

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

The Light

Vol. 66 Issue 3 March 2023



Celebrate Diversity *Strive for Justice* *Inspire Love*

How do we build Beloved Community?

Hello Beloved Church Family,

As always, I want to start with an expression of gratitude for the members who do so much to plan, participate in, and manage all of the tasks and 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.

To update you on our Office Administrator job search: We are still wading through résumés and have high hopes of someone coming “on board” soon. I have reviewed about 100 résumés, and we (myself, Scott Satterwhite, Denise Gunn and Erin Renfroe) have interviewed three candidates so far. Two of them were exceptionally well-qualified, but one of them decided that her beliefs were too far from ours to feel comfortable serving with us (the interview team agreed with her), and the other had a change of heart about a part-time position. Until someone is hired, Erin is filling in, and email can still go to uupensacola@gmail.com. Erin is also checking our phone messages. Thank you, Erin, we are so grateful for ALL you do!



The team is still working on mitigation of the visual and drainage problems caused by the unpermitted and unlawful clearing of the property next to the church, and to that effect, our member, Tim Kingston, an attorney in Alabama, sent a letter of demand to the owner, Kenneth Jarrell, early in February. Mr. Jarrell had his crew clean up some of the dirt from our parking lot, and do some initial work to redirect the water. His plans include a warehouse and a retention pond on his property. On February 20, Hugh Ed Turner, Daniel Cobb, my husband, Ed and I met with Mr. Jarrell in person at his office to negotiate further mitigation and we came to a verbal agreement, which we will put in writing, run by the Board, and ask him to sign.

DIRECTORY

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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

Arnie Ondis has been working with an electrical contractor to replace three electric panels which an inspector from our insurance company discovered were suspicious, and that we later determined were indeed hazardous due to age, and that needed to be removed and replaced. Two of the three have been replaced, and the third is scheduled. Thank you, Arnie!

The UUA Article II Study Commission has come up with their recommendations, which you may remember me mentioning in my letter here last month. If you want to learn more about them, you can watch one or two videos on YouTube:

- A 30-minute video here: <https://youtu.be/zPQmvlMBUOg>, and
- A 7-minute summary of their recommended new principles here: <https://youtu.be/eL2t8wnV0h4>.

There is also a group within UUA that opposes the changes - because we are UUs, so of course there is.

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

Laura Keith King



March at UUCP

Second Hours

March 5

Join Rev. Maggie Lovins in the Sanctuary after the Sunday Service 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.

March 12

After the Sunday Service, Linda Fussell will give a presentation on recent Escambia County School Board decisions to ban certain books from school libraries, and what you can do to counter these efforts.

See this page for more information.

March 19

Jean Siebenaler, Legislative Chair, Democratic Women's Club of Florida, will present "2023 FL Legislative Overview: A look at important legislation moving in the State Legislature." She will discuss fast tracking legislation, the DeSantis agenda, and what you can do about it.

Readers' Groups Announced

March through June 2023 has been scheduled

"As novels became more prominent during the 1700's, society and the media grew increasingly concerned that young people spent too much time reading books. They went so far as to call it 'reading rage,' 'reading fever,' 'reading mania,' and 'reading lust.'"

These ZOOM gatherings are generally 1 hour in length and begin at 10 am. There are no required books to buy or read. The central topic each month is what participants are reading, their recommendations and comments.

All sessions are the 2nd Monday of the month beginning in March and ending in June of 2023. The ZOOM link to join the meeting is sent out the day before the session via our Simple Church email service.

Have questions? Contact Laurie Winterberg.

We Got Grits – and More!

The Finance team wishes to invite all members and friends of the UUCP to a Semi-Pot Luck brunch on **March 19** to celebrate the successful end of the Pledge Drive for this year.

For the grits-eaters: Hot grits and polenta will be provided by your team and you will be asked to bring “enhancements”- sautéed peppers and onions, shredded cheese, favorite condiments (Tabasco, anyone?), sausage, bacon – whatever your heart desires.

If you're not a fan (or even if you are): Feel free to make or bring pastries to share, sausage biscuits, coffee cake. No need to worry about letting us know what you plan to bring; all offerings are welcome.

Let's make this a fun and tasty gathering to celebrate another year of our special congregation and all its works. We can't do good in our community without each other; nor can our church stand as a haven for others like ourselves if we don't keep paying it forward.

So, mark your calendars and get ready for a fun time!

LUUnch BUUnch March 8

Greeting and salutations:

Perhaps that's a reflection of the release of a burden, but if you want to know more, join us at **El Paso Mexican Grill** at 5490 Mobile Highway (Phone 850-378-8553), on the second Wednesday of **March, the 8th**. It does have a good website, but my first effort at a menu brought up a car garage price list. It has been a while since we did "Mexican," probably three years, so I felt a little "peso frugality" coming over me after reading the menu. Let me know if you're likely to be 'Mex' hungry, if you please, by Sunday the 5th. Lots of reviews to read on the web site, but temper what you read in that our two ladies of the west (part of town), NH and MMCL, have said that EPMG is one of their favorites. (Remember, this is *EPM Grill* and not the other EPM listing.)

Last 2nd Wednesday, at the Fishing Hole, was, well, pretty full of the folks who didn't pay much attention to the poor Board of Health report in the PNJ 10 days prior: so it was only Michael and I. We did enjoy our chosen dishes - appetizer and entree for each of us, so maybe we decided to eat higher on the seafood chain since we had fewer folks to talk to. Who knows? ...

Coming attractions: For April, am considering a free lunch with an educational talk on Myelopathy: "Difficulty walking is not a normal part of aging." We'll discuss at EPMG on 8 March.



Sunday Services in March

March 5, 2023

The Power in Vulnerability

Rev. Maggie Lovins, our UUCP Community Minister, will speak with our congregation this Sunday. What do you think of when you hear the word *vulnerability*? Do you consider it to be a powerful word or one that shows ‘weakness’? Rev. Maggie will discuss how we can use vulnerability to be courageous and how it can help us be our most authentic self.

March 12, 2023

The Great Peacemakers Series

Paula Montgomery, M.D., long-time member of UUCP, will present the next installment in the Series of GREAT PEACEMAKERS, True Stories from Around the World. Workers for Peace: Thoreau and Gandhi.

Thoreau’s 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.

March 19, 2023

“We gather together in joyful thanksgiving.....”. **Featuring - We Got Grits - and More!**

Sunday Service Potluck Breakfast marking the conclusion of the annual budget drive.

Grits provided by Finance Team

Potluck suggestions:

- Grits Toppings: shredded cheese; cooked, crumbled bacon; sautéed green peppers and onions, etc.
- Fresh fruit - bite size pieces
- Pastries
- Orange Juice

March 26, 2023

UUCP has been a part of Justice United Seeking Transformation in Pensacola since its inception in 2019. Kaeli Williams will join us to celebrate the work of JUST Pensacola and prepare us for upcoming major events.

March is Trust Month!

By a Proclamation signed in March 2022, the Governing Board of UUCP and the Trustees of the UUCP Charitable Trust declared that March of every year will henceforth be recognized to honor and promote awareness of the Trust. (You can see this Proclamation in the church foyer.)

What is the UUCP Charitable Trust?

It's a legal entity separate from the church - founded March 22, 1988 by Ken Bullivant, Don Danly, and Barbara Goggins - for the purpose of receiving and investing funds for the long-term support of UUCP (then PUUF).

How does the Trust help the church?

All donations go to the principal of the Trust (the Permanent Endowment), which is meant to remain intact in perpetuity. Income from the corpus (the Accessible Endowment) is available for use by the church when needed. The Building Fund provides loans to the church for repairs or improvements to the building and grounds.

Why would I donate the Trust?

Donations to the church fund the day-to-day operating expenses - paid speakers and musicians, utility bills, staff, etc. Donations to the Trust help ensure the financial stability of the church for the long haul. When you donate to the Trust, your donation works for the church for years and decades to come.

Donate to the Trust to honor a church member or loved one, to celebrate special occasions, or just to be a part of the church's future in the community. You can also provide for the Trust in your estate planning (see a Trustee for help doing this).

The Trust is celebrating its 35th birthday this month, so we celebrate our church forebears who had the vision to create it, and all those who have donated to the future of UUCP.

2023 Trustees: Georgianna Bryant (Chair), Laurie Winterberg (Treasurer), Erin Renfroe (Secretary), Patti Underwood; and Hugh Ed Turner.

Welcome A New Member

By Charlotte Snyder

Marybeth Ramsey

As a child, Marybeth wanted to sing for animated movies. Then she grew up and wanted to be a backup singer. Thank goodness she ended up here, in our choir!

Marybeth graduated with a bachelor's degree from Tennessee State University in Speech Communications with an emphasis on interpersonal relations. She is the Education Instructor for ServiceMax, which is a software company specializing in service software tools to help companies keep better track of their equipment, accounts, technicians... etc. She really likes that she is training people on a good product, one that is beneficial to the end user and makes their lives easier.

The best adventure of Marybeth's life has been her marriage, which has been way better than she ever expected or hoped for. Marybeth and Brett, also a member, have been married for 3 years. They have no



children and no plans

for them - they love being the "fun" aunt and uncle. Marybeth and Brett love playing board games, going to the beach, and traveling! Brett, being a wonderful Travel Agent, planned Marybeth's dream vacation to Ireland this past September. It was surreal and amazing! Brett is now planning their next trip to Greece and a 2-week coastal European cruise. A few of Marybeth's favorite things are music, reading, watching a good show/movie, volunteering, swimming, beer, exercise dancing,

eating food (specifically cheese), and sleeping.

Marybeth and Brett moved to Pensacola from Nashville a year and a half ago. They had been wanting a change, as they both work from home, and Pensacola ticked all the boxes: population, cost of living, weather, and a decent size airport. They love how close they are to the beach, and it's a smaller city for them, so it has everything they could ever need but isn't too crowded or busy.

Marybeth was raised Nazarene and continued to be throughout her adult life. She did not hear about the UU church until moving to Pensacola, where she had been searching for a truly loving and

Marybeth was born in Nashville, TN. She is very close to her parents, Steve and Gracie Dowd, and is working on growing closer to her brother Mark. They have a very large extended family with 16 aunts/uncles and 40 first cousins. She is blessed to have a lot of wonderful friends, both new and old.

accepting church without much luck. Then UUCP appeared on her Facebook page. She read over the church website and researched Unitarian Universalism. She really appreciates the 7 principles, the fact that we are truly accepting of everyone, and that the church has a choir.

Marybeth would like to see more UUCP outreach/representation at events around town, in the hopes of attracting more people. Many people are searching for a church like this... they just don't know it exists! She would also love more musicians, but knows this has been a struggle the church has been working on for a while now. Hopefully, the church can recruit more members with some being musicians!

Next month: Marybeth's husband, Brett Ramsey!

Get to Know a Long-Time Member

By Charlotte Crane

Paula Montgomery, M.D.

To Dr. Paula Montgomery, the adventure in her medical career came "early" -- when she was admitted to medical school at age 40. There was much to follow for Paula – in both medicine and community service.

Following graduation from the University of Mississippi Medical School in Jackson, Miss., she was assigned to a residency in Pensacola where, says Paula, "I fell in love with the place and never left."

Her medical positions: private practice in family medicine with two other physicians and board certification in geriatrics and hospice, then serving at Covenant Hospice as medical director. "What I liked about my career was that it kept me learning, and I loved dealing with patients and helping them."



An active and concerned citizen, Paula also has provided significant community service as a volunteer. She is active with the Education and Juvenile Justice Committees with the League of Women Voters. In 2015 she started hosting a series of eight public programs focused on the "School to Prison Pipeline." Explains Paula: "These were mostly forums to provide insight into the system of justice for young people, wherein many young people were arrested for minor misdemeanors when they could have instead been issued a 'civic citation' and avoid having an arrest on their record for the rest of their lives."

She visited with State Attorney Bill Eddins on the issue, which resulted in a 60% drop in children being tried in adult court with adult sentences instead of in Juvenile Court. Escambia County was out of line with the rest of the state with the number of young people being tried as adults. Civil



Citations was another focus of the “School to Prison Pipeline” programs; and the effort for Civic Citations goes on. It is part of the work being done by JUST Pensacola.

Paula received three awards for these good works: from the Florida League of Women Voters, the National Association of Social Workers, and the Freedom’s Foundation.

Paula was born in Laurel, Mississippi, where her mother was a librarian, her father a lawyer, and where her mother’s admiration for her own father - a physician on Laurel’s Sixth Avenue - says Paula, “influenced me in selecting medicine as a career.”

Before that career, however, came Paula’s own family. She was married for 13 years, and had four children. The marriage ended and at that point, too, her mother developed cancer, so Paula moved to Laurel with her children to care for her. When Paula subsequently was able to start medical training, she moved to Jackson, MS.

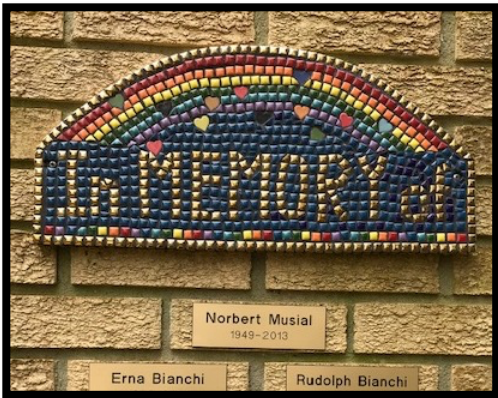
Paula grew up in a Methodist family. “We were faithful and loyal to that church.” However: “When I was 14, I decided that I could not worship a God who sent folks to eternal hell just because they had not heard of Jesus. So my mother let me quit going to Sunday School and only participate by singing in the choir.”

Paula was unchurched after college until she had children. “Then I wanted them to learn the things that are part of our cultural heritage.” Paula had a friend who was a member of the UU church in Atlanta. “I visited with her and found ‘my tribe.’” She joined the UU church in Laurel while there and at Jackson while in medical school.

Paula joined our congregation in 1984, when UUCP was PUUF on Scott Street, where she also met a person who would become important in her life. “My eye was caught by a very tall, very smart gentleman who sat in the back and handled the sound system (I think). As time went on Bill Caplinger and I served UU committees, and as we got to know each other we realized how much we had in common. Since then, we have been working on projects, living together, supporting UUCP and each other for about 30 years. I could not do the things I do and have done without him.”

Paula is today one of UUCP’s longest-term members. “I love the people and the vision.”

If you would like to memorialize a loved one who was not a member of our UUCP congregation, consider purchasing a memorial nameplate that will be displayed in the Memorial Garden. The



nameplates are 2" x 6" and made of a durable, weather resistant material. Included on the name plate will be the first and last name, birth year, and death year.

The cost is \$50 per plate, with proceeds going toward maintaining the Memorial Garden. Although there is no deadline for purchasing a memorial, consider doing so by the first week by March 15th so that they can be on display this coming Easter.

Just complete a short form that can be found on the information table right outside the library. Include your payment and give it to Kate Wolverton.

Let's try again: Directly Sharing Joys, Sorrows, and Concerns

An important change will begin at the March 5 Sunday service.

Some of us are missing the more personal, more direct sharing of joys and concerns, with the sharers speaking for themselves. The switch to written comments read by service leaders was made to alleviate multiple long-standing concerns, including too much service time lost to insignificant or impersonal content, announcements approached as joys or concerns, and people speaking too frequently or for too long.

These have long been problems here and in other UU churches, especially as we strive to end each service dependably by 11 a.m. And yet, your UUCP Sunday Services Team would like to try the more direct personal approach again, with everyone's cooperation and commitment to the following:

- Please share infrequently and very briefly, only significant personal joys, concerns, or sorrows, milestone events.
- Remember to speak loudly and clearly and use the microphone, with the service leader's help.

We'll resume this direct approach experimentally, in March and April services. Your help will be appreciated. Please let us know how you think it's working.

- Dolly Berthelot for the UUCP Sunday Services Team



You are invited to view the webpage for the 2023-24 Budget Drive!

www.uupensacola.org

- Go to “Members” at the top
- Enter the password UUmay01
- Select 2023-24 Budget Drive

Everything you need to make informed decisions about how to
JOIN IN THE JOURNEY

To financially strengthen and support your church in the coming fiscal year.

(If you normally receive *The Light* via U.S. Mail, you will get a paper version of the budget information, but feel free to contact Laurie Winterberg or Erin Renfroe for help.)

-- From your Finance Team



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The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola
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TO:



Deadline for the March *Light*:

Tuesday, March 21

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