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

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

### FROM YOUR MINISTER

My dear congregation,

First, let me say how much I have appreciated the opportunity to talk to many of you and hear your stories about how Hurricane Sally has affected you. Most of you are clearing your yards of trees, branches, pine straw, and other debris. Some of you are waiting under blue tarps for the insurance adjuster to come and assess the damage to your roofs. Among you are those with water damage to floors, or flood damage to your business. You have shared with me the heartbreak you feel for your neighbors whose furniture and personal belongings are piled up on the street to be removed as trash. Some of you have had close calls with injuries that could have been much more serious, and yet, these are reminders of our vulnerability and we feel concern for all who are living alone in such circumstances. Even with all of this, over and over I have heard you say that you feel lucky, because you see others who did not fare nearly as well as you. With everything you have to complain about, I believe every one of you chose to count your blessings, rather than curse your fate.

I have also heard heartwarming stories of those who have shown up to help or made offers to help those with more serious damage. The community is listening with ears and heart to one another.

While all of this was on my mind, I opened the Soul Matters packet and read this story about the cricket and coins.

Two people are walking down a busy city street. Everyone is rushing to and from their work, trying to get ahead. One of the friends turns to the other and says, "Do you hear that? It's a cricket!" The other friend responds with doubt, but after focusing his attention finally hears it. "Wow," he says, "How did you hear that cricket with all the noise around us?" His friend responds, "It's all about how I was raised, about what I was taught to listen for." He goes on, "Here, I'll show you something." The friend then reaches into his pocket and pulls out a handful of coins - nickels, quarters, dimes - and he drops them on the sidewalk. Everyone who was rushing by stops... to listen.

The poet Joyce Sutphen writes: This is your chance to listen carefully. Your whole life might depend on what you hear.

Last Sunday, my friend and colleague, Rev. Ruth Vann Lillian spoke to us about maps for journeys and how there is no map for the journey we are on right now. It occurs to me that listening is another kind of map to help us find our way. Listening doesn't just guide us through the world, though, it creates our world. Listening creates a space into which we can enter with one another. A space that is more than just ordinary. Perhaps you could call it a sacred space.

Our theme for October is Deep Listening. The question to contemplate is, what does it mean to be a people of deep listening?

For me it probably means putting down the task that I feel pressure to complete, and picking up the phone to do something that I would actually enjoy much more, which is talking to people. If we haven't spoken recently, please give me a call. I would love to share that space with you.

In love and hope,

Rev. Alice



## How do we inspire love?

### FROM YOUR BOARD: PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



We persevere. This year has been tough in such varied ways, yet we sojourn on. As Rev. Alice reminded us in our September 20 service titled “Beguiled by Beauty,” “We’ll get through this together, with outstretched arms and helping hands.”

Hurricane Sally is the latest challenge for our church community. The slow-moving Category 2 storm blew furiously, dumped water, and toppled trees and power lines along the Gulf Coast. UUCP members, friends, and neighbors experienced downed trees and rising waters causing loss of power and internet and damage to homes and yards. Part of a tree and branches also litter the church property, but the building and our signs are fine.

By the time you read this column, I expect that we will mostly have returned to pre-Sally operations and be facing other things. However, let us reflect on the effort it takes to get back to “normal,” a beautiful, wondrous effort that draws on our interdependence. Within hours of the storm making landfall, members were checking on one another. Board members and Cluster Group Leaders divided up our Members’ and Friends’ Directory and reached out to each household to check on them and make note of any emergent needs that we could address. Angels among us delivered generators, water, and ice and cleaned up debris.

This natural disaster underscores the importance of our church community and the processes we have for sharing information and checking on one another. We have utilized Cluster Groups for years. The Cluster Group is a type of phone tree. Groups are assigned geographically and denoted with a letter of the alphabet. A volunteer leader or leaders from the group call each household to relay important news or to gather information such as how the person is doing. Being a Cluster Group Leader is an important but manageable task for someone who doesn’t mind talking on the phone. (We are in need of more leaders, so please talk to Nancy Hagman if you’re interested.) With Sally, there were definite hiccups related to the power outages and connectivity problems, yet the system enabled us to marshal our resources to assess our congregants’ well-being, which is the embodiment of beloved community.

Before Hurricane Sally, the Board was finalizing a survey on recongregating. You should have received the survey (or very soon will) by email or by U.S. mail if you don’t use email. The survey will assist us in determining our priorities. The Board and church leadership continue to consider how to move forward during the COVID-19 pandemic. Until a vaccine is safely developed, tested, and widely administered, gathering in person is risky.

The survey info also may be used in part for updating the UUCP Long-Range Plan and goals for our next five years. Enhancing our online presence as we have done during COVID, improving our air circulation system in the building, and addressing racism at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels are all examples of goals that we have undertaken or contemplated and that we may include in our Long-Range Plan for the coming years. Stay tuned for invitations to share your thoughts and to participate in the visioning and planning process.

Your ideas, your compassion, and your energy for our UUCP community and for our interconnected web of life are welcome and needed.

Until next time,

Lauren Anzaldo  
Board President



# October Faith Development



## Interfaith in October

- [Feast of St Francis of Assisi](#) (Christian) - Oct. 4
- World Communion Sunday (Christian) - Oct. 4, 2020
- [Sukkot](#): Feast of Tabernacles (Jewish) - Oct. 3, 2020, begins on the evening of the 2nd
- National Observance of [Children's Sabbath](#) - 3rd weekend of October
- [Mawlid al-Nabi](#) - the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad - Oct. 29, 2020
- [Reformation Day](#) (Christian) - Oct. 31
- Martin Luther posts [95 theses](#) - Oct. 31, 1517
- [Samhain](#) (Wiccan) - Oct. 31 - Nov. 1 [[more](#) and [more](#)]

## ZOOM Age Groupings

I know, there is always something new, right? To better serve our population we are now breaking the children out as follows:  
 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade are in the ORSS in the Rainforest group  
 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders are in the Youth Pathfinders group.

## For Fun and On the Fringe:

- Country Music Month (designated Oct. 1970 [by Richard Nixon](#)) more [here](#) and [here](#)
- World Vegetarian Day - Oct. 1
- First episode of Unitarian [Rod Sterling's "Twilight Zone"](#) - Oct. 1, 1959
- Apple introduces new iPod - Oct. 13, 2005
- [Clergy Appreciation Day](#) - Oct. 14

## CRE Acronyms & Jargon Explained

SFAA: Service For All Ages  
 ORSS: One Room Sunday School  
 Children's Chapel: Mini Service for small people  
 CRE: Children's Religious Education  
 CREC: Children's Religious Education Coordinator  
 Youth: Children 13ish to senior in HS  
 ZOOM: on-line live streaming classes/meetings

## Children's Religious Education (CRE) Ministry Team

Coordinator: Sarah Stubbs (437-5979) Team Leader: Open  
 Team Members: Emma Mulvaney, Linda Cobb, Penny Featherstone, Kate Wolverton, Pam Levitt  
 Feel free to contact any member with comments or suggestions!





# Our Caring Community

Bob and Lesley Ortiz are back in Pensacola after spending two months in North Waterboro, ME, their usual summer retreat. Highlight in this pandemic-year visit was their trek (made annually) to White Mountain Puzzles, in Jackson, NH, where they purchased several new jigsaw puzzles. "It's a comparatively small store located in a charming small town nestled in the White Mountains about an hour-and-a-half drive from our place," notes Lesley. "It makes a nice scenic drive." In other ways, this year's summer stay was different than most, due to the corona virus. Efforts to curb cases are most evident in the Northeast, notes Lesley, promoting comfort but also limiting activities: no overnight guests as in past summers, and dining out and attending church and other favorite places were restricted. ~



Bob and Lesley

Carol Michalski is getting settled at her new residence, an Azalea Trace type retirement home in Crown Point, IN, near sons Michael and Raymond. Adjusting is a slow go however, says Carol, partly due to timing coincidental with the pandemic. "It's not fun yet, 'cause I don't see many people." A two-week quarantine was imposed, and lately she's been isolating herself to avoid the virus.

Community resources also create differences between here and there. While she's managing to continue her morning walks, healthy fun at the Y is lagging. "The Y here doesn't compare with what we have in Pensacola. There are no classes for seniors, just for kids, and all the strength classes are on TV. In Pensacola I went to Silver Sneakers classes, always live, daily."

There is joy in Indiana, however -- a recent dinner outing and auto tour of a pretty little lake with Michael. ~



Thom Botsford

Thom Botsford bade a sad farewell last month to his mother, Betty Botsford, who lived in Opelika, Ala., and died at age 95 on Sept. 3rd. A private graveside service was held Sept. 5th at Opelika for family members, attended by Thom and three others of her children; another had passed earlier.

Thom hopes in the near future to find time to do personal writing, including memoirs. He's currently teaching virtual classes from home for Pensacola State College. He teaches composition and literature. ~

Looking for something to do while social and educational ventures are limited? Erin Renfroe hadn't to look far: Inherited needlework was at hand from both maternal and paternal sides of her family. "There was needlepoint, crewel embroidery, crochet and candlewicking, but my triumph was figuring out what to do with a quilt made by my great-grandmother for my mother, sometime in the WWII years," says Erin. "It was tattered and stained, threadbare in places, but some of the squares were still quite lovely." She consulted with a cousin – her genealogy buddy for 20 years – and ended up rejecting the idea to cut it up and frame different squares for distribution to family members. "Couldn't bring myself to take scissors to it!" Instead she found shadowboxes people use to preserve sports jerseys, with UV protective glass, and folded the quilt into it so the pretty squares show, with archival tissue in the folds to keep them protected. "Now it hangs on my wall with the rest of the heirlooms for me to enjoy looking at, while successfully passing the buck of what to do with it to the next generation!" ~



There was the virus. There was the economy. There was the Pandemic. And now Sally. Altogether, the year posed abundant opportunity to know pain in the family and in the pocketbook.

At UUCP, members prepare for adversity, with donations and the availability of the Members Assistance fund. Help is there. According to UUCP Treasurer Erin Renfroe, the Members' Assistance account currently has \$3,385 available. Since the beginning of the Covid-19 shutdown, church members have donated \$1,700 to the fund. Only two requests for assistance have been made since March, both due to hardships during the shut-down.

# Our Caring Community

**Our Caring Community - continued**

Those requests were honored. To receive help, the preferred way is to contact Rev. Alice, or a member of the Board. Says Erin, “We will always try our utmost to not reveal the identity of a person asking for help.”

On donations as part of pledges, a number of people have been holding back because of uncertainty about the economy and what their households will face in the coming year, notes Erin. “Most of those people have said they will try to make the pledge if things turn around.” ~

Spurred by a pandemic and motivated by parental concern, home schooling is growing in popularity nationally and in Pensacola. Media commentators have posed the question whether home schooling combined with virtual classes might provide a permanent and economical plus to the nation’s educational system.

Pensacola’s SHIP program — Secular Homeschoolers in the Panhandle — was organized by UUCP member and professional educator Pam Levitt to increase curriculum and opportunities for students and now consists of 10 families and 2<sup>nd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. As recently described by member Emma Mulvaney: “SHIP has been my light-ship.”



**Pam Levitt**

Nine-year-old Maeve, Emma and husband Mike’s daughter, was attending the local public school in Pace until the pandemic. Now her schooling combines the Santa Rosa Online virtual schooling with SHIP classes in art, water science, and show-and-tell. “They have been a lot of fun and she has really enjoyed seeing Val and Will Levitt and Stella, Celeste and Owen Grimes, and meeting new children there,” says Emma. Among other classes being taught, says Pam, are poetry and writing, and game schooling.

Reasons the Mulvaney’s joined SHIP, says Emma: to be in community with like-minded people while schooling from home, to try homeschooling in case the “very rigorous” virtual public school doesn’t work for them and to give Maeve regular face-to-face (virtual) interaction with other children.



**Laura, Steven and Etienne**

The future is ours. ~

Laura DuPont has been accepted in the MIS — master’s of science and information program — at Florida State University. In August, she received her bachelor’s degree in general studies at UWF. She hopes to finish her MIS education in late 2021, all through online studies, with an end goal of becoming a librarian. The MIS used to be the librarian’s program, says Laura, but was then expanded.

Also a key focus at the DuPont home is education for son Etienne, 11 — part home schooling led by Laura and also enrollment in the Florida Connections Academy online. The DuPont family — Laura, Etienne and husband and father Steven, joined UUCP this year. ~

Sally is gone but her leavings are not. Expect more tales of fallen trees and power-washed rooftops as we hear friends describe the hurricane’s impact. One we heard from a Pensacola waterside came from Dolly Berthelot, whose hardwood floors in her lodging at the Riviera were squished when water seeped in under the doors, and now need to be taken out. Where to stay while repairs are made? Not known. Says Dolly: “Glad the building didn’t fall down; 94 units and almost all a calamity.”



**Dolly Berthelot**

In the case of Lisa Hudson’s son, Allen Duffy, his concrete slab house in Brownsville was flooded, causing loss of clothes, towels and other necessities. Next door, Lisa fared better in her house built higher off the ground; only shingles were ripped and trees felled. ~

Glad it’s over. How about you?

*Charlotte Crane*



## **MEMBER SURVEY ON RECONGREGATION**

UUCP Members & Friends,

Your Governing Board is in the process of planning how to phase in recongregating our Members and Friends for in-person Sunday Services and other activities in a manner which will maintain safety for all in this time of COVID-19. As you are aware, we closed the UUCP facility in March and in mid-May the Unitarian Universalist Association stated that congregations should be prepared to have their buildings closed for as much as a year due to COVID-19. Of course, UUCP has continued to hold Sunday Services and other functions via video and Zoom. How long our facility remains closed depends on the progress made in reducing infections and in providing a vaccine.

Shortly after we closed the church facility, the Cluster Group leaders conducted a short verbal survey asking congregants about their concerns and needs with our building being closed. That survey and feedback to the UUCP Governing Board members indicated that having a sense of belonging -- that is, a community of fellow congregants meeting in person in a physical space -- is important.

This period of quarantine has been viewed by many of our members as a unique opportunity to examine what is important to us as a congregation because so many of our programs have been suspended. We are preparing a survey seeking your input on what the closing of the building and the cessation of various services/activities has meant to you. This new, more extensive survey addresses how we might recongregate in a way that would be safe and acceptable to members and friends.

In the near future you will receive the survey by e-mail or snail mail. Your completing the survey will provide the Governing Board with your input on what conditions or circumstances would allow you to consider recongregating as well as what services/activities are priorities for you. Your Governing Board anticipates recongregating in phases, gradually adding in more program activities. Example: we might start with a Sunday Service on the church grounds, where everyone wears masks, there is social distancing, families sit together, and there is no choir performance.

Your completed survey will remain anonymous. We have a line for your name just to be sure everyone has responded. There will be space to add individual comments or request a follow-up call from a Board Member. The summary results of the survey will help the Governing Board in planning for recongregating and will also be shared with the congregation.

Thank you for making the time to complete the survey.





## INGATHERING SERVICE OCTOBER 18th

Our beloved Ingathering Service is scheduled for October 18th. Our theme will be the significance of water in our lives.

Do you have photos, drawings, or pictures that you would like to share with your fellow UUs? We cannot be together in our building, but we can be together with our memories of water. What kind of impact (either positive or negative) has water had on you? Are you willing to share?

Perhaps you would like to draw a picture of friends and family enjoying a day at the beach or near a body of water. Perhaps you have a photograph to share. Perhaps you have some negative thoughts and feelings about water that can be shared in a photo or brief statement.

We want everyone to participate. Send your photos and/or stories to Rev. Alice at [revaluu@gmail.com](mailto:revaluu@gmail.com). The deadline for submissions is October 11.

### TO ALL THOSE WHO HELPED CLEAN UP UUCP AFTER SALLY CAME TO CALL...

A big Thank You to those who were able to work at the church September 28th. Hurricane Sally visited our grounds and left many calling cards. Luckily there was no damage to the building but the grounds do need some tender loving care.

We worked in social distancing manner and really got much done. Those who joined together included, **Erin Renfroe, Arnie Ondis, Michael Newcomb, Hugh Ed Turner, Jay Butcher, Gerry & Marylee Donnelly and Kate Wolverton**. We did accomplish much but don't worry, another work date will be scheduled. There are opportunities for many more days of grounds work.

We were a tired group when **Barbara Goggins** joined us with sandwiches and drinks. What a treat! Barbara knows how to keep the spirits up.

Thank you all.

### 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 or Lauren Anzaldo 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. 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.



Rescheduled from September...

## UPDATED INFORMATIONAL COVID-19 PANDEMIC PRESENTATION

**OCTOBER 22, 2020 AT 6:30PM ZOOM MEETING**

UUCP is pleased to be able to offer an updated informational presentation to UUCP regarding the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Jean Siebenaler, MD, MPH** is a Navy veteran of the USNR Medical Corps and a retired board-certified family physician. In addition, she has over 15 years' experience in the design and management of epidemiology research studies. Jean moved from Cincinnati, OH in 2008 and now lives in Milton with her husband and dog. She became a member of UUCP in 2019.

We are so fortunate to have Jean to explain the pandemic and where we are in this process of understanding our risks and needs, at this time. There will be opportunity to ask questions.

This presentation will be recorded and offered to members who are unable to attend. **Please mark your calendars for October 22 at 6:30 PM.** An email with log-in information will be sent separately.

# OVER THE RAINBOW

## UUCP'S 2020 AUCTION

**SAVE THE DATES!** Our 2020 Auction will take place between November 6 and November 15, 2020.

**November 6: Friday Night Cocktail Kickoff** – hosted by Trista Blouin and your Auction Crew, with signature cocktails and mocktails for your socially-distanced party.

**November 15:** We'll wrap it up with family-friendly fare, raffle drawings and fun!

In between those dates, our Auction website and app will be your go-to for all the great stuff you want – goodies, baskets, dinners, and more!

Contact **Kate Wolverton** to make your donation. And thank you – with your help, we'll make this a great event, within and beyond our walls.



## SUNDAY SERVICE TEAM

Have you been enjoying the YouTube services this year? We certainly hope you have taken time on Sunday or any time, at your leisure, to watch our services.

Sunday Service Team has members who are very interested in providing topical and timely messages for you and the public. We meet regularly, now actually more often via Zoom since the church has shut its doors. Members include Paula Montgomery, Rob Pallme, Dolly Berthelot, Laura Keith King, Nancy Hagman, Thom Botsford, Rev. Alice and myself, Marylee Donnelly.

During this time of virtual services, we have depended on Rev. Alice and Laura Keith King. Rev. Alice hit the ground running by making sure we had consistent quality. At the beginning of this journey, she enlisted her grandson, Alessio. Sometimes the younger you are, the more knowledge you have when creating video content. We are very grateful for this start. The amount of time and effort putting together our first foray into virtual church had a steep learning curve. Rev. Alice took this challenge and really made the magic happen.

This summer, Rev. Alice took time off to regenerate. This did not mean to rest. During these last few weeks of needed rest, she continued to work. She participated in SE UU Summer Institute (SUUSI) and signed up for a program called Worship Design Studio. All of this effort is meant to help UUCP continue to provide meaningful, thoughtful services. I think this is called a busman's holiday (look it up).

While Rev. Alice was working on gaining more options for our virtual services, Laura Keith King and her daughter, Stephanie Ball (of Creative Fuel Co.) took over the programming. This is not an easy task. There are many parts to a service that cannot be done 'on the fly'. The speaker's talks, music, opening/closing, chalice lighting and credits all need to be edited to make a service that you will enjoy and learn. The production takes hours of time. Every piece is dependent on the other. It's not an assembly line, it's a collaboration. Every piece is important.

We are all learning new skills. I am very proud and grateful for all the effort and skill given to this important time. We are all the better for this.

We are always open to suggestions and if you have an interest in sharing your skills of video editing or producing, we'd love to know.

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Thanks so much to **Stephanie Ball of Creative Fuel Company**, for donating the programming of our services during Rev. Alice's leave of absence to attend video seminars and other trainings. Stephanie, who is the daughter of Laura Keith King, has truly been a good friend and great help to UUCP. Let's show her our support!



## How do we strive for justice?



**Our 5th UU Principle at work: The Right of Conscience and the use of the Democratic Process within our congregations and in society at large**

**Social Justice at UUCP took on a special project during October.**

We wrote and mailed post cards to 150 former felons in Florida who are not registered to vote.

After Florida's citizens voted (Amendment 4) to restore the voting rights of all Floridians who had previously been convicted of a felony but had completed their sentences, the Florida legislature passed a law stating that those former felons could not vote unless they had paid all the fines and fees that were a part of their court proceedings. That threw a lot of confusion into the mix. Some of these returning citizens did not know if they owed any fines or fees and the court records were not easy to find. So, a lot of people were afraid to vote just because they were not sure if they owed anything. The ACLU did the research and located several thousand former felons who were eligible to vote but had not registered. They made the list available to the League of Women Voters who printed post cards and sent the post cards to local social justice volunteers. That was us. We addressed the post cards and mailed them. Job well done! We actually had more volunteers than we needed. Congratulations and thanks to our UU worker bees.

The people who stepped up were Arnie Ondis, Kate Wolverton, Lauren Anzaldo, Dolly Berthelot, Penny Featherstone, and Debra DuBose.

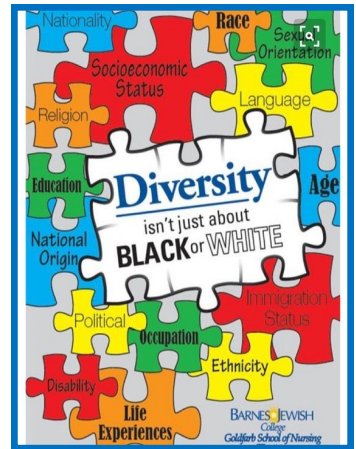
As I said, we had more volunteers than we had cards for. So not all our volunteers were needed. If I get any more cards, I will let them know.

Thank you all for your efforts to form a more perfect union.

*Paula Montgomery, Co-Team Leader, Social Justice Team*

## How do we celebrate diversity?

**EXCERPTS FROM THE WEEKLY MESSAGE OF UUA PRESIDENT  
REV. DR. SUSAN FREDERICK-GRAY:**



And now, dear ones, we are at a precipice. Leading up to the election, our vote—and our efforts to get out the vote—will affect our chances to bring our bold values forward, to take seriously the health and well-being of all people as the pandemic continues, to protect human rights, upend inequity and racial injustice, and make real gains for the health of our planet. The stakes are high and we all have a role to play....

Join us as we move together toward election day. There are many ways you can connect with UU the Vote or deepen your connection:

—Get UU the Vote updates on your phone by texting VOTELOVE to 51555.

Sign the #VoteLove Pledge and let us know how you're going to do your part to protect our democracy.

—Sign up to phonebank with UU the Vote. There are many remaining opportunities to join a national phonebank, or participate in local or regional events.

—Share the national UU the Vote service in your community on an upcoming Sunday.

I hope you will join in the groundswell of Unitarian Universalists working to #VoteLove and #DefeatHate. There is so much to do, and our faith is calling us to love more boldly, to give more generously, to believe more fervently that another world is possible—and to lead and act on behalf of that future.

Yours in love and in hope,

Susan





# UUCP Celebrates diversity, strives for justice, inspires love

VOTING RIGHTS, ELECTION REFORM, AND DEMOCRACY | UU THE VOTE IN 2020



The [Fifth Principle](#) of Unitarian Universalism calls for the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process—within our congregations and in society at large.

One of the fundamental principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is the use of the democratic process. As an expression of our faith, many Unitarian Universalist congregations engage in voter registration, election reform, protecting voting rights and democracy, and Get-Out-the-Vote drives.

Defending the right to vote has been central to the work of the UUA and at the core of Unitarian Universalism for decades—from expanding enfranchisement for women and Black people to advocating for a path to citizenship for immigrants; from our history of civil rights engagement to taking on the 'New Jim Crow' and white supremacy today. As a faith community UUs are vocal and active about voting rights and have contributed to change throughout history. In the past several years, UUs have been part of a groundswell of voting rights, electoral work, and democracy movements that have emerged and gained even more momentum since the 2016 US elections.

In 2018, UUs worked with partners who share our values to urge elected officials and candidates to work for a Green New Deal, to decriminalize poverty, defend the rights of LGBTQ people, fight for reproductive justice, and end migrant detention and deportation and mass incarceration. We canvassed, gathered signatures, phone banked, registered people and got out the vote for justice oriented ballot initiatives. We shared our values with our neighbors and asked them to participate in democracy.

**Why now?** With the increasing control of our government by corporate and special interests, voter suppression, and the alarming rise of authoritarianism, we face many challenges to ensure democracy and a just society. We also have seen a rise in people's movements led by people of color, women, and others impacted by injustice, a rise in activism, and the election of progressive candidates. This is electoral justice.

**Getting Ready and the Importance of Partnerships: *There are over 50 million people in the US who are eligible to vote but who are not registered and millions of registered voters who are infrequent voters.***

The most effective voter registration, engagement, and Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts are done in partnership with community, state, and national partners. Many congregations already have justice partners whose efforts include voter outreach. Supporting their efforts from ***door knocking, data entry, phone calling, giving rides to the polls, renting vans, raising money and more*** is the best way to keep building the movement as we work for electoral justice in 2020. This can be done as we work for climate, economic, LGBTQ, migrant, reproductive and racial justice.

**These issues are what motivate people to vote. *While congregations cannot endorse candidates they can talk about justice and what elected officials and candidates have to say about these issues.***

EXCERPTS FROM <https://www.uua.org/liberty/electionreform>

## **DON'T LET YOUR VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT GO TO WASTE—YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE!**

**Did you know the top reason that Vote-by-Mail (VBM) ballots are rejected in Florida is because they arrive after 7 p.m. on Election Day?** If you have requested and received your VBM ballot, here's how to make sure it gets counted:

**Sit down and fill out your VBM ballot right now. Make sure to follow all instructions, especially signing the envelope.** (*Your ballot is **INVALID WITHOUT SIGNATURE** and will be rejected*).

**Mail your ballot today and avoid post office delays.** (*You can also drop it in a secure drop box – see drop box locations on your county's Supervisor of Elections website: <https://escambiavotes.com/>*).

And if you haven't registered to vote in Florida yet, **the deadline to register to vote in the 2020 election is Monday October 5 – go to [registertovoteflorida.gov](http://registertovoteflorida.gov) to register today.** If you haven't received your VBM ballot yet, contact the Escambia County Supervisor of Elections office at: 850-595-3900.

Want to vote in person? Choose a date to vote during Early Voting. Early voting in Escambia County is currently scheduled for Monday, Oct. 19–Saturday, Oct. 31 (dates tentative - hours TBD). (*Note: Early voting dates, times, and locations subject to change; check back at the Escambia County Supervisor of Elections website to confirm the latest info*).



*Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola  
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*Return service requested*

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 **Deadline for submissions for  
NOVEMBER LIGHT:  
Friday, OCTOBER 16th**

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