



Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

The Light

VOLUME 65 ISSUE 3

March 2022

Celebrate Diversity · Strive for Justice · Inspire Love



9888 Pensacola Blvd
Pensacola, FL 32534
uupensacola.org

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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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From Our Minister



Our Soul Matters Theme for March is Renewing Faith. To me, this theme goes well with the spring season. Knowing that brighter and warmer days are soon to come, is always a hopeful and renewing time for me. I like being outside and I don't like to be cold. While we continue to watch the number of Covid infections decrease, the warmer weather offers opportunities to feel safer gathering in groups, especially for those who are at higher risk of infection.

Connecting with one another became the highest priority during the last two years. While being together in person is most people's preference, we have learned that opportunities to gather online or on Zoom expand access to community. I hope we continue to offer these opportunities. While it took a while to get used to, and some people might be ready to toss their computer off a cliff, I think it is a valuable resource for involving people who, for any number of reasons, find connecting from home a better option. The increasing cost of gas has just been added to my list of good reasons to meet online.

Before the pandemic, I started two groups of Theme Circles. Theme Circles are created for contemplating and sharing our thoughts on the Theme of the month. A packet of readings, resources, and questions designed to open further exploration of the theme is distributed to participants each month. Themes are chosen to be broad enough to engage for a month and to allow flexibility with sermon topics. The themes take the cycle of the church year into account.

Prior to Covid, Theme Circles met at the church and there were 22 people participating. The quick switch to online did not work for everyone. We have kept one group going, and from my perspective, the conversations have been deep and meaningful. As we move into a new season, I would like to encourage you to consider trying this way of deepening your knowledge of yourself and others. A couple of expressed goals of the program are to deepen our theological literacy and build community. If you are participating in the discussion of Thomas Moore's book, "A Religion of One's Own," you may find this a good way to augment or continue your exploration. I am considering options for meeting at church, as well as meeting online. I think this opens up more opportunities for participation.

For right now, I would like to offer Zoom opportunities in March for people to see what Theme Circles are all about. No long-term commitment would be requested. I will also work with our church schedule to see when a new group at church would be possible. If you are willing to give this a try, it would be enormously helpful to know if daytime or evening is important for you. An email to me or to Terra, at the church office, would be a great way for me to gather that information.

I hope you will consider this invitation to experience our Theme of the Month, Renewing Faith, with your comrades of the spirit.

In Love and Hope,

Rev. Alice

How do we build Beloved Community?

From Your Board: President's Column

Our Covenant:

Love is the spirit of this Church,

And service its law.

This is our covenant:

To dwell together in peace,

To seek the truth in love,

And to help one another.



I've been thinking a lot about our covenant lately. It is one of the things that initially drew me to UUCP. Just imagine—the people of a church pledging to live their faith together in right relations with one another. That is no small thing.

We have many guiding documents—ideals, really—such as the Seven Principles, the Six Sources, and our Mission Statement. But our covenant is different in that it is a behavioral contract.

It is our good-faith pledge to one another. When conflicts arise, as they will, we are enjoined to seek the resolution in love. This, to me, is Unitarian Universalism. If one speaks the loftiest UU philosophies with pedigreed erudition but does not live in peace and love with their fellows, that, to me, is not Unitarian Universalism.

As we grow and evolve, change is inevitable, as are differences of opinion. Our covenant is the glue that holds us together. Peacefully seeking the truth in love, and helping one another, is how we continue to build our Beloved Community.

Faithfully,

Arnie Ondis

Governing Board President

How do we covenant to care for one another?

From you I receive, To you I give, Together we share, From this we live

Religion has a role to play in helping people make the connection between making a living and living a meaningful, spiritually satisfying life. Stewardship is an important part of this process. We must define what is truly important to us, evaluate our current behavior toward money, and make a place in our lives for contributing time and money to the things we value. The act of giving starts a whole cycle of positive events in our lives. We see that we can make a difference. We become more confident, hopeful, and empowered to take the next step. We create new relationships, discover new perspectives, and make more meaningful connections to our surroundings, all of which helps us to grow spiritually.

The giving cycle is positive, affirming and joyous. Our Unitarian Universalist religious communities provide us with the best place for this exploration and growth to take place...stewardship will help us discover this joyous cycle, the joy of giving. Stewardship takes place at the intersection of our spirituality and our ethics. We both celebrate life and accept the responsibility to love and care for the gifts of life. We both celebrate Unitarian Universalism and take responsibility for promoting our Principles and Purposes and living the values of our faith.

This concept of stewardship calls us to invest our gifts of time, talent, and treasure widely: in the family, in the community in which we live, and in the congregation and faith to which we belong. Stewardship is not just about caring for the present, but investing in the future. We hold what we value—including our Unitarian Universalist congregations and institutions—in trust. As stewards, we work to ensure that what we cherish will be there in the future for the benefit of others. (Excerpted from <https://www.uua.org/files/documents/scheyerfia/stewardshipjoygiving.pdf>, pp 127-128).

"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do." - Edward Everett Hale

A Vision

by Dolly Berthelot

(reprinted from *The Light*, November 1991)

Author's Note: The context of this was the Northpoint scenic hillside site we purchased to build on but ultimately sold because of potential construction challenges. Although the site never became our new home, this poem illustrates that while specific dreams may need to be altered, the prevailing spirit of our congregation persists—and is always worth nurturing. – Dolly

A place of warmth, and love, and inspiration.

Of caring, of laughter, of fun.

A place with room to stretch and grow, in all respects...

To expand the membership and the mind.

A place that reflects who we are, at our best:

Bright, fresh, open, diverse.

Colorful, curious, creative.

Proudly ourselves.

Lovers of the land, the world, and one another.

Appreciators and guardians of Nature's Great Good.

Giant oaks greet through glass walls in our unique church in the Pensacola hills.

Comfortable for the disabled and aged.

A place for kids to learn and play

and grow up to replace us as we leave our worthy legacy.

Inviting to strangers who may be kindred spirits.

A community center in the woods.

A gathering place, known to be where things that matter, happen.

A sharing place, where intimacy is safe.

A healing place, for support, solitude and solace.

A places that respects and responds to our varied needs.

Home for many, a joy for all.

A new, ever-improving PUUF that keeps the best of all we cherish.
A construction of our collective dreams.

Shared will.

Shared gifts.

Shared work.

Shared vision made real.

Together, we can...

The 2022-23 Pledge Drive ends March 6. We hope you'll join us in our vision.



CRE *** Faith Development

Soul Matters Lessons

And time goes marching on. Ah, Spring.

This month we will be gathering in the rainforest room for lessons designed for all ages during the service. This will include ages 4 to 99 but targeted for ages 4 - 12. We encourage adult participation via volunteering to assist and/or lead Sunday school. You may or may not be aware we lost two of our most active Sunday School volunteers to life opportunities outside our area. Tabitha, Linda and I have been holding it together the best we can and need volunteers to help in the nursery, classroom, and in the sanctuary for TFAA (Time for All Ages). Please contact me if you would like more information about volunteering. My information can be found in the Simple Church directory or email me at uupensacola@gmail.com.

I had intended to have a CRE Team meeting in February, but not enough interest was expressed. I would like to try again this month. Please know that the team is open to anyone with an interest in growing our church community. You do not need to be a parent of children to participate. The Zoom meeting will be March 8 at 10 am. Please contact me or Linda Cobb for the Zoom information.



Renewing Faith

This month's theme invites us to think about not only what values our UU faith calls us to but also the actions and skills that *our times* require of us. Pandemic time, along with our racial, political and environmental challenges, exposes the need for humanity to change and adjust in key ways:

- Renewing Faith in Promises** - The Practice of Covenanting
- Renewing Faith in Ourselves** - The Practice of Trusting Our Gifts
- Renewing Faith in Each Other** - The Practice of Joining Forces for the Common Good
- Renewing Faith in Simple Things** - The Practice of Noticing the Richness We Already and Always Possess.



For Fun and On the Fringe:

- National Day of Unplugging – first Friday of March (March 2)
- Pi Day – March 14
- Everything You Think is Wrong Day – March 15
- Tolkien Reading Day – March 25

Children's Religious Education (CRE) Ministry Team

Coordinator: Sarah Stubbs Team Leader: Open

Team Members: Linda Cobb



Sunday Services in March

Mar 6 “Rejuvenating Your Faith” with Rev. Maggie Lovins

Join UUCP’s very own community minister Rev. Maggie Lovins as we gather again in the transition to spring. What does it look like to renew ourselves as nature renews herself? Let us come together for renewing, reviving and restoring our faith together.

Photo by [Brooke Cagle](#) on [Unsplash](#)



March 13 “What is the Faith of a Unitarian Universalist?” Rev. Alice Syltie

Our Theme for this month, Renewing Faith, prompts me to ask that question. Faith: How do we find it, renew it, keep it? Is it possible to help one another hold on to faith in hard times? These are good questions, as we are now inundated with the disturbing and tragic images of war on our nightly news. Our theme this month reminds me of the importance of knowing our history of theology and faith, as it has developed throughout the story of Unitarian Universalism.

March 20 “Famous Folks You Did Not Know Were UUs” Paula Montgomery and Sarah Stubbs, CRE

This service will be fun and surprising, and appropriate for all ages. We will hear from our surprising UUs in skit format.



March 27 “Faith in Action” Rev. Alice Syltie

Anne Lamott writes “I have a lot of faith. But I am also afraid a lot, and have no real certainty about anything. I remembered something Father Tom had told me—that the opposite of faith is not doubt, but certainty. Certainty is missing the point entirely. Faith includes noticing the mess, the emptiness and discomfort, and letting it be there until some light returns.” As we continue our exploration of Renewing Faith, these words from Anne Lamott speak to me about ways Unitarian Universalists have put their faith in action, toward the world we seek to build.

Photos by [Joel Muniz](#) and [Marcus Spiske](#) on [Unsplash](#)



March is Trust Month!

By recent proclamation, the Governing Board of UUCP and the Trustees of the UUCP Charitable Trust declared that March of every year will henceforth be recognized to honor and promote awareness of our Trust.

What is the UUCP Charitable Trust?

It's a legal entity separate from the church – founded March 22, 1988 by Ken Bullivant, Don Danly, and Barbara Goggins – for the purpose of receiving and investing funds for the long-term support of UUCP (then PUUF).

How does the Trust help the church?

All donations go into the principal of the Trust (the Permanent Endowment), which is meant to remain intact in perpetuity. Income from the corpus (the Accessible Endowment) is available for use by the church when needed. The Building Fund provides loans to the church for repairs or improvements to the building and grounds.

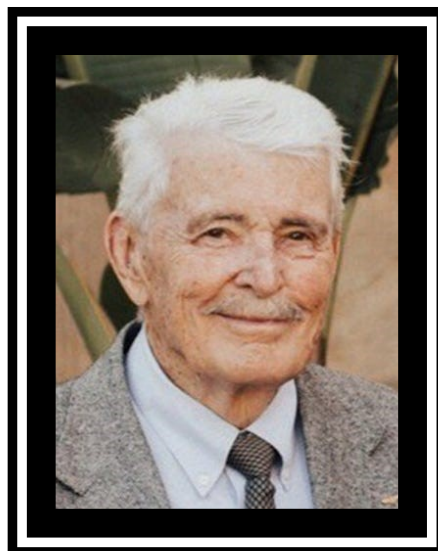
Why would I donate to the Trust?

Donations to the church fund the day-to-day operating expenses – the minister, utility bills, paid staff, music, etc. Donations to the Trust help ensure the financial stability of the church for the long haul. When you donate to the Trust, your donation works for the church for years and decades to come.

Donate to the Trust to honor a church member or loved one, to celebrate special occasions, or just to be a part of the church's future in the community. You can also provide for the Trust in your estate planning. (See a Trustee for help doing this.)

The Trust is celebrating its 34th birthday this March, so we celebrate our church forbears who had the vision to create it, and all those who have donated to the future of UUCP.

2022 Trustees: Georgieanna Bryant, Chair; Gerry Donnelly, Treasurer; Erin Renfroe, Secretary; Laurie Winterberg, and Patti Underwood



Arthur Edouard de Tonnancourt

Arthur Edouard de Tonnancourt, USN Cdr. (Ret.), age 90 of Pensacola, died Monday, February 7th at his home after a short illness. Arthur was born on January 7, 1932, to Antonio de Tonnancourt and Orea Lamoureaux in West Warwick, Rhode Island. He graduated from Rhode Island College of Education then entered flight training with the US Navy, earning his wings in 1953. He served as Commanding Officer of VT-1 Training Command, 1969-70, and afterward obtained his Master's Degree in International Affairs from the Naval War College at George Washington University in Newport, Rhode Island. He served four years with NATO overseas, retiring in Pensacola in 1977.

Among his many interests and accomplishments were his passions for fly fishing and soaring - piloting glider planes well into his 80's. He is survived by his wife, Linda, his four children, 13 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and many friends in his Fly Fishing Club and Glider Club. He loved the ocean and his family. He will be sorely missed by all.

How do we Strive for Justice?

Save the dates for JUST Pensacola

Sunday March 13 at 11:15 following the service:

We would like each of you who signed up to be a JUST network member at a house meeting to attend our Network Meeting March 13th. At this meeting you will receive the research teams' updates on Affordable Housing, Civil Citations for Juveniles and Civil Citations for Adults. We will also be sure that each UUCP member is invited to the Pep Rally and the Nehemiah Assembly Action and encouraged to invite 8 people to these events. Let's fill Wahoo Stadium on May 2, 2022.

Monday March 28 at 6 pm Pep Rally (location to be announced)

At this event we will learn what the research teams have determined to be significant, winnable 'asks' from public officials to improve the use of Civil Citations for Juveniles and Adults. We will hear what JUST Pensacola will ask of officials to make significant progress against the Affordable Housing Crisis. These teams have had numerous meetings with people from different organizations to determine exactly who and what can make an impact on the issues. We may hear testimonies from people whose lives have been affected by these issues.

Monday May 2 at 6 pm at Wahoo Stadium (Woo! Hoo!)

It's been 2 years since we have had a Nehemiah Assembly in person. **This is it people!** Finally, we can bring out 1,200 or more people to impress our stockholders that we mean business. We will ask our public officials to make policies and take actions that can and will make a dent in the Affordable Housing Crisis and significantly increase the use of Civil Citations. We want Pensacola to do much better and be a better place to live for all its residents.

How do we Inspire Love?

Caring Connection

Congratulations to Nathan and Molly Wolverton of Houston, Texas, who just had their first baby (long-timers might remember Nathan building the children's playground out back for his Eagle Scout project many years ago) and to Kate and Jack Wolverton who have become grandparents for the first time! Brynlee Shannon Wolverton was born on February 2, 2022 (2-2-22) and weighed 8 pounds and 8 ounces and was 20 inches long. Kate and Jack were delighted to be able to visit when she was just a few days old, and can't wait to see her again. Happy grandparenting!

In Need of Some RETAIL THERAPY??

In the absence of our traditional and much-loved yard sales and auctions, the Finance Team is offering, as a pilot project, a different way to have fun, score some incredible bargains and support your favorite UU church...

The 'BUY IT NOW' Store

will open for business on Saturday, March 13th and close on Friday, March 25th.

No competitive bidding—the prices are set—and you know immediately that you've gotten something wonderful.

Making use of technology, this 100% on-line store is open 24 hours a day for your browsing, daydreaming and shopping.

As of this writing, I've sneaked a look at the catalog— there's lovely furniture, home décor and furnishings, crafts, tools, yard and kitchen equipment, and so much more!

Want to shop? Watch your email for announcements that the store is 'open' and the instructions to shop.

In the meantime, if you have questions, get in touch with the Finance Team folks – Laurie Winterberg, or Erin Renfroe.

We Need a Hand in the Sound Room – Please, Can You Help?

UUCP needs help in the Sound Room on Sunday mornings.

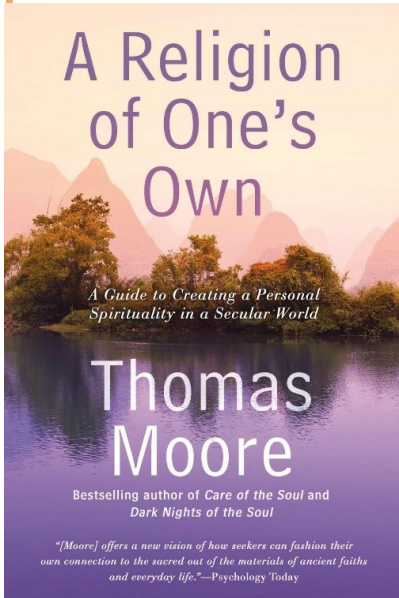
We have a dedicated group of members who help with sound and screen work. But we need more help. You will receive training, and it's really not difficult.

- ★ It's fun!
- ★ YOUU are needed.
- ★ You won't have to miss every service since you won't be needed every week.
- ★ You'll look really cool wearing our new wireless headphones.

Anyone interested, please contact Marylee Donnelly.



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



Our third workshop in our series will take place Sunday, March 20 after the service, in the sanctuary. We will spend the first half of the session looking at what we uncovered about ourselves over the last 6 weeks in Part 2 (personal mythology, dreams, etc.). For the second half, we will take a first look at Part 3 and discuss what we hope to uncover in the work of this section (please try to read or glance over it before the session).

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:

- 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 and your message will be forwarded to me.

I look forward to taking this journey with you.

~Trista

‘Creation’ Photo-Illustration Display Coming to Church March 27

Photographer Chuck Lisner of Temple Beth-El will display and discuss his "Creation" series of photo illustrations after the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, March 27.

His presentation will start at 11:30.

Lisner based this imaginative work on the creation imagery in Genesis. It was displayed last fall at the First City Arts Gallery.

Readers' Groups Resume in March—Note March 21st Change!

The in-person Readers' Group will meet at a new time and new location on Monday, March 21st.

NEW Time - 1:30 pm

NEW Location - the home of Helaine Clendennen

It is recommended that you contact Helaine to let her know you're coming. You can find her contact information on the Simple Church website or phone app or by calling the church office at 850-475-9077. If you are using the Simple Church phone app, you can click on her address and Google Maps will guide you right to her home.

As is the case in our COVID times - meeting in person may be subject to change. Watch your email from the church for updates.

Remember: Joyce Smandra will facilitate a **Zoom New Book Group** where the participants will explore and discuss a particular 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 2nd 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 3rd Monday of the month

April 18

May 16

NEW via Zoom: Discuss the Book with Joyce Smandra

9:30 am 3rd Wednesday of the month
(updated time)

March 16

April 20

May 18



Lunch Bunch

Eventually...I'll (Hugh Ed Turner) be able to write a true notice of a Lunch Bunch event; but in the meantime, I wanted to sketch out a new parameter of site selection (where we might go to eat). I'm thinking that we'll pay special attention to eateries that...also...brew beer.

Last year, for myself, I reasoned that instead of buying beer at sellers offering national brands, and therefore 'sending' my money 'out of town' there were enough local breweries, and therefore variety of choice in Escambia County to fill my personal needs. My normal consumption is 1/2 beer per day, so a case lasts about 8 weeks. (My one-half beer practice goes back to sharing a nightly beer with my mother, pre-2007, and it's been easy to continue.)

So, I'll be glad to read whatever comments you, who have been and plan to continue to be Lunch Bunchers, or those of you who might be newly aware, or now aroused to consider that once-a-month (2nd Wednesdays) gathering—once it becomes advisable. And of course, the food choices will matter, since both carnivore and vegetarian palates must be catered to. And also, some of the same old/usual places will be chosen.

Please drop a line as to your interest in this choice/style of eateries, and if you know of such places you've seen or tried, please advise to me at huturn@juno.com. Or just stop me on Sundays.

Thoughts on Entertainment from Hugh Ed

I read in the WSJ that Netflix and Amazon and AMC, etc. are up and down stock market-wise in their efforts to satisfy those who pursue their entertainment needs from those sources. Being frugally blessed by no electronic connections to the entertainment world, my main source of small screen "engagement" comes via air signal, from which I receive all the big four (ABC, NBC, CBS and PBS), and many more, nice and clear from an inside antenna.

Though spending most of my time with PBS (5 channels), and some nights, CBS (5 channels), between 7 and 9 PM I have often found stimulation and satisfaction on 35.3 with "Quantum Leap". The lead actor, for those who don't recall the 1989 to 1993, 5 seasons, is Scott Bakula, the same NCIS New Orleans chief, now a bit on the skinny side, and sometimes, I think, a role not requiring the range that he achieved on QL. To remind those old enough to recall, the science-fiction stories had him leaping into the life of a character who was facing some sort of life challenge—such as a supersonic test pilot, as a mother whose oldest daughter was finding women's lib in the 60-70's, or a black man/chauffer much in the position of Morgan Freeman in "Driving Ms. Daisy." The range of scenarios cover pretty well the social conflicts that we will recall from the 1950's thru 1970's. (Let me know if you have trouble finding it; 35.3 is a product of ABC TV3; Google it for more info.)

Unitarian Universalist Church of
Pensacola
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Pensacola, FL 32534

Return service requested

uupensacola@gmail.com
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>Grains</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instant oatmeal packets, original flavor • Brown rice (16 oz) • Whole grain pasta (16 oz) <p>Protein</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuna, Salmon or Chicken, in water • Dry or canned beans (low sodium) • Natural nut butters 	<p>Fruits & Vegetables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canned vegetables (low-sodium) • Canned fruit (In Juice) • Fruit cups <p>Other Healthy Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelf-stable, individual milk boxes • Cooking oils & spices • Infant formula & baby foods
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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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**Deadline for submissions for
APRIL LIGHT:
Monday, March 21st**



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