



# Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola The Light

VOLUME 65 ISSUE 2

February 2022

*Celebrate Diversity · Strive for Justice · Inspire Love*



9888 Pensacola Blvd  
Pensacola, FL 32534  
[uupensacola.org](http://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. Please check your email, Facebook and our website for updates.

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#### **Social Justice**

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## From Our Minister



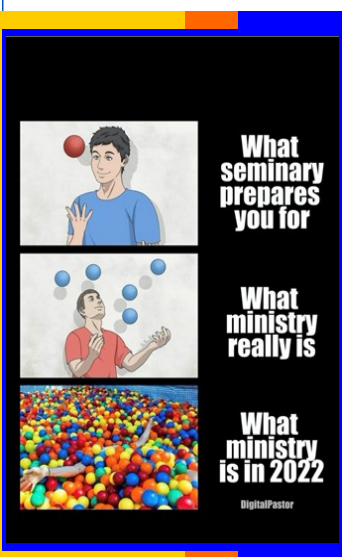
This morning, while sitting at my computer to compose my letter to you for the February issue of The Light, I detect a lingering sweet aroma reminding me of caramelized sugar. Last night, while trying to accomplish a number of things before going to bed, I turned my back on a pot of boiling water and sugar on the stove. I was amazed at how quickly that sweet smell turned into a kitchen full of smoke. I opened the front and back door to the below freezing air, turned on all the fans, and returned the air to breathable. Later today, with my full attention on the task, I will try again to make the cranberry sauce.

First, though, I am giving my full attention to writing to you for the February newsletter.

An article on a UUA website about UU Ministry reads:

“Ministers are spiritual leaders of our faith communities. They help us explore life’s questions, challenge us to live out our values, and comfort us in times of suffering. Ministers teach, preach, listen and learn by leading congregations, serving as chaplains, and working for justice in the community.”

Referring specifically to ministers serving in congregations, as opposed to chaplains or ministers serving in wider community settings, the article continued:



“UU ministers serving congregations act as the spiritual and administrative leaders of their congregations. They lead worship services and give sermons, challenge and guide the congregation’s spiritual focus, provide pastoral care and counseling, conduct special services, and represent Unitarian Universalism in the community. Ministers work closely with congregations’ volunteer leaders to provide vision, direction, and day-to-day administration, often supervising staff.”

As I was reviewing this list of responsibilities, while also reflecting on all the things happening in the ministry of our congregation, this popped up in a group text of clergy friends.

How appropriate, I thought.

(continued on page 2)

## How do we build Beloved Community?

### From Your Board: President's Column

#### Getting Our Groove Back

At the beginning of the pandemic, we knew that we would eventually come out the other end, however changed. Well, here we are, coming out the other end, changed.

At first, that liminal time was very unsettling. But let's step back and appreciate the creativity and camaraderie that it unleashed. Through the hard work of many, working together, we have become a multi-platform operation and continue to develop in that area. We all worked together to protect our most vulnerable and ensured that no one was left behind.



In the Terry McMillan story, *How Stella Got Her Groove Back*, Stella got it back by finding a balance between her personal needs and her responsibilities. Isn't that what we are doing? We continued the work within and outside our walls during our, and our greater community's, shutdowns. And by accepting reasonable risk, we achieved the balance of protecting the vulnerable among us while allowing most to continue to gather in person.

As we feel our way in this new groove, some things will feel familiar and comforting, while others will feel foreign and challenging. We never stopped moving. Where will becoming a Welcoming Congregation take us? What new directions will help us to grow? In what new ways will we continue to build our Beloved Community?

Finding our groove is a process that is creating the space in which to imagine and do new things. Let us remain mindful and direct our creativity so that we are never so comfortable in our new groove that it becomes a rut.

Faithfully,

Arnie Ondis  
Governing Board President

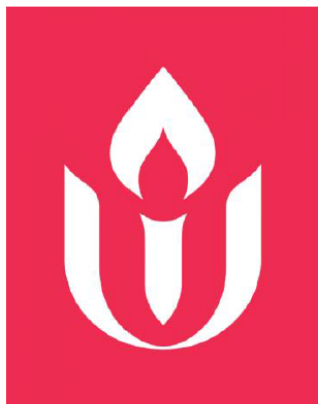
#### From Our Minister

(continued from cover page)

Ministers are not the only people making choices. However, I am aware that within our UU ministry, choices are now reflected in the number of ministerial candidates available for congregations in search. This is not only a trend among UU ministers. A Washington Post Article includes the results of a Barna survey of Protestant pastors published in December that reported 38 percent said they'd considered quitting full-time ministry in the past year.

The picture illustrates that seminary cannot teach us everything we need to know about ministry. In my 20 + years of leadership as an ordained minister in congregations, along with another decade + of professional lay leadership, I wholeheartedly affirm what that picture says to me, the hard lessons are learned in the doing. The number of balls to juggle, or the number of pots boiling over, teach us to pay attention. And that number has increased exponentially in the last two years.

As we move further into 2022, I hope to see us be gentle with one another, open to understanding and compassion, as each of us negotiates the many important issues tugging at us, pulling us perhaps toward new and expanding horizons, or possibly a narrower, more focused sphere. May our life within this congregation be a place of support and nurture as we take on the work of deep listening and learning. This has always been the aspiration of Unitarian Universalism. Let us not forget that in the face of new challenges, lest we be buried in the onslaught of needs and demands.



# CRE \*\*\* Faith Development

## Soul Matters Lessons

Our theme this month is “Widening the Circle.” We will reflect on widening the way we accept ourselves, understanding our insides and outsides. Our society encourages us to spend time on our outsides - what we wear, our hair length, our skin, our height, our weight, how glib or funny we can be.

We will reflect on Widening the Circle of Love, especially since we are close to Valentine’s Day. We widen the circle when we spread love to everyone, including refugees and asylum seekers. We focus on refugees and asylum seekers because they are often “not loved.” So when it comes to widening the circle, our faith clearly tells us, “Love is for everybody.”

We will look at Widening the History We Tell. Many of the stories about African Americans were overlooked or deliberately ignored. In this lesson, we will discover several figures in history whose stories deserve to be told. It is time that we, as a faith, widened the circle of the history we tell. Happy Black History Month!

Lastly, we will explore how we hope to widen the UU principles we live by and add another principle to make 8. In *children’s language* it says: “Build the beloved community, free from racism and oppression.” In *adult language*, it says, “journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.” Our faith is a living tradition. That means that it is an ever-growing faith, pushing us to grow in the process.

## Widening the Circle

This month we explore the ways in which our times call us to “Widen the Circle.” There are four ways we will explore the ways we can widen the circle.

### **Widening the Way We Accept Ourselves –**

Understanding our Outsides and Insides

### **Widening the Love We Share –**

Celebrating all kinds of love

### **Widening the History We Tell –**

Black History Month

### **Widening the Principles We Live By –**

The 8th Principle proposal



## **For Fun and On the Fringe:**

- Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day - Feb. 11
- International Darwin Day (Darwin's Birthday) - Feb 12
- Superbowl Sunday - Feb. 13
- Random Acts of Kindness Day - Feb. 17

### **Children’s Religious Education (CRE) Ministry Team**

Coordinator: Sarah Stubbs Team Leader: Open

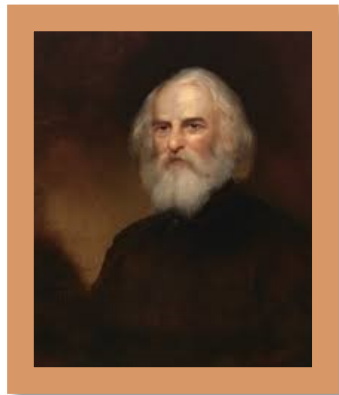
Team Members: Linda Cobb, Penny Featherstone, and Kate Wolverton.



## Sunday Services in February

### Feb 6 “Heroes: Myth or Reality?” with Guest Speaker Ellis Jones, director of the General Chappie James Museum in Pensacola

Mr. Ellis will focus on the concept of heroes and will discuss a few of the common interpretations and meanings of hero. He also will consider the heroic actions of U.S. Air Force Gen. Daniel “Chappie” James Jr. and the Tuskegee Airmen. Gen. James is a Pensacola native who in 1975, became the first African-American to attain the rank of four-star general in the US Air Force.



**Feb 13 “The Wrong Shall Fail, the Right Prevail” Harold W. Beu** This sermon’s title is from “Christmas Poem” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, a poem that became the Christmas carol “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day.” The carol contains the refrain “with peace on earth, good will to men,” a phrase from the Gospel Luke 2:1-14. Many people think of this song as an optimistic affirmation of peace and good will, but it also expresses a darker vision. Longfellow wrote the poem when he was depressed and had suffered personal tragedies. Also, it was a time of violence, chaos, division and racism—the height of the Civil War. Since we today still suffer from violence, chaos, division and racism, I believe this poem is a good text to study to help us to understand our own times and to find some sliver of hope.

**Feb 20 “Widening the Circle” Rev. Alice Syltie and New Member’s Welcome** Our theme for February is “Widening the Circle.” Many of you are probably familiar with the picture of our chalice inside of two concentric circles. It is often portrayed with the poem “Outwitted” by Edwin Markham, born in 1852.

“He drew a circle that shut me out—  
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.  
But Love and I had the wit to win:  
We drew a circle that took him in!”



The poem expresses Markham’s Universalist belief that love is big enough to include everyone. On this Sunday we will welcome new members while considering the human motivation to belong and the meaning of membership in a Unitarian Universalist Church.

**Feb 27 “Practices for a Meaningful Life” with UUCP Member Lauren Anzaldo** All of the



stress and conflict bombarding us lately can leave us feeling anxious, confused, burnt out—seemingly without purpose or joy. During this talk, Lauren will review what sacred teachings, scientific research, and other sources have to say about quality of life. Practices such as nurturing relationships, serving others, and experiencing wonder seem to be key to cultivating a meaningful life.

## How do we Inspire Love?

### *Caring Connection*

Our caring thoughts go out to Dolly Berthelot who has been dealing with serious health issues. Says Dolly: "I'd like to thank Rev. Alice, Kate Wolverton, Lesley Ortiz, and Laurie Winterberg who have visited and brought food, a few others who have offered help, and all who have sent cards and other support. I continue to be quite limited, and confined except for essential medical appointments, but am happy to have improved since my Dec 26-Jan 2 stay in Baptist hospital and return to ER. I'm happy to be in my Riviera Condo complex, with the spirit-lifting bay views and many kind, thoughtful residents. Covenant Care comes periodically. My sister Carolyn, from Baton Rouge is here helping now, then my son Destin from Los Angeles thru Feb 2. After that, unless I remarkably improve and get off oxygen, my biggest need will likely be transportation to medical appointments and perhaps occasional food. I certainly miss UUCP." ~ ~ ~

We'll soon be a little closer to that 21st century sanctuary Marylee mentioned at the Midyear Congregational Meeting: Laura Keith King and Jack Wolverton collaborated on purchasing a set of condenser mics to improve sound quality for our choir and musicians, and a set of wireless headphones so the sound room technician can hear the sound that is actually happening in the sanctuary. You'll be hearing the difference in a week or two.

Many thanks to Dolly Berthelot for providing funding for this purchase.

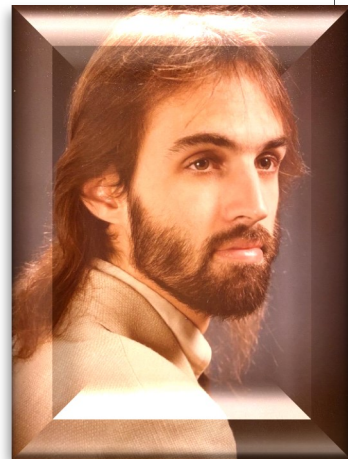
*More improvements to come if the upcoming pledge drive goes as well as we think it will, so keep these goals in mind when deciding on your commitment to the church for 2022-23.* ~ ~ ~

Denise D'Angelo has encouraging news to report: "I've been struggling since having pneumonia over Thanksgiving. Getting better now a little at a time. I rode my bicycle for the first time yesterday since Covid! Miss you all. Hope to see you soon!" ~ ~ ~

Hello, friends, Terra Shute here. I'd like to tell y'all about what has been a sad and very challenging month for our family and for myself. We were exposed to Covid on Christmas Eve, so that canceled Christmas for our family for the second year, for the same reason. After we all isolated for 8 days planning a belated celebration, my former husband, Scott Black passed away on Jan 3rd after many brave but grueling years battling ALS. We'd thought the children, grandchildren and his wife (a saint with a huge heart, who took care of him throughout his illness) would get to spend one last Christmas with him.

I hope some of you will remember Scott; he and I were married at the Pensacola UU Fellowship by Rev. Michael Seider in 1988. We had the first baby born to PUUF and dedicated her (Sinaed) and our other children, T.J. and Leslie, to the church there. Scott and I were very active volunteers, especially with RE and fundraisers, and you couldn't keep us away when there was music to play (Scott played bass and cello beautifully). When we "roasted/toasted" Rev. Michael, Scott took on Michael's role and played it perfectly, earning lots of laughs and knowing smiles.

We joined PUUF in March of 1986 and were thrilled to have finally found our tribe and our home. We had to move to Tennessee in January of 1989 for Scott's job, and I don't think we ever truly got over having to leave our PUUF family. Scott and I often talked about good times we'd had with Paula Montgomery, Julie Patton, Eleanor Cutts, the Goggins, Mountcastles, Berthelots, Haywoods, and Bullivants, Linda and Neil Cobb and Georgianna and Thomas Bryant, among so many others. (continued on page 6)



(continued from page 5)

Back to the present: All of our family was exposed to Covid on Jan 7th and we all became positive for it (except Sinaed and her husband—they'd had it over Christmas) by Jan 10th. We were lucky that no one had a very bad case. The most sorrowful effect, however, was that none of us except Sinaed and her husband and siblings could attend Scott's memorial service or his Celebration of Life on the weekend of Jan 15th, as we were still symptomatic. Of course, we were also unable to visit with the family that had flown in. This was very distressing for us all but especially devastating to Leslie as she had helped to care for her father for quite awhile. None of us could believe that we couldn't be there for Sinaed, the kids and Scott's wife. It's still very hard to accept. Part of it is the finality of it all. There's no way to reschedule giving and getting the love of family and saying goodbye in that formal but necessary ritual.

There is much to be thankful for, however, over these last months. My mother is healing beautifully from her treatments for macular degeneration, and cataract and lasik surgeries, after almost a year of being practically unable to work, read or watch TV. My aunt is finally starting to get better after months of trying to heal from surgery to remove a serious brain tumor. My cousin has finally gotten her blood sugar to an acceptable level. Looking at the big picture, we have a lot to celebrate. I am grateful for these things and many more, and I am vastly grateful for you, my UUCP family. ~ ~ ~



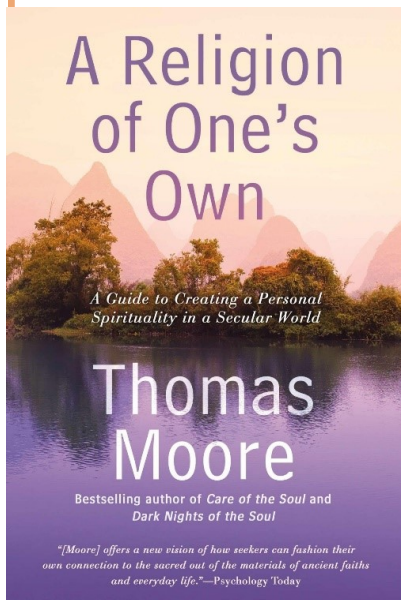


LET'S GET  
Together

**“Exploring a Spirituality of One’s Own:”  
Six-Month Workshop Continues**

Our second workshop in our series will take place Sunday, February 13 after the service, in the sanctuary. Please read and come prepared to consider Part 2 - Clearing the Emotions, Finding Depth (Chapter 3 - Dream Practice, Chapter 4 - Therapy at Home) of Thomas Moore's book, *A Religion of One's Own*.

Whether we are agnostics, atheists, seekers, or devotees of a specific religious tradition, it's possible to fill the gaps in our lives between the spiritual and the secular. Moore reveals how by paying attention to our inner guidance, seeking out mystical experiences in nature and art, and doing the service we feel called to do, we can find a sense of purpose that satisfies us spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally.” - Back cover of book



So that you can schedule your calendar, here are the remaining Sunday dates and topics for the rest of the 6-month series:

- Feb 13      Part 2 - Clearing the Emotions, Finding Depth
- Mar 20      Part 3 - Carnal Spirit—Spirituality and Sensuality
- Apr 24      Part 4 - A Poetic Life
- May 5        Part 5 - Beyond the Self: Inner Guidance
- Jun 12      Part 6 - Soul and Spirit & Postlude - Living Your Bliss

If you have any questions, please reach out to me by email. My contact info is listed in Simple Church or you may call or email the Office at 850.475.9077 or [uupensacola@gmail.com](mailto:uupensacola@gmail.com) and your message will be forwarded to me.

I look forward to taking this journey with you.

~Trista

**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 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.

## Readers' Groups Resume in March—But WAIT—There's MORE!

UUCP's Readers' Groups are scheduled to resume in March, and conclude in May, and there's an additional offering for UUCP's readers.

Joyce Smandra will facilitate a **Zoom New Book Group** where the participants will explore and discuss a particular book. From Joyce:

Because I was intrigued by *Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles and I wanted to discuss the book, I called Marylee, who had recommended this book at our readers' group that meets on Zoom. We had a great discussion, and we wondered if others would enjoy a monthly discussion of a specific book. Please join us via Zoom at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 16 to participate in a discussion of how we will organize our group. Login information will be sent to your email a few days prior to the meeting.

All groups are scheduled for one hour (more or less). If you are a Member or Friend of UUCP, you'll automatically receive an email a few days before each session. For the Zoom sessions, the email will contain the login link to the Zoom meeting.

### Here's the schedule and details:

#### Via ZOOM

#### 10 am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month

March 10  
April 14  
May 12

**IN PERSON at the Ortiz home** (These meetings may be subject to change in response to Covid/Safety concerns)

#### 1 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month

March 21  
April 18  
May 16

**NEW via Zoom: Discuss the Book with Joyce Smandra**

#### 10:30 am 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month

March 16  
April 20  
May 18



Participate in one, two or all three. Questions – Contact Laurie Winterberg.



## How do we Celebrate Diversity, Strive for Justice and Inspire Love?

### Panel Discussion: (Almost) Everything You Wanted to Know About LGBTQIA+ Communities but Were Afraid to Ask, via Zoom

**Feb 6 at 2pm**

Zoom link to be distributed via email and posted on [UUCP's Facebook](#) event page prior to Feb 6, 2022.

A panel of community experts will address important issues facing LGBTQ communities. This panel discussion is part of UUCP's ongoing investigation into being designated as a Welcoming Congregation with the UUA.

Panelists will be:

- ◆ Anne Hooton, LMHC, professional therapist and advocate for the LGBTQIA+ community
- ◆ Rebecca Steele, Trans Outreach Coordinator at Oasis Florida
- ◆ Brennan Champion, a former military service member and trans man who is five years into his transition process

### Thank You, UUCP: Donations Delivered to Street Solutions CHS Program



A haul of blankets and coats donated by UUCP congregants was delivered Jan 12 to the Street Solutions youth outreach program of Children's Home Society (CHS). CHS Counselor April Hein received the donations, which also included hygiene items and a \$100 gift card for the purchase of a changing table for one of the program youth, who just gave birth this week. Hein said, "We so appreciate your care for these young people in our community as they transition to adulthood."

The Street Solutions program serves youth aged 16-22 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Our donations of much-needed items totaled approximately \$700.

For more information about CHS and the Street Outreach program, visit this website: <https://chsfl.org/services/for-teens/street-outreach/>

Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola  
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*Return service requested*

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

**MANNA food center** **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>
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The first Sunday of the month is Manna Sunday, but you can bring donations on any Sunday.

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**Monday, February 21st**

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