



9888 Pensacola Blvd. Pensacola, FL 32534 **uupensacola.org**

Office Hours: No regular office hours during summer but call if appointment needed calls and emails checked as usual

<u>UUCP Staff Contacts</u>

Minister Rev. Alice Syltie 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: Linda Cobb

<u>UUCP Leadership Contacts</u> Governing Board

President: Arnie Ondis President-Elect: Vacant Past President: Lauren Anzaldo Secretary: Denise Gunn Treasurer: Erin Renfroe **Board Members at Large** Trista Blouin Linda Cobb Laura Keith King Jean Siebenaler Joe Vinson **Ministry Team Leaders Adult Exploration** Thom Botsford **Buildings and Grounds** Gerry Donnelly & Jay Butcher Caring Lesley Ortiz **Communications/Publicity** communications@uupensacola.org Erin Renfroe **Denominational Affairs** Trista Blouin Finance Marylee Donnelly Laurie Winterberg Fun and Fellowship Trista Blouin Leadership Development Lauren Anzaldo Membership Laurie Winterberg Safer Congregation Arnie Ondis **Social Justice** Paula Montgomery Scott Satterwhite **Sunday Services** Marylee Donnelly

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR AUGUST

Aug 1 "Some Critical Thoughts about Critical Race Theory (CRT)" with Thom Botsford—Critical Race Theory has entered partisan politics in a big way. It has even been banned in Florida public schools. This program will describe CRT and explore why it is both *important* and *troubling* to the status quo. Thom Botsford is a Member of UUCP and a retired professor and former department head of English and communications at Pensacola State College.

Aug 8 "'I AM'— Sayings of Jesus" with Joyce Smandra—In this talk Joyce would like to share with you Jesus, as teacher and mystic. Jesus knew his days were numbered, and he realized that his disciples did not understand that it was not him personally, but his teachings and way of life that that they needed. While moving about to avoid the authorities, Jesus gave the "I AM" lessons to his disciples to help them understand. He wanted them to grasp that when he was gone, they were to trust in sacred unity, and they were to treat themselves and others with compassion and forgiveness.

Jesus understood the world through Hebrew eyes, so he comprehended the creation story not as a one time-happening but as a continuous process for both the universe and for humanity.

If a scientific perspective is more to your liking, you can view Jesus' teachings through the cosmology of special relativity, which allows for a world in which the universe is evolving and each of us is an ever-changing manifestation of that universe.

Joyce Smandra lived the first half of her life looking for answers to the big questions of why we are here, and where we are going. During this phase of her life, she is "living the questions," as suggested by the mystic poet Rainer Maria Rilke. For her, this means living in simple presence in the mystery. Mystic teachers like Brian Swimme and Neil Douglas-Klotz help illuminate her path. The Aramaic Jesus has been a part of this process.

Aug 15 "1821 Sampler Project" with Erin Renfroe and Joe Vinson—July 17, 2021 marked the 200th anniversary of the day the Spanish flag was lowered for the last time in Pensacola, and Florida became an American territory. Joe Vinson and Erin Renfroe will talk about the significance of that day, the 1821 Sampler Project – a unique product that was part of the city and county commemoration, and the people of West Florida 200 years ago.

Aug 22 "**Play as an Act of Defiance**" with Trista Blouin—As UUs in covenant with the web of all life, our responsibilities can feel immense and even overwhelming. Play is an often overlooked but powerful part of holistic self-care and a generative frame from which we can operate. But how can it be an act of defiance? Join Trista, a UU Seminary Student at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, to step into this exploration.

Aug 29 "Making a Difference in Under-Resourced Pensacola" with Rodney Jones—New World Believers Community Center, located in a renovated warehouse, is a ministry that provides information, services and programs to an under-resourced community in Pensacola. Rodney Jones will talk about how their services impact the community and will share his vision for the future. Mr. Jones is widely known and respected as a charismatic, boots-on-the-ground community leader/activist and is a long-standing friend to UUCP. August 29th is our Fifth Sunday and proceeds from our Fifth Sunday Share the Plate offering will go to the non-profit New World Believers Community Center.

How do we inspire love?

FROM YOUR BOARD: PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In-person services and activities resumed on July 4th, and our gatherings have been a wonderful mix of joy and hope. Independence Day has a new meaning for UUCP.

Rumor has it that there is a kind of lull during summer at UUCP with people away on

vacation, not much going on and low Sunday attendance. Really? I find it a remarkably busy time, although much of the work does go on unseen while we are occupied with the diversions of the season. This tells me that life is resuming its normal rhythms.

The Ministry Teams have remained active this summer. The building required attention in preparation of our in-person recongregating, and this is the peak of the growing season for our grounds. The CRE Team is working on plans to resume in-person activities once safely feasible. The Fun and Fellowship Team is continuing to keep us together virtually with the Friday Happy Hours, which is one positive effect of the Covid shutdown.

The Sunday Services Team continues to develop a great lineup of programs. They have a bit more work in the summer while Rev. Alice takes a much-deserved break from some of her duties in order to recharge her spiritual batteries for another year of dedicated service. The Communications and Publicity Team never takes a break as evidenced by the Facebook postings that keep us updated on any number of things, and now they have mastered the live streaming of Sunday services.

The Finance Team has been busy with preliminary plans for a fall Yard Sale that will be scheduled for October. Georgieanna Bryant has graciously agreed to head it. More information on that will be coming soon.

The 2021-22 Governing Board is planning its annual Retreat August 21st. It will provide an orientation for new board members, and a refresher for the rest. Board goals will be determined, and plans laid out for the year.

So, to dispel the rumor, it is true that some people have taken vacations, but there has been a lot of activity going on this summer. Our Sunday attendance may be somewhat lower, but the live-stream audience has been significant. The great news is that, thanks to the vision and hard work of the Sunday Services and Communications Teams, one does not have to be sitting in the sanctuary on any given Sunday to share a spiritual experience or commune with one's friends.

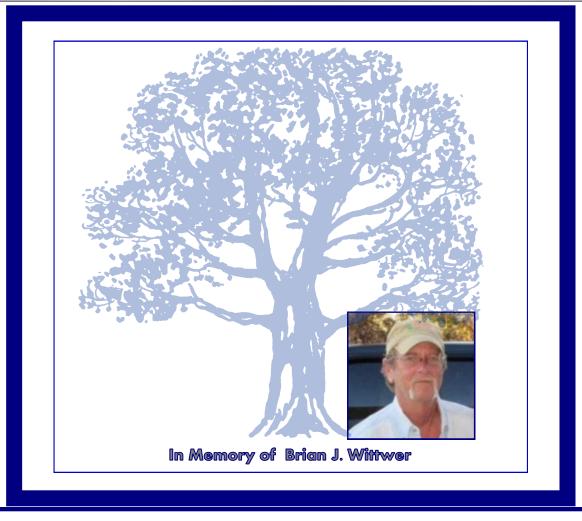
With all this activity, I hope that you will make a lull in your time to enjoy what is left of summer.

Faithfully,

Arnie Ondis, Board President







Remembering Brian

Cherishing always your memories of a loved one who has departed forever is a heart-breaking experience, but made more comforting by the love and support of friends and family. I was overwhelmed by the sympathy, messages, cards and contributions of our UUCP members and friends in honor of my son Brian, who died June 28th at the age of 60 at his home in Prattville, Ala. Our minister, Rev. Alice Syltie, officiated beautifully at his memorial service at Prattville Memorial Chapel on July 24th.

Passing of a family member arouses memories but also creates new ones I learned when I interviewed Brian's buddies from his high school days and beyond, primarily to gain real-life pictures for Rev. Alice to use in her service.

Among new memories: I hadn't recalled Brian sharing with me his hunting outings from high school days with friend Owen Terry, when they spent holiday weekends at a great uncle's rural Alabama farm, taking cornbread with them for their overnight stay in a hay barn, burrowing in their sleeping bags on a cold winter night.

Nor had family friend Curtis Webb talked before about his trip with Brian, then just out of University of Florida, to do a timber survey for a forestry manager for a Naval base; "I'd help him count trees."

Brian's degree was in forestry, and his first job was with the Florida Division of Forestry in Lake City, followed by a 30-year position with the Alabama Department of Labor. Said Curtis: "His love was for forestry; you look up forestry and he's the definition."

With UU member donations made to our church Trust, I hope we can plant a tree or two. And remember as it grows.

Charlotte Crane

August Faith Development



CRE Sunday Mornings

Greetings Friends and families,

CRE needs your input! We are looking for guidance from you, our parents, and you, our members. With the Delta Variant of the Corona Virus running rampant across our United States, I must ask you a few questions as to what you would like your CRE program to look like. Please take a few minutes to answer a few questions. Your input is needed. Please click on this link.

https://forms.gle/mWx7WSuDjYBJWuLp8

We will review your answers at the next CRE team meeting on August 19 at 6pm via Zoom. Please join us to give your input or to just observe. We welcome all interested parties. Please email the church, <u>uupensacola@gmail.com</u> if you are interested in attending and you will get a link to the Zoom meeting. I hope to see all y'all there!

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!



Happenings!

I'm sure you have heard that the Church has reopened for in-person services. I know we are all excited to be together again. BUT not so fast! Our young people are not vaccinated yet. AND they are still welcome in the church but must be masked and socially distanced. Tabbitha has graciously agreed to be our childcare provider and will also wear a mask out of respect for the children. Children can be signed in for childcare at 9:45 in the Rainforest Room.

The nursery remains closed. Parents may still use the baby changing station.

All children must be accompanied by an adult on the church campus.



Caring Connection — Inspiring Cove

- Our caring thoughts are with Denise Gunn and Charlotte Crane who have recently held memorial services after the passing of close family members. Denise lost her mother, Charlotte, her youngest son, and Crys Brockway's grandmother passed away not long ago. Remember that you are not alone. Your church family is here for you.
- Our hopes for swift healing continue for Mary Ann Hodges. May you soon be in the best of health.
- ♦ Congratulations again to Flo Fulwiler who recently celebrated her 99th birthday!
- Speaking of birthdays, several of our members celebrated theirs in July Kate W, Paula M, Scott S, Sharon W and Lesley O. Belated wishes to all who had July birthdays. Happy Birthday to those celebrating August birthdays!
- Recently Bob and Lesley Ortiz spent time with former UUCP member, Anne Wood. Anne sent greetings to friends at UUCP. They also attended an evening of music performed by Anne's son Rob Robbins who gave a concert a few years ago at UUCP. He plays regularly at a resort in Maine.

Masking Indoors at UUCP

Effective immediately, **ALL UUCP congregants aged 2 and older are strongly encouraged to wear a mask while indoors at UUCP, regardless of vaccination status.** UUCP leadership has given careful consideration to rising infection rates and breakthrough infections in light of the spread of the Delta variant and believes that the practice of masking indoors is best for our congregation members, friends, guests, and staff. This practice is also in line with CDC recommendations (see link below). This recommendation will be reviewed in the context of evolving circumstances, including community positivity rates.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html

Help Needed

UUCP needs help in the Sound Room on Sunday mornings. We have a dedicated group of members who help with sound and screen work, but we need more help.

- ★ You will receive training.
- ★ It is not every week.
- ★ It's fun!
- ★ You are needed.

Anyone interested, please contact Marylee Donnelly.

Ink Cartridge Recycling to End at UUCP

Office Depot's program of giving reward points in exchange for ink cartridges has become a bit too restrictive and cumbersome for it to be cost-effective for us to use. We are clearing out the remaining ink cartridges, and we will not be accepting any more.

(Also, please do not bring your household batteries to the church for recycling; we have no one designated to handle that.)

Many thanks!



YOU MAY ALSO ENJOY OUR...

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 password to use. If you are not a Member or Friend of UUCP, contact the UUCP office.

FOUR MONTHS OF READERS' GROUPS ARE SCHEDULED

- SEPTEMBER THROUGH DECEMBER 2021

We will resume the newest season of Readers' Groups beginning in September and running through December. AND, thanks to the offer of Lesley and Bob Ortiz, the first in-person gathering in well over a year and a half is scheduled for Monday, Sep 20 in their home. There will also be a ZOOM group on the schedule. The UUCP policy to allow indoor gatherings with recommended (but not required) masking is still the most current.

What sets these groups apart from a more traditional Book Group - is that there IS NO required book to read!

The primary purpose of these groups is to share our reading experiences and recommendations with other like-minded readers. The meetings are 1 hour in length, and everyone is welcome!

One of each of the monthly sessions is virtual via ZOOM, and an email containing the login link will be sent out a few days prior to each session.

Friday - September 10th - 10 am - ZOOM

Monday - September 20th - 1 pm - Ortiz Home

Friday - October 8th - 10 am - ZOOM

Monday - October 18th - 1 pm - Ortiz Home

Friday - November 12th - 10 am - ZOOM

Monday - November 15 - 1 pm - Ortiz Home

Friday - December 10th - 10 am - ZOOM

Monday - December 20 - 1 pm - Ortiz Home

You can find contact information and address for the Ortiz's home on your Simple Church app, in the Directory or by contacting the office at <u>uupensacola@gmail.com</u> or at 850-475-9077.









PAGE 7

To Old and New/Potential UUCP Lunch-Bunch-ers:

It's been a good while since this sort of notice appeared in the Light (Feb. 2020), so I'll briefly explain that each month on the second Wednesday, we of the UUCP and guests convene at a local restaurant to talk and eat and talk and share, at 1 PM; to each his own as to food choices. So...

Maybe it's a good omen - 11 March '20 and 11 August '21 were/are both the 2nd Wednesdays of those months...the 11/3/20 date was our last Lunch Bunch, and it's fulfilling for the 11-August/21 date to be our first post-pandemic Lunch Bunch.

So why not start where we left off – at <u>Taste of Jerusalem</u> at 1 PM, now at 2805 Mobile Highway (850 466-3648) – their new location, underway back in 3/20. Probably best to avoid going east-west thru the Pace/Cervantes intersection; alterations to Cervantes east from Pace, about 3 blocks, reduces E-W traffic to one way only; may be finished by 11 August, but I doubt it. Taste of Jerusalem's building (map <u>here</u>) sits at the intersection of "V" Street and Cervantes/Mobile Hwy., the Southwest Corner, with its large-enough parking lot, with the "Hookah Shop" on the west side. "W" Street, with its traffic-lighted intersection, is on the other side of the Hookah Shop.

The menu (here) looks larger, and cloth covers (or plastic?) on the tables and seating are certainly more, and more conventional than the smaller place and bench seating than was available at the old location at 707 N. Pace. And now there's a grocery store with perhaps 50' of shelving (4-5 shelves deep) with the ethnic wares you would expect - in need of more shelving activity on my visit of 8 July, for such as gallon containers of Kalamata olives, Moroccan sardines, cans of fava beans, etc. Parking is ample on the west side of the building, and you can enter via that side door (signed "Grocery Store").

So, with two circular tables with 6-7 seats, and twelve or so 4-seat conventional tables – how many seats should I tell them we are expecting for 11 August? Please let me know by the Sunday of 8/8/21.

(In light of the new CDC recommendations, the UUCP Board has determined that masks are strongly encouraged for all regardless of vaccination status, but food service is still permitted, so at this time, based on current Board policy, these outings are permitted. *—Ed.*) However, I will suggest that some of you may prefer Table of Four seating to the larger 6-7 seater circular tables. If you have a preference, please let me know ... so I can let TOJ know. Thanks, Hugh T.

Most, if not all of you on this email list have **Hugh Ed's contact info** already or can get it from a friend, Simple Church or the paper Member's Directory. If there is a guest that is new to us and you don't have access to Hugh's info, please contact the UUCP Office at **850.475.9077** or <u>uupensacola@gmail.com</u>. Thank you. —Ed.



FALL YARD SALE IS JUST 8 WEEKS AWAY!

Many of you have asked me—IF and WHEN is the next church Yard Sale? It will be the first weekend in October—**Friday, October 1st** and **Saturday, October 2nd.** Many of you have used the pandemic to clean out items you no longer use or need and are saving them for our yard sale. We thank you. If you have not done so as yet, please do not wait until the week of the sale, as we will not have time to get your items priced, and hence these items might go unsold. Remember, even though you may have just a few items to donate, added to everyone else's items, these discarded items have amounted to about \$2500 in profit for each of the yard sales in the past few years.

All types of items (<u>no clothing</u> please) are needed: Kitchen wares, linens, children's books and toys, outdoor items, furniture, electronics, shoes, purses, hats, belts, scarves, jewelry, knickknacks, tools, pictures, collectibles, small appliances, gardening implements, books and all types of media, bathroom décor and personal care items, lamps, craft and sewing notions, holiday décor, office supplies, and pet supplies are all good sellers. If you have questions, just give me a call. You may start bringing yard sale items to the church on <u>Sunday</u>, <u>September 12th, 2021</u> (**not before please** as we do not have storage space). Thanks for your support of this fund-raiser which also provides needed items to those of limited means.

Georgieanna Bryant, Yard Sale Coordinator (contact info is in Simple Church).

Fifth Sunday Collection Benefits Children's Literacy and Art Project

A literacy and art program for young children was possible thanks to UUCP's generous contributions to a Fifth Sunday collection taken up in May 2020. UUCP's donation of \$497 benefitted the Girl Scout Gold Award project of Maddy Anzaldo-Satterwhite. Maddy is the 16-year-old daughter of members Lauren Anzaldo and Scott Satterwhite. The church donation allowed for the purchase of arts and crafts supplies to use during the program, snacks for the children, two books for each child to keep, and a bag for each child at the end of the program containing their own sketchbook and art supplies. Maddy, her family, and Girl Scout troop 838 are so appreciative of UUCP's support.

Regarding the UUCP contribution, Maddy said, "I couldn't have ever gotten the supplies without external funding. I've been able to buy the arts and crafts kits that the kids used, extra supplies for the volunteers and the classes, and I was able to go above what the project was initially calling for to buy the kids takehome gift bags with at least two books and art supplies for them to use at home. The money from UUCP has allowed the project to achieve more and have more longevity by giving back to the kids."

Maddy's project is entitled Promoting Literacy Through Art. The project engages K-3rd graders in themed

reading and arts and crafts activities. Over four sessions, the children read and learned about the rainforest, ocean, desert, and outer space. They created crafts related to the topic, such as the marine mobiles shown in the photo here. The program was offered during the summer day camp at the Woodland Heights Resource Center, a city facility located off of Ninth Avenue and Fairfield Drive in Pensacola. Twelve children aged 5 to 8 years old attended.



Discussing how she conceived of this project, Maddy said, "I wanted to bring art to kids specifically because kids are usually so enthusiastic about art and so excited to show off what they've made. Art is a really important tool for learning, but it's not often used as much in standard schooling. A summer camp gives the opportunity for a more free-form learning environment where they can do more artistic things."

The Gold Award is the highest award in Girl Scouting, equivalent to the Scouts BSA's Eagle Award. At least 80 volunteer hours are completed over the course of the project, which Maddy will have worked on for more than a year at final completion. The pandemic delayed the project somewhat. Maddy's Gold Award project involved researching a global issue and interviewing experts to help in devising a project to address the issue, planning and developing all of the programming for the literacy and art project, coordinating the location and logistics with City of Pensacola staff, recruiting children to participate and volunteers to help, and leading the sessions with the volunteers' assistance. Volunteers included Tori Vinson, 16-year-old daughter of members Bradley and Joe Vinson, and City Councilwoman Teniadé Broughton, who represents the area served by the Woodland Heights Resource Center. Before COVID, Maddy's Girl Scout troop was providing tutoring to schoolchildren at the center through a program operated by the local civil rights organization, Movement for Change.

Addressing what she has learned through working on her Gold Award project, Maddy said, "This project has given me really important communication and organization skills. I've never had to get together a

PAGE 10

(continued from p.9)

group of people on a project with this many moving parts. I've had to get into contact with so many people, volunteers, members of the community center, teachers, other adults in my life, and people in positions that are higher than me. I've had to think on my feet with the kids. They want to do what they want to do, and sometimes I've found that things are not as interesting for them, so I've had to think in the moment and account for what will keep their interest instead of just what I had planned for each



The Light—August 2021



lesson. I've had to learn how to

deescalate conflict and neutralize arguments between the kids, and I've had to learn how to talk with all different kinds of people."

Now a high school junior, Maddy has been a Girl Scout since first grade and has risen through all levels to become an Ambassador, the highest level in Girl Scouts. She previously earned her Bronze Award doing volunteer work for a small breed dog rescue during her fifth-grade year, and she earned her Silver Award upgrading lighting fixtures at UUCP in 2016-17. Before officially completing and earning the Gold Award, Maddy has to write a summary and reflection on her efforts. She plans to continue this

literacy and arts program in some form as part of her major service project required for the International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Pensacola High School. That service project involves 100 volunteer hours that will be conducted over about 18 months prior to high school graduation.

Fifth Sunday Share the Plate in August

August has 5 Sundays. As is our custom, we will participate in the wider community by donating the 5th Sunday offering to an organization doing good works beyond our walls. On August 29th we will be donating our offering to New World Believers Community Center, the project of our friend, Rodney Jones.

New World Believers Community Center 2112 W. Yonge Street

New World Believers is a 501(c)(3), faith based, nonprofit organization set up by Rodney Jones. It is the umbrella under which all programs and activities at the center are covered. The center is formerly an electronics communication warehouse that was purchased and is being renovated. They have partnerships with the State Vocational Rehabilitation department, and the Escambia County Sheriff's Department. Although still under renovation, the center is open and operational. Rodney is contracted with the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Board of County Commissioners for work with the civil citations program. Currently, they are running the HOOPS (Healthy Opportunities and Options Promoting Success) program, day program for youth that equips them with the skills for finding and retaining employment. A community law center is also under development and close to launching that will assist people in accessing legal systems at no cost. This is through a partnership with Emerald Coast Legal Services (formerly Legal Aid).

This is the early stages; there are plans to provide community lectures on various topics, wellness promotion, and they are looking to expand their services by establishing more community partnerships. Arnie has been working with Rodney on this for a couple of years and states that the progress from conception to the present is phenomenal. Rodney has established relationships at UUCP, and there are lots of opportunities for us to get involved beyond our walls.

For questions, contact Arnie Ondis or Paula Montgomery.



How do we Strive for Justice and Celebrate Diversity?



Report From General Assembly 2021

Circle Round for Freedom, Circle Round for Peace, For those of us in prison, Circle for release.

Circle for the planet Circle for each soul For our children's children Keep the circle whole.

By Linda Hirschhorn

What does it feel like to be circling round with thousands of Unitarian Universalists? I can tell you from my experience it is affirming, empowering and very exciting. This year's General Assembly was virtual, so although the presence was virtual it was nonetheless real. I sang the songs, I teared up during the banner parade. As your delegate, I voted despite the delays and glitches in the electronic process. Now, I am ready to go to work.

I will come back to the work. First let me tell you about the big issues we voted on. There were three Actions of Immediate Witness that were affirmed by vote. These are issues that need our attention urgently. As in now! As you know, there are many, many issues that need our attention. More than three were proposed. We voted to select these three. My charge is to bring this message back to you and urge you to take appropriate action, when possible. The action may be simply to hold them in your heart and speak up when engaged by neighbors or friends. Or it may be to write to the newspaper or to your elected representatives. Or there may be other actions that we as UUs will engage in. So let me tell you what the three issues are:

1) Defend and Advocate with Transgender, Nonbinary, and Intersex Communities

Already in Florida a law was passed that prohibits trans girls from participating in girls' sports in schools. You see the urgency.

2) The COVID Pandemic: Justice, Healing, Courage

So many losses, loss of lives, loss of livelihoods. We are all tender and in need of compassion.

3) Stop Voter Suppression and Partner for Voting Rights and a Multiracial Democracy.

The UUCP Social Justice committee was already asked to contact our Florida senators to advocate for passage of the Voting Rights Acts. Even knowing that they do not favor it, it is important that they know that we are not shy about letting them know what we believe.

The work has already begun. We will pay attention to these issues in the news and elsewhere and let our voices be heard, however we can. If you are willing to be part of the team to speak up, please let Paula know so she can put you on the UU Justice Florida alert list for actions. This is our work.

The second big vote was for our Statement of Conscience. The Statement of Conscience is our directive to the UUA Board to be a guide in all that they do this year and in the future. That statement is "Undoing Systemic White Supremacy: A Call to Prophetic Action."

More about these Actions and Statement of Conscience can be found on the UUA Web site at:

https://www.uua.org/action/statements/undoing-systemic-white-supremacy

https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2021/business/aiws

Paula Montgomery

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

Return service requested

<u>uupensacola@gmail.com</u> www.uupensacola.org



Find us on Facebook: facebook.com/uucpensacola