



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.

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How do we build Beloved Community?

From Your Board: President's Letter

Hello to All of our Beloved Members and Friends during this busy Holiday Season.

Whatever our inherited or chosen spiritual or religious practices are, most of us would probably agree that it's a time of year that a century ago was probably more spiritual and holy than it is now. In the first world countries, especially, there are lots of parties and occasions between Thanksgiving and New Year, plus lots of obligations to employers, friends, and family. At least that's the case for some folks, but for other people unmet expectations or the lack of or loss of loved ones can make it a sad, painful, or very lonely time.

Disconnection is the problem. Either we can be so busy that we disconnect from ourselves, and we forget to take care of our own needs, or we can become disconnected from others by forgetting to pay attention to the people around us who may be having a hard time, or being embarrassed to reach out...Or BOTH.

Our seventh Principle points out the antidote to disconnection, Respect for the interdependent web of existence. As written by the Rev. Forrest Gilmore, Executive Director of Shalom Community Center, Bloomington, IN, "Our seventh Principle, respect for the interdependent web of all existence, is a glorious statement. Yet we make a profound mistake when we limit it to merely an environmental idea. It is so much more. It is our response to the great dangers of both individualism and oppression. It is our solution to the seeming conflict between the individual and the group.

"Our seventh Principle may be our Unitarian Universalist way of coming to fully embrace something greater than ourselves. The interdependent web—expressed as the spirit of life, the ground of all being, the oneness of all existence, the community-forming power, the process of life, the creative force, even God—can help us develop that social understanding of ourselves that we and our culture so desperately need. It is a source of meaning to which we can dedicate our lives."



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

Of course, it's not just UUs who recognize this.

Some others belong to an organization I recently discovered called Kosmos, which I would imagine some of our members already know about, but many do not. "KOSMOS" is an ancient Greek term meaning the harmony and beauty of the universe wherein all parts have their place within the Whole.

Their website says, "The Kosmos mission is to inform, inspire and engage individual and collective participation for global transformation in harmony with all Life. We do this by sharing transformational thinking and policy initiatives, aesthetic beauty and wisdom, local to global...Our roots are at the United Nations, where a group of globally-conscious, spiritually-oriented people, including NGO staff and ambassadors, integral thinkers and peace-builders began meeting in the year 2000."

When I read the wonderful essays and articles posted on their website (www.kosmosjournal.org), it looks to me like a "hotbed" of Unitarian Universalist thinkers. Many of their well-written articles and essays focus on building connected communities.

So in light of us staying connected, I encourage everyone reading this to participate in the activities that feed your souls, but at the same time plan to enjoy the holidays by taking time to reflect and care for yourself. If you want to connect with us at church, there are lots of wonderful activities coming up, and you are most welcome to join us for any and all of them. We treasure you and value your individual self no matter who you are and what you believe.

Connect with us!

In Love and Fellowship,

Laura Keith King
UUCP Board President

UUCP Fall Campout — See Photo Collage page 3

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, 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.



Sunday Services in December 2022

Dec 4, 2022

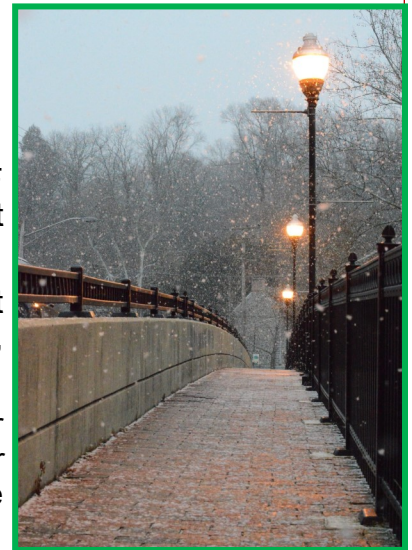
SFAA: "Mine Your Memories: Sharing Personal Winter Holiday Experiences—Mini tales of joys and perhaps sorrows."

Dr. Dolly Berthelot will facilitate this service. She has been a UUCP/PUUF member since 1984. We'll share personal holiday stories, focused on, but not limited to Christmas.

How has your family celebrated its key December holiday? Are there important traditions? Is there an experience that stands out as particularly happy, fun, memorable, and "cherishable" to you?

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

Photo by [Aaron Wilson](#) on [Unsplash](#)



Dec 11, 2022

"Reflections of Holiday Traditions of UUCP" led by Nancy Hagman with Chris Saunders on piano

Our Holidays at UUCP have evolved through the years, incorporating the rituals and talents of our church community. How have our own traditions demonstrated the parallel traditions of Holidays Past? In this service we will show how UUs have been instrumental in helping shape the current trends of the season. Included will be the "Guest at the Table;" who is your guest? Photo by [KaLisa Veer](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Dec 18, 2022

Service For All Ages: Children's Nativity Pageant & Carol Singing led by Sarah Stubbs, CRE Coordinator

Enjoy the delight of our second yearly Children's Christmas Nativity Pageant featuring our own, very talented children and youth. This will be followed by our traditional Children's Christmas Holiday Party and the Adult's Holiday Gathering where every year we play the "Dirty Santa" Game.



Dec 24, 2022

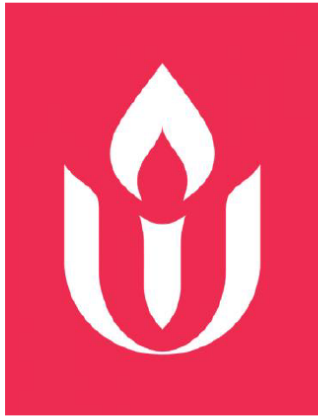
Christmas Eve Family Candlelight Service-Laura Keith King & Friends

Bring family, friends, and guests for a special service of carols and readings for all ages, concluding with our traditional candle lighting ritual. A Special Offering will be taken to benefit our Members' Assistance fund which is used throughout the year to help our church families in need.



The offering at the Christmas Eve Family Service every year goes to replenish the Members' Assistance fund at UUCP. If you are not able to attend the Christmas Eve service, but would like to contribute to the fund, you may write Members' Assistance on the subject line of your check or on the outside of the offertory envelope with your name in any Sunday service. Or you can choose that category when making a contribution online, or mail a check directly to the church. It's been a difficult financial time and we appreciate being able to help out when it is needed. Photo by [David Beale](#)

[Unsplash](#)



December

CRE *** Faith Development

Open Call!!

Calling all Wise Men, Angels, and Farm Animals. Plus, a Joseph, and Mary too. We are fluffing the manger and shining our halos in sweet anticipation of our second yearly Nativity Pageant filled with Christmas Carols for all to sing along.

Please get in touch with Sarah Stubbs by text for a chance to show your angel wings, Magi gifts and farmhouse chatter. Her phone number is available in Simple Church, or you may call the UUCP Office at 850-475-9077 and leave a message for Sarah, which will be relayed to her.

Sundays in December



4th Dolly Berthelot coordinator, Holiday Songs, SFAA

Tabbitha is back in the nursery

11th CRE Nativity Pageant rehearsal during class time in the Rainforest room

18th SFAA Nativity Pageant

2nd hour: CRE Christmas party, Adult Dirty Santa party

24th Candlelight service with carols and readings

25th No service or Sunday School. The Church will be open for casual gathering.

CREC Day off

Sunday Mornings

Each Sunday please stop by the Children's Religious Education table in the Foyer to sign-in your child for class and to find out what is going on in RE this month.

On the Sundays that classes meet the children will start with you in the service and will be sung out to class after the Time For All Ages.



Children's Religious Education (CRE) Ministry Team

Coordinator: Sarah Stubbs Team Leader: Honor Bell III

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





Heather and Daniel Cobb would like to thank everyone for making their wedding day so memorable. Without your presence, your kindness and your love, this day would not have been possible.

Back again post-Covid! Circle Dinners... An Adult Dinner Group



Do you want to get to know other UUs? How about some adult conversation or a stimulating evening out? Circle Dinners are your answer. This fun UUCP tradition provides a great opportunity to meet and get to know your fellow UUs.

Circle Dinners begin with a "Meet & Greet" in January followed by dinners in February, March, and April. Participants will have an opportunity one month to host and provide a main dish. Other guests provide salad/vegetables or dessert/bread. The host will decide on a convenient date by conferring with those assigned. The six assigned people will provide the side dishes, and the host may invite two new UU members or others from the church they would like to get to know better. This means there could be six, eight or more adults participating.

Singles as well as couples are encouraged to join. Substitutes are always needed. Should you be interested in participating – as a regular or a substitute – please specify on the sign-up sheet which can be found in the foyer of the church. Please indicate if you would like to host a dinner at your house, have dietary needs, or have other relevant information to share.

Any questions or to sign-up, contact Linda Cobb.

It's the holidays—how to shop at Amazon guilt-free!

If you do any shopping (holiday or otherwise) at Amazon (including Amazon Prime), help the church by using [Amazon Smile](https://www.amazon.com/amazon-smile) and choosing **UUPensacola** as the nonprofit organization to receive a percentage of your purchase. Just visit smile.amazon.com. When you make your Amazon purchase, the church will actually receive a percentage of the price.



SOME UUCP TRADITIONS, & WHAT'S THE STORY BEHIND

THE WHITE STARS ON OUR CHRISTMAS TREE?

For as long as most UUCP members remember, the Christmas tree in the sanctuary has been decorated with white lights and white star ornaments. But what's the story behind them?

Hannelore Musial and her late husband, Victor, handmade each and every one!

In the 1920s, when Victor was growing up in Poland, he learned how to fold strips of paper to make the stars, also known as Moravian or Frobel Christmas stars. Each year a new supply of white stars needed to be made as the stars from the previous year were not saved.

Years later, Victor continued making stars for his family's tree here in Pensacola. In the 1990s at a holiday gathering at the Musial home, UUCP member Jeanne Bullivant asked Victor if he could make some for the church tree.

Quality materials and teamwork went in to making thousands of stars. Victor found a local paper supplier who would precision machine-cut high quality paper into the strips needed for the folded stars; Hannelore did the final trimming and finishing.

Not only do Victor's stars decorate the church tree, but for many years, he and Hannelore crafted more stars which were made available to members and friends in the church. Stars grace homes every year in Orlando, Oregon, Montana, South Dakota, Colorado, North Carolina, Connecticut, Virginia, Germany and many other places. Thank you so much, Viktor and Hannelore, for making our tree so special! Speaking of **Holiday Traditions**, **remember Sat. Nov. 26 at 10am we "Pre-Deck the Halls" by raising the tree. The next day, Sun. Nov. 27 at 11am we decorate our tree with Hannelore and Victor's lovely stars.** ~ ~ ~ ~ ~



A UUCP tradition, it happens every year after the last morning service in December, (this year on **Dec. 18th**) while the kids are enjoying their Christmas Party. The "Dirty Santa" Game (as in *Not Very Nice Santa*), got its name because the present you choose may get grabbed right out of your hands by one of the other players who wants to take a turn as Dirty Santa! Can you guess which of the participants will play Dirty Santa and snag someone else's gift? Will it be *you*? You might be surprised!

Struggling Youth Need *UU* Help this Holiday Season



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 this holiday season 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 toothbrushes, toothpaste, soaps, and feminine products.

Items will be collected in a marked basket in the foyer of the church 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](#).

What's Up at UUCP?

In Honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On **Sunday, December 4th at 11:15** we will have an organizational meeting in the Sanctuary to help plan for our MLK PARADE participation and float decoration. The parade is on January 16th. We will be preparing and decorating the trailer/float on the Sundays of January 8th and 15th.

The theme this year is "What is your life's blueprint?" with three principles: Have a deep belief in your own worth and dignity; incorporate excellence in all fields of endeavor; and commit to the eternal principles of beauty, love, and justice. For more info, contact Kate Wolverton.

See you then!

Board Meeting December 7th at 5:30pm

UUCP's monthly Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 5pm. In December the meeting will be on the 7th.

Sunday Sweets December 11th from 11am to 12pm

Sunday Sweets is usually 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 are, of course, lots of cake and cookies involved.

Zoom Readers' Groups December 12th

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 reader's 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 **Monday, December 12th**. There's no RSVP or registration—just click on the Zoom link provided and you're in. All sessions begin at 10 am and last approximately 1 hour. Questions or more information—contact Laurie Winterberg.

Lunch Bunch

As indicated in the last (November's) notice, today's Lunch Bunch might be the last for 2022; in fact, my usual Georgia and south Florida-bound travel for the 25th of December is likely to begin on/or about the second Wednesday, so I just finished the Lunch Bunch of November 9th at Juan's Flying Burrito, with a table of 4; sorry more of you didn't make it; it was sort of intimate compared to most LB's. And JFB's menu was much larger than meets the on-line screen, it was said. I actually had a nominal Mexican dish without cheese, though that was not my aim. Good, and filling, and the menu as a whole, worth repeating, I'd say, and the other three suggested a good visit.

I here present for your future planning that the January Lunch Bunch, the 11th, be attempted at McGuire's. It has been suggested several times in the past by half; for some, it's often avoided due to the lines seen outside on Gregory. But as loyal Pensacolans, we need to renew our acquaintance at least every decade...probably that long since I've seen the dollar bill ceiling.

Hopefully, whoever gets in line first can request and get a table for everyone else who shows up, by getting in line by 12:45...and if you want to make it known that you want to be included at that table, **let me know by Sunday, 8 January, 2023**. Letting me know via the usual email address works best. (I sometimes forget when told in person).

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, from Hugh Turner.



From the Finance Team:



Ministry Team leaders will soon be receiving communications from the Treasurer regarding budget requests for the 2023-24 (can you believe it?!) church year. You will get a summary of your team's budget for the current year and along with more details on submitting your team's request. Please be on the lookout for these communications and be ready to get your request in during the month of January so the Finance Team will have all of them available when the new budget is crafted in the spring. Thanks to all!

Pledge Payments or Trust Donation, Required Minimum Distributions Make Stewardship Easy

It's the time of year we remind people who are 72 years or older that they can donate to UUCP or to the UUCP Charitable Trust via a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** from their **Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)** without paying any tax on that donation. This is a great way to pay a pledge or donate to the church or the Trust.

What Are Required Minimum Distributions? The Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) is the smallest you must withdraw from employer-sponsored retirement plans each year once you reach retirement. If you fail to meet your RMD, the amount not withdrawn will be taxed at 50%.

The RMD rules apply to all employer-sponsored retirement plans (including profit-sharing plans, 401(k) plans, 403(b) plans, and 457(b) plans). Roth 401(k) accounts are exempt from the RDM rules as long as the owner is alive. If you own one of these types of accounts and will turn 72 years old this year or have already turned 72, you have an RMD.

How Does a QCD Work?: You direct your financial institution to send the donated funds directly to the church or the Trust before any remaining amounts are sent to you. That way, the donated funds never hit your bank account and are therefore not counted as part of your taxable income. You do not have to itemize deductions to benefit from this arrangement. For example, if you were to make a \$2000 donation to either the Church or the Trust and you are in the 20% tax bracket, you normally would have to pay about \$400 in taxes on this amount, or essentially have \$2,400 in order to make a \$2,000 donation. With the donated monies never entering your taxable income stream, you may even lower your tax bracket.

Please consult with your financial advisor to see what benefits you might get from this option in 2022.

And what is the UUCP Charitable Trust? Just as our IRAs provide us with personal financial stability in times of need, so the UUCP Charitable Trust was founded in 1987 to provide long-term financial stability for the church.

Georgianna Bryant, Chair of the UUCP Charitable Trust, and Erin Renfro, Trust member – who are not financial advisors and are definitely, most assuredly, absolutely not providing any actual financial advice in this article.

Many thanks to these recent donors to the UUCP Charitable Trust:

Daniel and Heather Cobb In gratitude and appreciation for their wedding

Patti Underwood In memory of Rob Pallme

Georgianna Bryant In memory of Rob Pallme

Marcy Moreland

The Estate of Barbara Goggins

The Trust was established in 1987 to ensure the long-term financial stability of the church. If you have any questions about the Trust or how to make a donation, see Georgianna Bryant, Chair.

How do we Strive for Justice? UUCP Partners with J.U.S.T. Pensacola



Thursday, December 1st, 2022

6:00-8:00

In-person at First United Methodist Church
6 East Wright Street, Pensacola, Florida 32501

RESEARCH TO ACTION KICKOFF

We have identified the problems and the solutions. Now let's talk about how to win these big changes for our community.

The RKO is for all J.U.S.T. Pensacola members who want to be involved in this year's research process!

**2022-2023 Issue-cuts:
Affordable Housing and
Civil Citations**

PLEASE JOIN US THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1ST, 2022, FROM 6-8PM AT:

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6 EAST WRIGHT ST.

PENSACOLA, FL 32501

J.U.S.T. Pensacola has identified the problems we want to work on - affordable rental housing and civil citations. We have also devised practical solutions.

[Now let's talk about how to win these big changes for our community.](#)

This event is for all who want to be involved in this year's research process.

Please RSVP [here.](#)

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

Return service requested

uupensacola@gmail.com
www.uupensacola.org



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.



Deadline for submissions for
JANUARY LIGHT:
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21st

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



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