website.*

FROM OUR MINISTER



Our theme for June is Compassion. The question to consider is, What does it mean to be a people of compassion? As Unitarian Universalists, our second principle is to affirm and promote justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

We hear and use the word compassion so often we may not give much thought to what it means in terms of equity and justice. Empathy indicates an ability to understand someone's pain. Compassion opens our heart to the suffering of others in ways that move us to action to alleviate the pain. Right now, we are surrounded by suffering. We are also seeing many acts of compassion as people reach out to do what they can to transform suffering.

Covid-19 has exposed numerous examples of inequity and injustice. Populations most affected by the virus are those with the least access to the resources necessary to maintain health and safety in the face of the virus. We easily recognize compassionate responses from frontline workers and first responders. Not so visible are everyday actions like sewing masks, making phone calls, sending notes, delivering food or other necessities, helping with yard work, or offering needed services while social distancing. Using our voice and our vote to change laws, or call attention to injustice is another way to act on the compassion we feel for those most affected. Most recently compassion has motivated people to speak out against the horrific murder of George Floyd. A murder carried out in plain sight of bystanders. Unimaginable? No. We have seen far too many lives taken by bigotry and hate to find this unbelievable. It was good to see the participation of our UUCP community in a public witness against this heinous act.

In the midst of the trauma that surrounds us, it is essential to have compassion for ourselves, as well. The change in our routine and the unpredictability of our current situation adds stress that may or may not be consciously acknowledged. We are more help to others when we take care of ourselves, as well. Treat yourself to some loving kindness. Research ways of self-compassion that work best for you. One suggestion is to add up all the things on your plate right now. You might find it surprising, especially if you feel like you are not doing enough.

The arc of the moral universe won't magically bend toward justice. Our hands, hearts, and minds must be at work. The shorter version of that statement from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., comes from a sermon delivered in 1853 by the abolitionist minister Theodore Parker. Born in Lexington, Massachusetts, in 1810, Parker studied at Harvard Divinity School and eventually became an influential transcendentalist and minister in the Unitarian church. In that sermon, Parker said: "I do not pretend to understand the moral universe. The arc is a long one. My eye reaches but little ways. I cannot calculate the curve and complete the figure by experience of sight. I can divine it by conscience. And from what I see I am sure it bends toward justice."

In order to bend the arc, we need a clear vision of what justice really looks like. May the hard facts that seem so obvious to many of us now, help create that vision. And may we not tire of the work.

In Love and Hope,
Rev. Alice

Dear Friends,

It is with deep sadness that I share with you that our long-time and much loved member, Billye Cutchen, has passed away. Billye spent a short time in the hospital and her daughter Beth was able to be with her. Our sincere sympathy goes out to Billye's family at this time. Pensacola Memorial Gardens will be helping the family with arrangements. No plans have been made yet for a memorial service.



We received this Obituary for Billye from her daughter, Beth.

Billye W. Cutchen died on May 15, 2020, of natural causes. She was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on April 23, 1930.

Billye was preceded in death by her husband, Commander Paul O. Cutchen, her father William Walker, her mother, Naomi Clark and her sister, Wilma Fosgate.

She is survived by her children Shana Stormwalker, Tymbre Dore, Tamara Cutchen, Elizabeth Pouncey, Cynthia Croxton, Bryan Cutchen and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Billye attended Oklahoma College for Women and the University of Oklahoma from 1946 to 1948. She received a BA in Accounting from the University of West Florida in 1981 and graduated *magna cum laude*. From the same university, she achieved her MA in Accounting Information Systems in 1985. She passed all parts of her CPA exam in the first sitting in 1983.

Billye was an editor and freelance writer, worked for the IRS and retired from the State of Florida after 10 years' service. She co-authored a series of books on famous catastrophes, in addition to writing articles for *Writer's Digest*, *Jack and Jill* magazine, *The New York Times* and *The Science Teacher*, to name a few.

She lived in India, Sri Lanka and Liberia and enjoyed traveling the world extensively with her husband, Paul.

Billye was very involved in her church. She served in many roles including both church Treasurer and Treasurer of the Charitable Trust. She was a Sunday Service Leader, a Finance Team member and also served on the Committee on Ministry. In 2018, she was honored nationally with enrollment in the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation's Clara Barton Sisterhood. Universalist Clara Barton is best known for her work in organizing nursing services during the Civil War and, later, founding the American Red Cross. She did not start this work until she was over 40 — in an era when many women died before reaching that age. The Clara Barton Sisterhood was created in her name as a way for local women's groups, congregations, and individuals to honor women aged 80 and over for significant contributions to their congregations and communities. Billye's outstanding commitment and invaluable contributions to her church also made her a natural to be elected an Honorary Lifetime Member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola.

In retirement, she very much enjoyed spending time with her extended family, doting on her grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to UUCP or your favorite charity.

This unexpected loss is a great sorrow in the midst of an already difficult time. My thoughts are with all of you who knew and loved Billye through her many years of active service and involvement in our church community. May wonderful memories of the times you spent together bring some comfort.

In Love and Hope,

Rev. Alice Syltie

Our Love and Condolences to Carol Hemmye

Carol Hemmye's father, Jerome H. Hemmye, a retired professor of mechanical engineering and a resident of Azalea Trace, has passed on at the age of 92. He taught as a professor at Western Michigan University and as an exchange professor or instructor at universities in Puerto Rico, Brazil and Mexico. He was also a ham radio operator for 78 years. A memorial service is planned to be held, but at a later date due to coronavirus constraints.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



We're in this together, and we can't do it alone. Some of you might have read that sentence in the closing line of the email that I sent to the congregation in mid-May after the UUA announced guidelines recommending that churches plan to continue virtual operations through May 2021. Most of us have heard the phrase "We're in this together" used in reference to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has hit the world and united the global community in solidarity to care for ourselves and one another. However, I believe that the second part of the phrase – "We can't do it alone" – is another important concept in our lives in general and in this moment in particular.

We at UUCP enjoy being together, nurturing Our Beloved Community while we Celebrate Diversity, Strive for Justice, and Inspire Love. While building our vibrant caring community, we see again and again that we're in this together. And as we work on projects, including stewardship, we are reminded that we can't do it alone. All of us play an important part of our congregation.

The sentiment rings so true during the current crisis. I may be just one person, and I may practice good hygiene and personal precautions and distancing to avoid the virus, but when I go to the grocery store and walk past other shoppers and interact with a cashier not wearing a mask, and then go near my co-worker, who goes home to her infant son and husband, then meet up with my friend, and then spend time with my family member who has gone to the post office – suddenly, I'm not just one person, but a person who has made contact with dozens of others who have made contact with dozens of others and on and on. Our UU 7th Principle highlights that we all are a part of an interconnected web of life, and what impacts one part of the web impacts us all.

That is why it is too risky for us to return to in-person gatherings at this time. The church leadership with Rev. Alice are planning to continue virtual Sunday Services for quite some time with videos being posted weekly. Rev. Alice with help has already done some amazing and inspirational services, and we expect more to come with creativity and love and beauty and wisdom all woven in. As has been noted, too, planning for virtual operations through May 2021 doesn't necessarily mean that we will not gather at all in person or that we might not get together sooner than May, but it does allow us to focus on longer-term planning than we have been doing so far. We all wish this was over, but it will not be for some time, and I know we will be forever changed by this event as we are by so many of life's experiences.

Our dedicated Building & Grounds Team Leader Gerry Donnelly has identified a checklist of items that must be done to maintain our building while it is not being used weekly. We have other issues to consider, including staying engaged as congregants and ensuring our needs are met emotionally, spiritually, socially, physically and mentally. As this is an evolving situation, you will hear details as they come available. One place to hear more will be our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 14, at 12:30pm, in lieu of Coffee Hour that day. Refer to the announcement in this newsletter for info about the email or phone invitation that you will be receiving with all the necessary log-in details. I look forward to hearing from you and/or seeing you during that meeting as we continue to guide our church into the next year and beyond.

We're in this together, and we can't do it alone. I'm glad to be doing this together with you.

Until next time,

Lauren Anzaldo
President of the Governing Board

How do we inspire love?

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS REV. MAGGIE LOVINS?

Hi y'all! I am hoping everyone is safe and healthy as you read this update. Chad, Daisy and I are here in Pensacola and maintaining in this period of unsureness. Chad is an essential truck driver, delivering dry ice for both commercial and personal use, but most importantly right now, he delivers the dry ice that is needed to ship medical tests and their supplies, so my prayers are with him and all the other essential, medical and first responders for safety daily!

There is so much going on even in this time of quarantine! I tell people my community is the world and therefore I serve wherever I am needed and I thought before we move into the summertime I should update y'all with some of the comings and goings of your UUCP Community Minister.

When I returned from Costa Rica in late March, right before they closed the borders, I did my part and quarantined myself for well over the recommended 14 days, thanks to a relative that allowed me to stay in their empty condo at the beach. In fact, while attempting to get some dinner delivered I met a very interesting gentleman, Blaine, who has a large network with the restaurants on Pensacola Beach and since they were closed down they decided to donate quite a bit of the food they would've had to get rid of to me, so that I could act on my calling as a community minister and start a small food ministry to feed as many of the underserved as I could. It started with the owner of the beach Subway, 'Sundance', donating 100 foot-long subs cut in half. That's right, 200 sub sandwiches! I had so much to do that day that my grandmother (94 years young!) and my aunt came out with me to distribute all the subs and some personal hygiene bags that we had put together ourselves. Not only were we able to feed those in downtown/homeless communities,



we were able to feed 3 fire departments, the Baptist Gulf Breeze ER employees, and 2 shifts of the medical workers at Select Hospital off of Airport Rd. – and all thanks to Subway at Pensacola Beach!



Since then I have been utilizing our beautiful new UUCP kitchen about once a week to prepare lunches using donations from other restaurants. Blaine came with me on May 5th and helped me cook a nutritious Cinco De Mayo meal; other meals have included fresh egg salad wraps, homemade spaghetti, and chicken chili. I am blessed to have the opportunity to serve our wider community, when I am able, and I am so thankful for the use of our kitchen during this time when some of the programs that the underserved count on are stretched to the point of breaking or are shutting down altogether due to the quarantine. I plan on continuing this service as long as I am able. Since the beach opened back up the donations have almost dried up, but I

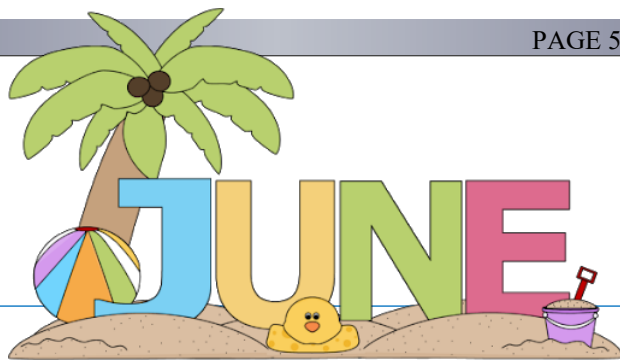
have some stock to work with so I will continue for now! If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to call or email me; I'm in the online Members' Directory, on Simple Church and Face Book.

I am also attending the virtual JUST Pensacola meetings on Zoom. I joined with other ministers and members for a couple of Text Studies. These were meetings to dive deeper into the information gleaned from the DART training I attended in Orlando earlier this year based on the book *Matthew in the Margins* by Warren Carter. We discussed parts of the book and how the themes are applicable in this time of Covid-19. I have also been attending the board meetings in Paula's stead due to a health concern. I welcome Penny Featherstone to take the lead so I may be her support. For more information see the JUST Pensacola update on page 10.

I have been busy getting ready to take my place on The Mountain Board. Starting in June, I will be on the Leadership Development Team. I look forward to joining a dedicated group of *Mountain Movers* tackling so many challenges facing this UU institution in this time of quarantine. We will be addressing how to reopen The Mountain and how we can make it as safe as possible as well as how we can assure its fiscal continuation. If you would like more information, or would like to become a sustaining member of this important organization the link is here: <https://www.themountainrlc.org/donate>.

I was scheduled to visit a few congregations this summer as guest minister, but just as we are in a virtual world at UUCP, most all UU churches are doing the same and I have been invited to deliver my sermons virtually. I look forward to new and exciting ways to produce Sunday services!

I am grateful for our weekly services – thanks to Rev. Alice for keeping us as connected and spiritually nourished! I also am grateful for our coffee hour and thanks to Trista for our virtual happy hour...all these methods to keep us as connected as possible are true blessings to me! Unfortunately, I am all too familiar with being homebound and not being physically able to be at church for one reason or another so I am actually feeling more connected to my church family and I just wanted to say **Thank You** and send my **Love** to all y'all!



Hello Friends,

Another month staying safe, well, and at home for the most part. I hope all of you are doing well, too. As our summer is warming up I'm looking to see which of our families would like to join a summer CRE program for their family. I think it is a good idea. Keep your eye on your email for more information.

By time you get this school will be out and hurricane season will have started. I suspect your mind is on "the" virus, but we cannot forget to prepare for a hurricane as well. Get the kiddos to help put a preparation kit together. Ask them what they think is important to include. And together, think about how "the" virus will affect your planning. Some of the things you might need to include this year that you never included before may be face masks and hand sanitizer. Here is a link to an article that might give you some more good ideas: <https://weartv.com/news/local/hurricane-preparedness-disaster-supply-kit>.

Be well my friends, go for a walk with your family, or play a board game with your family. Make some good memories. Remember like all things, this too shall pass.

Be well & stay safe, Ms. Sarah

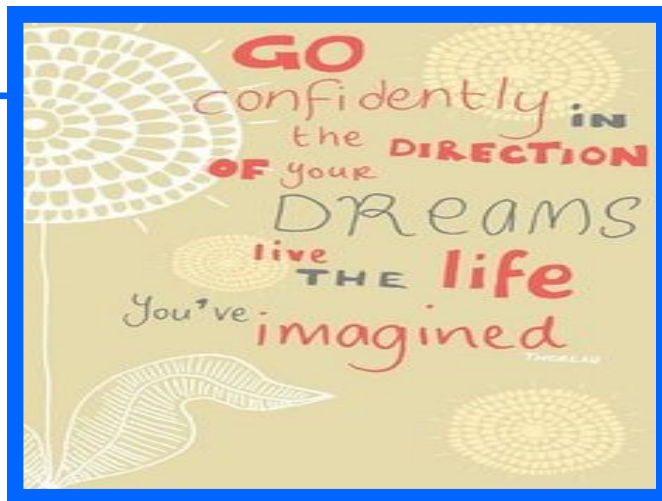
Children's Religious Education (CRE) Advisory Team

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



CRE ACRONYMS and JARGON EXPLAINED

CRE: Children's Religious Education

CREC: Children's Religious Education Coordinator

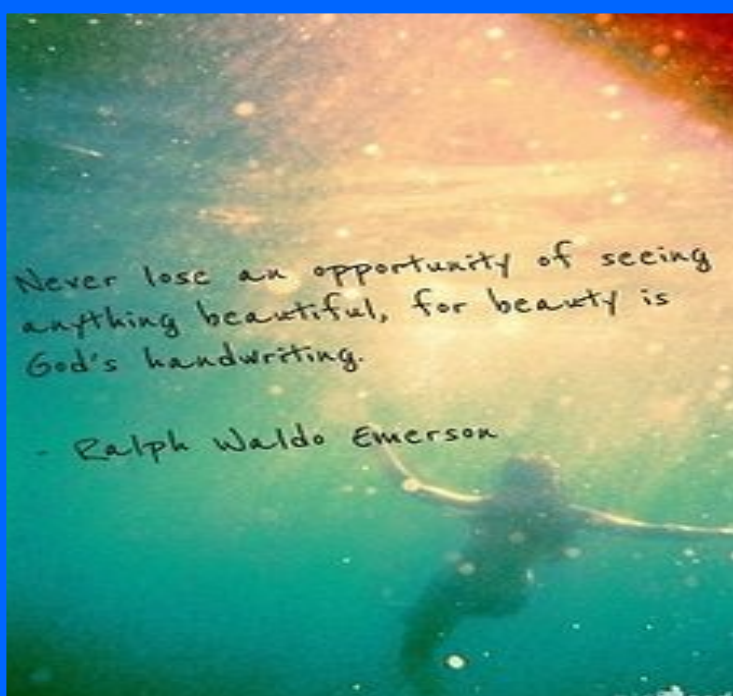
Children's Chapel: Mini-Service for small folks

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

Your friends at UUCP have been giving some thought to the pesky plague now dubbed our Pandemic – and what to do about it. Among their solutions: Talk a little, be funny, tell stories, bang the gong and stitch. Let's see if these might work for you.

Being isolated at the Riviera 615 Condominium doesn't mean you can't get together and cheer, thinks Dolly Berthelot, who since early April has been leading residents in her "cooked up" 11 a.m. daily "Balcony Wave and Shout Party against the Pandemic," conducted individually from residents' balconies, all of which face Pensacola Bay and the Riviera pool. Early on, says Dolly, "with just a day or two notice, about half the place came out and enjoyed a great release, clapping, waving, leaning over to greet others on their balcony, and me with a mike cheering them on." And the spirit was contagious, setting off Happy Birthday parties, even dancing on balconies.

Dolly serves as head of a new Communication Team at the Riviera, and is founding editor of a publication for the residence, RIV Life. "Since I and many of our 140 residents are aging and vulnerable to Covid-19, we are isolating, many of us living/staying alone with almost no human contacts," says Dolly. So she has taken on her role "to help increase safety, nourish community and uplift spirits." Cheers, Dolly!

Laura Keith King's sewing machine has logged more hours since March than in its whole previous life, says Laura. Under production: "I've been sewing face masks like crazy" -- some 351 masks to date. The impetus came when Laura in March joined an ad hoc Facebook organization called Pensacola Mask Sewers, which has grown to 2,915 members and as of Saturday, May 16, had distributed 27,759 masks, plus gowns and scrub caps.

Laura's masks not only were handed out through Pensacola Mask Sewers, but many also went to friends, including some from UUCP; Deb Dubose and Pam Ubben delivered 65 to a group serving people who are homeless.

The project has been fun and fulfilling, says Laura. "And not only have I been rewarded by feeling good and keeping busy, but one neighbor's friend left me several dozen of her chickens' eggs and my goat-farming cousin in Maine sent me a generous assortment of her delicious hand-crafted Chevre cheese."

Need a mask? "It will make me happy to send some of my masks your way," says Laura.

Having trouble staying awake late-night – or tallying politics here and abroad from a famous and reliable source? Try "Amanpour and Company," programmed at 11 p.m. on WSRE TV, suggests Hugh Ed Turner. "She covers problems that the U.S. is having, including both political and medical questions and problems agencies are having. She covers it with experts, people who are knowledgeable, and including European experts. Christiane is both English and Iranian, and very international in her point of view."

A Google search also tells more of Amanpour's famed profile: She is also chief international anchor for CNN and "has earned every major TV journalism award."

Time to let your hair down, sit back with your beverage of choice and enjoy light-hearted conversation? Then join Trista Blouin's Friday Zoom Happy Hours, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. -- and no heavy topics allowed. Conversations, which flow organically, "have led to topics like the weirdest foods we've ever tried or funny stories about our critters," says Trista.

Reaction? "It feels good to just laugh and be with our UU family." Crowd sizes to date: 6 to 14. Need a link to the Zoom trail? Call or email and Trista will provide.

Our Caring Community - continued

Debra Dubose inherited her grandmother's cedar chest, stocked with yard fabric never sewed, and Debra never knew what to do with it – until now. She divided the material between mask-maker Laura Keith King and another, Carol Cleaver. "This seemed a good use."

Deb and partner Pam Ubben donated 100 of the cloth masks and 100 disposable masks, along with 100 pairs of socks and 100 insect repellants, to the homeless, mainly living under the bridge at Pensacola but also at Fort Walton Beach. And in the winter: hats, gloves, blankets and socks.

"We've used our stimulus check, tax returns, whatever extra money we could come up with," says Deb. "But the needs keep growing. When we started doing this a few years back there were about 40 homeless to purchase for. Now it's about 100 in Pensacola alone, another 40-50 in Ft. Walton Beach." A friend, Rev. Booth Iburg of the United Church of Christ, along with several other 60-plus-years ladies, feeds the homeless every week at Lee St., across from Loaves and Fishes in Pensacola and under the bridge in FWB. "I would love for more people to get involved and will soon begin helping with the cooking," says Deb. "The need keeps growing and we keep getting older."

Charlotte Crane

EMERGENCY CONTACT PERSON - DO YOU HAVE ONE?

An emergency contact person of your choosing can be added to your Simple Church profile. It's as easy as getting in touch with Laurie Winterberg, Laura Keith King or Terra in the church office with your information.

READ A GREAT BOOK, SEEN A GREAT SHOW? A CALL FOR REVIEWS

We're all looking for ways to pass the time and enrich our lives during the Covid-19 shutdown. If you have enjoyed a book, movie, tv series, music album, podcast, or other cultural content that you would recommend to your fellow UUCP congregants, please write a review and send it to uupensacola@gmail.com to publish in a future issue of *The Light*.

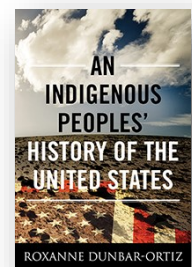
VIRTUAL 2ND HOUR BOOK DISCUSSION EXTENDED

UUCP is hosting discussions of the book *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (Beacon Press, 2015). The event series has been offered on the Zoom platform weekly to UUCP Members and Friends and will continue on this Friday, May 29, and the next, Friday, June 5 at 12pm as the series has been extended for an additional week.

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States is the Unitarian Universalist Common Read for 2020. A Common Read invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period. This Common Read invites UU congregations, communities, and individuals to learn the story of trauma and resilience that is *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*.

The book is available in several formats, including as an audio book on Audible and as a physical book through Amazon and through Beacon Press.

You may participate in any or all of the sessions. The sessions are open to all, not just those who are reading or have read the book, so we hope you will join us for the discussion of this important book. This event is being organized by Thom Botsford and Scott Satterwhite. Please contact them for information.



ANNUAL MEETING



Virtual Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 14, 12:30pm

Our time has come for our Annual Congregational Meeting. Given physical distancing and COVID-19, **our meeting this year will be held virtually on Sunday, June 14, at 12:30pm**, in lieu of Coffee Hour that week. We will meet via the **Zoom platform**, which allows us to **connect by landline phone, smartphone, OR by internet with or without video capability**. You do not have to have an internet connection to call in to the meeting, but you must have a phone connection, and there will be long-distance charges if calling from a landline. We will be able to hear one another, and some of us will be able to see and be seen as well.

At the meeting, we will receive a review of the year and an update on plans for remote Sunday Services and gatherings for our current year. **We will conduct a voice vote to decide on:**

Our slate of candidates for the 2020-21 year (see announcement in this newsletter);

Our budget (please refer to announcements that have been distributed previously by our Treasurer Erin Renfroe);

And two nominees for Honorary Lifetime Membership: Elaine Buker and Evelyn Jackson.

An invitation to the Annual Congregational Meeting with call-in/log-in instructions will go out to members and friends on June 1 and twice more before the meeting on June 14. **When you receive the email(s), please hold on to the information as you will need the call-in/log-in instructions, including the Meeting ID and the Password to enter the meeting.** We will be reaching out personally to those members and friends who do not have an email address on file.

Help is available for those who need assistance using the call in or log in feature. If you need assistance, please contact Board President Lauren Anzaldo, another member of the Board, or your Cluster Group Captain to request help.

We look forward to many voices participating in the governance of our church.

Slate of Candidates for UUCP 2020-2021

The 2019-2020 Leadership Development Team of UUCP is pleased to present the slate of candidates for the 2020-2021 church year. The current Leadership Development Team consists of Nancy Hagman, Past President; Laurie Winterberg, Membership Team Leader; Marcy Moreland and Penny Featherstone. It is with careful consideration – keeping in mind the vision of our congregation – that the team proposes the following candidates to be voted on at the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held virtually on Sunday, June 14, at 12:30pm.

Board of Directors for 2020-2021

Board Officers / Executive Committee

President: Lauren Anzaldo (1-year term; 2nd term)

President Elect: Arnie Ondis (1-year term)

Secretary: Jack Comstock (2nd year of 2-year term ending June 2021)

Treasurer: Erin Renfroe (2-year term ending June 2022; 3rd term)

Board Members At-Large

Through June 2021

Marcy Moreland (2nd year of 2-year term)

Trista Blouin (1-year term to fill a vacancy)

Penny Featherstone (1-year term to balance Board terms)

Through June 2022

Linda Cobb (2-year term)

Michael Trudeau (2-year term)

Leadership Development Team

Nancy Hagman, Past President

Laurie Winterberg, Membership Team Leader

Jean Siebenaler

Paula Montgomery

Committee on Ministry

Scott Satterwhite (3-year term)

Carol Trotter (3-year term)

Laurie Winterberg (3-year term)

June is Pride Month: How do we celebrate diversity?



LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUEER JUSTICE

We are a welcoming faith.

Each of us has worth and dignity, and that worth includes our gender and our sexuality. As Unitarian Universalists (UUs), we not only open our doors to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, we value diversity of sexuality and gender and see it as a spiritual gift. We create inclusive religious communities and work for LGBTQ justice and equity as a core part of who we are. *All of who you are is sacred. All of who you are is welcome.*

LGBTQ HISTORY & FACTS FOR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS: THE UUA'S MAJOR RESOLUTIONS IN SUPPORT OF LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUEER PEOPLE

- ★ The first General Assembly resolution on this topic passed in 1970, urging the UUA to work to end discrimination against homosexuals and bisexuals. In 1980, a General Assembly resolution urged the UUA to end discrimination against lesbian, gay, and bisexual people in regards to employment, and assist in the settlement of lesbian, gay, and bisexual religious leaders.
- ★ In 1984, a General Assembly resolution affirmed the practice of conducting services of union for gay and lesbian couples. Another resolution in support of full marriage equality passed in 1996.
- ★ The first resolution to affirm transgender individuals and identity passed at General Assembly in 2007 and urged the expression of this affirmation through employment practices, educational efforts, congregational life, and public witness, as well, encouraging congregations to explore the differences between sexual orientation and transgender identity.
- ★ The UUA has been ordaining people regardless of sexual orientation since the 1970s, and the first openly transgender person was ordained in 1988.
- ★ About 5% of our ministers identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer. The UUA expects all ministers to show ministerial competency in the area of human sexuality before being approved for ordination. In 2002, the first openly transgender person in the UU ministry was called to serve a congregation: Rev. Sean Dennison, called to South Valley UU Society, Salt Lake City, UT.

WHY WE CELEBRATE LGBTQ+ PRIDE IN JUNE

On June 28, 1969, the New York police raided the Stonewall Inn — a well known gay club in the Greenwich Village area of Manhattan, arresting 13 patrons in the process — and the gay community had finally had enough. Police that summer had carried out similar raids in other clubs throughout the city, making arrests and even shutting down several bars. When police exited the club, a spontaneous protest sprang up. In what has been called “the shot heard round the world” for LGBTQ rights, protesters rioted in various parts of the city over the next three days. Democracy Now states that one historian estimates there were just 50-60 gay groups in the US at the time of the riots. One year later, that number had swelled to 1,500. Two years after Stonewall, there were 2,500 gay rights groups in the country.

One year and a day after the riots, the first Gay Pride marches took place in New York City, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Chicago. Gay Pride Month is celebrated each June to commemorate the Stonewall Riots, as well as the innumerable sacrifices gay rights activists have made to advance equal rights for the LGBTQ community.

In 2000, President Bill Clinton issued the first Proclamation for Gay and Lesbian Pride month. President Barack Obama continued the practice by issuing presidential proclamations for Gay Pride month every year he was in office. (President Trump has refused to offer a proclamation).

In his final (and the final) Pride proclamation, President Obama praised the landmark US Supreme Court decision, *Obergefell v Hodges* (2015) which legalized same sex marriage in the United States. “Last year’s landmark Supreme Court decision guaranteeing marriage equality in all 50 states was a historic victory for LGBT Americans, ensuring dignity for same sex couples and greater equality across state lines. For every partnership that was not previously recognized under the law and for every American who was denied their basic civil rights, this monumental ruling instilled newfound hope, affirming the belief that we are more free when we are all treated as equals.”



How do we strive for justice?



JUST PENSACOLA UPDATE

We have been fortunate to have had Paula Montgomery spearheading our involvement with JUST Pensacola. Because of health issues and other commitments, she is stepping back from her position as our point of contact and from its Board of Directors. Penny Featherstone will now be our point of contact and our representative on JUST Pensacola's Board with Rev. Maggie as support. Arnie Ondis still represents us on the Criminal Justice Research Team, and Penny remains on the Education Research Team.

The Nehemiah Action Forum that was scheduled for April 27th has been postponed to August 17th. When the method of the meeting is determined we will send out an updated email and post the information in The Light. Other DART teams have been very creative in their Actions - even meeting in a drive-in theater setting! Community Leaders that have been invited to the August Nehemiah Action are 1) our State Attorney, 2) Dave Alexander (former Police Chief of Pensacola and current candidate for Escambia County Sheriff) and Chip Simmons, Escambia Sheriff Candidate, and 3) Bruce Watson of the Early Learning Coalition.

A Leader Training session is being planned to assist those who would like to facilitate house meetings akin to those that were held last October in 2019. It is likely that these house meetings will be postponed until November and many, if not all, will be held virtually. The Leader Training will also be held virtually July 14-16; though the dates are currently tentative the overall DART organization has asked that we hold those dates available for now.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic slows our progress but it will not deter us from striving to make Pensacola more JUST! There is great need in our community, and it will take many hands to do the work of systemic change: won't you join us? If you have interest in attending the Leader Training or would like to be involved with JUST Pensacola, please contact Penny Featherstone (contact info available in our Members' Directory) or on Simple Church.



YES, EVERYONE CAN JOIN ZOOM CONFERENCES!

Did you notice that all invitations to Zoom conferences include a **telephone number**? This is so people without internet access or the equipment to video conference can still participate in these events.

You can even use a landline! Your face will not be visible to other participants, but your name will appear and your voice will be heard. You will be able to hear everyone else, too, just like in a telephone conference. (Be aware that if you are using a landline, there may be long-distance charges. Our UUA-sponsored account does not include an audio plan so we do not have the ability to request toll-free numbers.)

So don't miss out on our Coffee Hours or other events just because you're not tech-savvy or fully equipped. If you need help figuring out how to do it, call a friend and ask - we're all happy to help. *We miss you!*

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ALSO ARE INVITED TO THE:

UUCP VIRTUAL ZOOM 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.


UUCP VIRTUAL ZOOM HAPPY HOUR at 5:30pm on Fridays: Trista Blouin says, "Please grab a beverage and join your UUCP family on Friday evenings for a time of light-hearted conversation. We're finding it to be a great time to just laugh and let go of cares for an hour. The link below will serve as the recurring link for each week. Hope to see you there."

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.

*Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola
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Return service requested

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www.uupensacola.org

Deadline for submissions for
JULY LIGHT:

THURSDAY, JUNE 16

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