

# Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

To celebrate diversity, strive for justice, and inspire love.

VOLUME 65 ISSUE 6 June 2022

## The Light



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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Past President: Lauren Anzaldo

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Laura Keith King

Jean Siebenaler

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#### Membership

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#### Safer Congregation

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#### Social Justice

Paula Montgomery

Scott Satterwhite

#### Sunday Services

Marylee Donnelly



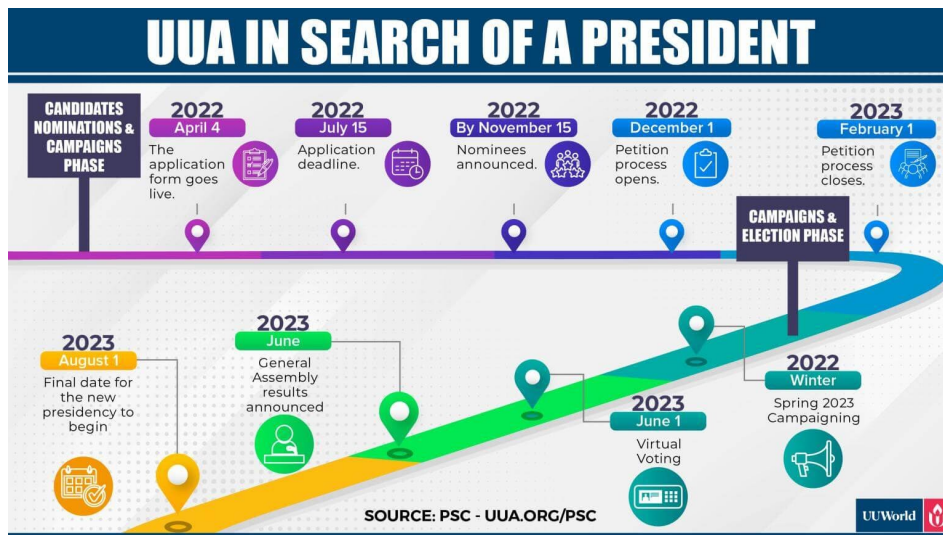
## Showing Up For Our UU Living Tradition

We are entering a momentous time for Unitarian Universalism. In a few months, we will gather for General Assembly (GA) either in person in Portland, OR, or online wherever you are. This will be an exciting and inclusive multiplatform experience with unprecedented opportunities to engage with UUs from across the country and around the world.



To support broad participation and provide time for discernment about business decisions up for a vote this year, the UUA Board of Trustees is offering multiple online events for UUs to take part in now and in the coming weeks. In this time when democratic institutions in our wider world are ever more under threat, it matters that we can show up faithfully for the democratic practices that make our faith tradition strong.

## New UUA President to Be Elected in 2023



Our UUA President, the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, is in her fifth year of a six-year term, and UUs will elect a new president at GA 2023.

The Presidential Search Committee (PSC) will be accepting applications through the deadline on July 15. Continuing the UUA's commitment to dismantling white supremacy culture and other systems of oppression and receiving a wide pool of diverse applicants are top commitments of the search committee.

Candidates may also run by petition rather than through the PSC process. The petition process opens on December 1, 2022, and closes on February 1, 2023.

## How do we build Beloved Community?

### From Your Board: President's Column

We have come to the end of another church year. It was a year in which we suffered many losses and continued to deal with COVID. In general, a lot of adversity, anxiety and urgency.



I've been thinking about Albert Einstein's words, "Adversity introduces a man to himself," in relation to how we responded. We were more than equal to the challenge. We have shown ourselves to be responsive, resilient, and forward-thinking. We have executed our mission while growing and adapting to newness.

Now we face another challenge: moving forward without a minister. But we're not stepping off into the unknown. We know who we are, and the stuff of which we are made. And we will be fine.

I thank the outgoing Board, Rev. Alice, and all of you for our shared success. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as president. I look forward to all of us working together under the leadership of President Laura Keith King as we deepen and widen our connections within and outside our community.

Faithfully,

Arnie Ondis  
Governing Board President

### Sunday Services in June

#### June 5th "CommUUnity" with UUCP Members Heather Stephanescu and Daniel Cobb

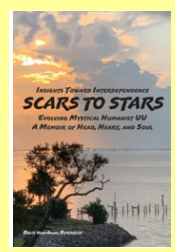
A group discussion regarding community within the church and society at large. Bring your thinking caps and be prepared to participate!



#### June 12th TBA

#### June 19th **SCARS TO STARS** with Author and UUCP Member Dr. Dolly Berthelot

Dr. Dolly will share life stories, poems, and ideas from her latest book, a mini memoir of her ethical/spiritual development spurred first by young religious conflict and heartbreak thru a lifetime of continuing growth. The short book is entitled *SCARS TO STARS, Evolving Mystical Humanist UU, A Memoir of Head, Heart, and Soul*. It is available now thru the publisher Eneigion at [drdollyb.com/stars](http://drdollyb.com/stars) or in a book signing following the service. 10% of sales at UUCP will be donated to UUCP.



#### June 26th TBA



# CRE \*\*\* Faith Development

## Celebrating Blessings

Our theme this month is “Celebrating Blessings.” In this lesson, we reflect on what a blessing is. Is it as simple as what you say after a sneeze? There are blessings at the dinner table, counting your blessings, and “you are a blessing.” Many see life’s gifts as blessings from God. Our faith uses the idea of blessing to refer to something good, something that feels like a gift. Celebrating blessings means remembering with gratitude all the good things in our lives.

## National Cultural Holidays not to be missed:

- Pride Month
- Anniversary of the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando - June 12
- Father’s Day - June 19, 2022
- Juneteenth Emancipation Celebration - June 19
- World Refugee Day - June 20
- National Indigenous Peoples Day (Canada) - June 21
- St. Jean Baptiste Day (Canada - Quebec) - June 24
- Stonewall Uprising - June 28

## Lessons from Soul Matters: Celebrating Blessings

Our faith reminds us, when it comes to nurturing beauty, we need to “Appreciate It” in all its many forms, and that celebrating the beauty of others comes from understanding, awareness, and empathy.

- **What is a Blessing?**
- **Celebrating the Blessings of Diversity**
- **Celebrating the Blessings of Friends and Friendship**
- **Finding Blessings in Tough Times - Celebrate the Silver Linings**



## For Fun and On the Fringe:

- National Garden Week - First week of June
- National Trails Day - First Saturday in June
- U.N. World Environment Day - June 5 (Sponsored by a different country each year)
- Celebration of Senses Day - June 24

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

Coordinator: Sarah Stubbs    Team Leader: Open  
Team Members: Linda Cobb, Bradley Vinson & Denise Gunn



## Report on the 2021-22 Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational meeting was held on May 22, 2022. Three motions were presented:

Motion: That the proposed leadership slate be adopted for the 2022-23 church year

Motion: That the proposed budget be adopted for the 2022-23 fiscal year

Motion: That the Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola apply to the Unitarian Universalist Association for designation as a Welcoming Congregation.

All three motions passed.

On July 1, we will be welcoming Laura Keith King as our new Board President, along with Scott Satterwhite as President Elect, and Bradley Vinson as Treasurer. New Members at Large will be Leslie Grill, Patti Underwood, and Marianne DeGrado. Denise Gunn will continue to serve as Secretary; Arnie Ondis will become Past President; and Joe Vinson and Jean Siebenaler will serve one more year as Members at Large.

Incoming President Laura Keith King presented her priorities for the coming 2022-23 church year: Deeper and wider connection within and outside our community, leading to:

Building and Engaging Members & Friends

Expanding Pastoral Care

Working for Justice

Many thanks to all Members who participated in the meeting and discussions leading up to it; to the Board members who presented and assisted with all the meeting's moving parts; and to Linda Cobb, who made sure we didn't go hungry.

The official minutes of the Annual Meeting will be available after approval by the Board at its June 1 meeting.

### The Fiscal Year Ends Soon



The 2021-22 fiscal year ends June 30, 2022. Pledge statements will go out in early June to remind everyone where they stand on their 21-22 pledges. If you have made any expenditures on behalf of the church in the current fiscal year that need reimbursement, please get your receipts and check requests to Erin as soon as possible.

## How do we Celebrate Diversity?

### Just In Time for [Pride Month](#)!



Just in time for [Pride Month](#), our congregation met for the Annual Meeting and voted on the long-awaited Welcoming Congregation Designation. After eight months of discussions and educational events led by the Welcoming Congregation Committee, the motion to authorize an application to UUA was approved in a resounding majority vote.



The application is currently underway, and we hope to have a response before the end of the month. Once our congregation is recognized as a [Welcoming Congregation](#), the UUA LGBTQ Ministries will send us an official letter of recognition and two posters that celebrate our Welcoming status. Congregations are encouraged to develop their own additional artwork—banners, plaques, and the like that further lift up our welcome.

Our congregation will also be recognized on the UUA website: a rainbow chalice will appear next to our name, and we will show up in searches for Welcoming Congregations in our area using the UUA tool. We will celebrate the status on our own website as well!

We are very proud of our congregation wanting to provide a warm and loving spiritual community for everyone, especially here and now in a political climate which is becoming more and more unfriendly to adults and children who are LGBTQIA+. We feel that displaying this designation can not only grow our congregation and make us a stronger church, but also that offering a loving and friendly community to people who may be experiencing rejection and isolation actually has the potential to save lives.

Answering the call to love & justice



All of who you are is sacred.  
All of who you are is welcome.

Unitarian Universalism

During [Pride Month](#), the UUCP Social Justice Team will host a film screening of the acclaimed documentary “Pray Away” (1h 41m). Netflix summarizes the film this way: “Ex-leaders and a survivor of the so-called ‘conversion therapy’ movement speak out about its harm to the LGBTQ+ community and its devastating persistence.” The film provides “a type of sobering reality check, that for the numerous stories in ‘Pray Away’ that show the destructive nature of conversion therapy, there will always be someone trying to harness its toxic power,” according to a review by Roger Ebert.

### Film Screening: “Pray Away”

Saturday, June 11, 2pm at [UUCP](#)




**Farewell Reception**


Our beloved friends, Erin & Jeff Renfroe are leaving the area.

Sunday June 12, after Sunday Service, there will be a reception to honor them.

Please join us to say good bye and good luck in their new adventure.

Cards and personal notes are welcome.

*We will miss you so very much, Erin & Jeff.*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

### Social Event (Fun Raiser/Fund Raiser) at UUCP

**HAVE A FUN DINNER WITH YOUR FRIENDS!!!** Join us for an Asian Dinner at the Church on Saturday, June 18, 2022 starting at 5:00 pm.

[Tickets can be purchased for \\$20.00](#) using the **on-line Gift Certificate Mart** beginning June 1st. The dinner will include both meat and vegetarian dishes, such as: Spring rolls, Shoyu chicken, Red curry shrimp with vegetables, Pork tofu, Shiitake mushrooms with tofu, Bok choy with tofu and butter mochi for dessert. Limited tickets, so get yours now!



### Lunch Bunch



Well, the Oar House's food was fine and the service also pretty good, but the reservations - ? - easy to make over the phone, but on arrival, vanish into the air. The solution: arrive 30 min. early and request a party of 11 (for the 8 who reserved on time, and the three who messaged the day before (?). And request inside seating, since the outside "stool-tables" don't rotate with the sun. The stools don't work for all of our LB-ers.

For June, the 8th, we'll try the downtown version of Ichiban (the Ichiban we normally visit is on Davis Highway), the [Kalbi Ichiban, at 600 West Garden St., 850-857-8304](#). I think you will appreciate KI's decor. The [menu](#) looks of both Japanese and Korean fare, and as interesting as it is, it's also likely to be on the high (\$\$) side. But it comes with the times, I guess. We can always try Wendy's next month. At one PM, as usual.

Kalbi Ichiban is at the intersection of Garden and Coyle, NW corner in the Pensacola Federal Employees Credit Union; there is more parking in the back (2nd left) than in the front; and easy back door/cool side of the building, almost two blocks west of Ever'man's, opposite side of Garden.

Also as usual, **I shall appreciate hearing from you by the Sunday before the 8th, the 5th of June.** (I would rather hear that you are a maybe, than to learn on Tuesday that you are a "Yes".) ... Gosh, I thought summer would never get here, and now ....

## Gift Certificate Mart Begins June 1!

Do you eat? Ever need a handyman? And how about organizing the 'stuff' that somehow just collects and collects. How about yardwork? Need to run errands but don't want to drive? Maybe explore your hidden creative/artistic talents? Oh, and taxes, everyone loves taxes.

Coming JUNE 1st, our newest offering - a *Gift Certificate Mart* - will be open for you to purchase, on-line, a certificate for a service and/or something to make your cooking chores a breeze. [Click here for a sneak preview!](#)

## NEW – Wednesday Walkers – 5 Wednesdays in June

Meet up in the parking lot at [Bayview Park](#) (in East Hill) between the new Community Center and the Senior Center at 8 am for a stroll on the 0.7-mile paved trail around the park. There are benches along the way if you need a break, and much of the trail is sheltered by trees. It's a beautiful walk. If you're not familiar with the trail and the area, have a look-see at: <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/florida/bayview-park-loop>

Both the Community Center and Senior Center are air conditioned, and restrooms are available. AND you can check out UUCP member Joe Vinson's visual history of the park that is a showpiece in the Community Center.

Post-Hurricane Sally repairs seem to be done, and the large pier is open. Occasionally you can see dolphins in Bayou Texar!

June schedule is a bit of an experiment—summer heat to be considered. So, if you think you'll join the group—be sure to bring a **hydrating cold beverage and perhaps a small towel for your brow. And sunblock.**

No preregistration—it's a big park—everyone welcome.

## UUCP Reader's Groups to Resume in August

The UUCP Reader's Groups will resume in August 2022. There are no scheduled groups for the months of June and July.

If you have wondered about our groups, we've had three groups that meet monthly. The meetings last approximately one (1) hour and some groups do not have a particular book to read and discuss. In those groups, attendees share recommendations of books, series, and authors. Recently, a group was started that does discuss an agreed upon book.

Zoom login info is sent out a few days prior to the scheduled group. If we have an in-person group (i.e., no Zooming), reminders are in the Thursday emails and our monthly newsletter, "The Light."

Personally, I counted up the recommended books and authors that we talked about since we've been in Zoom mode, and (give or take a few), there are 57 books/authors that were recommended that I jotted down. And there were more. Having read a fair number of recommended novels myself, (many of which were available at the public library as e-books,) I can say, UUCPs Readers know how to pick good books. Thanks to all who participated.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact me, Laurie Winterberg.

## "Exploring a Spirituality of One's Own:" Part 6 of the Six-Month Workshop

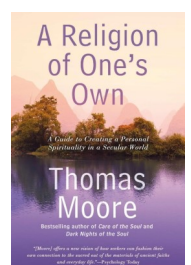
**The last workshop in our series will be held on Sunday, June 5 at 11:30 in the library.**

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).

I look forward to taking this journey with you.

~Trista



## How do we Strive for Justice?

Click [here](#) to read the Post-Nehemiah Action Newsletter!  
What did we win, and what's next?



UUCP did an outstanding job of striving for justice on May 2nd at the Wahoo Stadium. Fifty-one (!) of our members attended along with many from other congregations of different faiths. We were there to hold our elected officials accountable in the interest of local Justice.

Please plan to attend the celebration on June 13th. JUST Pensacola Clergy, Team Members, and Network members are invited to join our first in-person Celebration!

This event is tentatively scheduled to be held at B'nai Israel Synagogue. We'll gather to celebrate our victories and progress over the past year as well as discuss what is to come!

We will also be welcoming two new congregations to officially join our roster! This event is also the launch of our 2021 Investment Drive where we will invite all members to invest \$200 in our work if they haven't already. Celebrate our success. We deserve it! And what is next?

If you plan to contribute financially to the effort, this is a perfect time to make good on that intention. I am donating \$200. (If that's not possible for you, remember, every dollar that is donated helps!)

Looking ahead, it's also a good time to start thinking about the next round of house meetings in the fall to select another local injustice that you have noticed. Something for JUST Pensacola to address.

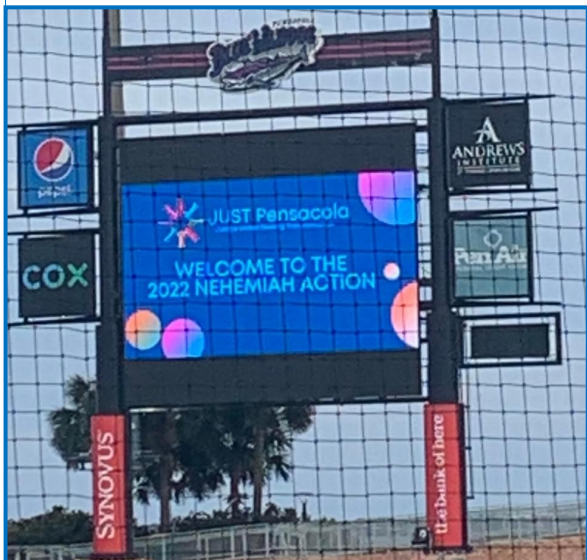
Congratulations to UUCP for a great showing. We should all be proud.

I'll see you on the 13th.

Paula Montgomery



## How do we Strive for Justice and Inspire Love?



More than 50 UUCP members and friends joined with 675+ other local congregants at Blue Wahoos Stadium on Monday to ask our community leaders to support worthwhile, measurable initiatives in the areas of housing and criminal justice.

UUCP had 51 members and friends present for the event, second only to one other congregation



with 81 folks present. We are a small congregation, but we are mighty, and we stand up for justice! Because we showed up today with our neighbors and because we continue to support JUST Pensacola in tangible ways, we got YES commitments from the leaders present. On housing, City Council members Ann Hill and Casey Jones agreed to consider creating a trust fund to support expansion of rental housing stock. On criminal justice, Pensacola Police Chief Eric Randall and Florida First Circuit State Attorney Ginger Bowen

Madden agreed to meet with other stakeholders to discuss the development of a second screening process to review cases and identify youth who might benefit from a civil citation and to consider expanding civil citations for use among adults who commit minor offenses.

Our work is not completed, however. Now we must continue to monitor these issues and to hold these leaders accountable to these commitments. We also must continue building relationships with these leaders and the others who were not present at the event, despite being invited. We also get to celebrate on Monday, June 13, 6pm. Stay tuned for more on our JUST Pensacola involvement.



***You are invited to the***  
**The 2022 Gulf Coast  
Secular Assembly  
Freethinkers Assembly on**

**"Building Bridges across the Gulf Coast"**

We want to bring together humanists, atheists, freethinkers,  
or any other allied person from across the Panhandle.



**Presented by the Humanists of West Florida (HWF)  
and Humanists of Tallahassee (HOT)**

to be held on **Saturday June 25, 2022 from 10am to 4pm Central Time**  
in historic [DeFuniak Springs, FL.](#)

All for just \$20, with morning coffee and lunch included. Doors open at 10am.

The Assembly will be held in the historic Chautauqua Hall of Brotherhood

**95 Circle Dr, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435**

Online registration closes on June 20th.  
If available, onsite registration will be available for \$25.

**Register [here.](#) To communicate with us click [here.](#)**

*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 helpful 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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July 2016

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

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**Tuesday, JUNE 21st**





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