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

FROM YOUR MINISTER



Our Soul Matters Theme for January is Imagination. Our question to consider is, What Does It Mean to Be A People of Imagination?

Certainly, we have been imagining a lot of things lately. A safer, more just world is forefront in my mind. Here is what our Soul Matters Team shares with us this month.

Maybe our most important work is to re-imagine imagination.

Imagination's great gift is improvement. At least that is what we're usually taught. The deep magic lies in the way it can reshape our reality. We are urged to imagine the world we dream of. A world with more justice. More peace. More love. From that, a mysterious magnetism arises, a magnetism that pulls our imperfect present into an improved future. Imagination moves us forward. It makes us better.

Yet there's a way in which this view of imagination impoverishes us. It steals the stage. Shuts out imagination's other precious gifts.

For instance, think of what happened when you got out of bed this morning. After a shower and a cup of coffee, you didn't just pull on fresh clothes, you also pulled out a jewelry box and slipped on your grandmother's ring. As you slid it on your finger, she slid, not just into your memory, but into your day. Now, because of imagination, you aren't just elegant; you're accompanied. Or how about that invisible friend of yours when you were a child? Imagination made sure you didn't travel through those early years alone. It conjured up a loyal friend. Even today, amidst the hustle and bustle of adult life, tell me you don't hear the guidance of ancestors and friends all day long. It's all one giant reminder that imagination doesn't just improve our lives, it populates it.

And illuminates it too. That's right. Imagination isn't just a force that drives us forward toward a more perfect future, it also pulls the sacred into our impoverished present. Imagination is what transforms trees from potential firewood into wise friends. Imagination is what moves us from lording over the natural world to seeing ourselves as part of it. It gives the world a soul. And not just the natural world, but the ordinary world too. Through the lens of imagination, we perceive the common as precious, even miraculous. The laughter of our children becomes the sound of angels. Sunshine on our face becomes a greater treasure than gold. Our "everyday" lives are understood as amazing adventures and inexplicably lucky gifts.

So, friends, this month, do everything you can to soak in the many messages of imagination. It's not just shouting, "Improve the world!" It's also pleading, "Let the world come alive!"

In Hope and Love,

Rev. Alice

How do we inspire love?

FROM YOUR BOARD: PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Welcome to 2021! Seems like we've been waiting a long time to say that and to put 2020 behind us. Many of the challenges of 2020 are still with us, yet 2021 is a year of possibilities. Now is a time to look at the opportunities that the new year brings and to set some intentions for ourselves in 2021.

One set of intentions that UUCP will help to determine is the community problems that the organization JUST Pensacola will focus on this year. The annual meeting of the interfaith coalition JUST Pensacola is scheduled on Monday, January 11, at 6pm. Many of you will remember that last year at this time, UUCP gathered at Forest Methodist Church with other congregations from our community to choose the issues of Criminal Justice and Education. We have the same opportunity on January 11 this year, but the event will be virtual. Details for registering for the online event have been distributed by email. You may also see the Social Justice page in this newsletter or you may contact Paula Montgomery for info. As a member congregation of JUST Pensacola, UUCP's participation in this meeting is vital to deciding the problem areas we will focus on addressing in 2021.

Speaking of community issues, members of our congregation generously provided 19 new coats to children in need this winter. UUCP participated as a co-sponsoring organization of the Coats for Kids Drive spearheaded by a member of Allen Chapel AME church, a historic congregation in Pensacola. The coats were distributed just in time as we had a real cold snap at the end of December. See the article in this newsletter for more details and pictures of the coats and happy children wearing them.

Opportunities such as the coat drive provide us a chance to touch the lives of our greater community. We also continue to extend love and support to the people within our UUCP beloved community. During December, the Membership Team led a special effort to reach out to some of our Members who we have not been in touch with much lately. A few Members who have been shut-in received a poinsettia plant and others got cards to let them know we are thinking of them and hope to see their faces or hear their voices again soon on Zoom Sunday Coffee Hour, Friday Night Happy Hour, a live, online Sunday Service, or another opportunity.

On the topic of Ministry Team work, the Board was thrilled to accept Lesley Ortiz's offer to lead the Caring Team. While the Caring Team members have done great work spotlighting the news of our Members and Friends, sending cards, providing hospitality, and responding to emergent needs of our Members and Friends, the team has been without an official leader for several years. Lesley is the perfect person for the job, and we are so appreciative that she has volunteered for this important role. Get in touch with Lesley if you know of someone in our church who needs some caring attention.

We are moving forward from the coronavirus pandemic with new perspectives and opportunities in 2021. Some of these opportunities and aspirations will be incorporated into the vision statement and Strategic Plan that is currently being worked on by an ad hoc committee appointed by the Board. The Strategic Plan Committee is co-chaired by Carol Trotter and Linda Cobb and includes Paula Montgomery, Emma Mulvaney, Jack Comstock, Barbara Goggins, and Bradley Vinson. Your input into the vision statement and Strategic Plan are essential, and the committee will be soliciting your views and ideas about UUCP's future.

(President's Column continued on next page—3).

President's Column—continued from previous page (2):

In many ways, the pandemic has forced us to reimagine our role and purpose. For example, UUCP launched a YouTube channel in order to distribute Sunday Service videos and other recordings to our Members and Friends. The YouTube channel provides us with great opportunity to reach more people, including those who might be looking for something deeper in their lives and/or who are uninitiated into UUism. The convenience of virtual services — so necessary during the physical distancing required by the pandemic — also will allow us to continue to bring inspiring and meaningful content to our own Members and Friends who are not able to participate in person even after we resume gathering at church, whether due to distance, health issues or whatever reason. The Sunday Services Team, Rev. Alice, and the Board recognize that some element of video services will remain.

We expect to begin recongregating in person at some point this year. Regarding recongregating, the Board has been considering the best course of action in conjunction with the Safer Congregation Ministry Team led by Arnie Ondis, our President Elect. In preparation for a physical return to the building, some retrofitting has been necessary to improve air circulation, especially in the restrooms. These projects have been addressed in The Light and will be discussed at the Midyear Congregational Meeting, set for Sunday, January 24, at 12:30pm.

The Midyear Congregational Meeting will be via Zoom and will be in lieu of Coffee Hour that day. We do not traditionally vote at the midyear meeting. This meeting is a time to get updates on important topics such as church finances, improvements to our church building to make it safer for us in light of the novel coronavirus and similar pathogens, plans for recongregating, and the Strategic Plan. An informed and engaged congregation is critical to the success of our church. We hope many of you will join us. If you need help figuring out how to log in or call in through Zoom, please reach out to your Cluster Group Leader, a Board Member, or another Member or Friend of UUCP who is familiar with Zoom.

Until next time,

Lauren Anzaldo
Board President



It's always nice to stay connected with long-term members who are sorely missed —

Monty and Kaye Mountcastle, in a festive Christmas card to the church, wished UUs a joyous holiday season. Said Kaye, "Monty still moves fairly slowly and needs his walker quite a bit, but his overall health is good. I'm doing well too."



Children's Religious Education

January 2021 Happy New Year!

Interfaith Calendar Connections

[Twelfth Night](#) (Christian) - [Jan. 5](#)

[Epiphany](#) (Christian) - Jan. 6

[World Religion Day](#) (Baha'i) - Jan. 17, 2021 (more found [here](#) and [here](#))

[Tu BiShevat](#) (Jewish) - Jan. 28, 2021, begins on the 27th (more [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#))

Unitarian Universalist

[Thirty Days of Love](#) - Side with Love Campaign - Jan.15 - Feb.14

[Millard Fillmore's](#) Birthday - Jan. 7, 1800 (Unitarian President; on his contradictions [here](#) & [here](#))

[Joseph Tuckerman's](#) Birthday - Jan. 18 (1778) (more [here](#))

Imagination

This month we're exploring the many ways our UU faith invites us to become "A People of Imagination." Playing with the theme of Imagination, we found that we wanted to include a time of imagining a world without COVID. There are small rays of [hope](#) creeping in through the news. We want to keep hope alive by imagining what we will do when we can gather again in our faith communities, with family, and with our friends.

January Schedule:

Jan. 10 & 24 Come as you are Zoom Sunday school.

Jan. 31 Zoom Children's Chapel.

****Continue to check weekly emails for more information and Zoom information. If you would like to be added to the weekly email please contact the Church Office.**

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!

CRE Acronyms & Jargon Explained

SFAA: Service For All Ages

ORSS: One Room Sunday School

Children's Chapel: Mini Service for small & big 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

DRE: Director of Religious Education



Our Caring Community

For Lauren Anzaldo, pursuing a doctorate degree seemed like the practical—and intriguing—thing to do. She already had two master’s degrees, she had a stack of vouchers valid for credits at UWF for her service supervising social work interns—and a positive response felt like a good fit.



“I got started on my doctorate because I wanted to challenge myself intellectually,” says Lauren. “I am a natural-born student and enjoy learning and the academic environment.”

Her five-year journey culminated nicely on December 12th, when she received her doctorate in education at UWF’s graduation event. Her degree also has brought new opportunities and suggested other possibilities—perhaps for later. She has been offered an adjunct teaching position at UWF and will start teaching two sections of social welfare policy online in the spring. “I am not looking for a full-time teaching position,” notes Lauren, “but will maintain my current full-time position working as Suicide Prevention Coordinator for the Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care system (VA) while doing the adjunct teaching.”

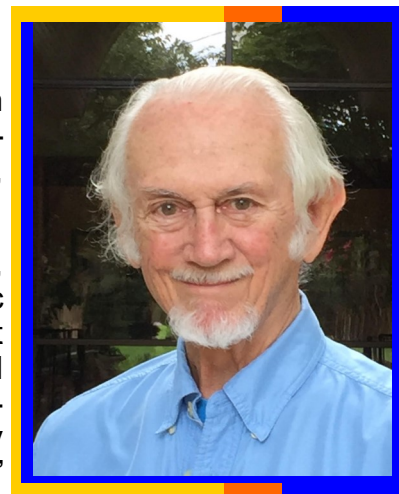
Her doctorate program of studies was chock full of learning, she says. “I learned how to do statistical analysis, academic writing and quantitative and qualitative research.” Her dissertation, titled “Transformative Learning Within Social Work Diversity Education: A Mixed Methods Study,” stemmed from a year of research studying a cohort of social work students as they engaged in their education program. “I concluded that more intentional efforts are needed in order to foster the deep and lasting intrapersonal and interpersonal changes that are needed for social workers to be able to engage effectively with diverse populations.

“My dissertation has been published in the ProQuest database, and I am hoping to develop my research into at least one article that will be published in a peer-reviewed journal.”

Congratulations, Lauren! ~ ~ ~

Rob Pallme is currently working on writing two essays, doubtless a plus in maintaining a scholarly focus following a five-day hospital stay in December. One essay is about his hospital stay, the other on a favorite topic, relating history and spirituality.

About his hospital stay: Among causes cited were chemistry imbalance, digestive problems and dehydration. Says Rob: “I had a lot of diagnostic works and saw a number of doctors. My daughter, Astrid, from Newport Richie, north of Tampa, is here, staying awhile and taking care of the food situation. She’s feeding me; I had lost a lot of weight with my home cooking! And Jack Comstock brings goodies, and Marcy Moreland dropped by with a Christmas present in connection with the church Christmas party.” Cards, calls and coming by are all welcome.



About that history essay: It’s specifically about the history of caring for others, dating from time of Romans and including actions among the Islamic and Christian churches, including what the French called the hotel of God. Periods covered all predate UU formations. ~ ~ ~

Our Caring Community - continued



A note from Marianne Kelly: “Sadly, I won’t be able to join the UU community until February due to medical issues and the crazy COVID-19. Travel is too dangerous during the holiday season. The good news is that I’ll be spending Christmas with son Don and family, socially distanced, of course, and masked.”

And she’s still in touch with UUCP: “I appreciate the virtual services and am impressed with the dedication of those involved with making them possible. They do make me feel the Pensacola UU connection even here in the cold Northeast!” Marianne spends summers – (sometimes extended ones!) —at East Berne, New York.

That Northwest, BTW, showered Marianne on her Dec. 17 birthday with 36 inches of snow.

“The Holiday spirit lives on!” ~ ~ ~

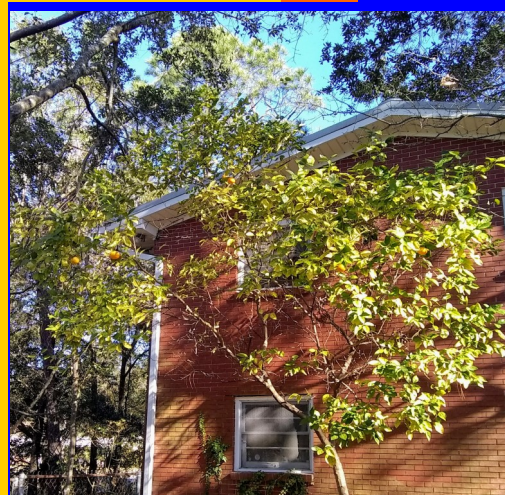
Lesley Ortiz has been appointed team leader for the UUCP Caring team, which keeps track of member needs. The chair position had been vacant.

“People need to let me know who is ill, in hospital, or needs services from the team,” says Lesley. As chairman she serves as information coordinator; other team members—Penny Featherstone, Nadine Hubble and Kate Wolverton—provide services, such as sending cards, food coordination and meals as needed. Lesley’s contact info is on Simple Church, or you can email the church office at uupensacola@gmail.com. ~ ~ ~



There’s a fruity benefit sometimes derived from Sally, despite her wild ways, reports Hugh Ed Turner. Laying the groundwork was part of the legacy from his Mom, who at age 85 became a docent for Pensacola’s historic Quina House (and then made marmalade).

Hugh Ed’s mother, Berenice Turner, moved from Birmingham to Pensacola to live with her son soon after he bought his house here in 1991. She saw an ad from the Pensacola Historic Preservation Society and the two Turners joined up at Quina (she for some eight years). There she noticed that folks weren’t really taking advantage of the lush orange crops from Quina’s 25-foot tree in its backyard. “So we took a number of oranges and made marmalade, with the seeds becoming part of my composting program,” relates Hugh Ed. And that paid off: The tree at his house grew to 15 feet tall and bore fruit. But then came Sally, which blew down more than two-dozen immature, green oranges.



So Hugh Ed bagged them and they gradually turned orange color, then mellowed in the fridge, where the sweetness improved. “They turned out to be surprisingly palatable, although some skins were rather thick and over chewy.” (Yes, Hugh Ed eats the peelings, which he says contain biotin, a vitamin supplement.)

Happy ending: his tree still produces and he’s been enjoying slightly sweet morning Vitamin C for several weeks – with help from Margaret McLarin with her fruit picker. As for making marmalade: “not interested,” he says. For that: check with Margaret, who has her own orchard, and with other Quina House volunteers.

It’s a jammy world.

Charlotte Crane

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU...

Did you come to the church on December 13th? We have some special elves who helped organize the gift exchange, luminaries and Guest at Your Table distribution. Sunday was a beautiful day and a great opportunity to see people. We all miss each other but kept our distance and wore masks. Our helpers were Kate Wolverton, Sarah Stubbs, Erin Renfro, and Marylee Donnelly with the leadership of Trista Blouin.

A huge thank you for working to help our UU family celebrate the holiday and look forward to the NEW YEAR!

AND THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTING TO COATS FOR KIDS

Many children in our local community will be a little warmer this winter thanks to the generous support of UUCP. Our congregation joined as a co-sponsor of the Coats for Kids winter coat drive spearheaded by Pastor Teris Broughton-Robinson of Allen Chapel AME.



The contributions of UUCP Members enabled the church to donate 19 new coats for children in need. We originally committed to provide at least 10 coats, and we nearly doubled that commitment with 19 coats!

The coats of all sizes and colors were delivered to Allen Chapel AME Church on December 19 to be distributed to kids before Christmas.





PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR MIDYEAR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Midyear Congregational Meeting will be via Zoom and will be in lieu of Coffee Hour that day. We do not traditionally vote at the midyear meeting. This meeting is a time to get updates on important topics such as church finances, improvements to our church building to make it safer for us in light of the novel coronavirus and similar pathogens, plans for recongregating, and the Strategic Plan. An informed and engaged congregation is critical to the success of our church. We hope many of you will join us. If you need help figuring out how to log in or call in through Zoom, please reach out to your Cluster Group Leader, a Board Member, or another Member or Friend of UUCP who is familiar with Zoom.

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. If you don't receive Coffee Hour information, please ask another Member or Friend for the information.

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 *ZOOMing* January Through March 2021!

The twice a month Zoom Readers' Groups are scheduled through March 2021.

January 14 (Thurs) – 10 am

January 26 (Tues) – 1 pm

February 11 (Thurs) – 10 am

February 23 (Tues) – 1 pm

March 11 (Thurs) – 10 am

March 23 (Tues) – 1 pm

There are NO REQUIRED books to read. Participants share their experiences and recommendations for "Good Reads."

An email from the church is sent to all members and friends on Sunday before the scheduled Zoom meeting. The email will contain the link to the meeting. Questions — contact Laurie Winterberg or Laura Keith King.

REPORT OF AUCTION RESULTS

Treasures: 1,858.00

Raffles: 112.00

Dinners

(including Jack C's offerings): 505.50

Services

(including Sunday Sweets): 499.00

Buy It Now: 300.00

Total Sales: 3,274.50

Donations: 650.00

GROSS PROCEEDS: 3,924.50

Less Expenses: (104.78)

(These are per-item fees from Auctria, the auction website, and transaction fees from the credit card processor).

NET PROCEEDS: 3,819.72

For a virtual auction, this was a great success. Nearly \$4,000 wouldn't be bad for a live auction; it's amazing for a virtual one.

While there is no substitute for live events with food, fellowship, the excitement of live bidding, and the ability to view items, using Auctria was an easy and inexpensive adaptation for pandemic times. The check-out system, catalog-building capabilities, and reporting options were all items we could use for future events, live or virtual. Your feedback on the website, bidding, and checking out is welcome.

A successful fundraiser is extra important this year. Many thanks to all who donated to the auction and who participated in the auction; especially those who overcame technological challenges to do so.

(If you haven't paid for your auction winnings, you're welcome to send a check to the church, or use the SimpleChurch Giving portal. See the December Light for Laurie's excellent instructions.)

With love and gratitude – Kate Wolverton, Lisa Hudson, and Erin Renfroe

How do we strive for justice?

JUST Pensacola

It is time for [JUST Pensacola](#) to select this year's focus for Justice Action. In preparation for this selection and to be in touch with other local faith-based groups, a statewide meeting was held via Zoom on December 8th. JUST Pensacola had a presence at this meeting of over 200 members of Florida congregational groups from all over the state. Many of these faith-based justice action groups reported on past Nehemiah Actions (civic gatherings where these issues are addressed; after the justice action groups have researched the issues and proposed solutions, public officials are invited to be present to commit to support the proposed solutions) and the results they had experienced.

Next, the focus turned to a statewide initiative to join forces to stop Florida's very high arrest rates for minor offenses. The offenders could be referred instead to community service, drug or mental health treatment or could be given civil citations.

On January 11th at 6pm, the local justice interfaith action group of which our congregation is a part (JUST Pensacola) will be selecting the focuses our local group will be addressing. Our choices will be dictated by the stories of injustice we heard in our House Meetings. The January meeting is part of this process known as 'problem selection' and we are all invited to come together via Zoom to select the new areas for our social justice actions for 2021.

Last year we had a similar meeting at First Methodist Church to select the two issues we worked on, which were civil citations for youths and kindergarten readiness.

All are invited to this, our January meeting, looking forward. Please register using the flyer found in the UUCP Thursday email news brief (see below), or if the registration link doesn't work, [click here](#).

I hope to see your handsome faces on January 11th at 6PM via Zoom.

Paula Montgomery (To contact Paula for more info, please email the UUCP Office at uupensacola@gmail.com).

JUST Pensacola

*Invites members to the
2021 Virtual*

Problems Assembly

- During this meeting, JUST Pensacola members will celebrate accomplishments
- Listen to reports from the 2020 Listening process
- Meet and vote for new officers
- Vote for 2021 problem priorities

Monday January 11th

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

[Click Here to Register](#)

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Deadline for submissions



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