



Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola The Light

VOLUME 64 ISSUE 12

December 2021

Celebrate Diversity · Strive for Justice · Inspire Love



9888 Pensacola Blvd
Pensacola, FL 32534
uupensacola.org

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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Rev. Maggie Lovins

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Safer Congregation

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Social Justice

Paula Montgomery

Scott Satterwhite

Sunday Services

Marylee Donnelly

From Our Minister

In the spirit of our theme for December, Opening to Joy,
I share this poem with you from the Soul Matters Team.



It's easy to get tricked,
taken for a ride,
convinced that joy
is a possession.

Something to be opened
just by us.
As if it's a holiday special delivery,
waiting for us to unwrap it
and keep forever.

And who can blame us,
with pain being so prevalent.
Sadness seems to stay.
Why can't joy?

But maybe it's elusive
for a reason.
Maybe it's slippery
in order to help us understand
that it was put here to fly.
To be flung!

Or better yet:
To be passed, not possessed.
To be spread
between you and me,
between the ones who received its gift
and the ones that have been looking for
its treasure
for a very long time.

Maybe it's a beautiful and elegant
contagion,
over which we have more control than we
think.
If only we share it.
If only we notice that joy is not ours to
keep,
but ours to give.

Maybe joy opens us
as much as we open to it.

Maybe that's the way light leaks
into our world.

How do we build Beloved Community?

From Your Board: President's Column

We are coming to the close of what has been another very challenging year, making that two in a row. We are all aware of how the Ministry Teams rose to the occasion and found ways to help us maintain our ties, and we are all very appreciative of that. But December being the reflective month that it is, I find myself thinking about losses, personal and collective. Let us be mindful that the holiday season can magnify the unspeakable sorrow of many.



We have much for which to be thankful. We are back together physically, and life is becoming more normal. There's lots of chatter about "next year," so hold on! Look forward to Second Hour presentations and the Mid-Year Congregational Meeting—in person—in January.

May this holiday season bring JOY and PEACE to you and your loved ones.

Faithfully,

Arnie Ondis

Governing Board President

The Committee on Ministry—What Is It?

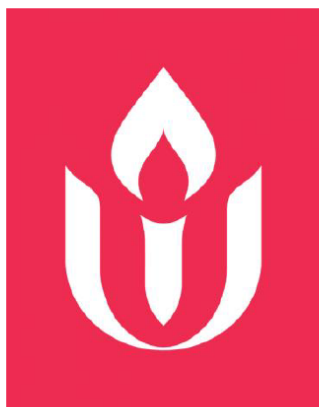
The Committee on Ministry is concerned with the spiritual health of the entire ministry of the congregation—as a reflection of mission fulfillment.

The Committee on Ministry exists to provide oversight to the overall ministry of the congregation. This is sometimes referred to as keeping a finger on the pulse of every facet of the congregation's ministry. This is accomplished by attention to the mission, vision, and covenant of the congregation and by continual assessment of the ways in which the Board, Lay Leadership, Staff, and Professional Leadership collaborate, contribute to, and serve the mission.

Current members of the Committee on Ministry are Nancy Hagman, Scott Satterwhite, Laurie Winterberg and Reverend Alice. The Committee meets quarterly, and the next scheduled meeting is January 18th, 2021. Members of the committee were elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Our Mission:





CRE *** Faith Development

Welcome Winter Opening to Joy

This month we explore the ways in which our times call us to “Open to Joy.” There are four ways we will tease apart the idea of opening to joy with our children. Here they are:

- Creating Joy** - On the work of whimsy.
- Sharing Joy** - On the work of generosity.
- Finding Joy (in Tough Times)** - On the work of redirecting our gaze.
- The Joy of Us** - On the work of creating home/being together.



Decorating the Church for the Holidays!



This December 5th after the service please join in the fun and community as we decorate our faith home for the holidays. I’ll get the hot cocoa and please let me know if you can volunteer to bring a sweet or salty snack.



Happenings

Look! Our Very Own Maddy Anzaldo-Satterwhite was awarded an Honorable Mention at this year’s Pensacola International Fair Student Art Show. Here is how she described her inspiration: “My inspiration was to create a landscape of the Pensacola Beach sign in the style of Cubist painter Franz Marc using oil pastels. The Cubist style uses bright colors, sharp angles, and big, blocky shapes. Franz Marc as an artist used a lot of warm colors, and I thought that encapsulated the vibe of Pensacola Beach.”

Children’s Religious Education (CRE) Ministry Team

Coordinator: Sarah Stubbs Team Leader: Open

Team Members: Linda Cobb, Penny Featherstone, and Kate Wolverton.



Sunday Services in December

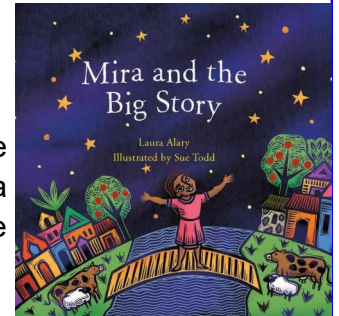


Dec 5 "The Season of Lights" with Rev. Alice Syltie

In this darkest time of the year, communities of faith light candles to brighten our nights, as well as our spirits. We enter the second week of Advent in the midst of Hanukkah and on the cusp of Bodhi Day, the time when Prince Gautama took his place under the Bodhi tree, seeking to attain enlightenment. What is the light that you seek? And what must you embrace for its attainment?

Dec 12 "Mira and the Big Story" with Kate Wolverton and Penny Featherstone

Kate Wolverton and Penny Featherstone will present a multigenerational service based on the book *Mira and the Big Story* by Laura Alary. They will be exploring a pathway to peace, the concept of truth, the value of diverse perspectives, and the importance of being neighborly.



Dec 19 "Christmas Through the Decades: Our UU Hymnody and Liturgy," Rev. Alice Syltie

Do family and friends visit your UU church with you at Christmas and wonder why we sing familiar tunes with different words? Or follow an unusual liturgy? A look through our hymnals tells an interesting story about our evolving theology and perspective on this special holiday.

Dec 24 at 5pm "Christmas Eve Candlelight Service" with Laura Keith King & other UU Members

Bring family, friends, and guests for a special service of carols and readings for all ages concluding with a traditional candle lighting. A Special Offering will be taken to benefit our Members Assistance fund, which is used throughout the year to help our church families in need.



The offering at the Christmas Eve family service every year goes to replenish the Members Assistance fund at UUCP. If you are not able to attend the Christmas Eve service, but would like to contribute to the fund, you may write Members Assistance on the subject line of your check or on the outside of the offertory envelope with your name in any Sunday service, you can choose that category when making a contribution online, or you may mail a check directly to the church. It's been a difficult financial time and we appreciate being able to help out when it is needed.



We will always remember your smile.

We're all saddened by the unexpected loss of **Barbara Goggins**, a longtime member of our congregation. A Celebration of Life Memorial Service honoring Barbara's long life and loving spirit will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola on Sunday, December 12 beginning at 2:00 p.m. If you would like to briefly share a favorite memory of Barbara during the service, please let Trista Blouin know by December 5 so she can try to make sure all who wish to speak are given an opportunity.

Additionally, if you have photos you would like included in the digital slideshow that will play at the service, please send those to Trista by November 30 in care of the UUCP Office; the email address is below.

To send cards to Barbara's sister Virginia, please contact the office by leaving a message at uupensacola@gmail.com or calling 850-475-9077 to get her address or phone number. If you'd like to receive a response sooner, contact our Minister, Rev. Alice Syltie.

How do we Inspire Love?

Caring Connection

Our caring thoughts are with Monty Mountcastle and his wife, Kaye. Monty is currently in the Life Care Center. Cards and visitors are welcome.

Monty Mountcastle
Life Care Center of Pensacola
3291 E. Olive Road
Pensacola, FL 32514

Congratulations to Dolly Berthelot on the publishing of her recent book. (Information below).

Happy Birthday to those celebrating birthdays in December including Marianne Kelly, Nadine Hubble, and Erin Renfroe.

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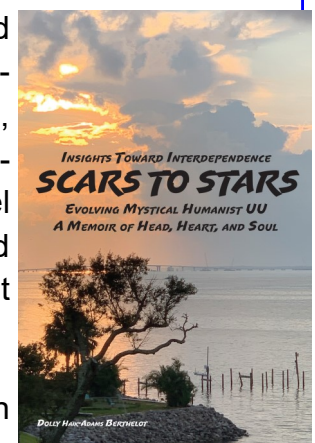
### **Dolly's *SCARS TO STARS, Mystical Humanist UU, A Mini Memoir***



Dolly Berthelot, a member since 1984, has a new book being published this month. The mini memoir focuses on her ethical spiritual personal growth from Catholicism through Existentialism to what she calls Mystical Humanist Unitarian Universalist and beyond. Through honest stories, timely essays, and original yet accessible poetry, she illustrates what that mouthful means to her and how each aspect has been practically useful. Her insights lead naturally toward both independence and interdependence, and the Common Good to which we all must aspire, especially in this Pandemic Era. While some statements like, “God is irrelevant to me,” will surely be controversial to many, a careful, open-minded read will show much common ground across belief systems.

UU and UUCP are prominent in the little book, which can be useful for newer members and potential members as well as others who might simply like to understand more about this creedless religion or her version of humanism and mysticism. Dolly also touches on her meandering, sometimes controversial, professional life and her personal life, as well as her nuanced philosophy. *SCARS to STARS* moves from a college crisis through world travel and child rearing and end of life caretaking. The latter will be explored much more deeply in *IMPERFECT LOVE*, a longer memoir expected out next year, also to be published by Energion.

This 72-page *SCARS to STARS* paperback sells for \$10 through Energion Publishing or from Dolly.





## CHARITABLE DONATIONS FOR 2021



**From the Treasurer:** 2021 giving statements will be sent out in January. Please ensure all charitable donations you wish to be credited to the 2021 tax year are made by December 31. If you would like to see where you are, let Erin Renfroe know, and she can send you a preliminary statement to review. Our preference is to send statements via email, so please make sure your email address is correct in Simple Church. Thank you!

### REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS A LITTLE DIFFERENT THIS YEAR

Normally, this is the time of year we would remind people who are 70.5 years or older that you can donate to UUCP or to the UUCP Charitable Trust via a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from their Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) without paying any tax on that donation.

The way the QCD usually works: You direct your financial institution to send the donated funds directly to the church or Trust before any remaining amounts are sent to you. That way, the donated funds never hit your bank account and are therefore not counted as part of your taxable income. You do not have to itemize deductions to benefit from this arrangement. For example, if you were to make a \$2000 donation to either the Church or the Trust and you are in the 20% tax bracket, you normally would have to pay about \$400 in taxes on this donation or essentially have \$2,400 in order to make a \$2,000 donation. With the donated monies never entering your taxable income stream, you may even lower your tax bracket.

What is the UUCP Charitable Trust? Just as our IRAs provide us with personal financial stability in times of need, so the UUCP Charitable Trust provides our church financial stability when unexpected or unforeseen expenses occur.

Georgianna Bryant, Chair of the UUCP Charitable Trust & Erin Renfroe, UUCP Treasurer and Trust member – *who are not financial advisors and are not actually offering any financial advice.*

### NOTICE TO ALL MINISTRY TEAMS

The Finance Team requests that all Ministry Teams provide budget requests in January 2021. Ministry Teams will meet early in January. Please make this date your deadline to put together any requests for your line items. If you need information as to what your budget amount is for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, please contact Erin Renfroe. This is a very important item and helps to put together a comprehensive and thoughtful budget for the new fiscal year 2021-2022. Thank you.



### *It's the holidays—how to shop at Amazon guilt-free!*



If you do any shopping (holiday or otherwise) at Amazon (including Amazon Prime), help the church by using [Amazon Smile](https://www.amazon.com/smile) and choosing **UUPensacola** as the nonprofit organization recipient of a percentage of your purchase. Just visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). When you make your Amazon purchase, the church actually receives a percentage of your sale.



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# LET'S GET Together

## READERS' GROUP

Our usual groups will be held on the following dates:

**Friday, December 10 from 10—11am via Zoom**

**Monday, December 20 from 1—2pm at the Ortiz home**

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, recommendations, and passions for escaping in a good book.

## CALLING ALL SINGERS!

The UUCP Singers are back in action, and if you like to sing, you are cordially invited to join us! We are a welcoming and affirming group of all ages, so whether you are a skilled and experienced singer or a beginner, please come and share the joy of making music.

Until further notice, our rehearsals are every *Sunday morning from 8:55 to 9:45*, and we'll be working on some holiday songs.

For safety's sake, we are singing with masks on.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Laura Keith King by text, phone, or email.

## ALL ELVES WELCOME!

Can you spare some time on **Saturday, December 4 at 10 AM?**

In order to prepare for the holiday season we are asking for volunteers to help set up the tree. We promise it won't take long with a group setting up the tree and getting started decorating the very top of the tree.

Further decorating will be on Sunday, with everyone welcome to get ready for the coming holiday season.

Please contact Marylee Donnelly if you can help.

## AND AFTER THE SERVICE DEC. 5, DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

This December 5th after the service please join in the fun and community as we decorate our faith home for the holidays. We'll get the hot cocoa. Please let Sarah Stubbs know if you can volunteer to bring a sweet or salty snack.



## How do we Strive for Justice?

Be on the lookout for alerts from UU Justice Florida in January, (usually found in Thursday email) or maybe sooner, when the legislature will be meeting, and we can expect **Action Alerts**.

Be sure to pick up your Guest at the Table boxes and begin to set aside a small donation every time you are sitting down to eat, remembering that there are many who are guests at our UU table.

As you know, UUs nationwide are striving for justice. Recently several UUs and UU Congregations were recognized by the UU Social Justice Committee. The following is an excerpt from the Committee's December newsletter listing the recipients of several awards.

"We had a wonderful Social Justices Roundtable following our biennial Social Justice Awards Gala. Together these two events were a symposium, of sorts...

On Nov. 20th we had an opportunity to go deep with Rev. Dr. Pippin Whitaker, at our Social Justice Roundtable. Rev. Whitaker delivered a thought-provoking, informative address on how we create justice, the dynamics at play, and what we should be mindful of as we organize for impact.

On Nov. 7th we successfully translated our very popular gala into a Zoom online format, introduced our new national Board of Trustees, celebrated the 18 nominees, and heard inspiring and insightful comments by Rev. Mary Katherine Morn, President & CEO of the UU Service Committee.

And we shared joy with 6 winners, who were:

Donna Scheidt & Rev. Lisa Garcia Sampson of North Carolina: Democracy Work Across Jurisdictions

First UU of Denver, CO: Homelessness Task Force

First Universalist of Baltimore, MD: Refugee Action Team

Stan Allen, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico: ABBA House

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick, MD, Bob Clegg: Justice Jobs

Charles (Moon) Mullins, First UU of Memphis, TN: Team Upstream"

It is encouraging to me to know that Pensacola UUs are not isolated voices or efforts. We are part of a much larger effort, working for a more just world.

*Paula Montgomery*

### LITTLE FREE LIBRARY INSTALLATIONS

The date and times have been set...

Two [Little Free Libraries](#) funded by UUCP, built and maintained by [Humanists of West Florida](#), and stocked by donations from Open Books, will be installed **Saturday, December 11**, beginning at **1:30 p.m.** and continuing until finished.

We will gather at **New World Believers Community Center, 2112 West Yonge Street**, for the first installation, and then travel to **1215 North C Street**, for the second.

The media have been invited. **Let's have a good showing from UUCP**. Feel free to bring a book or two; excess books will be stored in reserve to restock the libraries. The library locations are being registered in the national Little Free Library Foundation directory.

## UUCP Partners with J.U.S.T. Pensacola To Strive for Justice

### J.U.S.T. Pensacola's Research Kick Off—IN PERSON

Dear Justice Seekers,

J.U.S.T. Pensacola's Research Kick Off is IN PERSON on **Monday, December 6th at 6:00pm!** We will be meeting at First United Methodist Church (for a map and directions, click here: [6 East Wright Street, Pensacola, Florida 32501](#)). During this meeting we'll break into two breakout groups: Affordable Housing and Criminal Justice. We'll discuss next steps and outline the research needed. This meeting is a discussion-based meeting so unfortunately a hybrid format will not work—we appreciate your willingness to be flexible while we navigate this weird and unpredictable time.

In order to attend, you'll need to fill out the **registration form**. If you or one of your network members are interested in being part of the research process, please **register** for the meeting, below.

[Register for the 2021 Research Kickoff here](#)

**J.U.S.T. Pensacola**  
Justice United Seeking Transformation

Monday December 6th 2021  
6:00-7:30  
In person at: First United Methodist Church  
6 East Wright Street, Pensacola, Florida 32501

**RESEARCH  
KICKOFF**

We have identified the problems, now let us join together to research proven solutions! The RKO is for all J.U.S.T. Pensacola members who want to be involved in this year's research process!

2021-2022 Issue-cuts:  
Affordable Housing and  
Civil Citations

Kaeli Williams, J.U.S.T. Pensacola Lead Organizer  
511 Woodland Dr Pensacola, FL 32503  
Office Cell: (850)-208-4136, [kaeli@justpensacola.org](mailto:kaeli@justpensacola.org)

***\*Please join me on Monday the 6th at First Methodist Church.  
Call me with questions. Paula Montgomery***

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

Return service requested

[uupensacola@gmail.com](mailto:uupensacola@gmail.com)  
[www.uupensacola.org](http://www.uupensacola.org)



**MOST NEEDED FOODS LIST**

Utilize this list to provide the most healthful food donations for our neighbors.  
 Help Manna by planning a Food & Funds Drive.  
 Details available at our website: <http://www.mannafood.org/give-food/host-a-food-drive/>



|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Grains</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instant oatmeal packets, original flavor</li> <li>• Brown rice (16 oz)</li> <li>• Whole grain pasta (16 oz)</li> </ul> <p><b>Protein</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuna, Salmon or Chicken, in water</li> <li>• Dry or canned beans (low sodium)</li> <li>• Natural nut butters</li> </ul> | <p><b>Fruits &amp; Vegetables</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canned vegetables (low-sodium)</li> <li>• Canned fruit (in juice)</li> <li>• Fruit cups</li> </ul> <p><b>Other Healthy Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shelf-stable, individual milk boxes</li> <li>• Cooking oils &amp; spices</li> <li>• Infant formula &amp; baby foods</li> </ul> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

July 2016

The first Sunday of the month is Manna Sunday, but you can bring donations on any Sunday.

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 Tuesday, November 21st**





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