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

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

FROM YOUR MINISTER

What does it mean to be a people of commitment? That is the question we are encouraged to ask ourselves this month. As individuals we have made commitments to our families, to our work, even to ourselves. As members of organizations, we have made commitments to be supportive, to uphold certain values and goals. As Members and Friends of UUCP we have made all these kinds of commitments. Over the last year, in the face of a pandemic, we have committed ourselves to our own health, to the health of our families, friends, and even strangers. We have committed to do our best to keep our congregation healthy and thriving through unimagined challenges. As we continue to make our way through unknown territory, I share these words from Soul Matters regarding the benefit of keeping our commitments.

“Huge payoffs come when we keep our commitments. Maintaining loyalty to healthy habits not only lengthens our lives but enriches them. Faithfully following through on our relationship commitments allows us to fully realize ourselves as the interdependent creatures we are, as well as increasing just about every metric of happiness, meaning and success out there. And keeping the promises we make to ourselves ultimately gives us the strength, groundedness, and self-confidence needed to follow through on all those promises we make to those around us.”

Soul Matters gives us a few other questions to consider regarding commitment. Here are some examples.

Do responsibilities and commitments drain you or motivate you? Do they give your life direction or leave you feeling tied down and hemmed in?

It's been said that our very humanity lies in the way we carry out our promises. How have you made yourself more human through a promise?

Are you keeping a commitment that is limiting your growth? Keeping you in a cage?

Has society ever broken its promise to you?

Joining a Soul Matters Theme Circle gives you the opportunity to consider questions such as these within a covenanted group committed to a practice of listening to each other, the world, and our deepest selves. You'll find more information about Theme Circles on page 7 of this newsletter. I hope you will consider joining the conversation.

In Love and Hope,

Rev. Alice



How do we inspire love?

FROM YOUR BOARD: PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Did you get your Valentine last month from UUCP? The cards that came in the mail a few weeks ago invited our Members and Friends to review the church's operating expenses and proposed budget and to make a commitment to our church for 2021-22. The Finance Team reminds us of the gratitude, joy, strength, resilience, and hope that we have shown and that has sustained our community during the pandemic. The online Budget Drive page is attractive and informative and is a convenient way to make your pledge and affirm your status as a Member or Friend (or request to change your status from one to the other). If you haven't done that yet, you are encouraged to respond by March 7. As a Unitarian Universalist Church, we are a fully independent congregation. We receive no monies from our national organization; we are funded solely through pledges, donations, and fundraising at the congregational level. Therefore, it is up to us to support our church as we are able.

The UUA 30 Days of Love campaign began with MLK Day and culminated on Valentine's Day. The campaign included a Side with Love Sunday Service that encouraged us to reflect on what it means to live as loving, caring people in the world by embodying our UU principles and values. Dr. Takiyah Nur Amin's piece during this service was especially heart-stirring for me. Dr. Nur Amin reminded us that we have options every day to "do the most loving, life-affirming thing" we can. Embodying our UU principles and values must include taking care of ourselves. Another part of embodying these principles and values involves building community among our congregation — making a financial investment in the church, being present with one another, listening, checking in, and helping each other. Another aspect of embodying our UU principles and values involves extending radical hospitality toward the wider world. As Dr. Nur Amin said in her segment during the Side with Love service, UU is a faith that calls us to "do things," and the proof of our faith is in the extent to which we set about doing the work of "love, justice, and community." Her talk gave me chills as I reflected on the extent to which my choices and behaviors demonstrate my deepest-held beliefs.

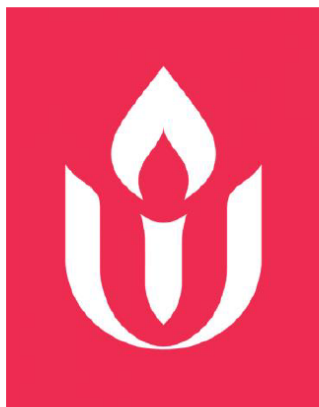
As you all know, I am a professional social worker. Since completing my doctorate degree in December, I started another side job as an adjunct instructor teaching a graduate social work course in social policy at UWF. February being Black History Month, we spent some time in the class discussing black pioneers in social work, women such as Mary Church Terrell (1863 – 1954) and Dorothy Height (1912 – 2010), who are also excellent women to research and learn about during Women's History Month, this month being March. While looking into social workers of color who were also UUs, I found an interesting resource for a service honoring Whitney Young, a social worker and Civil Rights activist, and the slain UU minister James Reeb, both of whom died in the month of March. Check out the resource at <https://www.uua.org/worship/holidays/black-history>.

The focus on UUs and social workers and activists reminds me that the legislative session kicks off this month. If you are on the Social Justice Team email list, surely you have been receiving alerts from Paula Montgomery about bills going through the legislative committee process and requests to call or write our representatives. Paula is sharing Action Alerts from UU Justice Florida. This will prove to be a busy and important legislative year with many opportunities to express our UU values in the policy arena and to side with love no matter how challenging or frustrating that seems.

Meanwhile, the Board continues to focus on the church's operations, vision, and goals and to consider how to move ahead with recongregating and resuming in-person gathering. We always welcome your input.

Until next time,

Lauren Anzaldo, Board President



Children's Religious Education

March 2021

“ March winds
and April
showers
bring forth
May flowers. ”
English Proverb

Interfaith Calendar Connections

(ctrl + click to follow links)

- [Lent](#) (Christian) - Feb. 17 - April 3, 2021 (A [humorous take](#))
- [Holi](#) (Hindu) - March 28, 2021 (more [here](#) and [here](#))
- [Ostara](#)/ Spring or the Vernal Equinox (Wicca/Pagan) - March 20 (more [here](#))
- [The Annunciation](#) (Christian) - March 25
- [Palm Sunday](#) (Christian) - March 28, 2021
- [Passover](#) (Jewish) - March 28 - April 3, 2021, begins on the evening of the 27th (more [here](#))

Unitarian Universalist

- [James Reeb](#) dies (1965) - March 11 (more [here](#) and [here](#).)
- [Susan B. Anthony's](#) Death - March 13
- [Climate Justice](#) Month - March 22 to April 22
- [Viola Liuzzo](#) dies (1965) - March 25

March Sundays

March 7th: Come as You Are Sunday School
 March 14th: Come as You Are Sunday School
 March 21st: Multi-Age Service
 March 28th: Children's Chapel

If you would like to be added to our weekly email please contact the Church Office.

Children's Religious Education (CRE) Ministry Team

Coordinator: Sarah Stubbs – uupensacola@gmail.com

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!

Commitment

This month we're exploring the many ways our UU faith invites us to become "A People of Commitment." Here are the four "UU Commitments" we are focusing on this month. Or as we are calling them, "the four C's:"

Curiosity (Lesson A & The Commitment to Asking Questions)

Change (Lesson B & the Importance of Keeping an Open Mind)

Conscience (Lesson C & The Commitment to Individual Conscience & The Value of Each Person - our 5th UU principle)

Compassion (Lesson D & The Commitment to Seeing the Needs of Others as Your Own - our 2nd & 8th UU principles)

Note

As we share lessons that clarify our UU commitments, may you see them not only as sacred responsibilities we take on, but also as sacred bonds that bind us together. What we strive for brings us closer. May that unity and closeness come to you as a blessing this month!



Our Caring Community



Heather Stefanescu

Meet our new Friend, Heather Stefanescu: She's passionate about art, has a nomadic heart and is impressed by Pensacola's "pretty awesome sunsets."

And there are other important things to know: She has triple post-secondary degrees from three New York higher education schools, is attending UWF Graduate School and has moved to our area for her current employment, as a government contracts administrator assisting with compliance and audit records for the South.

Among Heather's bywords: "Lending a helping hand benefits everyone involved. No one is an island."

Heather had visited Pensacola a few times previously and liked it, she says, so a move here recently lined up nicely with her first major project for her current job. She previously lived in North Carolina and New York. "Every place I've lived, I've enjoyed finding local businesses and communities that I enjoy, especially the libraries, farmers' markets and co-ops."

About her career thus far: "The bulk of my experience has been working in higher education, supporting both admissions and continuing student efforts. I've also spent some time working as an IT help desk consultant, professional face painter, and a local government clerk." She expects to receive her Acquisition and Contract Administration Certificate from UWF later this year and is also considering pursuing education/training in cyber security.

Off study and work time, there's more to like. "I have my own studio at home to work on my paintings and drawings. Some other hobbies of mine include traveling, sustainability/zero waste, home improvement/tinkering, and science and technology." Among projects on the horizon are teaching herself gardening, and improving landscaping and woodworking skills. Post pandemic, she would like to assist UUCP with grounds-keeping and general building maintenance, "tasks a self-taught person can help with."

About travel: "I have a life goal of visiting all 50 states." (So far: 21.) Other places on her wish list: "My favorite international destinations are Iceland and Germany – the scenery in the former is beautiful and the historical sites in the latter are full of centuries' worth of history we just don't have here in the States. One day I would love to visit Ireland, Japan, and Italy, amongst many other travel dreams!"

And about faith: "What appeals to me about Unitarianism is that it is interfaith and open to people of many different backgrounds and experiences, which is something I value and treasure greatly. My set of beliefs is pretty simple: act with compassion and empathy; what is just and equitable is not always what is legal (but is often the right thing to do); it is not weak to admit one's mistakes or take steps to fix them/move forward and learn from them; be a helper whenever possible; and there is no shame in saying, 'I don't know but could you tell me more about that?' There is way more in the world than we as humans could ever consume or learn in our lifetimes – make the most of it!"

Welcome, Heather Stefanescu.

Charlotte Crane

Charlotte is in the process of purchasing a new computer, so we will see more of the Member News portion of this column next month.

How do we celebrate diversity?

GET TO KNOW YOURSELF AND OTHERS BETTER, EXPLORE YOUR BELIEFS — ALL FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME

THEME CIRCLES RETURN!

The number of Zoom activities have grown, and many of you are connecting through one or more of our various offerings. I'd like to bring back **Theme Circles** for anyone interested in adding something a little different. **Theme Circles** are an opportunity to engage with the Soul Matters Theme of the Month in a small group context. Here is a brief description from the Soul Matters team:

Simply put, Soul Matters groups offer the gift of spiritual connection. Around us swirls a shallow, frantic and materialistic culture that leaves us cut off from our deepest selves, life's gifts and needs greater than our own. Many of us come to church hungry to mend these sacred connections that get frayed and torn. Soul Matters exists to support this journey of reconnection to life, others and ourselves.

We determined last time that on Zoom a group of about six seemed to work best. I think it is better to have more small groups than fewer larger ones.

If you are interested, or want more information, please send me an email and let me know. The Theme for March is Commitment. That sounds like a great way to start.

I look forward to hearing from you. Please email me here: Rev. Alice at uupensacola@gmail.com.

How do we care for one another?

From you I receive, To you I give, Together we share, From this we live

Religion has a role to play in helping people make the connection between making a living and living a meaningful, spiritually satisfying life. Stewardship is an important part of this process. We must define what is truly important to us, evaluate our current behavior toward money, and make a place in our lives for contributing time and money to the things we value. The act of giving starts a whole cycle of positive events in our lives. We see that we can make a difference. We become more confident, hopeful, and empowered to take the next step. We create new relationships, discover new perspectives, and make more meaningful connections to our surroundings, all of which helps us to grow spiritually.

The giving cycle is positive, affirming and joyous. Our Unitarian Universalist religious communities provide us with the best place for this kind of exploration and growth to take place...stewardship will help us discover this joyous cycle, the joy of giving. Stewardship takes place at the intersection of our spirituality and our ethics. We both celebrate life and accept the responsibility to love and care for the gifts of life. We both celebrate Unitarian Universalism and take responsibility for promoting our Principles and Purposes and living the values of our free faith.

This concept of stewardship calls us to invest our gifts of time, talent, and treasure widely: in the family, in the community in which we live, and in the congregation and faith to which we belong. Stewardship is not just about caring for the present, but investing in the future. We hold what we value—including our Unitarian Universalist congregations and institutions—in trust. As stewards, we work to ensure that what we cherish will be there in the future for the benefit of others. (Excerpted from <https://www.uua.org/files/documents/scheyerfia/stewardshipjoygiving.pdf>, pp 127-128).

I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something.
And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.

Edward Everett Hale

What Do We Want to Sustain in the 2021-2022 Church Year?

OUR BUILDING

\$30,900

We own the building in which we gather in worship and fellowship, that houses our sanctuary, classrooms, kitchen, offices, meeting rooms, storage rooms, and library, along with our lovely memorial garden and grounds. This total includes utilities, maintenance and repairs, cleaning, our alarm system, lawn care, supplies and insurance. (Insurance includes property/wind and liability. The premium is expected to go up after Hurricane Sally).

OUR MINISTER

\$70,518.50

Our Minister, Rev. Alice Syltie, is three-quarter time. She has spent the pandemic shutdown providing pastoral care, working with the ministry teams and JUST Pensacola, and training in and using the technology that fuels the video and Zoom services that have kept us connected while our building is closed. She is always just a phone call or an email away. Salary and Housing totals \$47,000 and the remainder goes to insurance, pension, FICA, and professional expenses.

OUR MINISTRY TEAMS AND PROGRAMS

\$1,680

Our ministry teams are part of our congregational polity and shared governance model, in which the work of crafting church policy and carrying out our mission is shared among volunteers from the congregation. Our Ministry Teams include Social Justice, Fun and Fellowship, Membership, Finance, Leadership Development, and our Board. The total includes expenses for all teams and our Board, such as food and childcare for congregational meetings and the expenses of leadership training/experiences and General Assembly.

OUR OFFICE STAFF & ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

\$13,331.70

Our office administrator, Terra Shute, has moved to Memphis but continues to work for us remotely, producing the weekly email and monthly newsletter as well as maintaining lines of communication among the members and ministry teams. This arrangement may change when we re-open. Her salary is \$7,800 and office expenses are \$2,555. The remainder goes to payroll taxes and expenses such as workers comp insurance.

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

\$9,645

Our CRE Coordinator has worked with the CRE Ministry Team to keep our youth education and exploration programs going during the shutdown, using technology and sheer creativity. Her salary is \$7,540 and the remainder goes to materials and supplies and training of staff and volunteers.

OUR DEBTS

\$2,500

From time to time, the church needs to borrow money from the UUCP Charitable Trust to pay for unexpected expenses. The church currently owes the Trust \$13,357.74, mostly related to the cost of the new HVAC units installed in 2019. Each year, we pay \$2,500 in principal and interest.

OUR CONGREGATIONAL GIVING

\$5,000

Every member congregation of the UUA is expected to contribute toward the operation of the UUA. A "Fair Share" Congregation, which comes with some benefits, usually contributes around 7% of their operating budget. Our congregation has decided in recent budgets that \$5,000 (about 3.6%) is the right number for us. We certainly aspire to being a Fair Share Congregation.

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$144,615.70



LET'S GET
Together



MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ARE ALSO 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.

READERS' GROUPS *Zooming* JANUARY THROUGH MARCH 2021

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

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 UUCP 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.



UUCP on WUWF - MARCH 20th and APRIL 9th - *Thank You Stephanie Alexander*

Thanks to a wonderful donation of WUWF Day Sponsorships given by Stephanie Alexander, UUCP will have 5 announcements aired on WUWF on two upcoming days.

The first five announcements will be Saturday, March 20th, and the 2nd five announcements will be on Friday, April 9th.

The message will be a reminder that although the church *building* is closed, the *church* is open. Listeners will be directed to our YouTube channel. The church phone number and email will also be part of the announcement. This advertising opportunity is a great way to advertise to WUWF/NPR listeners at no fee to the church - when you are a WUWF donor at the "Day Sponsorship" level (\$180/year or \$15/month), your donation of the "Day Sponsorship" means UUCP receives free advertising.



How do we strive for justice?



JUST Pensacola

On Monday evening February 8th, there was a meeting of over 70 members of the congregations of JUST Pensacola. We reviewed past successes in other cities. In Tampa, the HOPE coalition spent 5 years working on affordable housing and met with final success when the city set up a \$10 million trust fund to assist with affordable housing. In Jacksonville, the ICARE coalition has been working on civil citations. They were met with what seemed to be initial success and then broken promises and dreams. But they have continued working on the process and have managed to have the state attorney there get voted out of office when her opponent ran on the platform of increased use of civil citations.

JUST Pensacola had its listening tour with house meetings in each congregation. Ours was over a month ago. Out of that listening process among all the congregations, two areas of concern were identified for further concern and action. They are affordable housing and follow up for civil citations which reaped us commitments from the state attorney and sheriff last year. We have now entered the research and study phase of the process. In the case of civil citations, we will be following up with meetings with the state attorney and the sheriff to find out how things are going. Those meetings will take place in March. This is to prepare for a strategy meeting in April and a Nehemiah Action in May.

At this point JUST Pensacola is in the process of finding and hiring a new director. Aida Bone, who has been the organizer for us for the last two years has had to move to accommodate her husband's employment. The Rev. Kammy Young is filling in temporarily until a new organizer can be found. Due to this disruption, we will not undertake the new project of affordable housing until later in the year.

During this "pause," we will continue to work to grow our network with more members and more congregations and begin individual conversations among ourselves and with our neighbors about affordable housing problems. If you committed to donate last year and have not yet done that, this is a good time to take care of that obligation.

We then turned to questions we would like to pose to our state attorney at our meeting in March. Among the questions were 1) Do we have the commitments in writing? 2) What was the status of the state attorney's progress when you took over with regard to civil citations? 2) What steps have you taken to make changes? 4) What sort of timetable do you project for seeing results? 5) Are we following the policies and procedures set out in the law? 6) When will the next meeting of the steering committee for use of civil citations be held? 7) Are there enough diversion programs in place, and are kids given help in negotiating the processes? 8) If civil citation is not used when it could be, is the officer required to disclose why it was not used? 9) If a child who is eligible for civil citation is instead arrested, is there a process for reversal? 10) Are officers, students and teachers trained in de-escalation?

Dates to Remember:

Meetings with State Attorney and Sheriff are to be arranged.

April 12, 2021 - Rally and strategy meeting

May 3, 2021 - Nehemiah Action

June 14, 2021 - Celebration for another year of JUST Pensacola

For questions contact Paula Montgomery.



The Condor and The Eagle Documentary Film Screening & Discussion Monday, March 8, 2021, 6:00 pm CST

The following organizations, Earth Ethics, Inc, St. Monica's Episcopal Church, Universalist Unitarian Church of Pensacola, and Escambia County Democratic Environmental Caucus, are proud to bring you an online screening of the award-winning documentary [The Condor and the Eagle](#) - cited by EcoWatch as "[one of the best new documentaries about global warming.](#)" This unique award winning documentary film of global reach brings to light the interconnected nature of social issues such as gender, race, class and the environment. The Condor & The Eagle helps us understand how social, environmental, and political identities combine to create specific modes of discrimination and privilege.

Join us on **Monday, March 8, 2021 at 6 pm CST** for this online screening, followed by a discussion featuring protagonists from the film bringing us updates from the front lines of many Indigenous struggles across continents.

By joining us for this screening, you are supporting effective movement-building towards powerful change and calls to action. This event is part of the film's impact campaign "[No More Sacrificed Communities](#)" and is made possible through sliding scale donations. All funds donated from ticket sales will benefit a community based event for Escambia County and the film's impact campaign.

Register for the event here <https://event.webinarjam.com/register/170/xyg1yupl>

With the catastrophic threats of climate change looming, Indigenous people are uniting in a trans-continental movement, taking ambitious action to drive down greenhouse gas emissions and protect historically marginalized communities from displacement and disease stemming from environmental racism. We genuinely believe what the world needs now is what these leaders do every day. We hope you can join us for this extraordinary event.

Date: Monday, March 8, 2021

Time: 6:00 pm CST

Cost: https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=PVD6XJTXSK6EN

Register: <https://event.webinarjam.com/register/170/xyg1yupl>

If the links above do not work, please copy and paste into your browser or use the links below.

["No More Sacrificed Communities"](#)

[Register for the event here](#)

[Cost of the event: Please donate here](#)

*Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola
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Deadline for submissions
for **APRIL LIGHT:**



Tuesday, MARCH 16th

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