Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

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

VOLUME 65 ISSUE7 July 2022 The Light



9888 Pensacola Blvd Pensacola, FL 32534 **uupensacola.org** <u>Office Hours:</u>

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 Your Minister

This July concludes four years of a wonderful ministry with UUCP. I want you all to know how much I enjoyed my time with you, and I hope the work we did together will continue to



serve you into the future. While I came as a consulting transitional minister for you, we never could have imagined the kinds of transitions we would end up navigating together. It was certainly not a clear path, and we had to constantly adapt and invent the way. We did some amazing shared ministry, though, and I hope the experience has taught us all that we are creative and resilient people.

I know you are now having to make new choices. I see how you are pulling together and relying on one another for support and inspiration. I have learned that many congregations are doing the same. Numerous congregations are finding themselves without ministers this year, as many ministers are pulling back, taking a break, or retiring. Perhaps new energy will emerge after some rest and reflection. There is a lot of talk about how ministry and congregations will be forever changed. I'll have more to say about this when I am with you this month.

I hoped to be with you on July 3rd, however, after two years of doing everything I could to avoid Covid, it somehow caught up with me. This week I am home recuperating and hoping to be well enough to be with you on July 10th.

Know that I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to serve with you, and I look forward to seeing how UUCP blooms in the future.

In Love and Hope,

Rev. Alice

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How do we build Beloved Community?

From Your Board: President's Column



As I write this, during the last days of June, the hours are ticking down until I'm officially Board President on July 1st. Thank you for the faith you've shown in me by voting me into the position. It feels like a bigger job now that we will be a "lay-led" congregation, at least for a while.

As a congregation, we've had many challenges, many of them before my time. There were the tragic and horrifying shootings at the abortion clinic, several moves from one worship location to another, the positive challenges of beginning and growing our endowment, and then, of course, the world-wide pandemic.

In preparing to write this monthly letter to you all, I looked back at what Arnie wrote when it was his first month as Board President. At that time, the congregation was just beginning to meet again in person after over a year of meeting only online via video or Zoom. Personally, although I know Covid is still a threat, I'm immeasurably grateful for the vaccine and the multiple boosters that help keep us safe, perhaps not from any infection, but at least by reducing the possibility of major illness or death.

So clearly, not having a minister, a situation our congregation has faced many other years in its history, isn't that daunting a challenge; because I KNOW, without a doubt, that all of us, everyone to whom this church is important, will step up and meet this challenge with me. Over the last few weeks, I've called many of you with the goal of learning what kind of activities fuel your passions and will best make you part of our community. This is everyone's opportunity to join in and let your "little light" shine. We need everyone's participation more than ever before. This is YOUR church, and you make it happen. And if it matters, know this; I'm an avid and very appreciative cheerleader, and I work to always be aware of, and appreciative for, the personal time, talent and treasure that everyone here provides.

If you have any thoughts on any ways you might participate which haven't yet been addressed, please call, email, or text me! I would love to hear from you. Our work (actually YOUR work) is important not only to our church community, but also to the wider community of Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties, Eastern Alabama and really everywhere we connect by internet.

My primary goal for this year will be to encourage all of us, *everyone*, to build stronger connections within the church and outside the church in the wider community.

As we build more and deeper connections with each other, I hope we will continue and increase the quality and quantity of our communications, the width and breadth of our outreach to the outside community, the presence, relevance, and sustainability of our pastoral care, and the depth of our spiritual connection and investigation.

And as we do so, it naturally follows that we will strive to promote justice for our brothers and sisters, and speak up for those who aren't able to speak for themselves, or whose voices are not heard.

Over the last seven years, this church community has meant the world to me, and I know it is important to us all. With your help, we are going to have a year of growth and celebration. This I know.

In love and fellowship, Laura Keith King The Light—July 2022 PAGE 3

Sunday Services in July

July 3rd: Join Us for a Picnic Brunch—(in the Sanctuary); a Farewell Reception for Marylee and Gerry will follow. Come join us for our first potluck of the year. We'd like you all to come and bring your favorite picnic food to share. Celebrate with us and enjoy the stories and fun of kicking off the summer! If your last name begins with:

A-G: Please bring Salads, Side Dishes or Bread

H-R: Please bring a Main Dish

S-Z: Please bring Sweets



July 10th: "Moving Forward in Uncertain Times" with Rev. Alice Syltie; a Farewell Reception will follow.

At our UUA General Assembly this year, our president Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray reminded us that even in the most distressing of times, we need joy. As our country and our people face continually evolving challenges, how will our Unitarian Universalist faith help us respond with the courage and commitment to live up to our highest ideals? These are the questions we Unitarian Universalists are asking and an-

swering, as we look to our future as a progressive and relevant religious community.



July 17th: "Tragedy, Resistance, and Resilience:
The Second Creek War in West Florida" This talk will link with recent news about related historic markers in Downtown Pensacola and Milton. Aspects of the message will reflect UUA Principles. Dr. Brian R. Rucker is Professor of History, Pensacola State College. He has done in-depth scholarship on the topic including an article in the Florida Historical Quarterly and a book chapter in an edited book on the Seminole Wars of Florida.

July 24th No description available at publication time.

July 31st No description available at publication time.



Coming up in July after Sunday services:

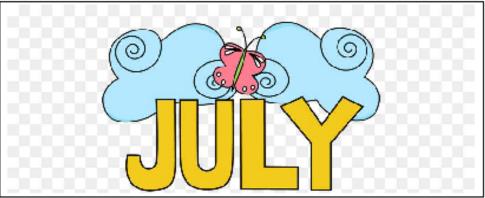
July 3rd: Farewell reception for Gerry & Marylee Donnelly, who are moving to Chicago

July 10th: Thank you and farewell to Rev. Alice Syltie



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*** Faith Development

Welcome SUUmmer

Ah, Summertime, a time for fun in the sun on the beach or in the mountains. Speaking of mountains, I will be heading to The Mountain, a UU Retreat and Learning Center, in Highlands, NC this month. I'll be off networking with other CRE, CCRE, and DRE as we gather for workshops to renew, refresh, and connect with our UU roots. This is our first full week since the beginning of the Pandemic.

In July we will be having UU-themed, child-centered activities and stories and I would like for us to start and complete a quilt/tapestry with the kids to hang over our chalice in the Rainforest room. It has been awhile since I fired up my sewing machine. We may need some help. The Vinson's third child, Jasper, and I talked about this back when we were meeting on Zoom. Let me know if you could lend a hand or donate fabric/muslin or quilt batting. All help will be greatly appreciated no matter how great or small.

National Cultural Holidays Not to be Missed in July:

- National Dog House Repair Month
- July 4: Independence Day
- July 10: Don't Step on a Bee Day
- July 15: National Gummi Worm Day
- July 16: National Ice Cream Day
- July 16: World Day of International Justice
- July 27: National Love is Kind Day

Sundays in July

July 3: Service for All Ages

July 10-31: One Room Sunday School

This summer the children will start in the service. They will gather in the Rainforest room for child-centered activities after they are sung out by the congregation.



Looking Ahead to September



Remember this:

I'm sure our families are taking advantage of this break from school to travel, explore and just plain hang out with kinfolks in faraway places. Please remember to bring back a small amount of water, a seashell, a rock, or pebble from your travels to share at our annual ingathering in the autumn. This will kick off our new congregational year.

Children's Religious Education (CRE) Ministry Team

Coordinator: Sarah Stubbs Team Leader: Open

Team Members: Linda Cobb, Bradley Vinson, Crys Brockway, Tanya Seabrook & Denise Gunn



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How do we Inspire Love?

Happy 100th Birthday Flo Fulwiler!

This is a photo of Flo Fulwiler and the "friends" who attended her birthday celebration. UUs in back row, left to right, Hugh Ed Turner, Kim Bryant, and Georgieanna Bryant. In front row, left to right, Paula Montgomery, Bill Caplinger and Flo Fulwiler.





Sunday, June 26, 2022 was declared "Flo Fulwiler Day" by the Mayor of the City of Milton, in honor of the many accomplishments of her life and her 100th birthday.



She also received a nice letter from Hillary Clinton.

Flo has 3 children, 8 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren, most of whom were in attendance.

She and her husband Leo, now deceased, were married 56 years.



After a bad fall, Flo is still recovering at The Olive Branch Rehab Center on University Pkwy and would welcome visitors, calls, or cards. Evelyn and JJ Jackson, pictured below, send greetings to all at UUCP. Their address is still in Simple Church and they would enjoy hearing from fellow UUs. JJ is in a memory care unit and Evelyn is in another building, but they see one another almost daily. And J.J. still frequently wins when playing bingo or engaging in a game of cards with Evelyn.



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Thank You from Erin and Jeff Renfroe

Many thanks to everyone who came to our farewell reception on June 12, with special appreciation to all the elves who made it happen, from planning to clean-up. We felt honored and embraced by our UUCP family.

As our move approaches I am really feeling the sorrow of leaving this church that has been my heart's home for seven years now. I look forward to continuing to serve over the coming year in the small ways I am able, and to staying in touch with all the dear friends I've made.

With love and gratitude, Erin and Jeff Renfroe



Lunch Bunch



For our downtown Kalbi Ichiban visit, on Wednesday 8 June, we all seemed to enjoy our large variety of dishes; all 9 attending were "on the reservation list" (more shops seeming to appreciate). The next date is 13 July, and we will try out Agapi Bistro + Garden, at <u>555 Scenic Highway.</u>

This move to the city's "far" eastern edge was due to the suggestion of one steady LB'er, who wanted to try Calverts in the Heights (in the old Skopelos building) overlooking the Bay, but the Googled info didn't fully appeal. But nearby, the Agapi, with whom reservations have been made and acknowledged by email, (for 10), had more appeal, and I'm pretty sure, is in and derivative of Nancy's, a location we've enjoyed in the past, and the menu more "adventurous."

As usual, 1 PM (1300) on 13 July. If you're not coming via Cervantes or Scenic, and choose via Bayou/Perry, you can make a left on DeSoto, two blocks before Cervantes, and go about 3.5 blocks east for the Agapi parking. ... I'll appreciate your email or phone reservation (no longer listed in The Light) but you likely have one of them digitally on file. If you don't, contact the UUCP Office at uupensacola@gmail.com or 850-475-9077 to get in touch with me. And maybe July will be cooler ...

Wednesday Walkers

The last Wednesday Walkers activity at Bayview Park on June 29 has been cancelled due to lack of response. If anyone would like to try this again when the weather cools off, contact Laurie Winterberg.

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How do we Strive for Justice?

Collecting Paper Towels and Toilet Paper



In July and August, the Social Justice Team will be collecting paper towels and toilet paper for youth transitioning out of homelessness. We are also looking for new or gently used standing shelves to help organize items for the youth.

To donate, drop paper products in the basket that will be located in the UUCP lobby during July and August. If you have shelves, please contact Lauren Anzaldo ASAP to arrange delivery to Children's Home Society (CHS).

The youth that will benefit from this collection are involved with the Street Outreach program and M-Power House of CHS. UUCP collected coats and blankets for these youth this past winter. April Hein, who works with the youth at CHS, contacted us with this request. April wrote, "We have three apartments for our transitional living program for youth who are experiencing homelessness, and we house six youth at a time. They are always in need of paper towels and toilet paper. It isn't fancy, but it would help us out a lot!"

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Return service requested

<u>uupensacola@gmaíl.com</u> www.uupensacola.org



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

Landscaping
Tree Surgery
Lawn Care
Sprinkler Repair
Pavers
...and more!



Deadline for submissions for AUGUST LIGHT:
Thursday, JULY 21st

