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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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Paula Montgomery

Scott Satterwhite

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From Our Minister



I am writing this on a beautiful sunny day in Pensacola. There have been many cold and dreary days the last few months. Today is a signal that spring is here and although there will likely be another cold snap, and for sure spring rain, more days will be brighter, flowers will be blooming, trees will be greening. Our theme for April is Awakening. Spring offers us the invitation to once again awaken to the splendor of new life, and the beauty of earth's treasures surrounding us.

Some days and some years this awakening is harder than others. This year may be one of the harder ones. As a congregation, we have felt the profound loss of cherished members. As a country, we are struggling with deep divisions that threaten our sense of order and trust. As a world, we are mired in grief for the suffering of so many people trapped in the tragedy of war.

This month, for the first time in 30 years Ramadan, Passover, Easter and Vaisakhi will overlap. A number of other religious holidays fall within the three-month span of March through May. It is interesting that so many traditions clustered around this time of year focus on reflection, introspection, commitment to community values, and questions of how to venture into life anew.

This month we too will consider how we move through the tough and tender moments of life, while continually awakening to new insights that enrich our sense of meaning and purpose. May our gathering times awaken us to more moments of beauty and joy, even as we struggle with times of sorrow.

In Love and Hope,

Rev. Alice

How do we build Beloved Community?

From Your Board: President's Column

Trimming Our Sails to the Wind

One must trim one's sails to the wind, as the old saying goes. The meaning, of course, is that one must adapt to new or altered circumstances.

New or altered circumstances. I think we've had a lot of experience with those over the last couple of years. I can't even count the number of times we've had to cut our jib quickly because of rapidly shifting circumstances.

This is all to say that, yet again, we are going to have to make some adjustments. And these are going to be difficult. The pledge drive is completed, and we are left with a diminished budget due to the passing and relocation of several members. We are faced with hard decisions of funding various necessities, while ensuring that we are meeting our mission of celebrating diversity, striving for justice, and inspiring love. It seems that everything is a necessity.

Our Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 22nd, and the congregation will vote on the proposed budget for Year 2022-23. The Governing Board will be sharing information in the coming weeks so that everyone is informed of the issues prior to the meeting.

The last couple of years have also demonstrated our resilience. I believe that as we go through these new adjustments, the process will unlock great creativity as we imagine and create our future. Be of good cheer.

Faithfully,

Arnie Ondis
Governing Board President



How do we Strive for Justice?

Save the date for JUST Pensacola

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

It's been 2 years since we have had a Nehemiah Action Assembly in person. **This is it people!** Finally, we can bring out 1,200 or more people to impress our stakeholders (and the city officials who'll be there) 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.

Register for the 2022 Nehemiah Action using this link: <https://forms.gle/D8JZmK27VVT8RkZ67>

These are the exciting times, when we ask for justice for our community.



CRE *** Faith Development

Soul Matters Lessons

Ah, Spring. April showers bring May flowers.

This month we will focus on waking up and looking around to what things, people or places are important to UUs, to us and to our community at large. We want to be thoughtful and present in our lives, not missing the little things that make each day wonderful. On the flip side we will also look into pain and struggle and how we can overcome them and help others to overcome them, by being present and thoughtful. As we support our friends, neighbors, and family to heal we will investigate how we are all a part of the interconnected web of life. What we do and don't do matters.

CRE Zoom Meeting

We had a great meeting last month. I plan to have an afternoon/early evening meeting this month for those that cannot make it in the mornings. This month we will meet at 5pm on April 11. We will meet via Zoom. Please contact Sarah Stubbs if you will be attending the meeting for login instructions.

We will be firming up Easter Sunday plans and discussing summer programming and Teen programming. And exploring what volunteering in CRE looks like.



Awakening

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:

Waking up to What Really Matters:

Weighing things thoughtfully

Waking up to Wonder and Beauty:

Being present

Waking up to the Pain and Struggle of Others:

The power to help heal

Waking up to the Interconnected Web:

Earth Day



For Fun and On the Fringe:

- April Fool's Day—April 1
- Star Trek Day—April 5
- CRE Zoom Meeting—April 11
- Easter—April 17
- National Tell a Story Day—April 27
- National Superhero Day—April 28

Children's Religious Education (CRE) Ministry Team

Coordinator: Sarah Stubbs Team Leader: Open

Team Members: Linda Cobb



Sunday Services in April from 10am to 11am

April 3 “Play: A Gateway into Awakening” UUCP Member & seminary student Trista Blouin

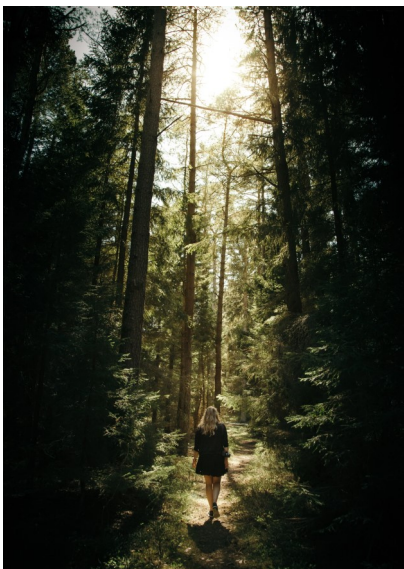
The demands of daily life can suck us into a state of lifeless secularism where misery feels like our best friend and days and weeks roll into each other without much distinction. But what if we could awaken to our full potential of joy and spiritual attunement through something as simple as play? Join Trista as she interactively invites us to shift the kaleidoscope of our understanding of this child-associated activity.

Trista Blouin is a UUCP member and seminary student studying to become a chaplain.



April 10 “Seeking Solace” Rev. Alice Sylie

Unitarian Universalism is often cited for not having a theology that adequately supports people in times of loss or grief. While our answers to theological questions about suffering may not match what some faith traditions teach, I do not believe we are bereft of a theology that validates our human experience and offers solace in our sorrow. Photos by [Geran de Klerk](#), [Ksenia Ksenia](#), and [Jack Sharp](#) on [Unsplash](#).



April 17 Flower Communion Sunday “Awaken to Life” Rev. Alice Sylie

Our annual Flower Communion Service is a celebration of the renewal of life and hope at the center of this season of Easter, Passover, and Spring. It is also a time to build lasting memories for our children. Our sanctuary comes alive with the splendor of flowers, representing the variety and beauty reflected in our coming together as people of all ages, with unique perspectives, hopes and dreams. Each person, from the youngest child to the oldest adult, is asked to bring a flower to share, as we participate in the annual giving and receiving of a flower. Photo by [Jake Thacker](#) on [Unsplash](#)

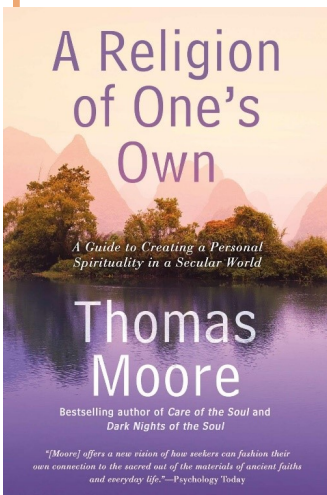


April 24 TBA

LET'S GET Together

“Exploring a Spirituality of One’s Own:”

Six-Month Workshop Continues



Our fourth workshop in our series will take place Sunday, April 24 after the service, in the sanctuary. We will spend the first half of the session looking at what we uncovered in Part 3 in our work around the erotic, sensuality, and seeing the sacred in the secular. For the second half, we will take a first look at Part 4 and discuss what we hope to uncover in the work of exploring our spirituality in poetry, art, muses, and angels (simply reading Part 4 is all that is necessary before class).

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.”

—From 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:

- 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

Readers’ Groups

The Readers' Group - In Person - scheduled for April 18th and May 16th have been cancelled.

The two ZOOM Groups (Thur, April 14th and Wed, April 20th) are unchanged.

Here are the schedule and the details:

Via Zoom

10:00 am on the 2nd Thursday of the month **April 14** **May 12**

Discuss the Book with Joyce Smandra via Zoom

9:30 am on the 3rd Wednesday of the month **April 20** **May 18**





UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY MULTIPLATFORM / PORTLAND • 2022

In 2022, we will have the option of meeting online or in-person! For those who enjoyed the convenience and accessibility of remote participation, General Assembly will continue to offer virtual attendance with robust programming and enhanced delegate discussion tools. For those who have been missing the physical experience, GA 2022 will also feature face-to-face interactions, hanging banners, a browsable exhibit hall, meals with friends old and new, local site attractions, and more! Join us June 22 - 26, 2022 online or in-person in Portland, Oregon.

All GA attendees and exhibitors are required to provide proof of Covid-19 Vaccination for in-person attendance at General Assembly. In addition, masking is required, and physically distanced seating options will be reserved in our meeting spaces.

Visit <https://www.uua.org/ga> for more information and to register.

Does the speaker
know we can't
understand what
she's saying?

Attention Please!

I can't hear
you, please
speak up!

How to become groovy, cool, awesome—(pick a decade)
—with just one phone call (to Marylee)

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 all our services since **you won't be needed every week.**
- ★ You'll look really cool wearing our new wireless headphones.
- ★ Free coffee and snacks after the service! ;)

Sometimes it's
difficult to follow the
choir.

Anyone interested, please contact Marylee Donnelly.

I tried to watch the ser-
vice on our YouTube
channel but I couldn't
understand a word.



How do we Strive for Justice?

From the UUA Newsletter: As the situation in Ukraine continues to unfold, there has been an outpouring of prayers and concern from Unitarian Universalists. We hope that you will continue to hold the people of Ukraine in your hearts, and everyone around the world who are suffering because of war and injustice. In the links below, we have gathered our most up to date information on how UUs in the United States and around the world are responding to the humanitarian need, and to amplify the ways that we can all help.

At the time that news broke about Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Unitarian Universalists were also outraged at the harmful Texas legislation attacking trans children and their families—which is an affront to the worth and dignity of the entire human family. Side With Love issued a statement making important connections between the violations occurring domestically and abroad.

[From Texas to Ukraine](#)

UU World partnered with Bruce Knotts, Director of the UU office at the United Nations, to highlight valuable history and perspective on the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. In this story, Knotts shares background on the early UU connections to the United Nations' Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

[Ukraine And Our Commitment To Peace](#)

The UUA has been working closely with our partners at the UU Service Committee, an organization dedicated to advancing human rights and social justice, to support an international community of grassroots partners and advocates. They have created an emergency relief fund to support Ukraine and we are committed to amplifying their humanitarian work.

[UUSC Emergency Relief Fund](#)

Staff in our International Resources office have been in contact with Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists outside of the United States. They have gathered information on additional ways to help those impacted. Learn how you can support the refugee work of the Hungarian Unitarian Church and the Faithify campaign of the International Women's Convocation.

[Additional International Resources](#)



How do we Inspire Love?



The Welcoming Congregation Designation Committee will hold a Second Hour Information and Discussion Session on April 10, beginning at 11:30 or so after the church service, in the sanctuary. The [Welcoming Congregation](#) designation has been available to UU congregations since the 1990s, and at the Annual Congregational Meeting in May, we will vote on whether to proceed with an application. Please join us for information, to ask questions, and to share your views! You may have missed the information offered at the last Congregational Meeting, or you may still have questions, and we welcome you!



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.

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

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Laura Keith King by text or phone; you'll find contact info in Simple Church.

If you have not pledged yet, **it is not too late!** Please let Erin Renfroe know what you'd like to pledge for the coming year and we will add it to the projected income. The budget information and link to the online pledge form, as well as a .pdf that can be printed out, are all available in the Members section of the website.

(If you are giving an offering every week, thank you very much - but please consider making it a pledge. No amount is too small, but if we don't know it's coming, we can't count it in projected income.)

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Pensacola
9888 Pensacola Blvd.
Pensacola, FL 32534*

Return service requested

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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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July 2016

The first Sunday of the month is Manna Sunday, but we welcome donations on any Sunday.

**Landscaping
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...and more!**




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**Deadline for submissions for
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