

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

The Light

Vol. 66 Issue 5 May 2023



Celebrate Diversity *Strive for Justice* *Inspire Love*

How do we build Beloved Community?

From Your Board: President's Letter

Hello, Beloved Church Family,

Hooray! Spring has Sprung! The weather is lovely and I'm feeling very grateful that here in our local area we've been spared the horrible tornados and flooding that have been plaguing so much of our country and world. Even in our gratitude, our heart goes out to those who are suffering.

Here's an update: our dedicated team of volunteers did a wonderful job of sprucing up the outdoor spaces! Jay Butcher worked for hours power-washing our front porch area, and it looks 1,000% better! Thank you, Jay! Also, thanks to all the others who helped that day with weeding, pruning, trimming, and raking. Desmond Anzaldo and his Boy Scout Troop did a great job repainting the parking lot stripes, and the front steps. "Step One" is completed on fixing the fence, and hopefully it will be all repaired and standing straight up by the time you read this, or soon afterward. Thanks to everyone who helped!



Our Annual Church meeting is coming up soon, at 11:30 on May 21st, in the sanctuary. Please let ME know if you want to attend by

Zoom. Due to the configuration and acoustics of our space, Zoom isn't the optimal way to attend and hear well, but if we know you want to attend, and can't be there in person, we'll happily set it up for you, and send you the link.

The Annual May Meeting is when we always "vote in" the volunteers who have agreed to serve on our Board of Governors. Our Leadership Development Team has recruited the following new people to be voted in: Joe Vinson, a current board member, has graciously agreed to serve as President Elect, to follow Scott Satterwhite (voted in last year), who will be President in our upcoming year, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024. Joe would become Board President for our fiscal

year 2024-2025. Barbara Wright has generously agreed not only to join the Board, but also to take on the Board Secretary position, to begin this July 1, replacing Denise Gunn, who has served us very well, and who will continue on the Board and with all her work with the children. In addition, Lynne Butcher and Lisa Rawson have been recruited to join the Leadership Development Team and work with me next year to keep our teams healthy and serving our congregation.

Our excellent Finance Team has completed the church budget for next year, the Board has reviewed and approved it, and it will also be voted on at this meeting.

One new and interesting thing that will be on the ballot will be the question of adopting the Eighth Principle. The UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association) has been working for several years on revising, updating, and replacing the Seven Principles (written back in the 1980s), and may soon recommend a new way to communicate UU Values. The Eighth Principle was initially drafted 10 years ago, and formally adopted by the UU Church of the Restoration in Philadelphia in May of 2017, at which time they recommended that the UUA formally adopt it. You can read more about it at <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org>. Since that time, over 50 UU congregations have independently adopted it, and at our April board meeting, our board members also agreed to recommend it.

On May 21st, with the vote on the Eighth Principle, you will be asked to make some of our values about Justice and Beloved Community more explicit, the way “Black Lives Matter” is more explicit than “All Lives Matter.” In words from the website, we can easily believe that we are being a “good UU”, and follow the “7 Principles without thinking about or dealing with racism and other oppressions at the systemic level. For people identified as white, it is too easy to ignore these issues, which is exactly what keeps the system of racism in our society alive, and in fact worsening right now.”

I deeply believe that as a “majority white” congregation, we need to be more mindful of and more involved in the work of recognizing our privilege and attempting to make a safer and more just Beloved Community. Explicitly stating our goal is the first step.

The wording the Board has approved for your consideration has not been completely finalized, but the version of it will be similar to this, shown here with the original 7 Principles:

[1st Principle](#): The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

[2nd Principle](#): Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

[3rd Principle](#): Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;

[4th Principle](#): A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

[5th Principle](#): The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;

DIRECTORY

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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

6th Principle: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part;

8th Principle: The journey toward spiritual wholeness; to build a multicultural Beloved Community and dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.

I truly hope you will join us for our Annual Meeting on Sunday, the 21st at 11:30. Lunch after the regular church service will be provided. 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

2023 Annual Congregational Meeting May 21st after the service

To be voted upon:

- The 2023-24 leadership slate
- The 2023-24 operating budget
- Whether to adopt the 8th Principle

Please go to the Members' section of the website to see the proposals to be voted upon.

You may vote at this meeting if you will have been a Member for six weeks on May 21. A quorum of Members is needed, so please plan to come. Food and childcare will be provided!



Sunday Services in May

May 7, 2023

Nature-Based Tools for Spiritual Practice

Trista Blouin, longtime member and seminary student, will present: Nature-Based Tools for Spiritual Practice. This will be an introduction of Trista Blouin's Capstone Project for her seminary education. She will detail how she arrived at her project, describe the tools she has created, and explain how these tools merge her love of photographing our more-than-human kin with her call to be a chaplain.

There will be an opening reception afterward and her art from the project will be on display in the UUCP Conference room/gallery. Trista will be there to answer questions about the various items being displayed. (This service will not be recorded)

May 14, 2023

The Great Peacemakers Series

This is the next installment in our special series based on the book *Great Peacemakers: True Stories from Around the World* by Ken Beller and Heather Chase.

Laura Keith King will tell about two very well-known Peacemakers in honor of Mothers' Day: the most compassionate and best known "mother" of them all, Mother Teresa, and the amazing Buddhist monk who has influenced thought world-wide, Thích Nhất Hahn. In addition, we will be honoring our children and youth teachers.

Sunday Sweets

Instead of cakes, we will be offering pies. Please purchase a piece or two for your mom on her day!

May 21, 2023

Recovering Sacred Presence in a Disenchanted World

Longtime friend of UUCP Julie Patton will present a program on "Recovering Sacred Presence in a Disenchanted World." This topic will touch on the New Story of creation, which incorporates evidence-based scientific research into an evolutionary model of the transcendent unfolding in time.

In this service, we will celebrate our members and close family members reaching key educational milestones.

May 28, 2023

Veterans for Peace

Scott Satterwhite, longtime member, will present: Veterans for Peace. Memorial Day is typically seen as the beginning of summer, but to veterans the holiday marks a very somber occasion: to honor our dead. Veterans for Peace takes this notion one step further, and strives to memorialize the dead by striving to create a world where there will be no need for wars.



May at UUCP

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.

LUUnch BUUnch May 10

For May's 2nd Wednesday, the 10th, we'll visit Taylor's Breakfast & Lunch at 7175 Davis Hwy, Suite K... which is to say, that "food court" which lies in the eastern edge of the multi-number of stores of varied size that was formerly known as University Mall. The "court" is square with more than food operations on its four sides, and Taylor's B&L occupies the southwest corner. The smells will remind you of the sort of place you where breakfasts are familiar fare.... And the menu suggests more choice than your standard breakfast fare, with prices to which we're getting accustomed

(WWW.taylorsbreakfastandlunch.com). I was told that they are not a chain, but two guys in town who wanted to try this restaurant approach.

Their end of service time is 2:00 PM, and I asked if folks seated at 1:00, our usual time, will be able to linger past 2:00, and was told, no problem. Didn't really inquire about reservations or numbers, but noted tables in random patterns, suggesting easy moving if we get more than a table full. Try to let Hugh Ed know (by Sunday, 7 May at UUCP) if you're interested, so early arrivers can locate near spare tables.

Last Wed.'s 4/12 visit to Baptist Hospital's E St. brain surgeon talk on Myelopathy was both more technical and complicated than expected, but helpful in understanding the nerve/backbone doctor's approach to difficulty in walking and good posture. We had three at the same table, but sorely missed two of our regulars.

UUMUAC Convocation

The UU Multiracial Unity Action Council will hold a convocation via Zoom on Saturday, May 13 from 11:00am-12:30pm CST. The theme of the convocation is "IN THE BELOVED COMMUNITY EVERYONE IS ALLOWED TO SPEAK."

You can register by sending an email to UUMUAC@gmail.com; Zoom codes will be sent the day before. [Click here to learn more about the event.](#)

Parking Lot Repainted for Eagle Scout Project

By Lauren Anzaldo

The UUCP parking lot and entryway were refreshed in April thanks to UUCP's generous contributions to a Fifth Sunday collection taken up in January 2023. UUCP's donation of \$469 benefitted the Scouts BSA Eagle Scout project of Desmond Anzaldo-Satterwhite. Desmond is the 14-year-old son of members Lauren Anzaldo and Scott Satterwhite, seen below raking leaves.

The church donation allowed for the purchase of paint, paint supplies, and materials as well as snacks and lunch for the volunteers. Desmond and his family and Scouts BSA Troop 495 are so appreciative of UUCP's support.

Regarding the UUCP contribution, Desmond said, "I'm very thankful for the money that was given because it really aided the project. We collected more than we were even able to use, and we will give back the extra to the church for other building and grounds projects."

Desmond's project is entitled Repainting and Refreshing the Parking Lots at UUCP. The project involved raking and prepping the parking lots then repainting the stripes for all 73 parking spaces in the front and back parking lots. Having not been retouched in many years, the stripes had faded to the point of invisibility. Directional arrows and speed limits also were repainted on the asphalt. The porch steps leading up to the church door were repainted as well.



Discussing how he conceived of this project, Desmond said, "It was hard to see the lines for the parking spaces, and that made it hard to park. With the steps where the safety lines were faded, since we have some people in our church who have low vision, it was hard for them to see where to step. The areas now look much better than it did, and this project was definitely a necessary improvement needed to help the community and people of our church."

Desmond plans to get his learner's permit this summer and soon will be driving to church with his family, so he will benefit from the new stripes as well.

To earn the Eagle Scout award, a Scout is required to plan, develop, and lead a volunteer project of significant impact to the community or a non-profit organization or church. Desmond will have completed more than 25 volunteer hours along with more than 40 service hours completed by other volunteers that he led during the project. UUCP volunteers included Michael Newcomb and Tabbitha Manzanet. Scouts BSA volunteers were Henry Fisher, Jude Poller, Thomas Brimmer, and Hayden Huntsinger along with Scout parents Dan Brimmer, Scott Satterwhite, and Lauren Anzaldo, and Scout siblings Maddy Anzaldo-Satterwhite and Edward Brimmer.

Addressing what he has learned through working on his Eagle Scout project, Desmond said, “I showed leadership by planning ahead with a project as big as this and by communicating with the volunteers to keep them busy and doing the right thing during the workday. I learned that if you don’t plan ahead, it’s hard to find roles for everyone to keep them busy. That’s where leadership



comes in. A leader organizes more. I could improve in that area.”

Now a high school freshman, Desmond has been a Scout since first grade and has risen through the ranks to become a Life Scout. After advancing to the Life rank about one year ago, Desmond started conceptualizing, planning, developing, and executing his Eagle project. Approval of the Eagle Scout project by the Council after a lengthy review process is required to attain the rank of Eagle.

Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or rank attainable in the Scouts BSA program (formerly Boy Scouts of America). Since its inception in 1911, the Eagle Scout rank has been earned by more than 2.5

million youth. While that seems like a big number, the number represents only 4% of all Scouts, making Eagle Scout a rare and prestigious achievement.

Welcome Home, Daniel Cobb!

By Dolly Berthelot

Daniel Cobb hardly seems like a newcomer, especially to those of us who have been around since UUCP was PUUF (Pensacola Unitarian Universalist Fellowship). He was a cute kid in the 1980s, coming with his parents, Linda and Neil Cobb. His older and younger brothers and younger sister also started RE in that tiny white house on Scott Street in East Hill, separated from grownup PUUF by

one occupied house we didn't own. When the kids all rushed into the adult sanctuary, Daniel recalls, it felt huge to them. (It was small, a fraction the size of our current building.)

There was a significant gap between then and Daniel's 2021 return, and that gap included some prison time. No violence, larceny, or even drugs were involved, simply dating the wrong girl, one he was told was a year older.

In the long run, this traumatic experience helped Daniel grow into the man he is today:

"To make a life-long story very short, I let a battle with a genetic heart disorder send me into a deep depression, which eventually ended in my incarceration. That is when my real shot at life began, as it was the impetus to realize finally that, while there was plenty about myself to love, there was much more that required addressing."

"To make a life-long story very short, I let a battle with a genetic heart disorder send me into a deep depression, which eventually ended in my incarceration," Daniel says.

"That is when my real shot at life began, as it was the impetus to realize finally that, while there was plenty about myself to love, there was much more that required addressing.

"I decided to use that time to address the issues and came out capable of loving myself and others, and set on finally making the most of the life I had been granted the chance to live."

The experience spurred soul searching that clarified his yearning for spiritual nourishment and a caring community. He came home and found both. And more...

On the very first day of his serious return, (he had visited very rarely post childhood) he met Heather Stefanescu, a new member who happened to be serving as greeter that fateful day. Immediately attracted, he asked where he could get some water, though he certainly knew. His mother stood within earshot and smiled knowingly.

Heather led him to the kitchen (the fountain was still Covid closed) and their brief casual chat soon led to a major change in both their lives: love and marriage. The wedding was here last fall.

They recently bought and are renovating their first home, "a charmer." It's near UWF, thus in the UUCP vicinity.

Both Daniel and Heather have been very active new members, leading and speaking at services—notably about climate change, a deep concern they share.



Daniel shows the creativity and stage presence of his late Father, Neil Cobb, a well-known local director who co-wrote, directed, and produced many mystery theaters that served us as both entertainment and fundraisers.

Daniel also shows his mother's practicality, volunteer devotion, and generosity with time and energy.

His handy skills in repair, renovation, and yard work have been especially useful to and appreciated by our community—a community in which many of us do not share such knowledge or skills or who have physical limitations.

From here, Daniel's italicized direct quotes are his own written responses to the standard LIGHT questionnaire. They suggest his way with words, his wit, and his winning personality.

Daniel says...

I was born on December 30th 1983, a birthday I share with both Tiger Woods and LeBron James. Regrettably, that is about all we share.

I attended Lipscomb Elementary, Brown Barge, PATS, the International Baccalaureate program at Pensacola High School, UWF, and PJC (now PSC).

I am married to Heather Cobb, certainly the better half of the two of us. She is by far the best thing that's happened in my life and if you've met her, you get it.

I was in Scouts for a long time. A duck once beat me up there. I still remember many knots.

I am an accredited Toast Master.

I play violin, french horn and piano. All poorly.

I have far too many hobbies and interests to list. I should develop a hobby of not introducing new interests into my life. Among them are wood working, writing, reading, meditation, yoga, and a budding passion for creating terrariums. I would love if approximately the entirety of my house was terrariums.

I enjoy volunteering with Ocean Hour and Open Books and wish we could all get a little more environmentally conscious with our lives.

Seriously though. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

I love the 80's.

I love the 90's.

Kinda meh on the 00's.

Don't care for the 10's. It's all been downhill since 9/11, for real though. Someone said that once and it's struck me since how incredibly true it is. Like the nature of the world changed.

I own/run three businesses. Jobbs Rehabilitation and Restoration LLC - Remodeling and renovating your dwelling to be the home you always dreamed of.

Voyager Enterprises and Investments LLC - A real estate investment and managing company.

Equinox Estates LLC - A real estate investment and managing company.

If you're wondering if those last two are both named after Star Trek ships... Why yes, they are! You can ask my lovely wife about that.

I love animals. All of them. Especially dogs.

At our wedding, I pulled a goof on my bride in the middle of the ceremony with the ring box. If anyone wondered why she suddenly burst out laughing uncontrollably...That's why. On that day, I officially won our private Bread-Clip Game.

I am thoroughly a nerd. If you ever approach me wishing to find someone to play a TTRPG (Table Top Role Playing Game) or a board game.. Well, you found him.

You have no idea how content you can be with life until you actively decide to be content with life. It's a great thing to just decide to enjoy the ride. That's very different from saying, "just decide to be happy," because sadness, pain and loss are all important parts of the ride as well. You're here. Some things will hurt, and some will feel great. That's totally ok and as it should be.

The universe is.. incredibly big. It's very humbling to think how big it is. It is not about any one of us, and yet it's amazing how much it FEELS like it's all about us. I find our limited perspective absolutely fascinating to ponder.

I have a wide taste in foods that I like. Heather often complains about going out to eat with me because I like everything and am therefore a poor judge on what others might like.

I can dislocate and relocate my left thumb on command. I can do a huge number of impersonations. Ask to see my face molding trick some time.

I miss the time I missed with my father. He was a good man.

I enjoy many kinds of music, from musicals to Swedish folk metal. I won't say there isn't ANY country or rap I like.. But it's pretty rare!

Daniel himself seems pretty rare. And aren't we glad he found his way back to UUS?

Get to Know a Long-Time Member

By Charlotte Crane

Margaret McLarin

There are likely lots you already know about Margaret McLarin. She bakes great cakes, writes a Sweet Sunday poem, and joined UUCP when we were just a little ole house on Scott Street.

But there are lots more you might enjoy knowing about Margaret. For example, she has characterized herself as a Nature Girl ever since, when gardening with her father at age nine, she

realized there was more to nature than just okra and tomatoes, and now describes herself as a bird nerd. “I probably have the most active bird feeder in town, and I’m ecstatic when the hummingbirds come.”

Foxes enchant too, Margaret adds: “For 15 years, I fed generations of foxes at my back fence —truly one of my best life experiences.”

Margaret was born in Alabama and raised in Beulah. She married twice, was mother to three, and is grandmother to four and great-grandmother of six. She lived in a half-dozen other cities before returning to Pensacola in 1981.

She skipped out of Tate High School before graduating to marry her high school sweetheart, but tragedy tagged him: he was killed in an auto accident after only six years of marriage. They were parents of two children: Malcolm, later lost and never found in a canoeing accident in Yellowknife, Canada, and Melissa, who is the mother of Margaret’s four grandchildren: Alexandra, Bianca, Heidi, and Joe. “Each of the granddaughters gave me two great-grands, Tyler and Emily, Mia and Morgan, Sam and Sadie.”

Finding a kindred spirit as a young widow, Margaret remarried in 1959 and moved to New Orleans. As her husband climbed the corporate ladder, subsequent moves took them to Tuscaloosa, St. Louis, Westport, and Princeton. The couple had one daughter, Jennifer McLarin, now Sister Christopher, a Benedictine nun in The Abbey of Regina Laudis in Connecticut. Sadly, says Margaret, the marriage dissolved after 21 years; she then moved back to Pensacola, where she had a large and welcoming family and property.

It was in her travels that Margaret discovered the Unitarian Church. Her childhood church had been the Beulah Baptist Church, with no other choices available. In New Orleans, she kept seeing ads for social justice issues — “sounding like us,” she decided. Later, in Tuscaloosa, where there was not yet a UU church, Margaret and spouse started a small UU fellowship. Coincidentally, adds Margaret, “Rev. Alice attended this fellowship after my family had moved on.”



When Margaret landed back in Pensacola, she worked for 20 years as a property manager for Timberlake Mobile Home Community, where she herself has lived now for 41 years. “It was a low-paying job but with many perks, including trips to Turkey, Greece, Israel, London, Paris, Rome, Switzerland, Alaska, and Mexico. I felt a sense of accomplishment that my hard work turned a lowly ‘trailer park’ into a well-respected mobile home community.”

Just before her move “back home,” Margaret called her sister Mal in New Orleans to ask if Pensacola had a UU church. The reply: “Marg, that little ole cult you belong to has a building way over yonder on Scott Street.”

Welcome home, Margaret.

“I love our church and our congregation. I will be so happy to see all our seats filled again. Meantime, I will do my part to keep us going.”

Oh, and by the way, Margaret also describes herself as a word nerd. “I love the printed word. I read voraciously. Crosswords, jumbles, Scrabble. I love them all.”

Scrabble? Good to know, too.

Kudos and Service Tips

By Dolly Berthelot

Kudos to Joe Vinson on an especially effective service April 16 at UUCP. His “sermon” can serve as a model of positive reminders to all of us speakers to maintain the quality we want.

A brief analysis offers some essentials, tips salient not only for the core message but all readings and verbal elements:

THE MESSAGE

- A meaningful, timely, highly relevant topic that reflects our UU principles.
- Clear, concise, interesting writing.
- A highly personal vantage point using specific details for powerful impact.
- Clear reference to sources where warranted.

But a great message also requires a great delivery, again handled well by Joe:

THE DELIVERY

- Ample eye contact with the audience, even if many words must be read.
- Appropriate vocal and facial and other physical expressiveness, with variation.
- VITAL volume, projection of ALL words.
- Pace is critical. Avoid rushing and swallowing words. Every one counts.

Even the greatest content is sabotaged if the listener can't fully hear and understand each word or otherwise loses interest. With an elder audience, hearing impairment may intensify the speaker's challenge.

Grabbing and holding an audience's attention with significant, memorable material is no easy task, and no one will do it perfectly. The more speakers enjoy the moment—or act like they enjoy it 😊—the more the audience is likely to!

Without a professional minister, a weekly hour service requires many devoted volunteers to keep attendance strong and valuable, from opening to closing words.

We are fortunate to maintain the substance and quality we do, and I hope these brief tips may help us toward ever continuous improvement.

As a longtime communication consultant, member of this congregation, and of the Sunday Service Committee, I am grateful to everyone who rises to the task, who is willing to provide generously of time, energy, knowledge, skills, and perspective—and who will be doing so in the future.



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TO:



Deadline for the June *Light*:
Wednesday, June 21

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