The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola



Vol. 66 Issue 2 February 2023

The Ligh

Celebrate Diversity Strive for Justice Inspire Love

How do we build Beloved Community?

From Your Board: President's Letter

Well, Hello again, to my Beloved Church Family,

I think of you as family, and I am so happy to have all of you in my life.

January (which I remember when my kids were young as a quiet month) was VERY busy in our church life. We had some excellent Sunday services, PLUS our first Music Festival, the MLK Day parade, AND our Mid-Year Congregational Meeting, following a delicious lunch and Sunday Sweets.

During the Mid-Year Congregational Meeting I expressed gratitude for the members who do so much to plan, participate in, organize and manage all of the activities in, about and around the church. We have a wonderfully involved and committed congregation and I feel very proud and privileged to be a part of it. If you missed the meeting, please follow the link emailed out by Erin to the video she graciously edited and posted on YouTube, so you can stay in the loop.



By the time you read this we hope to have ALMOST hired our new Office Administrator, and introduced him or her to the congregation. We will miss Terra, but we hope she will find some engaging and fulfilling new activities, and stay involved with us remotely as much as possible!

There is a team still working on mitigation of the visual and drainage problems caused by the unlawful clearing of the property next to the church, and others are working to resolve complaints after a recent insurance inspection revealing the possibility of faulty electrical panels and panel components.

After investigations by knowledgeable members, and multiple calls to and a visit by our phone provider's

The Light – January 2023

DIRECTORY

9888 Pensacola Blvd. Pensacola, FL 32534 (850) 475-9077 uupensacola@gmail.com

See our website: **uupensacola.org** for updates and a complete list of teams and members.

Community Minister: Rev. Maggie Lovins Governing Board President: Laura Keith King President-Elect: Scott Satterwhite Past President: Arnie Ondis Secretary: Denise Gunn Treasurer: Bradley Vinson Members at Large: Joe Vinson Patti Underwood Marianne DeGrado

MINISTRY TEAMS

Adult Exploration: Trista Blouin Buildings & Grounds: Hugh Ed Turner Communications: Erin Renfroe Denominational Affairs: Laura Keith King Finance: Laurie Winterberg Fun and Fellowship: Pattie Underwood Leadership Development: Arnie Ondis Membership: Lauren Anzaldo Safer Congregation: Hugh Ed Turner Social Justice:

Paula Montgomery & Scott Satterwhite Sunday Services: Nancy Hagman technician, none of which fixed the issue, the problem with our land line church phone has mysteriously resolved itself, at least for the time being. It's truly one of the mysteries of technology!

Also, if you get hundreds of emails a day, like I do, and you have not had time to read the one from our UUA President, Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray, you may want to scroll down in this newsletter and read it carefully. There are some big changes coming to the UUA Principles and Purpose. The current ones were adopted in 1983, and they're due for some polishing up and renovation.

There are some intriguing Second Hour presentations in the works, so watch your calendar and stay in touch!

Many thanks again to all of you who attend church and participate! If you haven't been with us lately, know that we miss you and want you back. If you haven't been to a service yet, please know that we will welcome you with open arms!

In Love and Fellowship,

Laura Keith King

Letter from Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray, UUA President

January 2023

Happy New Year! I am sending you care as we begin another year. This, 2023, is an important year for Unitarian Universalism.

We are currently in a multi-year process to consider changes to our UUA Principles and Purpose. This process began in 2020 when the UUA Board appointed an Article II Study Commission. This is a dry name for such important work. The reason is our Principles, Purpose, Covenant, and Sources are contained in Article II of the UUA Bylaws.

Our seven Principles and six Sources – which we know and love – were adopted in 1985. They offered a substantial (even radical) change from what preceded them. The changes came through years of effort by UU women, particularly the UU Women's Federation, to push for greater gender equality in UUism, support for women in the ministry and to eliminate sexist language from our Bylaws, hymns, and yes, from the version of Article II passed in 1961 (at the time of consolidation).

But the changes didn't just address gender, they made significant language changes that reflected the times. It removed language of God, man, and brotherhood and added the language of interdependence and the Sources reflecting the growing theological diversity of our tradition.

As a lifelong UU, coming of age after these changes, I am grateful. They changed our movement in ways that were important for the success of women leaders, ministers, and for me, as our first elected woman President. These changes, at the time, brought fierce dissent. But more, they inspired excitement and possibility.

Why do we need a review of the Principles and Purpose?

In the mid-2010's, the ground began to shift again – much as it did in response to the women's movement. The emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement, the election of Donald Trump with his racist and misogynist



campaign, and the urgent calls to confront white supremacy culture in our own movement – all of these compelled UUs to ask questions about whether our Principles reflected fully who we are and who we need to be. By the 2017 General Assembly, there were multiple grassroots efforts to change our Principles. The first was overwhelmingly adopted, to change "prophetic women and men" to "prophetic people" to move beyond gender binary. There was also a proposal to change the first Principle from "the inherent worth and dignity of all people" to the "inherent worth and dignity of all beings." This proposal was ultimately tabled as delegates grappled with the reality that we still had a lot of work to do on living the first Principle for people. Discussions of the Eighth Principle were also happening and by

2020, hundreds of UU congregations had adopted it! The Eighth Principle recognized the need to go beyond aspirational principles to commitments to dismantle systems of oppression – calling us from aspiration to action.

It was within this context that your UUA Board appointed an Article II Study Commission to integrate these conversations and lead a discernment process for our whole Association about core values, covenant, and purpose. The Board gave the Commission a broad charge to review, change, or reimagine Article II to "enable our UUA, our member congregations, and our covenanted communities to be a relevant and powerful force for spiritual and moral growth, healing, and justice."

After two and a half years of study and conversations with thousands of Unitarian Universalists, <u>the Article II</u> <u>Study Commission submitted their report and proposal</u> to the UUA Board of Trustees for its January 20th meeting.

This spring, congregation delegates and the Board can propose amendments to the proposal. The proposal and amendments will be considered at General Assembly this June and a majority vote is required to continue consideration at GA 2024. If any of the delegate amendments are accepted, and if the proposal receives majority approval, then the Article II Study Commission will make any necessary changes to create a final draft for consideration at GA 2024. The final proposal will require a two thirds majority vote at GA 2024 to be adopted.

Seven years ago, when I was beginning my campaign for UUA President, I approached the process with an intention to be open to the process while letting go of outcomes. My hope for us as Unitarian Universalists is that we approach discernment about Article II with similar openness. May we enter our conversations with a spirit of curiosity, holding off attachment to outcomes, and listen with our whole hearts and to the fullness and diversity of voices in our community. May the process itself deepen our understanding of and commitment to our faith.

Love,

Gusan

Our Caring Community

We were saddened to learn that **Rev. Maggie Lovins**, our Community Minister, has suffered a recent loss. Rev. Maggie's former mother-in-law passed away on January 18th. With deep sympathy, we wish her and the family comfort during this difficult time and we hold them in our hearts with love.

We are pleased to report that **Linda Cobb** is finished with rehabilitation for the very badly broken leg she endured after a serious accident. Linda had been visiting her daughter when she fell, and after undergoing major surgery entered into a rehab facility in Lakeland, FL. We've missed her and are very happy to hear that she's doing better and is on her way back to Pensacola.

If you've signed up for the Circle Dinner kick-off event on Feb. 4, have no fear; Linda will be facilitating the event with her usual grace and efficiency!

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" on Feb 4th from 2p to 4p 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.



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

Who Does UUCP's Lawn Service?

Give Samuel Sample a call.

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





February 5, 2023: Imbolc Celebration with Penny Featherstone, dedicated and long-time member of this congregation.

In honoring the Wheel of the Year, Penny will identify how Imbolc introduces moving toward the light, creativity, and energy. This season includes the gestation of ideas and the beginnings of spring that influence our UUCP community.

February 12, 2023: This week we welcome a new speaker to the congregation. Derrick Scott, a native of Pensacola, comes with significant experience in community activism in Florida. He is a member of Florida Blue Key, Florida's most prestigious Leadership Honorary UF Alumni Association. He grew up here at Bethel AME Church under the leadership of the late Rev W.E. McNealy.

Today, Derrick joins us to discuss Negro History Week, now **Black History Month**; its purpose in today's society, and where we are today. He will include his personal anecdotes and experiences.

February 19, 2023: Paula Montgomery, M.D., long-time member of UUCP will present the second in the series of THE GREAT PEACEMAKERS: True Stories from Around the World. Workers for Peace: Thoreau and Gandhi.

As UUs we are committed to the goal of a world community with peace, liberty and justice for all. Thoreau was a philosopher and poet in 18th Century New England. His essay on civil disobedience has influenced the development of peaceful protests in addressing the injustices and errors of those in power. His philosophy was used to good effect by Mahatma Gandhi in his work in freeing colonial rule in India and later by civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

February 26, 2023: We have the privilege of having Mrs. Georgia Blackmon as our speaker this Sunday. Mrs. Blackmon is an icon in the Pensacola area, once providing a bookstore that became a haven for African American men and women to congregate and empower one another. We welcome Mrs. Blackmon back to UUCP as our guest speaker this week.

Mrs. Blackmon will talk about the newly reopened **Ella L. Jordan African American History Museum**, as well as African American History in Pensacola. Mrs. Blackmon led the efforts to restore the museum after the devastation of Hurricane Ivan in 2004. The museum will serve as an educational beacon and museum for our community and our roots.

How do we Celebrate Diversity?

REPAIRING THE UUA'S APPROACH TO RACIAL JUSTICE

A Convocation of the UU Multiracial Unity Action Council

UUMUAC.org

Saturday, February 18, 2023 11:00am-1:30pm Central time (Starts at Noon Eastern, 10:00am Mountain, 9:00am Pacific) To register send an email to UUMUAC@gmail.com Zoom codes will be sent the day before.

Session 1. Is Racism Really "as bad as ever"? Rev. Richard Trudeau: a conversation

Session 2. Is UU Culture "White Supremacist?" Steven Myles: a conversation

Session 3. Policy-Oriented Antiracism vs. Consciousness-Oriented Antiracism: What Works Best?

Dr. Kenneth Christiansen: a conversation

--- Break / Music ---

Session 4. Seven Principles: Beyond Segregation & Hierarchy Rev. Craig Moro: a conversation

Session 5. MLK and the First Principle

Rev. Richard Trudeau: a conversation

Session 6. What's so Wrong with the 8th Principle? Rev. Jack Reich: a conversation



February at UUCP

Board Meeting Wednesday, February 1st at 5:30

2nd Hour: "A Brief Intro of *The Urantia Book*," with Arnie Ondis February 5 at 11:30 a.m.

The Urantia Book has been described as a "soul-satisfying masterpiece [that] guides you to a richer understanding of what it means to be human, why you are here and the great cosmic journey that lies before you and beckons you onward toward perfection and God." The book purports to be a revelation of epochal proportion, authored by celestial beings, that has been provided to expand cosmic consciousness and enhance spiritual perception. It presents the origin, history and destiny of humanity, answers questions about God, life in the inhabited universe, the history and future of this world, and it includes an uplifting narrative of the life and teachings of Jesus.

Arnie has been a reader/student of *The Urantia Book* since 1972 and has been engaged in the Urantia movement on many levels. A new study group for beginners is forming and will be offered for your consideration.

This 2nd Hour will be held in the Library at UUCP. More information can be found, and the book itself read, at <u>www.urantia.org</u> and <u>www.urantiabook.org</u>.

February Lunch Bunch

For the 8th of February, the earliest of possible dates for the Lunch Bunch, we'll visit The Fishing Hole at 15 Brent Lane (just east of Palafox/US29 (phone 850-912-6664). It has always presented well-prepared dishes, and the reservation (already made) for 8 may include you, if you let me—Hugh Turner—know in the usual way, (preferably by email), so that I can add or subtract from 8. Plan to arrive at 1 PM.

January's LB on the 11th was held at McGuire's on Gregory, and Jack's and my early arrival time was unnecessary to gaining quick table access, there being no lines at all, only an opportunity to study the front door's artistry and imagine the dulling effects of the speedy Gregory St. traffic's car/tire noises rushing by. Our 7 had a quiet room once the party of 16 left about halfway through, and I think most agreed that the food, both quantity and quality, seemed adequate to the price. But having taken about 40% home, I decided that being able to see what I was eating improved the taste and appreciation of my dish. I'll be sure to bring my strongest reading glasses for next year's likely return visit.

Sunday Sweets Schedule

Sunday Sweets will be for sale on Feb. 12th, Mar. 12th, Apr. 9th, May 14th, Sept. 10, Oct 8th, Nov. 12, and Dec. 10th.

Sunday Sweets is suspended each summer but starts back up again after our Ingathering Service in the fall.

2nd Hour February 26: Long Strange Trip video & discussion with Rev Maggie Lovins from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

We'll meet in the Sanctuary for this Second Hour - Long Strange Trip is a six-part video series by Ron Cordes that explores the history of Unitarian and Universalist thought and practice from the early, liberal strands in faith at the beginning of the Christian era to what we know today as Unitarian Universalism. Each part of Long Strange Trip is approximately one hour in length with about 30 minutes of guided discussion.

ALERT—An Angel in Our Midst!



On January 13, Channel 3 profiled our own **Joe Vinson** as an "Angel in Our Midst" for his Lost Pensacola poster project, which he did to complete his Master's Degree in Public History. To can read the WEAR article online, <u>click</u> <u>here.</u>

Joe was kind enough to present his project to us in two services in January – the 8^{th} and the 22^{nd} – and they are available on our <u>YouTube channel</u>. If you'd like to see the Channel 3 segment, take a look at the beginning of the January 15 service, <u>here</u>.

Many congratulations to Joe for the honor and for the outstanding project. We are so proUUd!







A UUCP Annual Tradition: Marching in the MLK PARADE

UUCP has been participating in the MLK Parade since its beginning. Finally, the parade was able to be held again on January 16 of this year, after a 2-year hiatus due to Covid-19 restrictions.

We've won awards for our floats (and our drumming music) and you can see our trophies in the library. UUCP showed up in style for the 34th annual Parade in downtown Pensacola on Monday. The tradition of distributing paper flowers to members of the crowd and the drum-playing on the float are always hits. <u>#MartinLutherKingJrDay</u> <u>#wesharethedream</u>



Get to Know a Long-Time Member

By Charlotte Crane

Hugh Ed Turner

Hugh Ed Turner was an engineer and an Army trainee when a world news story – the building of the Berlin wall – rattled the U.S. military, in September of 1961. Soon, Hugh Ed got his orders.

His active duty began in December of 1961 in Fort Belvoir, Virginia's snowy landscape, and moved into Northeast France by March of 1962. He recalls, "The work and language were interesting, the travel more so, and the return to the US was November 21, 1963. The next day, JFK was assassinated."

News proximity had prevailed again. But this time, Hugh Ed was ahead of the headlines. He had already applied to JFK's Peace Corps. And following a spurt of skiing in Colorado and PC training in Vermont, the fall of '64 placed Hugh Ed with six other engineering types in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). Service to the Peace Corps continued to August 1966.

Twice thus triggered, his career was well-established. Following government service and with brief interruptions for grad school, he independently returned overseas from 1974 to 1983, to Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Greece and Norway. Between travel demands and personal adventures – he EUrailed, bussed and trained – he also bought a two-door coupe and drove through northern Italy. In his years abroad, he estimates visiting 33 countries – 19 in Europe, 11 in Asia and 3 in Africa. Income, aside from government service, stemmed from jobs in construction support, modular housing construction, and engineering data for road construction – and more.

Sometimes jobs were hard to find. "Reading both of the two English papers in Athens, I contacted a party looking for a typist for a Green Peace project to object to fishing tactics that were harmful to the Mediterranean Monk seals in the eastern Aegean Sea, from the island of Samos. Housing was unheated but blankets aplenty," he reported. He next headed for Athens, nicely finding work in a Lebanese shipping firm, typing accounting reports. His final overseas employment, 1981 to 1983, was in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, for Continental Telephone's contract with the government phone company. In 1983, he toured Europe with his mother, who arrived in Frankfurt from Birmingham, AL. Together they EUrailed for five weeks. "The two best parts of the travel, from Greece to Norway, included time with her first cousin Anton in Kolding, Denmark, and walking into St. Peters in Rome while a choir rehearsed space-filling music," said Hugh Ed.

But the year 1980 brought sadness with the death of his father, H. Edmond Turner, in Birmingham. Hugh Ed moved from Birmingham to Pensacola in 1984. His mother, Berenice H. Turner, joined him in 1991, in the home he bought.

Born in 1937, Hugh Ed was the first of his parents' three children. He graduated in 1961 from Auburn University with a degree in civil engineering. His college calendar was unusual, known as a co-op plan in which students alternated study quarters with work quarters – a plan he chose in order to provide his two younger sisters, Sally and Susie, with a slightly larger share of their parents' college support.

Once having signed up with ROTC while at Auburn, Hugh Ed had served in the Army. Then he served with the Peace Corps, then worked independently. His overseas employment, from March 1962 to 1983, substantially ended with his decision to retire. Then his new life began, including personal adventures such as a seven-week

bicycle tour of Scotland. And he became an earnest volunteer in Pensacola.

Finding UUCP came soon, following his mother's arrival, enlightened by her awareness from the Birmingham UU church. "Initially," says Hugh Ed, "we maintained my contact via our close walk to Cokesbury United Methodist Church, but finding the minister not our type, we tried other UMCs and then the PUUF on Scott Street, where the fit was very good. Moving to Highway 29 to attend UUCP was at first not comfortable, but eventually almost automatic." His Mother's final service in that building came in February 2007, just before her March 15th birthday, when she would have been 101.

Now at home in Pensacola, Hugh Ed hardly fits the retiree label. Since the 1984 arrival, he's volunteered for



PUUF/UUCP and for Ever'man Health Food Cooperative, which was first located on 12th Ave., then 9th Ave., then Garden St., and lately expanding to 9 Mile Rd. Initially he did stocking and worked at the cash register, then began recycling cardboard and glass for stores with his own Toyota Station wagon, until ECUA and the city got into the process. Now his recycles consist mainly of "bubble wrap" and biodegradable "peanuts" for which new packaging uses are found – initially at a UPS store, but for the last 6-8 years at Blues Angel Music Store.

At UUCP, Hugh Ed currently is the counter of offerings and the deposit maker for

Sunday services, and sometimes assists with other "funds generating" events. He also generously serves as our Team Lead for Buildings and Grounds as well as for our Safer Congregation Ministry Team, which covers all safety issues from best practices during Covid-19 through security.

From 2007 until 2018, he volunteered at the front desk of WSRE, the public television station, sometimes full days, or just a lunch hour. He was recognized by the station for his efforts. Says Hugh Ed, "A main benefit was meeting the interesting people coming into the station."

A few thoughts from a life led well: "This brief living and travel outline may suggest that a single life offers diversity of experience, that a competent job/skill set helps to support those opportunities, that traveling back home from the 'last' job can offer new opportunities, and that the perspectives gained from others who've had their own diverse experiences can be equally enriching. And of course, it's always nice to have a home to come back to."



UUCP Thursday Weekly Emails and UU World Magazine for Members

If you aren't receiving UUCP's Weekly Thursday Emails, please check your Junk/Trash/Spam filter/folder to be certain the emails aren't ending up in there—sometimes you won't be able to see them until you check the oldest emails in the folder. If you're not getting your weekly emails, please know, no one can help you with this problem except the Office Administrator, so contact them first; you'll find contact info below and on our website.

Make sure to try the following steps if you aren't getting the emails each week. At least 90% of the time this will solve the problem. If you see any email from UUCP in your Spam folder, open it. You should see an option to mark it as 'Not Spam' and/or to move it to your Inbox. Please do one or the other. Even if you're sure our email address (uupensacola@gmail.com) is already in your contacts, add it again. Wait until the next email is sent on Thursday night. If you haven't received it by Friday, please email the UUCP Office at the address above or call 850-475-9077 and leave a message.

If you are a member and are receiving the UU World magazine, *please* contact the Office if you move and change your address. Only the admin can update your address on the UUA site in order for you to continue receiving UU World. Also, please inform the admin if you change any of your contact info and want to continue to receive our emails. Although you may update your information in your Profile in Simple Church yourself, the admin cannot know you've done so unless you inform them, so you may miss emails that are sent out to Members and Friends only, as well as Thursday night's Weekly Emails.

From the Video Editor

Our Sunday service videos on YouTube are an excellent outreach tool (did you know our YouTube channel has over 130 subscribers?). In the interest of presenting our church in the best light to potential visitors, please remember that the microphones pick up every little sound during the service, including murmured conversations on the stage, within the sanctuary, and even out in the foyer. I've had to do some pretty heavy editing lately, cutting out Chris' lovely Centering music and other intended quiet moments in the worship, because of audible voices in the background. So, please do your best to remember to "hold that thought" during the contemplative parts of our worship.

Hey, Got Any News?

The Light's staff of crack investigative journalists has dwindled of late, so we rely on you to keep up with happenings among our congregation members. Let us know your big news: New grandkids, milestone birthdays and anniversaries, wonderful trips, interesting learning experiences, or sorrows we can help you bear. Send all to uupensacola@gmail.com by the 21st of each month—or, if you have always wanted to **be** a crack investigative journalist, please send an email to <u>communications@uupensacola.org.</u>

Would You Like an Event to be Listed on Our Calendar and/or Publicized?

If you have an event, you'll need the following by the 21st of each month, to put in *The Light* for the following month.

Submissions for the Thursday Weekly email, or to be added to the Simple Church calendar must have:

*Name of event - a title

*What - the description

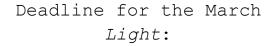
*When - please be specific with day, date, starting time, and ending time if applicable

*Where - if it's being held at UUCP, you must reserve a room or space as soon as you know, by requesting a specific area. Please remember it's first come, first served.

***Will there be childcare?** You'll have to set this up with someone in CRE if you need it; Denise Gunn and Bradley Vinson are kindly helping us schedule it for the time being. Please let the admin know as soon as you find out whether it will be provided for your event, since it will need to be part of the announcement, blurb or article. Thank you for providing all the information we need.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola 9888 Pensacola Boulevard Pensacola, FL 32534

TO:



Tuesday, February 21

UUCP is proudly an



