

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

# The Light

Vol. 66 Issue 8 August 2023



*Celebrate Diversity* *Strive for Justice* *Inspire Love*

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## How do we build Beloved Community?

From Your Board: President's Letter

Dear friends,

This weekend, the Anzaldo-Satterwhite family went on a little trip through Alabama. What I continually find fascinating is just how close all of the historical Civil Rights spots are to us here in Pensacola.



While searching for a vegan soul food restaurant in Montgomery, (yes, they had one), we walked by the very spot where Rosa Parks stepped onto the bus and into history. Only a few blocks away from there is the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. preached and helped lead the Montgomery Bus Boycott. On the steps of the church, we took a family photo and it's hard not to notice just how close the state capitol is, famously where segregationist George Wallace stood and declared segregation would last forever.

Although we saw many murals and memorials in Montgomery, none were dedicated to Governor Wallace.

What I found interesting and often underappreciated when we think of our neighboring state is just how much Civil Rights history is so very close to us. Many of those people are still with us, too.

Just before we left for our journey through Alabama, I interviewed an incredible woman named Jawana Jackson-Richie. A native of Selma, Alabama, her family home was the house where Dr. King used as a spot to organize and sleep during the Selma Marches in 1965.

Jawana was only 4 when Dr. King was living in the house, but she still has very specific memories of him reading bedtime stories to her and sitting in her living room. In that room of her modest home in Selma, she not only saw Dr. King interact with her parents but also with luminaries of the era, including Ralph Abernathy and Andrew Young. My interview was for an article I'm currently writing, so I was curious to see Selma for myself since we were going to be nearby.

Before going to the Jackson-Richie home, we stopped by the famous Edmund Pettus Bridge, the site of the Bloody Sunday attacks that helped to change the national focus towards voting rights. Memorials to John Lewis stood on the other side of the bridge, as well as memorials to the many that suffered in Selma during that protest but also before through slavery and racial terrorism lynchings.

Afterward, we drove to the Jackson-Richie's home so I could take some pictures for my article. Driving to her home, it was hard not to notice how devastated Selma looked. Back in January of 2023, the city was hit by a tornado that laid incredible destruction on much of the town. Busted windows were as common as blue tarps on people's roofs. Some houses I was even surprised to see people living in, as the homes looked completely uninhabitable. I remarked to Lauren that it looked like the Civil War just taken place.

During the anniversary commemoration of Bloody Sunday two months later, President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris visited the city. The news focused on the visit and the city's recovery, but driving through Selma didn't look like the coverage had made a strong impact yet. I'm sure I'm not the only one to make this analogy, but for the city that gave us the Voting Rights Act, the state of the city could easily be compared to the state of our democracy.

Basically, we are all still in recovery from a tornado. Traumatized by recent events, looking pretty disheveled, and certainly at a crossroads. As Selma could clearly go in a few directions, so could many of our traditions.

Our last stop in Selma was to visit the memorial for the Unitarian Universalist minister James Reeb. In 1965, after witnessing from afar the events of Bloody Sunday, Reeb heeded King's call for clergy of all races and religions to join the marches in Selma. Reeb said goodbye to his family and drove down from Boston to Selma. That was the last time his family saw him alive. After an organizing meeting, Reeb went to dinner at a local Black restaurant, but walked home and made a wrong turn. He was quickly recognized by some local white supremacists and brutally attacked. He died two days later.

There are several monuments and memorials throughout the area, but Reverend Reeb's was special because he's a Unitarian Universalist. He traveled a great distance to join the marches, and paid with his life for crossing the deep racial lines of Selma that permeated much of the United States. By far, he is not the only one. Jimmy Jackson and Viola Liuzzo died in Selma during this tumultuous

campaign, and many others died throughout this struggle. As we see voting rights under attack, as well as nearly every principle UUs hold dear, this a moment where we as UUs can look to examples within our traditions and without. None of these martyrs asked to be in this position, yet their names are etched on memorials all over Selma. Seeing this, I had that old Labor Movement song in my head: “Which side are you on?”

To that question, many of us know the answer.

Many of us have marched in protests over the years. My friend Bill Sloan and I have traveled to the gates of Fort Benning on several occasions to speak out against what’s often called the School of the Assassins. Several of us were part of the many peace protests during the Iraq War. Dozens of our members put their lives on the lines weekly to protect women seeking abortion services, before and after one of our members, James Barrett, was assassinated in 1994. And yes, members of our congregation were active during the Civil Rights Movements, too: the historic one from the 1960s, and the recent one that is still unfolding.

Visiting Selma, we saw seemingly countless memorials for the victims of bigotry—including those to Rev. Reeb and Dr. King. Seeing these memorials offered us a place to reflect on what it means to live up to our values and hold true to our principles. We have many great examples, and we often lead by example. Whether this be in street protests or in meetings on housing with JUST Pensacola, or simply when we debate whether or not to add the 8th principle, we are an active bunch.

As I’ve said before, though, we’re in a moment where a lot is being asked of us as individuals and a congregation, and it surely can feel overwhelming. Nonetheless, we do have examples that can serve to guide us and know that we stand on the shoulders of giants, including many from our own pews.

Visiting Alabama showed me the importance of following our principles, and it also showed me the power of conviction. I hope it’s a lesson my kids will take with them as we plant these seeds in them, which will grow at their own rate as they did in me, and continue to grow in me as I continue on this journey.

Sincerely,

*Scott*

Scott Satterwhite

## DIRECTORY

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See our website: [uupensacola.org](http://uupensacola.org) for updates and a complete list of teams and members.

### Community Minister:

Rev. Maggie Lovins

### Governing Board

President: Scott Satterwhite  
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**Sunday Services:** Nancy Hagman

## Sunday Services in August

### August 6, 2023

#### First Fruits Feast

Presented by Faerin Collins and Penny Featherstone. Learn about the influence of the Cross Quarter Days and the Irish tradition of First Fruits feast followed by a sharing of food together. We will be celebrating our local harvest, so please make and bring a dish with the main ingredient that is grown locally, caught locally or raised locally.

The first Sunday of the month is always Manna Sunday! The collection basket will be in the lobby to drop off items. Most requested items from Manna Food Pantries include canned fruit in 100% juice, fruit cups (20 oz. or less), soups (low sodium), canned dinners (20 oz. or less), and canned tomatoes (16 oz. or less).

### August 13, 2023

#### Inspire Love

Sunday Service presented by Dr. Lauren Anzaldo, UUCP Member. Our UUCP mission is to Celebrate Diversity, Strive for Justice, and Inspire Love. With all of the stress and strain that so many of us have endured, this is an appropriate time to consider what it means for us as UUs to Inspire Love. Lauren will share ideas and examples of inspiring love within our congregation and beyond the walls of our church. This is the third service in a three-part series exploring our UUCP mission statement.



## August 20, 2023

### Loving Our Neighbors as Ourselves – What Does Compassion Look Like for You

Our Guest Speaker is Theresa Everett. She is an active member of St. Augustine Episcopal Church, Navarre and serves as their licensed Lay Preacher, licensed Lay Eucharistic Minister and Pastoral Care Leader.

What comes to mind when you think about loving your neighbors, as you would yourself? Is it enough to just sympathize with their lives or what they may be experiencing, or do we just chalk it up that this just must be their lot in life? Together we will explore what it may mean to have compassion for others, and what compassion might be for you.

## August 27, 2023

### How to Deprogram Yourself

This service will be given by Joe Vinson, President Elect of UUCP. Description: "We have all been indoctrinated into rigid structures of thinking. What can be easy to spot in other people is much harder to identify in ourselves. How can we work on this?"

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August at UUCP

## LUUnch BUUnch August 9

Normally we patronize local restaurants/food shops, etc. (but not yet food trucks) to encourage the local economy and keep the monetary benefit "in the neighborhood." For August, partly due to mention by those attending in July (see below), we return to Miller's Ale House, last visited surely at least 5 years ago. The other reason to visit is, while visiting various eatery web sites, I found that MAH has a pretty complete looking nutritional data for the items on their menu, including the alcoholic fare. Worth taking a look at, even if not eating there.

Miller's is at 5906 No. Davis, with access from both Airport (going west) before you get to Rooms to Go, and Davis, ditto. There are no prices on the online menu, so be prepared.... As usual, we will

meet on August's 2nd Wednesday, the 9th, at 1:00. In hopes of securing the right size table, please let me know (email or in person) on Sunday the 6th of your wishes. (Hugh Turner, Sundays at UUCP)

Our visit to the Kingfisher on Barrancas was rained out for some, but a faithful four were pleased with the mullet dish, the roast beef sandwich, and the sides. I think it bears another visit. Besides the printed, very plain un-fancy menu, they also post, if rather difficult script, a list of the days specials, and it doesn't quite even say that, more like "notes to the cook"; One was: Thai salad, with scallops and beets. Maybe next time.

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## Yard Sale Update from Linda Cobb



We will not be having a fall yard sale this year, so our next one will be in the spring (likely May)! If you have any gently used items you would like to donate, please save them for that event. If you have no room for those items, let me know so that I can assist with finding a place to hold them. If you have any questions, please get in touch with me (Linda Cobb).

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## Office Admin Hours Changing

With a brand new semester upon us, Office Admin Laura will be changing her hours at the church. Starting August 21<sup>st</sup>, Laura's fall hours will be as follows:

**Mondays: 7AM-12PM**  
**Wednesdays: 9AM-12PM**

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**Our Caring Community**



UUCP Member Honor Bell III was recently honored by the Florida Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers as the state Student Social Worker of the Year. Honor accepted the award at the organization’s state conference in Orlando in June. Honor was recognized for their accomplishments, including serving as President of the Student Social Work Organization at UWF and Vice President of the Students for Socialism. Honor participates with UUCP in JUST Pensacola and is a member of the local Party for Socialism and Liberation where they work on multiple campaigns including affordable rental housing and

gun control. Way to go, Honor! We are proud of you.

Honor accepted the award from local social worker Ronni Nichol during the state NASW conference in Orlando in June.



Honor at the state NASW conference with Ronni and NASW President Dawn Brown

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## Welcome a New Member

By Dolly Haik-Adams Berthelot

### Carolyn Tokson Has Loved Diverse Teaching and Travel

Carolyn Tokson returned to Pensacola in 2012 to help her aging mother after decades living and teaching in White Plains, NY; Kaiserslautern, Germany; and South Carolina.

She had first moved here at age 10 from her native Martinsville, Virginia. After graduating from Pensacola High School, she attended Pensacola Junior College (now Pensacola State College) then the University of Georgia and eventually earned a masters in counseling from the University of Southern California, on the Germany campus.

Unitarian Universalism fits her questioning soul and acceptance of diverse people. In fact, she briefly attended a Pensacola Unitarian group in 1962, with the first handful of liberal thinkers gathered for vigorous discussion, prior to the Universalist merger and PUUF. Over the decades she attended a few other UU groups, most notably White Plains, but UUCP is the first she fully joined. Her childhood roots are Southern Baptist. After losing her husband in 1998 (he was Jewish), Carolyn was active in an Episcopalian choir where she met her current partner. Yet her humanism never fit that church's creed.



Carolyn's continuing deep loves include singing, writing, jazz, and French. She has returned to Europe countless times, mostly to Paris. She has already enjoyed singing in our choir, and hopes to return when current health issues permit. She is long active with Emerald Coast Writers, PenWomen, and Pensacola Jazz Society, and is now putting years of her original poetry into a book to self-publish this year. Memoir writing may follow. She enjoys tending her butterfly and bee garden, when possible.

Two authors, Albert Camus and Erich Maria Remarque, had a profound impact on her young adult life and beyond.

Zen has become important in recent decades. She studied with Roshi Nelson Foster of Ring of Bone Zendo for 20 years in NY, CA, HI, CT, and MA. Her first Zen teachers gave her the Jukai name Myonin, which means "Patience which pervades all things." Carolyn relates to that, considering patience a virtue she long admired in her father and especially must nurture in herself as she copes with increasing medical problems.

Our new member's beloved four decades of various teaching has included kindergarten through high school of all sorts of "different" students: developmentally and learning disabled, bright dyslexic, and gifted, as well as training other teachers. She still hears from many students. Teaching for the Department of Defense (DOD) in Germany stirred that lifetime passion for Europe.

Carolyn has a daughter in Philadelphia, a son in Alabama, a granddaughter at U of Colorado, and a brother in Thailand (that she speaks with every few days). She lives with Jeffrey Elliot, her partner of 24 years. They came to Pensacola about to care for her mother in her last years, and have reacclimated after relinquishing a NY life they really loved.

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## Get to Know a Longtime Member

By Charlotte Crane

### Linda Cobb

When Linda was five years old and readiness to participate in a church seemed likely, her parents—father raised Episcopalian and mother raised Jewish—found a Unitarian Church in Michigan "that worked for all of us," says Linda. "Thus began my lifelong commitment to UU."

Later, another important life commitment drew her closer to UUCP: her marriage to Neil Cobb. "When Neil and I got married, he wondered who we could get to marry us. I said that wouldn't be a problem, and we could get the UU minister to marry us. Neil had not heard of UU but agreed." That was in 1984. Both Linda and Neil soon became busy UUs.



Linda was born in Chicago, Illinois; moved to Lexington, Tennessee, when she was 12; and for high school, attended an all-girls boarding school, Salem Academy, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina—giving her "the most challenging years to do my best in all of my education. . . to achieve anything that I wanted to in life." She next attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and got a BS in Deaf Education and an MS in Special Education, plus, later, certification in Varying Exceptionalities and in Gifted Education.

"Both my mother and my grandfather had severe hearing losses, but this was not what motivated me to go into deaf education," says Linda. "They had successful careers: My mom was a medical technologist and my grandfather was an OB/GYN in Chicago." Linda's decision on a career major was cinched when she met a young man at UT who was deaf. "He had no formal education, but he was very intelligent and could communicate through a series of gestures that he developed with his



mother. He could take a motorcycle from scratch and completely rebuild it. This is a trite saying, but I thought: 'A mind is a terrible thing to waste.' I decided to go into Deaf Ed as my major."

Linda was more than simply scholarly at UT. She brought early wrought skills with her. "I had started teaching swimming in Lexington when I was 15 years old, with the local high school football coach as my mentor—his teaching style helped me with classroom management when I became a teacher. I loved teaching swimming. So when I got to UT, I went to the Red Cross and asked if I could start a swimming program for disabled people of all ages. With their assistance, this was a success and classes were formed at UT."

Linda's major choice of Deaf Ed and 1975 MS degree proved timely. "This is the only time in my life I was in the right place at the right time," she exclaims. A 1975 law made every school system provide education for special education students. There were very few schools that had enough Exceptional Student Education teachers, let alone hearing-impaired teachers. She received an offer everywhere she applied and began her first two years teaching in Charleston, South Carolina. She then moved to Pensacola in 1977.

Linda had gotten married in Charleston, had two boys and subsequently divorced in Pensacola. "And I thought I would never get remarried," she said. "However, in 1984 I taught summer school and met and married the love of my life, Neil Cobb." After adopting each other's children—she had the two and Neil had one—"we had a fourth child and a blended family of six: Tommy, Grant, Daniel, and Alyssa. We had 35 wonderful years together, filled with theater, soccer, work, church, and many other activities."

About theater: Anyone at UUCP in the teen decade and earlier must have been thrilled with Neil Cobb's "mystery dessert theater—whodunnits" which he wrote and produced, about five in all. He was also fully involved, says Linda, with all aspects of the church, including being president one year. He and Linda attended five UUA conventions. Linda's contributions were also generous: "I worked with the children and youth as a Director of Religious Education for many years, finishing five modules through UUA."

Neil died in 2019.

In a creative life, there is room for more.

After 38 years of teaching, Linda retired recently from the Escambia County School District. And she stays busy as ever: volunteering, church activities, substitute teaching, tutoring, and secret shopping. "I also proctor ACT/SAT tests, take care of friends and am a travel agent. A lot of my time is spent working with the Escambia Retired Educators Association and with elections."

There is also a granddaughter: daughter of daughter Alyssa, in Plant City, Florida, where Linda spends a grandmotherly moment or more.

And a good life goes on.

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Monday, August 21

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