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calls and emails checked as usual*

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See our website, uupensacola.org for

Flower Communion, Sunday, April 18, 10am, Outside at Church



FROM OUR MINISTER: A People of Becoming



Hallelujah! A safe, outdoor, socially distant, Sunday Service and Fellowship Time is on the horizon. Thanks to the hard work of our Safety Team, we are planning to hold our Flower Communion Service outside on Sunday, April 18, at 10:00 am.

While we will be following safety guidelines to protect the most vulnerable among us, we will be together to see one another for the first time in over a year. There will be more details closer to the date. I am delighted for an opportunity to be with you in person, even if we won't be hugging.

As we consider this milestone event, I am thinking of the question we ponder for this month's theme of Becoming. What does it mean to be a people of Becoming? We are now in the season of Spring, Passover and Easter. I know that my spirits are always lifted as the weather warms up and the flowers and trees come back to life. This year it seems extra special as we begin to visualize life at the other side of this dreadful pandemic. I know that we still have a way to go and that if we shake off the important safety precautions, we could find ourselves right back where we were a year ago. Imagining that things work as we hope, who are we becoming, as a people who have gone through an unimagined experience of loss, fear, hardship, and challenge? What will be the result of our personal sacrifices involving concern for ourselves, as well as one another?

How will we be changed as individuals and as a congregation? The answers to these questions may be revealed to us as we continue to navigate the many changes we are assured of seeing, as we move forward together as Beloved Community.

In Love and Hope,

Rev. Alice Syltjie

*Help Wanted to Clean up Grounds at Church April 17, 2021,
9am until? at UUCP*

An outdoor service is scheduled April 18. On Saturday, April 17 UUCP plans a work day to clean up the grounds for our first in-person service since the shutdown of 2020. Areas of work include:

- Removing leaves and debris from the rear parking lot
- Hosing off the outside tables and chairs
- Hosing off the playground equipment
- Moving chairs and tables for staging
- Cleaning Ladies', Men's and Children's restrooms

Suggested items to bring include, brooms, rakes, blowers, gloves, clippers and buckets.

Work begins at 9 am but come when you can and work as long as you are willing/able.

"Many hands make light work."

How do we inspire love?

FROM YOUR BOARD: PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



This truly has been an unprecedented year, a year of firsts, a year of loss and reflection, a year of unknowns and hope for a new future. March 15 marked one full year since we at UUCP ceased in-person Sunday Services. And March 22 was the one-year anniversary of the first virtual service we shared, a multigenerational service with Rev. Alice that was called We Are Connected. Now virtual services, videos, and Zoom gatherings have become a routine part of our congregation's connection rituals, and these elements will remain a key part of our landscape.

A new milestone on our journey through this New Normal this spring will be an **in-person Sunday Service and Fellowship event**. We will gather outside at UUCP on **Sunday, April 18, at 10:00 am, in lieu of a recorded service and online Coffee Hour** that day, for face-to-face interaction. Something so simple yet so special! Many factors had to be considered and planned for in order for us to get to this point safely. In addition to the increasing rates of COVID vaccinations in the community and among our congregation, we also have been watching infection rates and hospitalizations as well as UUA and CDC guidance. Additionally, restroom renovations were completed to improve air quality and circulation.

The Safer Congregation Ministry Team developed recommended guidelines for outdoor gatherings, which the church Governing Board approved in March and which we will follow during this get-together. The guidelines include mask wearing, physical distancing, and no eating or singing together. While these guidelines may seem restrictive, they are designed with the health and safety of all of our Members and Friends in mind. Also, this is a first step toward full recongregating, and we have to start somewhere. The guidelines will evolve and expand as the situation changes and hopefully improves. We are excited to be able to have this opportunity to get together and reconnect. More information is printed here in the newsletter and will be sent out via email as we get closer to this event.

Much has changed this year that we could not have predicted, and we stepped into (or were thrown into?) new territory. In particular, we launched a YouTube channel and established a vibrant virtual presence that is reaching beyond the Gulf Coast. Meanwhile, we've continued to educate and build community among our young people and to be involved in community efforts such as JUST Pensacola. We have achieved goals that were only faint ideas one year ago. For instance, our current Long-Range Plan approved in 2015 includes action items such as being flexible with service format, utilizing multimedia, and "expand[ing] technologies for sharing beyond the physical space." We have certainly accomplished those goals this year — thanks to Rev. Alice, Laura Keith King, Marylee Donnelly, and the Sunday Services team members and congregants who have dedicated time to learning and applying new skills for virtual services.

What will our UUCP community look like next year? What goals will we have achieved or be working toward? How about in two or three years? These are the questions that our Strategic Plan Committee is currently considering and for which we need your input. Since our church mission statement is our WHY, which is at the center of all we do, the Strategic Plan will align with the three integral elements of our mission: Celebrate Diversity, Strive for Justice, and Inspire Love. In terms of celebrating diversity, will we educate ourselves and take action to end white supremacy, practice radical hospitality in our church, and continue to build multicultural and interfaith community partnerships? As far as striving for justice, will we join and lead campaigns to protect democracy and ensure equitable treatment for all? When it comes to inspiring love, will we ensure viable stewardship of our church resources, care for our members and friends, and actively volunteer and share ownership of responsibilities?

The answers to all these questions and more are to be determined by the congregation through the strategic planning process. Strategic planning involves setting a vision, goals, and action items to help UUCP thrive in the years ahead. Several Second Hour virtual meetings are being scheduled for us to brainstorm and converse about our visions and goals for UUCP to include in the Strategic Plan. I encourage you to participate and add your voice and your ideas.

Dream big. Love big. We need you. We need each other.

Until next time,

Lauren Anzaldo
Board President

READINESS FOR RECONGREGATING

From the Safer Congregation Team

Excitement is building as we plan our first in-person gathering since the COVID shutdown! Most people, whether vaccinated or not, seem to have mixed feelings about social gatherings, so we would like to allay any anxieties that you may have about this.

As reported previously, the Governing Board approved **Phase I** of our recongregating plan, **Outdoor Gatherings**. We have followed guidance from the UUA and public health authorities in our effort to assure everyone's safety as we begin to come together again.

The air flow improvements that we made to the restrooms, along with the best practices for using the facilities, should give you confidence that the air is clean and that you are protected from airborne pathogens as much as possible while there. This serves us now and will in the future with flu seasons or other viral epidemics.

Here is what you can expect for these Phase I Outdoor Gatherings. The gatherings will occur outside, behind and on the north side of the building. The back Old Palafox entrance will be open, but traffic will be blocked off to those areas. Tables and chairs will be arranged to promote physical distancing. The building will be closed except for the back hallway and restrooms, with the entrance to the building only at the north side door. Each person in attendance will review the COVID-19 Screen before entering and will follow all established best practices as required, such as wearing face masks, maintaining social distance, and observing general sanitation.

Specifics on the activities related to these gatherings will be announced by the appropriate Ministry Team.

Gathering outdoors is the beginning of coming back together in person. Everyone wants this separation to be over with and to resume our normal life, whatever that will look like, as soon as possible. Know that the Safer Congregation Team and UUCP Leadership are closely following developments and will be ready for indoor gatherings as soon as that is safe.



JUST Pensacola



On May 3rd at 6pm we will have this year's Nehemiah Action, via Zoom.

Last year over 700 people of faith from Pensacola spoke in public with our incoming State Attorney and our incoming sheriff. The Sheriff and State Attorney both committed to increase the use of Civil Citations instead of arrests for youthful misdemeanors. Civil Citations spare these children a lifelong criminal record, while holding them accountable for their actions.

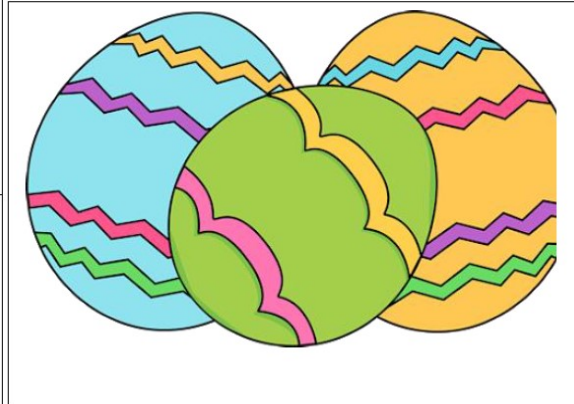
This year we will be again discussing this issue with the new State Attorney and Sheriff to see what progress they have made.

We hope to have 1000 people on the Nehemiah Action on Zoom. Since this is a UU congregational commitment we need to have as many of us as possible at this Zoom event. Please mark it on your calendar and look for the link that Members and Friends will receive via email. I hope to see you there. Call me if you have any questions.

Paula Montgomery



April Faith Development



Interfaith:

- [Lent](#) (Christian) - Feb. 17 - April 3, 2021
- [Passover](#) (Jewish) - March 27 - April 4
- [Vesak](#) - Celebration of Buddha's Birthday, Enlightenment and Death) (Buddhist) - [April 8, 2021](#), and [others](#) (more [here](#) & [here](#))
- [Maundy Thursday](#)/Holy Thursday (Christian) - April 1, 2021
- [Good Friday](#) - (Christian) April 2, 2021
- [Easter](#) (Christian) - April 4, 2021
- [Ramadan](#) (Islam) - April 12 - May 11, 2021 (more [here](#) and [here](#))

Unitarian Universalist:

- [William Ellery Channing's](#) Birthday - April 7 (1780)
- Death of [Sophia Lyon Fahs](#) - April 14 (1978)
- [Hosea Ballou's](#) Birthday - April 30 (1771) (more [here](#))
- [Climate Justice Month](#) - March 22 to April 22

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!

[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!

April 4th Come as You are Sunday School

A Virtual Spring Festival

April 11th Come as You are Sunday School

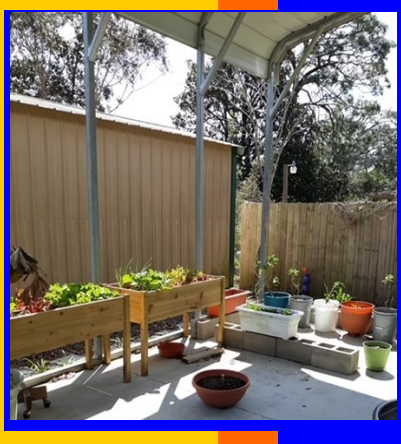
April 18th Multi-Age Service

April 25th Children's Chapel



Our Caring Community

Carol Hemmye's stepmother Faye Alvarez died on her birthday in March at age 86, nearly a year after her husband, Carol's father, passed last April. "She met my father when he moved into her neighborhood," says Carol. "Three years ago they moved to Azalea Trace. They had a good second marriage (both were widowed). We had a good relationship, and I'll miss her. She was a fabulous addition to our family."



When Carol's husband, Robert, died, Carol recalls turning to gardening to keep her busy. And then when the pandemic came, she says, "I was saving seeds from anything edible I bought and trying to grow them as well as seeds I ordered. I have two raised beds, and bunches of buckets and other containers for vegetables. This winter, my best crop was carrots, although I have found rutabaga greens to be absolutely delicious. Beets were disappointing

and I won't know about the garlic until fall.

"I find working with plants to be a form of meditation, whether I am watering seedlings, planting larger plants or even just weeding and observing the little critters that live in and on the soil. We really are interdependent. I try to grow lots of flowers for bees and butterflies and the random hummingbird who passes through. I've always been happiest when I could be outside. I guess that makes sense since I was a tomboy when I was a kid!" ~ ~ ~



Watching the bride walk, swimming with manatees and making plans for life's next adventures are highlighting spring's calendar for Kate and Jack Wolverton.

Their son, Nathan, and his fiancée Molly Shannon had planned to marry May 9, 2020, in Costa Rica, but then came the pandemic and the economic turnaround, and so they did not go there, but married on Easter, April 12, 2020, on our continent instead. Then recently they reconsidered the trip: as previous arrangements were prepaid and booked, for 5 days in April they will be in Costa Rica, with family, for a follow-up ceremony – "a walk down the aisle sort of thing," says Kate. "Molly's brother got a certificate to enable him to conduct a wedding."



And Kate and Jack will be there for an extra 10 days for touring.

Nathan and Molly live in Houston, where he is an engineer, and she is a nurse and just got her degree to be a physicians' assistant.

For Kate and Jack, the Costa Rica adventure won't be their first spring outing this year. To celebrate Jack's March 14th birthday – a bit ahead of time – they boarded the van which Jack has been modifying and turned into a camper, and toured Florida and the Keys, from late February to March 8th. "We swam with the manatees and visited friends in Miami," reports Kate. On the way home, they spent a couple days with their son, Ian, in Jacksonville.



Meanwhile, with time for contemplation, along came a monumental decision. Next year, on Jack's 60th birthday on March 14th, he plans to retire from his engineering work at Ascend Performance Materials in Pensacola. Bon voyage?



Our Caring Community - continued

On Valentine's Day came the cold, followed by seven days of ice and sleet and snow – 8 to 10 inches of snow in Memphis, the most since the 8-inch snowfall in 1985, and cold that matched the nine-day low temperatures last endured in 1942 and 1899. All of the recent consequences – snow-clogged and icy roads, frozen water pipes, the grocery store shortages and closed schools – were also a surprise for our former Floridian, UUCP office administrator (from afar) Terra Shute, who works from Memphis where she lives with her daughter, Leslie, and grandsons, Donovan and Zan.

Here's Terra's snow story. "One morning I woke up to find that our kitchen water pipe had frozen. It took me all that day to get it to thaw. I was so afraid we would have to pay for the repairs if it burst.

"About five days after the cold trounced us, we were hit with a boil water advisory in Memphis proper. I spent at least four hours each day boiling water to use to wash and rinse dishes, then soak them in a bleach solution, not to mention water to drink, cook with, brush teeth, wash up, etc. Even if we'd been able to drive, there was no bottled water to be found. We were able to shower at my youngest daughter's house after the snow melted enough to drive but couldn't improvise enough containers to carry much clean water back home.

"By the time school opened back up for good, 7-year-old Donovan was feeling very put-upon that he had to go back at all! He was appalled when he found out that Spring Break is 'only' nine days: "I thought it was nineTEEN days!"

"The overall Memphis impact was severe. Many folks were left without power and water because so many of the city's water mains broke, and since deep snow is so unusual, there weren't enough snowplows and ice trucks. It was difficult being stranded at home by the snow for so long.

"Growing up in Florida, and having spent most of my life there, finally, here was the snow of my childhood dreams! It was deep enough to build snow people and snow forts and go sledding! But not having cold weather gear in such low temperatures made it impossible to stay outside in wet, snow-soaked shoes, socks and gloves. I built nothing. After a few days, my 'I love this! I can't believe how beautiful it is!' turned into, 'Will this never end?' Such irony. We'll be certain to be overly prepared next year; that way we'll be sure not to have any winter storms – that's how that works, right?" ~ ~ ~

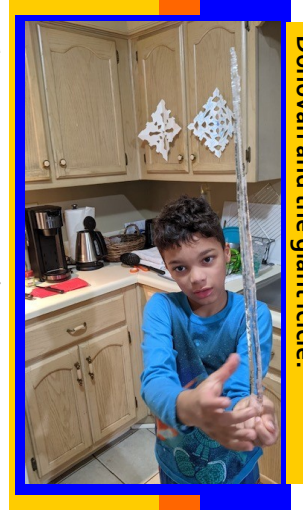
Good neighbors.

Linda Cobb has spent a great deal of time recently in Orange Beach, at the home, formerly residence of our recently passed, longtime UUCP member Carol Trotter. Linda's mission: helping Carol's daughter, Kristine, sort and make decisions regarding Carol's possessions – "which as you can imagine was terribly difficult for Kristine," says Linda.

Kristine, who lives in north Tampa, spent most of the month of March clearing out Carol's house. An auction was held recently for leftover items. Some auction leftovers in turn were contributed to UUCP, and help for their transport was provided by three more volunteers. Reported Linda: "Jack Comstock, Michael Newcomb and Steve Tuley went with me Saturday to pick up some items that will help us raise money the next time we have a yard sale." ~ ~ ~

A message from Marianne Kelly! She plans to arrive in Pensacola – after her prolonged winter absence in the northern outback of New York state – very soon. Says Marianne: "I will be picked up at the airport by my faithful neighbor who will help me start my '91 Volvo wagon for another season (fingers crossed). "I am happy to hear that most of my friends have their vaccinations so we will give up elbow bumping for real hugs. And we can mingle! It's been a long winter but Spring is here!"

Charlotte Crane



Donovan and the giant icicle.





**VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY, MAY 16 AT 12:30PM**

The time has come for our Annual Congregational Meeting. Given ongoing COVID-19 precautions, **our meeting this year will be held virtually on Sunday, May 16, at 12:30pm**, in lieu of Coffee Hour that week. We will meet via **Zoom**, which allows us to **connect by landline phone, smartphone, OR by internet with or without video capability**. You do not have to have an internet connection to call in to the meeting, but you must have a phone connection, and there will be long-distance charges if calling from a landline. We will be able to hear one another, and some of us will be able to see and be seen as well.

At the meeting, we will review the past year and receive an update on plans for recongregating in the coming year. **We will conduct a vote to decide on our slate of candidates for the 2021-22 year and our budget for 2021-22.**

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

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

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

ATTENTION: NEW (or Returning) MEMBERS!

We're so glad you've become a Member of our beloved community. If you haven't had a Get-to-Know-You Biography published yet and would like to, please contact Charlotte Crane or the Church Office. We'd love to feature you!

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* THROUGH JUNE 2021

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

Thursday - April 1- 10 am

Saturday - April 24 - 1 pm



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Find us on Facebook & Instagram for our current outdoor locations & inventory.

We'd love to see you!



Owned by UUCP member Renee Perry and her husband Tom Garner

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.

How do we celebrate diversity?

The 2021 “100% Virtual UUA General Assembly” – Your Attendance Could Help Break the Record!



What a unique opportunity to attend our General Assembly for those of us who might have never been able to go because of distance. Last year there were nearly 5,000 who attended the all-virtual event — what a way to connect with our fellow faith travelers from over 750 congregations! This year, they hope to break the record for attendance; will you be there?

The theme of this year’s General Assembly is Circle ‘Round for Justice, Healing, and Courage, a fitting theme for a time when seeing and appreciating our circles — friendships, congregation, work, family, community, has become more important than ever. What potential insights and inspiration will we be able to bring back to our local congregation and community-at-large regarding these three important actions? How will our shared time light the creative fire within us to have the courage to seek justice and healing?

Visit <https://www.uua.org/ga> for more information and to register. Please email me if you have registered, are interested in attending, or need help getting more information.

Trista Blouin

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 Pensacola, FL 32534

Return service requested

uupensacola@gmail.com
www.uupensacola.org

**Deadline for submissions
 for MAY LIGHT:**



Friday, APRIL 16th

Thanks so much to these businesses who support UUCP with excellent service at very reasonable prices!

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