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Office Hours:

We do not have regular hours at this time, but arrangements can be made as needed. Email and phone messages are checked as usual. Check your email, Facebook and our website for updates.

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Safer Congregation

Arnie Ondis

Social Justice

Paula Montgomery

Scott Satterwhite

Sunday Services

Marylee Donnelly

From Our Minister



Our theme for October is Cultivating Relationships. Each month members of a UUCP Theme Circle receive a packet of thought-provoking material related to the theme. They then gather to answer questions about their own connection to the ideas presented. For the time being the groups will meet on Zoom. I have found these times of sharing to be an excellent way to cultivate relationships and go deeper in understanding ourselves and one another. If you have questions about Theme Circles, or are interested in joining one, please be in touch with me directly, or through Terra in our church office. I would love to create more opportunities for us to be together this way.

Here are some thoughts on this month's theme from our Soul Matters Friends.

Pandemic time is teaching us so many things about relationships.

It's undone our assumptions about work, calling into question the worth of "going into the office" and exposing how we pass most of the economic pain down to those on the so-called lowest rungs of the ladder.

It's clarifying that there is no real replacement for in-person connection, and certainly reminding us how precious human touch really is.

Our friendships were weeded out and realigned, inviting us to now prioritize those that are essential over those that are instrumental.

We noticed how much costuming is required of us, not just making it clear how sweats are so much more comfortable than suits and fashionable heels, but also helping us notice how insidiously our "required gear" ranks us and separates us from each other.

Routines once forsaken were welcomed back in and suddenly the sacredness of unhurried habits like sit-down dinners, dog walks and making our own bread reasserted themselves.

The promise and precariousness of the common good has been placed center stage, reminding us that when people aren't willing to make small sacrifices for the larger whole, pandemics don't end.

We've learned and are learning all this because Covid brought so much to a halt. It put on the brakes and made us pause. We've had time to look around. To notice.

And maybe that's the most important thing we've learned about cultivating relationships, the central thing we need to remember when we are finally able to move on: To go slow.

How long has it been, friends, since we carefully considered our relationship to speed? A slower pace. A quieter way of moving. A more careful way of dancing with each other. It's the secret so rarely mentioned, and so often overlooked. Simply put, relationships are really hard to build and care for when we are running.

May this month help us hold on to that. May it be one of the lessons we remember most. May we all be blessed by the sacredness of moving at a snail's pace.

In Love and Hope,

Rev. Alice

How do we build Beloved Community?

From Your Board: President's Column



Two steps forward and one step back. That is certainly what our journey of the last couple of years has felt like. It hurts to find ourselves meeting virtually again and it is not always easy to remember that this is just temporary and will pass. Although our meetings are virtual, the work that is going on is very real.

How are we Celebrating Diversity?

Based on a recommendation from the Sunday Services Team, the Board has voted to begin the process of becoming a [Welcoming Congregation](#). To describe the UUA Welcoming Congregation model as a program would be misleading. Instead, it is more of a design of intentional LGBTQ welcoming that values diversity of sexuality and gender as spiritual gifts. Becoming a Welcoming Congregation is a process that includes education and outreach. The Board will be appointing an ad hoc committee to begin the process. The final step in becoming an intentional Welcoming Congregation will be a congregational vote.

How are we Striving for Justice?

The listening process for JUST Pensacola 2021 has begun and house meetings are taking place. This is our opportunity to voice the concerns that we have for our greater community, and the outcomes produced will direct the organization's focus for the year. Everyone's participation is important as we gather concerns and, later, participate in larger events.

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee invited individuals and faith-based organizations to join in telling the Biden Administration to stop the cruel treatment of Haitian asylum-seekers. Being a faith-based organization, the Board approved signing the letter in the name of UUCP.

How are we Inspiring Love?

The challenge of maintaining our connectedness while physically apart is being met by the loving service of many individuals and ministry teams. The Sunday Services Team has worked tirelessly in developing and producing meaningful services, and the Communications Team has provided the technology and platforms that deliver those. Together, they work with Reverend Alice, who also brings us together with Theme Circles. The Fun and Fellowship Team provides opportunities to socialize, and the Safer Congregation Team continues to monitor local public health advisories to advise the Board accordingly. The one thing that each of us can do to ensure that no one is feeling left behind is, when we think of someone we miss and are wondering how they are, to pick up the phone and call them.

The Big Question on everybody's mind is *when are we going to start meeting in person again?* The health and safety of our congregants remains our greatest concern. We all have the same goal, which is to recongregate as soon as it is safely possible. The community infection rates are dropping and, if they continue at the same rate of decline as in recent weeks, we may be able – hopefully – to recongregate outdoors by the end of October. The Board is closely following this.

Two steps forward and one step back is still a step ahead. *How are we Building Beloved Community?* One step at a time.

Faithfully,

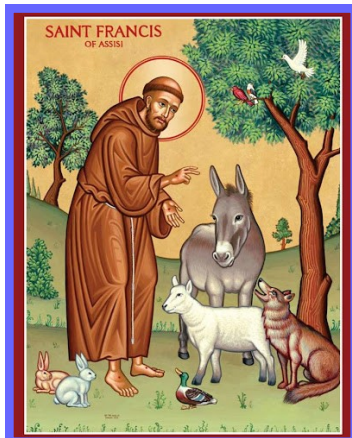
Arnie Ondis, Governing Board President

Sunday Services in October

October 3, 2021

Zoom Service for All Ages, “Feast of St Francis: World Day for Animals”

Rev. Alice Syltie, Sarah Stubbs, CRE Coordinator & Laura Keith King, Musician



October 4th is the Feast Day for St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and ecology. It is also World Day for Animals. On this Sunday we join Unitarian Universalists, as well as people of many other faiths around the world, in an affirmation of the interdependent web of all existence with a Blessing of the Animals. The animals with whom we share our lives, as well as the wild ones of the air, and earth, and sea, deserve our blessing, as we are blessed by them. We acknowledge the importance of our role in creating an environment that is safe for all life’s creatures. During the service we will be able to introduce our pets, or share a picture of a much loved pet no longer with us. Even our stuffed animals are welcome. Please join us for this fun service of special stories, readings, and music.

October 10, 2021

TBA

October 17, 2021

“Living Openly and Authentically” Rev. Alice Syltie



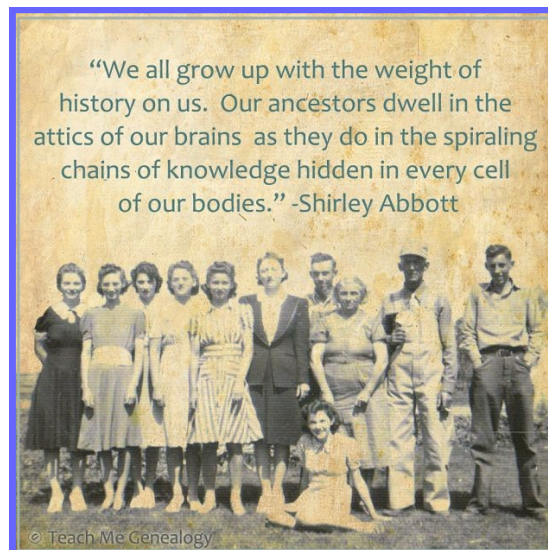
National Coming Out Day is celebrated each year on October 11. The first observation was in 1988, on the one-year anniversary of the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, in which 500,000 people participated. By 1990 it was being celebrated in all 50 states. The Human Rights Campaign reminds us “Coming out in order to live openly isn’t something you do once, or even for one year. It’s a decision that we make every single day of our lives.” On this Sunday we honor the ongoing process and arduous journey of living openly and authentically.



October 24, 2021

“How to Be a Good Ancestor” with UUCP Member Erin Renfroe

Our Soul Matters theme for October is *Cultivating Relationship*. Late October is traditionally a time when we remember our departed loved ones and honor those who came before us. Adapted from the “Ask Granny” program offered by the [West Florida Genealogical Society](http://www.westfloridagenealogical.org), this service will offer tips on getting your children and grandchildren interested in family history — and what to do with all your heirlooms and memories when they aren’t.



“We all grow up with the weight of history on us. Our ancestors dwell in the attics of our brains as they do in the spiraling chains of knowledge hidden in every cell of our bodies.” -Shirley Abbott

October 31, 2021 TBA



CRE *** Faith Development

Fall into CRE

This year in CRE we are continuing to use the Soul Matters curriculum while Rev. Alice draws from the same source for her offerings at the pulpit. Our friends at Soul Matters have been hard at work crafting curriculum that works in the classroom and online. I hope you will join us wherever these strange times take us.

This year Soul Matters' monthly themes invite us to think about not only what values our UU faith calls us to, but also the key actions and skills that our times require of us. Pandemic time exposed the need for humanity to change, and adjust in key ways. So, each month we will explore a different skill that we develop so that we don't just return to normal but bring about a "new normal."



Children's Religious Education (CRE)

Ministry Team

Coordinator: Sarah Stubbs

Team Leader: Open

Team Members: Linda Cobb, Penny Featherstone, Kate Wolverton, Pam Levitt

Feel free to contact any member with comments or suggestions!

Come As You Are

In October we will explore the ways in which our times call us to "Cultivate Relationship." And just as we grow a garden, we need a whole basket of tools and skills to cultivate, deepen and mobilize the key relationships around us. We are so excited about exploring this together!

Class Schedule for October:

Keep an eye out for Saturday's email from me for news regarding the coming Sundays. If you do not receive my Saturday emails, contact UUpensacola@gmail.com to get added to the list.

October 3: No classes. Please join the service.

October 10: **The Skill of Promising**

October 17: **The Skill of Rebuilding**

October 24: **The Skill of Being True to You**

October 31: **The Skill of Caring**



Caring Connection — Inspiring Love

Congratulations to Jack Comstock! He has been named “Rotarian of the Year” by the Pensacola North Rotary. This is a prestigious award given for participation and support of the Club’s activities, and service projects.

Hannelore Musial is recovering from recent back surgery. She greatly appreciates all the support she received from her UUCP friends.

In recent months, Crys Brockwell has experienced the loss of both her mother and grandmother.

Kaye and Monte Mountcastle, we are thinking of you.

Former member Marcy Pitkin sends greetings from her new home in Philadelphia. She attends the Unitarian Society of Philadelphia, which is meeting in a tent on their property. Her daughter Laura lives nearby.

If you would like contact information for Marcy, ask Paula Montgomery.

To all those with birthdays in October, “Celebrate and enjoy your day.” (Bob Ortiz, that includes you!)

Lesley Ortiz

GETTING TO KNOW NEW MEMBER, Tim Kingston

Tim moved from Cheyenne, Wyoming to Foley, Alabama in 2016. A lawyer since 1987, he was in private practice in Wyoming. Now, he works for Legal Services Alabama providing free legal representation to low-income Alabamians.

Tim is the father of two daughters, one a teacher and one a nurse, and grandfather to four (seventeen-year-old twin girls, a three-year old girl and an eleven-year-old boy). They all live in Colorado and Wyoming.

In his spare time, Tim enjoys reading, running, canoeing, boating and soccer reffing.

Tim found solace in UU services and activities when he experienced the loss of another daughter who died as a young woman from cancer. He has attended UUCP several times and looks forward to becoming more integrated in our church community.

Welcome to UUCP, Tim!



Tim likes the Gulf Coast-Betcha can't get these in Wisconsin!



LET'S GET Together

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 pass-word to use. If you are not a Member or Friend of UUCP, contact the UUCP office; contact information is on the front page of this newsletter.

READERS' GROUP

Because of current COVID restrictions, the Face-to-Face Readers' Group scheduled at the Ortiz House has been cancelled.

Our usual Zoom groups will be held on the following dates:

Friday, October 8 from 10—11am

Monday, October 18 from 1—2 pm



An email will be sent out a few days prior to the ZOOM meeting group with a guide to the day's session. Meetings last roughly an hour, and there is NO REQUIRED reading. We enjoy sharing our experiences and recommendations, and passions for escaping in a good book. Info - Contact Laurie Winterberg.

How do we Strive for Justice?

JUST Pensacola Victory

Escambia County to Expand Juvenile Civil Citation Program

An article that appeared in the *Pensacola News Journal* on September 8 was great news for JUST Pensacola, UUCP, and anyone concerned with justice for juvenile offenders in Escambia County: the State Attorney Ginger Bowden has drastically expanded the list of offenses eligible for civil citations rather than criminal charges and arrests. This has been a goal of JUST Pensacola for the past two years, and during this past summer's Nehemiah Action, State Attorney Madden was challenged to make this a priority.

The expansion increases the number of offenses eligible for citation from 18 to ... well, everything, with a few exceptions. Beginning June 6, 2021, all misdemeanor offenses and municipal ordinance violations became eligible for civil citations for juveniles. The exceptions are offenses involving firearms or deadly weapons, dating or domestic violence, criminal behavior that is sexual in nature, animal cruelty, and DUI.

Kids can now get up to three civil citations before arrest becomes mandatory. This is an increase from the previous limit of one.

Expanding the civil citation program will keep young people out of jail and out of the criminal justice system, which makes them less likely to re-offend.

UUCP member and Social Justice Ministry Team co-Chair, Paula Montgomery, was quoted several times in the article in her dual role as a member of JUST Pensacola and of the League of Women Voters Juvenile Justice Committee. An example: "Young people make mistakes and do things that they shouldn't do, and if a child gets arrested for vandalism or something like that, that arrest will impact not only them but also their families potentially with housing and food stamps..."

Erin Renfroe

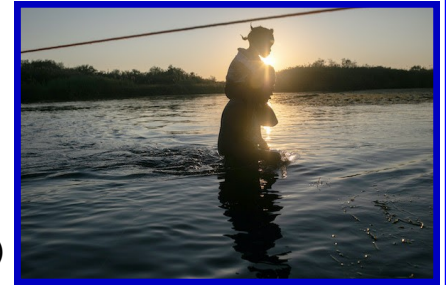
To read the full PNJ article, go <https://bit.ly/3hYYqNI>



How can yoUU Strive for Justice—from home?

Please see the column (p. 2) by our UUCP President, Arnie Ondis, to learn how UUCP participated in this effort. (The deadline for sending letters has passed).

U.S. Officials Violently Disperse Haitian Refugees



Just this week, we saw footage of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers charging into crowds of Haitian asylum-seekers on horseback — violently dispersing them, taunting them, and forcing them away from safety. This inhumane treatment is not only disgusting, but also a violation of international law and the right of people to seek asylum.

We need your help to speak out against this immediately.

This escalation of violent treatment goes hand-in-hand with a rise in deportation flights for Haitian asylum-seekers. The Biden administration is doing everything in its power to deny people access to safe haven, many of whom have been looking for refuge as Haiti continues to reel from political instability and humanitarian disaster — from the catastrophic 2013 earthquake, another devastating earthquake just one month ago, and the assassination of the Haitian President earlier this summer.

Seeking asylum is a human right. This administration is utterly failing its promise of a just, humane immigration system. Sign your name right now to demand an end to these deportation flights and an investigation into CBP's brazen violence right now.

The recent conduct of the CBP officers is just the latest in a long line of historical abuses of Black immigrants and asylum-seekers in the United States. The xenophobia, hatred, and white supremacy at the core of many U.S. immigration policies cannot be ignored and will continue to cause harm to people seeking safety unless we aggressively combat these problems.

People around the country have been horrified by the administration's abhorrent behavior and escalation of Title 42 expulsions. It is unconscionable to deport thousands of people to a country in the midst of a political, environmental, and economic crisis where they could experience violence, being unhoused, and death.

That's why we need your voice, right here and now. Will you sign your name to our call to investigate these violent abuses by CBP and end these unjust deportations?

Here's the reality: This moment is critically important to send this administration and CBP the message that we're watching them. Otherwise, abuses and injustices just like these will continue. Our vigilance and activism are more important than ever.

Only a powerful outcry from people who care can ensure that these horrific events can NEVER be allowed to happen again, and that the thousands of people on the brink of deportation aren't sent into danger.

Thank you,

Denise Bell

Researcher, Refugee and Migrant Rights
Amnesty International USA

Image Credit: John Moore/Getty Images


[Please donate now.](#)



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Pensacola, FL 32534

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Deadline for submissions for

NOVEMBER LIGHT:
Saturday, October 16th

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