



9888 Pensacola Blvd
Pensacola, FL 32534
uupensacola.org

Office Hours:

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

UUCP Staff Contacts

Minister

Rev. Alice Syltje

Community Minister

Rev. Maggie Lovins

Children's Religious Ed Coordinator

Sarah Stubbs

Office Administrator/Editor

Terra Shute 850-475-9077,

uupensacola@gmail.com

Proofreading Editor: Charlotte Crane

UUCP Leadership Contacts

Governing Board

President: Lauren Anzaldo

President-Elect: Arnie Ondis

Past President: Nancy Hagman

Secretary: Jack Comstock

Treasurer: Erin Renfroe

Board Members at Large

Trista Blouin

Linda Cobb

Penny Featherstone

Marcy Moreland

Ministry Team Leaders

Building Team/Facilities Contacts

Gerry Donnelly & Jay Butcher

Caring

Penny Featherstone & Kate Wolverton

Communications/Publicity

communications@uupensacola.org

Charlie Steed, Erin Renfroe, Lauren

Anzaldo, Pam Levitt, Audrey Preston

Denominational Affairs

Trista Blouin

Finance

Marylee Donnelly

Laurie Winterberg

Fun and Fellowship

Trista Blouin

Leadership Development

Nancy Hagman

Membership

Laura Keith King

Laurie Winterberg

Safer Congregation

Arnie Ondis

Social Justice

Paula Montgomery

Scott Satterwhite

Sunday Services

Marylee Donnelly

*See our website, uupensacola.org for
a complete list of teams and members.*

FROM YOUR MINISTER

Our Soul Matters Theme for December is Stillness. Our question to ponder is:

What Does It Mean To Be A People of Stillness?

*Don't tell me to be calm
when there are so many reasons
to be angry...*

*I didn't say to be calm, said the wind,
I said to breathe.*

*We're going to need a lot of air
to make this hurricane together.*

- Rev. Lynn Unger, from her poem Breathe

Often when stillness weaves its way into our discussions, it's framed as a retreat strategy. A balm from the frantic and frequently wounding world. But as wise ones like Rev. Unger remind us, that's not quite right. It's less like a locked room that keeps all the enemies out and more like an oxygen mask that brings us back to life, that fills us with power. Stillness doesn't simply slow our breath and energy; it fills us with it.

As Unger suggests, we don't really want to be told to be calm these days. There is indeed so much to be angry about. So much that needs defended, resisted and restored. Which means that there's a lot at stake in how we talk and think about stillness. A stillness that invites us simply to escape the world is dangerous. A stillness that merely anesthetizes our nerves comforts us but widens the wounds of the world. To listen deeply to our troubled times is to hear a call to challenge the view that stillness is the resting place at the bottom of the hill we've climbed and instead imagine it as the basecamp that launches us into the long trek up the mountain.

And alongside this vision of stillness enabling us to gather strength also sits the equally important idea of stillness as something that clarifies our perception.

One of the most powerful and heart-breaking examples of this comes from the movie Schindler's List. In what is possibly its most famous scene, Oscar Schindler is sitting still upon his horse at the top of a hill looking down at atrocities being committed by the Nazi soldiers. Up until that moment, Schindler couldn't see past his rationalizations. But in that still moment, which was filmed in black and white, we watch through his eyes and see one small burst of red emerging from the sea of gray. It's a single small girl in a bright red coat. In that moment his perception is transformed and the stillness allows him to notice that which calls him back to his humanity.

So friends, stillness does this too. It allows us to perceive that which is truly precious. And in doing so, it calls us back to our humanity.

When we pause and find that sacred point of balance, that which is precious in life lights up as if in neon. The blur that usually dominates our attention fades to gray and we are able to notice that which truly deserves our focus. Our care. Our commitment. Our love.

And when we are surrounded by and connected to those precious things, a type of magic happens. We suddenly know ourselves anew. We suddenly feel at home in ourselves and the world. That sense of home can calm us or it may challenge us, but either way life comes alive again.

So home, maybe that is the true aim of this month. Maybe stillness is not an end but a means. Maybe it is not the destination but the road. The road that leads us home.

In Love and Hope,

Rev. Alice



How do we inspire love?

FROM YOUR BOARD: PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Sometimes what seems impossible is entirely — amazingly and inspiringly — possible. This message of possibility is one of the messages of the documentary “We Still Live Here: As Nutayuneân,” which tells the story of the restoration of the Native American Wampanoag language. Centuries after the Wampanoag people survived the arrival of the Pilgrims to New England, there were no native speakers of the Wampanoag language. Then an exceptional member of that tribe, Jessie Little Doe Baird, developed a program to bring back the language of her ancestors. Expert linguists acknowledge that the revival of a dead language like Wampanoag seemed impossible until Jessie joined with other Wampanoag people to reclaim the language that was so central to their culture. Stories of hope and possibility and resilience like this are like miracles in our world and are worth paying attention to and marveling over for the inspiration and strength they can bring us.

The film “We Still Live Here” was featured as part of the Harvest the Power Justice Convergence and Teach-In presented in late November by the UUA, UU Service Committee (UUSC), and UU Ministry for Earth. The Harvest the Power convergence was offered in an effort to further the UU commitment to learn our history and rethink Thanksgiving in the year 2020, which is the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrims landing in Plymouth. The event provided presentations, discussions, and film screenings to ground, inform, and strengthen UU justice and equity work. Also presented during the event was the important film “The Condor and the Eagle,” which was scheduled to be screened here in Pensacola in Spring 2020 but had to be cancelled as we became aware of the COVID virus.

Speaking of COVID, the Board is reviewing the recongregation survey results from our Members and Friends as well as UUA recommendations and is considering how and when to safely gather in person. However, just as the Board began to look at these things, infection numbers skyrocketed to the point that the virus is more prevalent now than when we first closed the church building earlier this year. We are hopeful that news of immunizations and other measures will bring better days in Spring 2021 and safer conditions for in-person events.

December is the final month in what has been an unusual year. Many of us have been joking for months about wanting this year to come to an end. However, we know that many of the issues we have encountered this year will not evaporate with 2021. Still, a new year and new calendar does seem to bring the feel of a fresh start. Here are some of the exciting and worthwhile things the Board and others are working on for the coming year.

Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan Committee is planning events and activities to collect congregational input for updating our strategic plan. Goals related to our Mission Statement and a UUCP Vision Statement are expected to be part of the new Strategic Plan. Committee members are Carol Trotter (Co-Chair) and Linda Cobb (Co-Chair and Board Representative), Jack Comstock (Board Rep), Barbara Goggins, Emma Mulvaney, and Bradley Vinson.

Midyear Congregational Meeting

Our annual midyear meeting is scheduled at 12:30pm on Sunday, Jan. 24, and will be virtual with Zoom log-in and call-in info to be distributed closer to that date. We encourage all Members and Friends to attend the congregational meeting. Reports on our finances, strategic plan, recongregation plan, and the work of our Ministry Teams will be presented.

I am looking forward to our continued walk together in 2021.

Until next time,
Lauren Anzaldo
Board President



December Faith Development



Interfaith:

- [Advent](#) (Christian) Nov. 29 - Dec. 24, 2020 (more [here](#) and [here](#))
- [Bodhi Day](#) (Buddha’s Enlightenment) - [Dec. 8](#) (more [here](#) and [here](#))
- [Chalica](#) (UU) Dec. 3 - Dec. 9 (more [here](#))
- [Hanukkah](#) (Jewish) - Dec. 11, 2020, begins on the evening of the 10th (more [here](#) and [here](#))
- [Yule](#), Solstice (Pagan/Wiccan) - Dec. 21
- Christmas Eve - Dec. 24, 2020 (Thursday)
- Christmas Day - Dec. 25, 2020 (Friday)
- [Holy Innocents Day](#) (Christian) - Dec. 28
- [Watch Night](#)/Freedom’s Eve (Christian) - Dec. 31
- [Kwanzaa](#) - Dec. 26 - Jan. 1 (more [here](#) and [here](#))

National & Cultural:

- [Drunk](#) and [Drugged](#) Driving Prevention Month
- [Seasonal Depression](#) Awareness Month
- [World AIDS Day](#) - Dec. 1 (more [here](#) and [here](#))
- [Rosa Parks](#) Arrested - Dec. 1 (1955)
- International Day of [Persons with Disabilities](#) - Dec. 3
- [Human Rights Day](#) - Dec. 10
- Anniversary of [Sandy Hook](#) Shootings - Dec. 14

[CRE Come as You Are Sunday Mornings at 9am](#)

CRE Faith Development has moved back to Sunday mornings at 9am. Please contact Sarah Stubbs at Mssarahstubbs@gmail.com for the Zoom access information and to get on our weekly email list.

[All PJs and breakfast munchers welcome!](#)

Dec. 6: Come as You Are Sunday School
 Dec. 13: Come as You Are Winter Holiday Party Zoom, Zoom. 9am – 11am
 Dec. 20: Come as You Are Children’s Chapel, Zoom. 9am
 Dec. 27: Service For All Ages

[CRE Acronyms & Jargon explained](#)

SFAA: Service For All Ages
 LREDA: Liberal Religious Educators’ Association
 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
 SELREDA: South East Religious Educators’ Association

Children’s Religious Education (CRE)

Ministry Team

Coordinator: Sarah Stubbs

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

Welcome, Emery Clair Weyand! She's the first granddaughter — and first grandchild — of UUCP's Linda Cobb, who was excited and delighted to greet her just hours after Emery's birth Sept. 26 at Plant City, Florida.

The proud Grandma in passing on the news exclaimed being "so fortunate to be able to spend her first three weeks of life with her!! She is beautiful; she is smart; and she is loved!!!"



Emery's Mom is Linda's daughter, Alyssa, and her Dad is Justin Weyand. Alyssa is well known to most UUCP folks because of having grown up in the church, along with her siblings, and due to her activeness in UUCP's youth programs here and at regional congregations. Living in Plant City, she is a physician assistant and works in emergency rooms at local hospitals in the area. Her husband is a senior product support specialist at Home Depot.

Cobb family members have been important contributors to UUCP. Alyssa's father, the late Neil Cobb, was once president of the congregation and was the talented writer and contributor of mystery dinner theaters. Members of the blended Cobb family also include sons Daniel, Grant and Tommy. Alyssa, the only biological descendant together of Linda and Neil, is also the only one of their offspring who has married. Grant lives with his Mom, and the two have plans to visit Emery and family this holiday season. "I will see them for a few days after Thanksgiving and then Grant and I will go down at Christmas to spend some time with them." ~

A foursome of UU friends cooked lunch and honored Hannelore Musial on her 92nd birthday, celebrated November 8th. The get-together crew gathering at her home consisted of Linda Cobb, Jack Comstock, Michael Newcomb and Hedwig Anderson. "Michael Newcomb made the cake and it was delicious," recalled Linda. "I think he called it a Million Dollar Pound cake." Besides the birthday lunch, Hannelore says she received "lots of cards and calls," all appreciated.

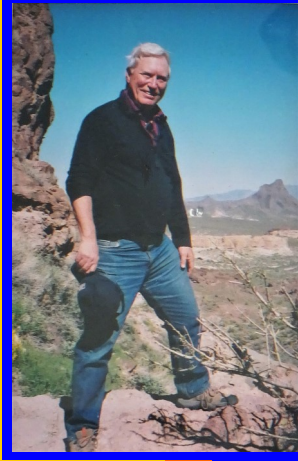
Hannelore and her husband Victor joined UUCP in 1988. Hannelore came to this country in 1952 to further her career as an interpreter after spending her childhood in Germany during the Nazi regime. She met Victor, who came to the United States as a Polish displaced person in 1951 and was then working for American Cyanamid in Connecticut, and they married. They later moved to Pensacola when he was transferred to American Cyanamid in Pace; he died in 2006.

Both Victor and Hannelore are known among UUs for their artistry. Victor built bookcases and magazine racks for the church library and furniture for their home. Hannelore is treasured for her delicious desserts, savored with delight during our traditional (pre-pandemic) UUCP Sunday Sweets.



Our Caring Community - continued

A sunny day for Bill Sloan might involve working to convert a cottage in his backyard to a two-bedroom house, reading a passage from UUA's "Singing the Living Tradition," or reminiscing with best friend Scott Satterwhite about a rally they organized for Veterans for Peace – or fishing.



The rim of the Colorado Plateau

Almost certainly fishing – especially if it's Sunday, possibly explaining why he's not in church (when church was holding live services). Still, despite the river's lure almost always in play, he maintains he has found much to love about the Unitarian Church; indeed, he recently signed up as an official UUCP Friend after years as an "old friend."

Bill first heard of the Unitarian religion in the late 1950s when he was at Georgia Tech. Later, in Annapolis, MD, he became an irregular member of a UU congregation and "got to know that UUs weren't much interested in going to heaven. And the UU principle of action on 'liberal' causes reinforced what I already felt, and did not leave me."

Support of liberal causes spurred participation through several decades. He took part in the antiwar movement, for example as part of the Washington rally in 1968, where 250,000 assembled on the Mall. Later, in Pensacola, he and Scott formed VFP-Pensacola in 2002 and held many demonstrations to oppose the Iraq assault. And UUCP's former minister Rev. Bob Eddy asked him to speak at church on opposing the threat to bomb Iran. Bill had served in the Army from 1959 to 1962.

Before Bill's formal UU Friendship, there was another religious tie: "Somewhere around 1972 a marriage got me happily engaged with the Episcopal Church for many years – for the fellowship, the music and the regular Eucharist." Recently a dispute with a local Episcopal leader, possibly over his political activities, caused a split, and his "solid relationship" with UUCP began.

"I am feeling free now. I no longer have to recite words I have not believed for many decades, Virgin birth, Resurrection, to name two." And recalling a conversation with a younger Christian one earlier day, he says, "I didn't mention that the Ten Commandments reach back into early Mideast religions that predate the Hebrew scripture."

Bill and his then-partner Sharon arrived in Pensacola in 1999. He lives at 1613 E. Jordan St., where he's building that small house, "expecting my daughter to live there one day." He also has two sons. He likes parties and reading. And he loves fishing.

A couple Sundays ago, Bill said he and his boat partner would be departing for Pensacola Pass about seven a.m. – hoping for another good catch. "Last Sunday we pulled in fifteen trout and snapper, by now mostly eaten, some frozen ... there will be more and bigger. I'll invite someone soon to help eat.



No. 1 in Frostbite Regatta

"And, oh yes, get in the habit of listening to services."

Charlotte Crane

(Here's sidebar to this story:) A Friend of UUCP is someone who holds UU beliefs/values, participates in the church and financially supports the church. UUCP Members also are eligible to vote, hold office, access services of the minister or church building (for memorial or wedding) at no cost and have their name on the Memorial Garden wall plaque. *From Laurie Winterberg*

How do we inspire love? Let's get together for the Holidays!

DECEMBER 20 LIVE ZOOM HOLIDAY SUNDAY SERVICE

Our last Live Zoom Service for 2020 is **December 20 at 10am**. We invite all members and friends to this service of celebration. Come and join us for music and fun as we approach the end of this challenging year. We have much to be grateful for in the midst of personal and national challenges. We invite you to storytelling for All Ages, and messages of winter time celebrations. We all have traditions and UUCP has theirs as well. You'll receive the usual email that weekend with the information to join the Zoom service.

Please mark your calendars and join on us December 20 at 10am!

WE NEED YOUR HELP, PLEASE: PHOTOS OF FAMILY CELEBRATIONS

We are calling on you to help again. We're looking for Winter Holiday photos important to you. These can be special ornaments, family photos of celebration, winter decorations, food, or special events/vacations. Use your imagination and start searching. You all know that you have family traditions. We'd love to see them. You might also have photos of parties at the church.

This year we will not be together physically but we can be together virtually. Many of us have special memories that we'd love to share. Please submit yours by **December 3 to Marylee Donnelly**.

In addition, we'd like photos of you lighting whatever symbols you use for holiday celebrations: Tree, Menorah, Advent Wreaths, Yule Logs, Chalice, Candles of Remembrance...Doesn't that reflect intimate sharing of our traditions? Filling the World with Light and Music!

These photos can be sent by Dec 10. Our shared memories keep us together in community. Ready, Set, Go!

GET PREPPED FOR OUR ZOOMITY ZOOM ZOOM UUCP 2020 ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY!

Dear UUCP Family,

We are excited to invite you to our Zoomity Zoom Zoom 2020 UUCP Holiday Party. This multigenerational celebration will be a wonderful experience that will be enhanced by your willingness to do a couple of preparatory steps. **Please take a look at the attached invite FIRST** and then come back to this message and note the following additional details about the instructions:

1. We will be having the gift pickup/drop off on December 13th at the church drive-thru. If you arrive right away, don't fear, we will have wrapped gifts ready for you. The CRE team will be contacting parents to discuss what they are planning for the kids' gift exchange.
2. If you are shut-in to your home, not able to get out, we want to make sure you can participate as well. Please email Kate Wolverton ASAP to let her know and we will make the necessary arrangements with you.
3. There will be Guest at Your Table boxes and luminaries available to pick up on the 13th, please look for an email from Marylee Donnelly regarding this.
4. Plan to prepare your idea of festive food/drink on the evening of the 18th. Do you have a favorite cocktail/mocktail, appetizer, or Christmas cookie?
5. Pick out a festive outfit for the event. If you want to add some humor to your outfit, you're encouraged to don your favorite ugly Christmas sweater.
6. We hope everyone will be able to join us on Zoom. If you do not have the ability to get on Zoom, could you arrange to meet up with another person who has it and you could join in together?

We would much rather be together in-person, to hug and shake hands with our joy-filled spirits merging with each other in one space and when we do come back together it will be GRAND. In the meantime, we hope you will join us in coming together, virtually, with our whole congregation, age 0 to 100, for a fUUn and festive evening. Please let us know if there is anything that is hindering your participation, and we will try to work out a solution with you. Each one of you is precious to our UUCP family and brings a special gift no one else can bring.

With Love,

Your Fun and Fellowship Committee



© chance evans

Preparation Directions:

1. For each party participant, find a gently used or new item around the house (adult gift for adult, child gift for child) and wrap it up (the quirkier the better).
2. **ZOOM** in your car to the church drive-thru on Sunday, **December 13 between 11 - 4:30** and drop off your wrapped dirty Santa gift(s), choosing one in exchange for each one brought. **DO NOT OPEN YET.**
3. Choose a festive outfit (ugly Christmas sweaters welcomed). Prepare for special holiday treats/drinks. Email Trista your funniest holiday memory.
4. **ZOOM** into our virtual multi-generational holiday party on December 18. Activities will include opening our Dirty Santa gifts, Holiday Trivia, a Scavenger Hunt, Guess Whose Fun Holiday Story It Is, Holiday Music (dancing/singing encouraged but optional). Enjoy your special holiday food/drink with others virtually.

ZOOMITY ZOOM ZOOM 2020 UUCP HOLIDAY PARTY

Date:

December 18, 5:30-7:00p

Location:

Zoom (link will be sent prior to the 18th)



© will levitt

⇒ ⇒ ZOOM



LET'S GET
Together

Dear Fellow UUCP Lunch-Bunchers:

I originally wrote a post — March 11 (2020 — yes, this year) Lunch Bunch alert for The Light in May (+/- a few weeks). I failed to submit it to the proper channel and it entered previously unknown protocol channels, largely a by-product of the Covid-19 virus. By the time it got back to me, slightly changed, I'd lost interest and had by that time lost track of my original submission.

That Wednesday 11 March was our "fall-back" visit to Taste of Jerusalem at Pace and Gadsden, 7 or 8 attending. I am happy to reveal that that location now looks boarded up (perhaps part of the next door grocery) and that a few blocks to the west, on the SW corner of "Y" and Cervantes, a 4-shops-wide and twice as deep Taste of Jerusalem is seen, signed in large letters (green on yellow?).

The intent of my original Lunch Bunch notice was to seek/kindle/stir/spark interest in the next LB by soliciting guesses as to the date of that 2nd Wednesday event. In my May article my guess was August, 2021; now, with the 9 November disclosure of a Pfizer 2 X vaccination (among others) suggesting an optimistic national roll-out in April... June of 2021, I'll stick with my August, 2021 guess (Wednesday, August the 10th). Back in August, I was thinking later, like October of 2021.... I never did feel we were "rounding the turn" — I kept wondering what road that fellow was on (and post March 11 we're beginning to learn).

So, if you have a Date Guestimate, submit it to me or Chef Jack Comstock via email; earlier submissions for the finalized date win, and the winner has the opportunity to choose the location/cuisine preference of the second Lunch Bunch event. The first will be a "healthy" choice, as perhaps dictated by lingering Covid-19 aspects. Jack and I will confer. ... Hope you are doing well, and looking forward to renewing monthly LB's. (Hugh T. at huturn@juno.com).

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.

READER'S GROUPS ReZOOM:

Since COVID-19 is still with us and the Readers' Group meetings by ZOOM have been well received, they have been extended through early December. Below are the dates:

THURSDAY - DECEMBER 3 - 10:00 AM

TUESDAY - DECEMBER 8 - 1:00 PM

An email will be sent out a few days prior to each session containing the login information. There are NO required books to read. Participants share their experiences and recommendations on good reads and we all benefit. Questions — contact Laurie Winterberg or Laura Keith King.

AUTHOR NOTE: My high-rise condo had managed to avoid COVID-19 all year, even during the ongoing chaos of Hurricane Sally damage and repairs. But in one terrible week of late Oct. 2020, we suddenly had 5 cases. I was inspired to write the poem “Saving Ourselves” while under strict quarantine because of my own exposure to this potentially debilitating and deadly virus. Fortunately, my complex quickly cooperated to prevent further cases, so far, instead of fostering the catastrophe that could have occurred. This rhyming verse addresses our mutual responsibility to protect ourselves and others during this pandemic. If you would like to hear the poem read aloud, check YouTube for “Saving Ourselves” by Dolly Berthelot, AKA professionally as Dr Dolly. You are encouraged to share and spread the word—properly credited, of course.

SAVING OURSELVES

By Dolly Berthelot “Dr. Dolly” ©2020

I like Liberty, really I do.
Justice too.

And privacy matters to me
To a prudent degree.
These very American virtues
We want to maintain.
They’re worth some struggle,
Worth some strain.
Even worth a little pain.

But a pandemic makes some NEW demands.
The Future rests in all our hands.
And in our mouths and noses, you see,
Where vile germs can flow,
From you and from me.
Illness, debilitation, and death,
Erupting, attacking from our poison breath.

We each have great power
To shield ourselves and others too.
You can save me, and I can save you.
So let’s *save* each other,
Me, you; you, me.
A little discomfort
Can change destiny.

...But only if we all give a damn
And are willing to do
All that we can.
Really, so *little* is required,
Mere masks and distancing,
Till COVID’s expired.

Liberty, justice, privacy,
Not so simple these days.
Your “freedom” could mean everyone pays.
Your “liberty” may snatch mine away
And if your “privacy” hides the monsters you
spread,
Innocent bystanders may soon be dead.
How is that justice? How is that fair?
Reality proves we must now beware
Of risky behaviors we perilously share
Simply by comingling “bugs” in our air.

If only we could *SEE* these foul beasts
Devouring people for their feasts
I have no doubt
We’d back up with ease
And likely shout out
In shock, fear, and pleas,
To strangers and kin--
And view nonchalance
As a serious sin!

Unfortunately, this invisible foe
When ignored will continue
To grow and to grow.

What’s most demanded
If we are to win,
Is a deep, deep commitment
Now to begin:
Beyond other virtues
I wish we all would
Profoundly commit
To *Our Common Good!*

Without that practice
From people at large,
Let’s face it, this virus
Is the Master in Charge...

“Dr Dolly,” Dolly Berthelot is a semi-retired writer, editor, communication consultant, author and long-time Pensacolan. Learn more at drdollyb.com and mineyourmemories1.com.

Safer Congregation Team RECONGREGATION UPDATE

The Safer Congregation Team has been working toward getting all the pieces in place that will ensure the personal safety of one and all as we continue to move forward toward physical recongregation.

Thanks to the special efforts of Linda Cobb and Marcy Moreland we were able to produce the survey that has been sent to all UUCP Members and Friends, soliciting your feedback on what is important to you as we plan recongregating. Thank you for responding; however, if this got past you somehow, we still want to hear from you!

We continue to focus on air quality in our building. Basically, that has to do with the volume of air that is circulated and replaced within certain time frames, clearing out any possible aerosolized viral contagion. We are improving air flow in our restrooms by installing louvered vents in the doors for inflow and larger exhaust fans for outflow. We continue the process of evaluating our main air handling and researching possible filtration options.

Recognizing that there are some necessary small gatherings at the building, for example, work teams following the hurricane and volunteers for the auction, we have adapted a COVID-19 Screen for individuals who wish to participate in such activities and developed practices for this Preliminary Phase of our Phased Recongregation Plan. If you have a need that requires you to be at the building, please contact the Safer Congregation Team Leader, Arnie Ondis, and you will be provided with the necessary information.

We are all in this together and want nothing more than to be able to execute our mission, physically together, and as safely as possible. If you have any questions, concerns or ideas, please let us know.



REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS A LITTLE DIFFERENT THIS YEAR

Normally, this is the time of year we would remind people who are 70.5 years or older that you can donate to UUCP or to the UUCP Charitable Trust via a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from their Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) without paying any tax on that donation.

The way the QCD usually works: You direct your financial institution to send the donated funds directly to the church or Trust before any remaining amounts are sent to you. That way, the donated funds never hit your bank account and are therefore not counted as part of your taxable income. You do not have to itemize deductions to benefit from this arrangement. For example, if you were to make a \$2000 donation to either the Church or the Trust and you are in the 20% tax bracket, you normally would have to pay about \$400 in taxes on this donation or essentially have \$2,400 in order to make a \$2,000 donation. With the donated monies never entering your taxable income stream, you may even lower your tax bracket.

What's different this year: The CARES Act passed in response to the Covid-19 pandemic includes waiving the RMD for this year. See [this article](https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-seniors-retirees-not-required-to-take-distributions-from-retirement-accounts-this-year-under-new-law) by the IRS (<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-seniors-retirees-not-required-to-take-distributions-from-retirement-accounts-this-year-under-new-law>).

What does that mean? While there is no “money I have to withdraw anyway, might as well use it to pay my pledge and get some tax benefit” situation this year, there may still be some benefit to using a QCD from your IRA - it depends on your situation. For example, using the QCD will reduce the balance in your IRA and possibly reduce next year's Required Minimum Distribution. **Please consult with your financial advisor to see what benefits you might still get from this option in 2020.**

What is the UUCP Charitable Trust? Just as our IRAs provide us with personal financial stability in times of need, so the UUCP Charitable Trust provides our church financial stability when unexpected or unforeseen expenses occur.

Georgianna Bryant, Chair of the UUCP Charitable Trust & Erin Renfroe, UUCP Treasurer and Trust member – *who are not financial advisors and are not actually offering any financial advice.*

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

Return service requested

uupensacola@gmail.com
www.uupensacola.org

Deadline for submissions
 for **JANUARY LIGHT:**



Wednesday, DECEMBER 16th

Inside this issue, don't miss:

From Our Minister	Page	1
From Our Board President	Page	2
Children's Religious Education	Page	3
Our Caring Community	Page	4-5
Let's Get Together for the Holidays!	Page	6
Zoomity Zoom Zoom UUCP 2020 Holiday Party	Page	7
Recurring Opportunities for Connection	Page	8
"Saving Ourselves" poem by Dolly Berthelot	Page	9
Safer Congregations and Recongregating	Page	10
Required Minimum Distributions	Page	10

www.creativefuelco.com

CREATIVE FUEL
 Inspiration
 Innovation
 Imagination

Our Virtual Team can meet all your creative, digital, advertising and marketing needs.

- Competitive Pricing
- Effective & Efficient
- On Time & On Budget

Contact Us Today!
info@creativefuelco.com
www.creativefuelco.com



Medal of Excellence



FAMILY
 Heating & Air



Over 50 years experience in the Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration industry! **24-Hour Emergency Service!** In addition, we now offer Duct Cleaning Services!

We are bonded, insured and a Bryant Factory Authorized Dealer! We service and install all major brands of air conditioning, heating and refrigeration equipment!

Call us today at **850-972-1879!** You can also visit us on the web

[@www.familyheatingandac.com](http://www.familyheatingandac.com)

Facebook [@familyheatingandac](#)

Instagram [@family_heatingandair](#)

Landscaping
Tree Surgery
Lawn Care
Sprinkler Repair
Pavers

SAMUEL SAMPLE
850-483-9639
 2921 N Blue Angel 32506

Who Does UUCP's Lawn Service?
Give Samuel Sample a call!



Licensed & Insured