The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

The Light



Vol. 65 Issue 11 November 2022

Celebrate Diversity Strive for Justice

Inspire Love

9888 Pensacola Blvd Pensacola, FL 32534 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.

UUCP Staff Contacts

Community Minister Rev. Maggie Lovins

Children's Religious Ed Coordinator Sarah Stubbs

Office Administrator/Editor Terra Shute 850-475-9077 uupensacola@gmail.com Proofreading Editor: Linda Cobb

UUCP Leadership Contacts

Governing Board

President: Laura Keith King President-Elect: Scott Satterwhite Past President: Arnie Ondis Secretary: Denise Gunn Treasurer: Bradley Vinson

Board Members at Large

Marianne DeGrado Leslie Grill Jean Siebenaler Patti Underwood Joe Vinson

Ministry Team Leaders

Adult Exploration

Trista Blouin

Communications/Publicity communications@uupensacola.org

Erin Renfroe

Denominational Affairs

Laura Keith King Finance

Laurie Winterberg

Fun and Fellowship

Patti Underwood

Leadership Development

Arnie Ondis

Membership

Lauren Anzaldo

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Social Justice

Paula Montgomery Scott Satterwhite

Sunday Services

Nancy Hagman

How do we build Beloved Community?

From Your Board: President's Letter

"What can a transformative community actually look like? In my experience, it has been about including. It's about honoring diversity. It's about being aware of power differences. It's about playing with art, with music, bringing in ritual, different kinds of wisdom. It's about going beyond individual disciplines." -

Marilyn Daniels, in Crone Wisdom

Dear UUCP Members and Friends,



If you attended the May annual congregational meeting, you heard the goals I set out for this year as President. The board subsequently adopted them as their goals as well. They are to build and engage members and friends, to expand pastoral care, and to work for justice. In order to achieve any of these goals, we have to connect with each other in a loving way. None of these goals can be achieved alone.

Actually, some days I feel that connecting with each other in love and fellowship is enough of a goal all by itself. Remember "The Force" in Star Wars? I think of that "Force" as the force of good, the force of love, and it is what I think of as God. It's often what I try to connect to when I meditate. As I mentioned when I took my turn in the pulpit a couple of months ago, the slogan "God is Love" was being bantered around when I was a teen. I believe that there are all kinds of visible and invisible forces around us. Even physicists agree that atoms are connected in a strange, eerie, and unexplained way, and other scientists have discovered odd physical manifestations of energy all over the world when great tragedies strike. I think these unseen connections explain the power of prayer.

It was such a joy to see the love and connection happening last month at our church campout. We had a chance to eat together, play together, worship together, and briefly live together, and throughout the weekend. there was a deep sense of appreciation, acceptance, and caring. It felt to me as though we were creating love. And if God is love, then we were creating God. What more could anyone ask for?

I'm deeply grateful to everyone who attended and participated. Denise, Joe, Bradley, and I did the initial planning, but everyone participated by bringing food to share, loaning equipment (or in the case of the Vinsons,

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(cont. from page 1, President's Letter)

their cabin and land), and by leading activities with materials they donated. In particular, I want to thank Joe for cooking for us, Bradley and Denise for shopping, Faerin for bringing wood, kindling, and tinder and teaching the children how to build a fire, Tabitha for her cookie decorating project, and Jayme and Sammy for the candle-making project. Denise did a great job with SO much of the weekend, especially the spiritual service at the campfire on Saturday night. We also did a nature search, played cooperative games, and sang around the campfire while toasting marshmallows and making s'mores. EVERYONE wants to do it again in the Spring, and we talked of making Saturday a "retreat day" for folks who don't want to sleep over. So, watch for announcements, and I hope you will join us.

We are also joyful about having the Yard Sale back on! Many thanks to Georgieanna Bryant and Linda Cobb. I know that they are extremely grateful to have had so many strong and willing volunteers! The money from the sale is very helpful to our continuing existence, but I think the camaraderie that the sale evokes is just as important. Through the pandemic, we've all really missed being a part of something larger than ourselves, our jobs, or our immediate family. Participating in activities like the campout, the church services, and the Yard Sale keep us connected, and when we're all in "right relationship" with each other, they make love. And God is love.

In Love and Fellowship,

Laura

UU the Vote Organizes in States Facing Threats to Democracy

The second biannual UU the Vote campaign cranked up to full throttle in September, working to inspire and empower UUs to defend democracy and advance justice through civic engagement activities in 2022. Along with online skills training sessions, remote phone banking, and texting events focused in twelve critical states, UU the Vote organized in-person events in two states where voting and human rights are most threatened: Michigan and Georgia.

UU the VOTE

Michigan ballot measures include the Right to Reproductive Freedom Initiative, which would embed reproductive rights in the state constitution. Michigan, which currently <u>leads the nation</u> in increased voter registration among people 18–24, is one of at least five states with ballot questions <u>explicitly addressing</u> the right to abortion care.

A second Michigan ballot proposal asks voters to constitutionalize several key voting rights, including the right to vote without harassment or interference, early voting opportunities, and more.

These measures clearly have wide support, and the abortion rights initiative generated a record 735,000 petition signatures, yet Republican election officials voted to keep these initiatives off the ballot based on technical objections. Only a ruling by the Michigan Supreme Court thwarted the attempt and ensured citizens' right to direct democracy.

UU the Vote leader J. Hicks was joined by the <u>New Georgia Project</u> and UUA Field and Programs director Nicole Pressley for a four-day blitz through the state. The Georgia legislature made headlines for enacting SB202, which <u>criminalized</u> offering food or water to people forced into long voting lines. But other provisions in the bill pose more serious threats. They include undermining absentee voting and enabling partisan take-over of county election oversight—power that could be used to disenfranchise voters in heavily-BIPOC communities.

Additional in-person organizing events in Arizona and Pennsylvania will supplement the steady flow of online UU the Vote events as the campaign moves to achieve 4 million voter contacts by Election Day. UU the Vote is a nonpartisan civic engagement initiative that brings to life Unitarian Universalism's Fifth Principle of using the democratic process within our congregations and the world.



Enter, Rejoice and Come In!

Welcome November, my favorite month of the year. To me it means family, food, and my birthday; sometimes all on the same day!

To say that things have changed a lot these past few years in CRE is an understatement. Saying that we have seen and been through a lot these past few years is also an understatement. Some things stay the same, though: we need more volunteers in CRE, and we need a Team Leader.

Where did all the children go? Where did all our volunteers go? Don't they understand that to build a congregation we need to attract and keep children? To attract children, we have to have a program that the children will want attend. To build that program we need volunteers ready to welcome them. I can hear you thinking, "But we haven't seen very many children this year. Why do you need volunteers?"

Oh, we have had lots of children come through the front doors this year. They come a few times, and then they are gone. We have been ghosted.

Let's look on the bright side for a minute:

The teens are really rocking this year! It is a flip from past years. We usually have plenty of volunteers for the children and plenty of children but no teens, and we are hard pressed to find teen volunteers that will stick with the program. This year we have 3 teen volunteers, and the first teen class had 6 teens attend! That is so exciting.

We had a fabulous volunteer meeting/orientation off campus at Jitterbugs. We all sipped coffee and got to know each other better. All our teen volunteers were there and a few of their parents. I had hoped to have a Team Leader or Co-Leaders by the end of the meeting, but that didn't happen.

So, this is what we need, please; 4 volunteers for the group in the Rainforest room, (2nd through 6th grade). We need 3 volunteers for the nursery. We need 1 or 2 Team Leaders and volunteers to trade off sitting at the RE Welcome Table in the church foyer, so Tabbitha and I can do what we do best—work with the children.

So please look around for that volunteer I know you know—and ask yourself "Why not me?" I can hear you saying, "But I like to be in the service," or "I like to sing in the choir." You do not have to give up those things. When we get all the volunteers we need, I can schedule it so that you only teach once or twice a month. You will need to come to all the team meetings, but they are only held every month or so. Our next meeting will be November 5th. We hope you'll come, and we hope that we'll hear from you soon.

Children's Religious Education (CRE) Ministry Team

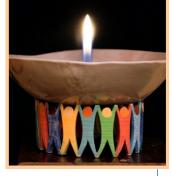
Coordinator: Sarah Stubbs Team Leader: Open

Team Members: Crys Brockway, Honor Bell, Bradley Vinson, Linda Cobb, Paula Montgomery & Denise Gunn

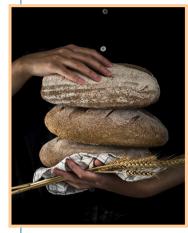
Sunday Services in November 2022

Nov 6th "All Souls', All Saints' Day Celebration" with Nancy Hagman, long-time member of UUCP

Nancy will provide this service to honor our church members who have moved away or passed away in the last two years. Coming together as a congregation will be a special time for us to remember their influence on us.



You are invited to bring pictures of loved ones to place on the Remembrance Table.



Nov 13th "Bread Communion Service" with Audrey Preston

This year we are pleased to have Audrey Preston, an active, engaging member of UUCP, leading our service.

Like our congregants, breads come in a wide variety. Almost every civilization that has ever lived on the earth has made some type of bread. This communion service reminds us that we all need food to live, that we must share our one earth which feeds us all, and that part of our purpose is to share our unique gifts with one another—so all can be fed, (both physically and spiritually). Photo by Mae Mu on Unsplash

Nov 20th TBA

Nov 27th "The Personal Power of Music" with Thom Botsford

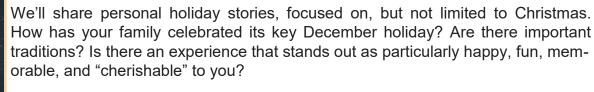
Thom Botsford will share his passion for the saxophone. This is the second in a Music highlighted series.

Longtime saxophonist Thom Botsford feels a little immodest talking about music with any authority; after all, he's not a working pro or a well-schooled musician. Yet, for Botsford, the saxophone has been a lifelong friend and instrument of passion. "There are more photos with me and the saxophone than there are photos of me with people," he says. This service explores Botsford's lifelong need for a meaningful avocation and the personal power of music. Photo: engin akyurt on Unsplash

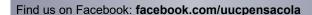


Dec 4th "Mine Your Memories: Sharing Personal Winter Holiday Experiences—(Mini tales of joys and perhaps sorrows)."

Dr. Dolly Berthelot will facilitate this service. She has been a UUCP/PUUF member since 1984.



Is there a pattern of pain or a holiday occasion that was particularly painful or challenging? One from which you learned something worthwhile? Dolly Berthelot will offer a brief planned sharing to encourage spontaneous and dynamic interactive sharing (1 minute limit each).



Welcome New Members Barbara Wright



Barbara has had a very interesting life, having been born in New Jersey on Friday the 13th. She has lived in New Jersey, New York City, London, England, Los Angeles, Tampa, Atlanta, and now Pensacola. She is single, the oldest of 6 children, and has family living nearby in Pensacola.

Barbara graduated from the Katharine Gibbs School NYC. She also attended the New York Institute of Finance, New York University, City Literary Institute, London, England; Marymount Manhattan College, NYC, and UWF. She has

worked in the corporate world and the travel industry. Though she retired from Holland America Line after 24 years as a District Sales Manager, she went back to work for HAL as a cruise consultant aboard ships for 2 years, traveling the Mediterranean and Mexico.

She loves to learn about other cultures and countries and has traveled extensively. Alaska is a favorite; she is always in awe of its beauty.

Barbara loves the natural beauty and the convenience of living in East Hill. Having grown up in a small town on the Atlantic Ocean in New Jersey, she missed being by the water. Her hobbies and interests keep her busy. She is President of the Pensacola Archaeological Society and has volunteered at the UWF Archaeology Laboratory and Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) for many years sorting, identifying, and coding artifacts. She enjoys the Pensacola arts, including the Symphony Orchestra, the Pensacola Opera, the Saenger Theatre, and the Pensacola Little Theatre. She also loves traveling, cooking, and decorating.

Barbara grew up going to Sunday school and church in the Presbyterian denomination. She switched to the Methodist church later in life and was a member of a United Methodist Church for 18 years before joining UUCP. She appreciates that UUCP is a liberal church and that we have taken COVID seriously. Despite our recent challenges, she is optimistic for continued programs and events.

Got Keys?

We've learned that there is only one church key available besides the master. That means there are a lot of keys floating around out there! If you have a key you no longer need, please let Erin Renfroe or Bradley Vinson know, and they can tell you how to get it back into the key box.

Also - did you know there is a list to keep track of who has signed out keys, and who has returned them? It's in the secretary's desk in the front office, on a clipboard in the left-side cabinet. If you have a key and did not sign it out on this list, please do so, so we know where all the keys are.

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THANKS FOR WONDERFUL SUPPORT OF FALL YARD SALE!!

Thanks to Everyone for a Very Successful Yard Sale after a 3-year Hiatus!!! Thanks for the wonderful donations--yoUU again provided many nice items. And again, you responded by helping set up the tables and moving the "stuff" to the lobby after church on Sunday, October 16th. We especially appreciate Linda Cobb, Jack Comstock, Michael Newcomb, and Jay Butcher cleaning out Hannelore Musial's shed, discarding items that did not make the 3-year storage and delivering the others to church. And a special shout-out to Steve Tuley, former UUCP friend, who brought us 6 folding tables to display the voluminous donations. We had a great response in terms of helpers—28 members and friends on Sunday! We are sure we missed making note of some of the names as everyone moved so quickly, and we truly apologize for the omission, but we THANK YOU SO MUCH! It made the work during the week so much easier. Then we asked for volunteers to help with set up, organizing and pricing items, and to work the sale—12 people showed up Monday which got us off to a great start, 15 came back on Tuesday, and 16 on Wednesday which made it possible to have Thursday off. On Friday (our busiest day), we had 16 volunteers and 20 came on Saturday, for a total of 40 different people volunteering—absolutely wonderful participation!!! And an incredibly special "thank you" to Hannelore Musial who allowed us to store items in her shed for 3 years!! She is also allowing us to store items for the future yard sales!

We could <u>not</u> have succeeded without <u>ALL</u> the dedicated helpers and donations. These "priceless" volunteers were Hedwig Anderson, Desmond Anzaldo-Satterwhite, Lauren Anzaldo, Crys Brockway, James Brockway, Keaghan Brockway, Georgieanna Bryant, Kim Bryant, Jay Butcher, Lynne Butcher, Terri Christofferson, Helaine Clendennen, Daniel Cobb, Linda Cobb, Faerin Collins, Holly Collins, Jack Comstock, Marianne DeGrado, Penny Featherstone, Sage Foxsworth, Nancy Hagman, Lisa Hudson, Laura Keith King, Paula Montgomery, Marcy Moreland, Hannelore Musial, Victor Musial, Betty Myers, Michael Newcomb, Audrey Preston, Brett Ramsey, Marybeth Ramsey, Scott Satterwhite, Charlotte Snyder, Sarah Stubbs, Hugh Ed Turner, Patti Underwood, Bradley Vincent, Laurie Winterberg, and Barbara Wright. And SUPER THANKS to the following volunteers who helped EVERY DAY—Jack Comstock, Michael Newcomb, Patti Underwood, and Co-Chairs Georgieanna and Linda. A SPECIAL THANK YOU to ALL these WONDERFUL, DEDICATED Volunteers!!!!

Thanks to persons who loaned us folding tables and thanks to Laurie Winterberg who sorted items each week and helped us to arrange and organize the items, so they would sell better. Thanks to Linda Cobb for soliciting volunteers. Thanks to Erin Renfroe (in Tennessee) for her placement of internet ads on various websites, on the church website and on the church Facebook Page, to Office Administrator Terra Shute for internal advertisement of the sale, to Jay Butcher who placed our yellow yard sale signs in front of the church on Highway 29 and Palafox, to Hugh Ed Turner who donated a "day sponsorship" on WUWF, and to Georgieanna Bryant who had a paid ad and multiple community services notices in the *Pensacola News Journal* and WEAR. Thanks also to all the UU Shoppers who supported the sale. And thanks to Laurie Winterberg who suggested holding items over until Sunday so church members could get some "free stuff." Charities benefited from our sale—books and other media were donated to Open Books for Prisoners and the Milton Public Library, linens were donated to local animal shelters, and other unsold items were donated to Teen Challenge. And our church found an office chair, a steam mop for cleaning/sanitizing various areas, a storage cabinet for Children's RE, office supplies, and more. Of course, yard sales help the Earth as they recycle and re-use, and they help provide important necessities to low-income households.

It definitely "takes a VILLAGE!!" Our <u>Total Profit is \$3055.00</u> once we receive some "I owe UU's" which slightly beats our previous record in Spring 2018 of \$2949.77. THANKS SO MUCH FOR EVERYONE'S SUPPORT, WHETHER YOU DONATED ITEMS OR VOLUNTEERED YOUR TIME!!!!

Georgieanna Bryant and Linda Cobb, Yard Sale Coordinators

UUCP Partners with J.U.S.T. Pensacola To Strive for Justice

Your UUCP Social Justice Team Wants You to Know:



J.U.S.T. Pensacola News

The **Community Problems Assembly (CPA)** is November 7th from 6:00 - 7:30 pm at <u>Historic St. Joseph Catholic Church, 140 W</u> Government St, Pensacola, FL 32502.

At this meeting, members of JUST Pensacola's 17 faith organizations will meet to decide what new topic we will take on in 2023. All UUCP members and friends are invited to vote for their choice. JUST Pensacola will continue to address criminal justice and affordable housing in 2023.

Please register in advance for this meeting here:

Thank You for Striving for Justice with

J.U.S.T. PENSACOLA and UUCP!

Please join us! The (C.P.A.) is Nov 7th from 6:00 - 7:30 pm

What's Up at UUCP?

Board Meeting November 2nd 5:30pm

UUCP's monthly Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 5pm. In November the meeting will be on November 2nd.

Sunday Sweets November 13th from 11am to 12pm

...will normally be held on the second Sunday of every month. Pro tip: Get in line after the service; don't delay. These mouth-watering home-baked goodies go fast! The bakers each decide what they'd like to make for us and we're happy to report that there is, of course, lots of cake involved.

Zoom Readers' Groups November 14th

These Zoom groups will meet on the 2nd Monday of the month beginning at 10 am. The login information will be sent out to all UUCP Members & Friends a few days prior to the meeting.

What makes this group a bit different is that there are NO books you are required to read. Participants share their recommendations and thoughts about the books they've read and enjoyed (or didn't).

The next meeting will be **November 14th.** There's no RSVP or registration—just click on the provided Zoom link and you're in. All sessions begin at 10 am and last approximately 1 hour. Questions or more information—contact Laurie Winterberg.

Lunch Bunch

2nd Wednesday, November 9th at 1:00pm

Well, Zaytouna's worked out pretty well, I guess, with six hungry for Greek/Lebanese... Three of us ordered the same dish, Vegetarian Moussaka. What we got was the No. 2 Vegetarian Dish, the variety sampling, but with a bit of extra eggplant & sauce, and not the baked crusty topping that is supposed to be part of the whole experience. The variety Vegetarian Plate's different items were good, tasty, but they were not what was ordered. (And not all three of us wanted stuffed grape leaves.) Next time, more questions when making our order. The other three, being carnivores, got what they ordered, including one meaty (I'm assuming) moussaka, with a nice-looking crust.

For the 2nd Wednesday of November, the 9th, well away from thoughts of Thanksgiving (the 24th)...we'll go for <u>Juan's Flying Burrito</u> at 200 South Alcaniz St., on the southeast corner of Alcaniz and Intendencia. The menu, as you can see online, offers a few Mexican dishes which you may not have heard of, but a large variety, so all are likely to find much to appreciate. As usual, your notice to me of your intended attendance, 1 PM as usual, will be appreciated (by phone, email or in-person).

P.S. A Lunch Bunch for December is not a given.

What's Up at UUCP?

Memorial Garden Spruce Up Saturday - Nov 5th - 8-10 am

It's that time of year for our clean-up and trim/prune in our Memorial Garden. No experience necessary.

Suggested items to bring - leaf blower, rakes, hand trimmers, loppers, string trimmer. For your own comfort and safety - wear closed toe shoes and gardening gloves. Eye protection - especially if you use electric tools.

This event is subject to change in response to weather conditions...

Questions - further information - contact either Laurie Winterberg or Charlotte Snyder.

Struggling Youth Need Help this Winter



Did you know there are youth struggling on the streets of our community who spend each day just trying to survive? These youth left home or were forced out for various reasons, including LGBTQ+ youth being shut out or threatened due to coming out to their parents or caregivers. Once again, we at UUCP have an opportunity help local youth in need by providing warmth in the form of new, personal -sized blankets as well as hygiene items.

The UUCP Social Justice Team is leading a blanket and toiletry drive to benefit the Street Outreach program of Children's Home Society (CHS) of Florida. The program serves youth aged 14-22 by connecting them with services and resources so they can move from mere survival to hope, resilience, and success. Please consider donating a new personal-sized blanket and/or hygiene items such as tooth-brushes, toothpaste, soaps, and feminine products.

Items will be collected in a marked basket in the foyer of the church from **Sunday, Nov. 6, through Sunday, Dec. 11.** After church on Dec. 11, items will be delivered to CHS for distribution to youth throughout the winter.

For more information about CHS and the Street Outreach program, click here.



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The Light—November

Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola 9888 Pensacola Blvd. Pensacola, FL 32534

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 DECEMBER LIGHT:

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21st

