

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

The Light

Vol. 66 Issue 9 September 2023



Celebrate Diversity *Strive for Justice* *Inspire Love*

How do we build Beloved Community?

From Your Board: President's Letter

Dear friends,

This past month has been busy for a lot of us. School starting for the kids, as well as the college students of all ages—not to mention for the teachers and staff, too. Having kids and working in education myself, I often see my life revolving around the changes in a school schedule of sorts. Whenever I ask friends if they have plans for the summer, they remind me that their summer plans look like their winter plans: work. Somethings change, and something stay the same.



Nonetheless, we do have changes on the horizon. Even if the thermometer is still reading like it's the dead of summer on the sun, fall is approaching and we will eventually see a new season. Autumn could be a metaphor for change as well. In fact, a great change did take place over the summer that, like any season, is very familiar but also a longtime coming. As many of you know, UUCP democratically adopted the 8th Principle through a congregational vote as an official addition to our values. The new principle reads that we, as congregation, will affirm and commit to make an: "Active commitment to dismantle racism and other oppression in ourselves and our institutions."

So what does this mean? First, the movement to adopt the 8th Principle came out of the Black Lives Matter movement. Presented by numerous Unitarian Universalists, the principle was adopted by over 200 congregations throughout the United States and Canada. As with most congregations, we crafted our principle to reflect our congregation and what we agreed upon through a large meeting is now our new principle.

The question that was often thrown around was “Why?” After all, we’re Unitarian Universalists and UUs are historically on the side of the oppressed, right? Well, sadly, that’s not always the case. We certainly do come from a proud tradition of people who fought against slavery, were martyred in the Civil Rights Movement, and continue to be on the side of the modern civil rights struggles—from anti-racist work to the LGBTQ rights. We also have people in our history that worked counter to those struggles.

Adding another principle does little to change a person’s heart, just as changing a few laws in the 1960s did not end racism or the legalization of gay marriage clearly did not end homophobia. However, adding a new principle, one that passed with overwhelming support, does set a tone for our congregation. Generally speaking, if you are with us now, you know this is where we stand as a congregation.

As the events of 2020 showed the world, our country is far from one where racism is a thing of the past. As much as politicians like to misuse the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, we are not at a place where we judge people by the content of their character over the color of their skin. On a national and state level, many of us became complacent and now the gains of the past are in terrible jeopardy. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is now in tatters and Roe vs. Wade was overturned, both of which represented laws that many thought would never change. Supreme Court musings even pushed legislative protections that were put in place to secure the legality of interracial and same-sex marriage, again, laws that most of us thought were untouchable. Our progress as a nation shouldn’t be judged on the quality of life of the privileged few, but by the lives of those in continuous struggle—which often come down to women and minorities.

Which brings us back to the 8th Principle. If anything, the last few years should remind us that the struggle for equality is far from over and the wins are far from guaranteed. Extremist hatred is even on the rise in our region. The recent local attacks on Jewish and Muslim centers of worship, as well the newly opened Liberation Center and various other spots around Pensacola, make clear that extreme hate is not just for the history books but the top story of your news feed. Even as I write this, news is circulating about racist gun violence that took the lives of several Black citizens of Jacksonville. It is worth noting that the intended targets were specifically young Black students at a religious HBCU, harkening back to historic and recent attacks on the Black church. Like those who attacked Pensacola, symbols of white supremacy and fascism were used in the attack: in Pensacola it was on bricks but in Jacksonville it was on the guns. If you watched the recent Zoom talks hosted by the UUA, you learned that several UU congregations have also been targeted by fascists. Yet, for those who think this type of violence does not involve us, I suggest taking a look at the plaque by the front door to see how extremism has affected our congregation in the past. As a student of American history, I know these undercurrents of bigotry and extremism are never far below the surface. One day they might be, but they are not right now, and in many instances have become legislation in this very state.

To be clear, by adopting the 8th Principle, we will not end hatred. What we will do, however is every week at church, we'll see this principle, and maybe some of us will think about what it means. By adopting this principle, we recommit ourselves to continue the work to make our society, ourselves, and specifically our congregation, a reflection of what we want the world to look like. We recommit ourselves to help create a society where we are free of racism, gender discrimination, anti-LGBTQ+ ideologies, and other oppressive structures. Some might say this is only a dream, but what a nice dream it would be if we could help to make this a reality. As we've heard often, real change begins at home and truly begins with the individual. From that individual change comes growth and that, too, can also spread.

The events of 2020 seem so far off in the mind, but do you remember how much hope came from seeing the protests that were so diverse? What I saw in Pensacola, a city in the Deep South with a long history of systemic racism, was older white ladies walking up the hill by Graffiti Bridge with cupcakes that read "BLM," and giving them to the protesters of all ages, genders, and races. People going out of their way to buy stacks of pizza and bring water to help support the protests that went on for hours, with speakers and DJs playing all night. It was an incredible moment of unity that we shouldn't forget, despite the movements afoot to make us forget these histories and try to erase them. Lean on these memories, as well as the memories from our congregation and all that we did to bring together a community after the tragic anti-abortion violence of the 1980s and 1990s. Many of us were there, and many of us remember. The 8th Principle helps to make the seeds of those struggles turn into a delicious fruit. If the history of these social justice struggles is not to be wasted, we need to constantly recommit to the work to unseat and dismantle bigotry that is so deeply woven into our society, and the 8th Principle helps us to do so.

That is why the 8th Principle was introduced, and that is why this principle has now become part of our service. For some, this may seem like a big change, but in reality this is simply saying out loud what so many of us have thought and hoped for UUCP for so long. One thing we do well is talk the talk, and this helps us further as we walk the walk toward justice.

In the meantime, don't forget to drink some water. It's hot out there. While I have a lot of hope for social change, not only in society but also our congregation, I don't see the temperature changing much. If anyone can think of a principle that might help with that, please let us know. Until then, stay hydrated.

Sincerely,

Scott

Scott Satterwhite

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: Scott Satterwhite

President-Elect: Joseph Vinson

Past President: Laura Keith King

Secretary: Barbara Wright

Treasurer: Bradley Vinson

Members at Large:

Denise Gunn

Patti Underwood

Marianne DeGrado

MINISTRY TEAMS

Adult Exploration: Trista Blouin

Buildings & Grounds: Hugh Ed Turner

Communications:

Denominational Affairs: Laura Keith King

Finance: Laurie Winterberg

Fun and Fellowship: Trista Blouin

Leadership Development: Laura Keith King

Membership: Lauren Anzaldo

Safer Congregation: Hugh Ed Turner

Social Justice: Paula Montgomery

Sunday Services: Nancy Hagman

Care Team: Trista Blouin, Maggie Lovins,
Marcy Moreland

Sunday Services in September

September 3, 2023

Travel to Asia (Vicariouly)

Our speaker will be Jack Comstock, dedicated member of UUCP

Join Jack as he gives "Observations on My Asian Trips." The presentation will include his scenic, cultural, religious, and political observations on his journeys throughout the Asian sphere.

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).

September 10, 2023

Ingathering Water Communion Service

Service presented by Rev. Maggie Lovins, UUCP Community Minister

Rev. Maggie Lovins invites all to gather together in our annual Ingathering Water Service. This is the time of year we celebrate coming back to our community after our summertime breaks by bringing some water, a stone, or a shell from our travels or time at home. There will be a ceremony to gather the waters to use in future ceremonies and rites, such as child dedications.

September 17, 2023

The 8th Principle for UUCP

Service Presented by Scott Satterwhite, UUCP President

UUCP recently adopted an 8th Principle to our foundational beliefs. In this presentation, a brief history of the 8th Principle will be presented along with the reasons for its adoption in UU congregations across the country.

September 24, 2023

TBD

October 1, 2023

The Progressive Voice & Action of Unitarian Universalists

Service Presented by Pat Gleich, returning member to UUCP

Advocacy for social justice and progressive thinking have always been a part of Unitarian Universalist foundation (even before the merger). Using timeline and history and bringing to light some important figures in UU history, Pat Gleich will highlight UU roots, values and past actions.



September at UUCP

October Blood Drive

We want your blood! In coordination with Samhain, Day of the Dead and Halloween festivities, the Big Red Bus will be visiting again this year. A donation of one unit can benefit 3 individuals. Donating serves our community. If you are able and willing, please give the gift of life at UUCP between 11am to 3 pm on Sunday October 29, 2023. OneBlood is offering Halloween Tshirts and a \$ 20 e-gift card to those who donate. Sundays during October look for the sign-up sheet on the credenza in the foyer.

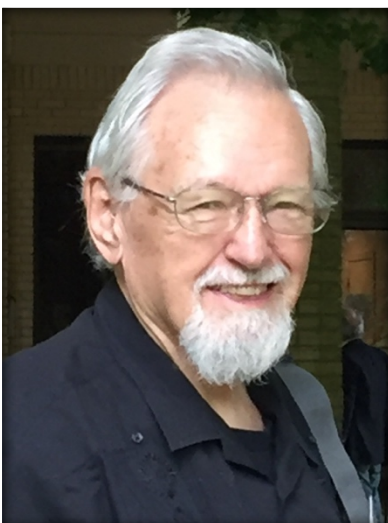
Readers' Group Updates from Laurie Winterberg



The Summer Season for our Readers' Group (our 5th year!) has concluded. Plans are to resume in October. I will gather info about days, times and format preferences before scheduling.

Thanks to all who participated. I hope all enjoyed the company and conversations... and have enjoyed reading authors and titles I, otherwise, may never been exposed to.

Remembering Rev. Bob Eddy September 23, 1930—August 8, 2018



Rev. Bob Eddy was a much beloved and extremely devoted UUCP minister for 19 years, moving from part-time interim to full-time pastor to Minister Emeritus. Bridging two centuries and sharing our earliest years in this then new location, he served us longer than any minister so far, and will always be cherished in our history and in our hearts. Laura Keith King's photo hints at Bob's acute intelligence, dependable kindness, and ready wit. On the sixth anniversary of his passing, Pam Eddy, middle of his and Gerry's three children, recently supplied this short eulogy, a reminder of her Dad's endearing humanity. A reminder also of the humanity we all share and sometimes may fail to value. — Dolly Berthelot

IN MEMORIAM: REV. BOB EDDY, Minister Emeritus

How do I eulogize my father? Well, to begin, I must define the term.

Eulogy: From the Greek language, it is composed of words translated as “Well speaking.” According to the Century dictionary, (sorry, Dad, we already boxed the Oxford), it is a noun: “High commendation of a person or thing, especially when expressed in a formal manner or to an undue degree; specifically, a speech or writing delivered or composed for the express purpose of lauding its subject.”

But I think dad would have preferred this one. Eulogy: “Praise of a person who has either the advantages of wealth and power, or the consideration to be dead.” — Ambrose Bierce

This one would have made him laugh his great laugh.

For many years, we asked our folks what they would like for their memorial services—Dad answered that he wanted a living wake on his 80th birthday during which he, like Huck Finn many score before, would listen to eulogies from his friends. That living wake meant the world to him, and every time we asked after that event what he might really want for a service, he answered that he had already heard the “well speaking.”

So, how do I speak well or eulogize my dad? We all know of his intellect (over the moon), his curiosity, his service and his commitment to justice. For me to repeat those is to add nothing new to his story. I think I can best eulogize him by acknowledging his human side. The side that was at times vulnerable, frightened, angry and abandoned.

Like almost everyone else, Dad had family issues—with his dad, his kids, his wife. Dad’s emotions ran deep, and, like everyone else I know, he felt at times underappreciated, undervalued and overlooked. Like all of us, he had moments of frustration and downright anger (and not just the righteous type). Dad was, in other words, fully human.

I think Dad’s last week showed me that his talents as a minister, a friend, a counselor and a community activist were not amazing simply because he was so much vastly stronger and more “together” than most of us. It made me realize that he was amazing because he achieved so much

and helped so many people despite his own personal challenges. This is the best any of us can do. He did so as a regular human and not as a superhuman.

I speak well of my father today, not because he was so much more amazing than the rest of us, but because he did amazing things even as he remained as human as you and me.

— Pam Eddy

News from The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center

Join us at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, a Magical UU Place and Experience near Highlands, NC!

- **Plan now for Youth CONferences!** Gather with youth from around the Southeast.
- **Peer Advocate Leaders (PAL) training October 20-22**, apply here - <https://www.themountainrlc.org/cons-application>
 - Elementary CON – November 3-5
 - Intermediate CON – November 17-19
 - High School CON – December 1-3
- **Tasty and educational Forest to Table Dinner**, including tour of Many Hands Peace Farm - Sunday, September 10 and Sunday, October 8 - <https://www.themountainrlc.org/farm-events>
- **Personal Retreats** - Join us in the cool mountain air. Combine a personal retreat with a farm or other event and local explorations.
- Save the Date for **Grateful Gathering - Thanksgiving weekend, Wednesday, November 22 - Sunday, November 26**. Gather with friends and family for community, learning, and explorations.
- **Join a passionate Mountain team** and be part of making a difference for individuals and our wider world! Available positions and application: <https://www.themountainrlc.org/jobs>
 - Competitive compensation, including medical insurance and retirement.

We look forward to hosting you at The Mountain soon!

For information about more programs at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center: [themountainrlc.org](https://www.themountainrlc.org) or 828.526.5838.

Reverence for the Universal Spiral: All Things in All Seasons



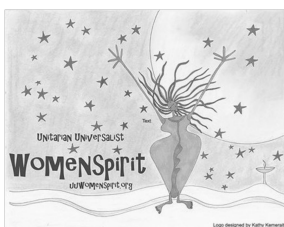
UU Womenspirit Fall 2023

Weekday Institute: October 4-6
Weekend Gathering: October 6-8

Join us for a retreat in the North Carolina mountains to celebrate the novelty, mystery, and power in the Universe around us!

Because the Goddess is in everything, we are all connected. Within the Divine Spiral, there is always inclusion, love, and acceptance when we are open to hear the call.

Six teachers will guide us as we honor the relationships between all aspects of the Universe in this ever-evolving Spiral of all things in all seasons. Our celebration will include ritual, music, dance, connecting with nature and with each other.



The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center

Highlands, NC

www.UUWomenspirit.org



LUUnch BUUnch September 13

For Wednesday, 13 September, at 1 PM (1300) we will convene at EOTL, End of the Line Cafe, 610 East Wright St., just north of the railway tracks. As it says on their website, with delicious looking pictures, EOTL serves organic vegan fare. It has been 6-8 years since we ate there as a group and I'll need to know if you are coming since the seating can be tight (by Sunday, the 10th, if you please).



Last month's LUUnch BUUnch at Miller Ale House was attended by 5, 4 of whom left with some supper as well, and we all seem to enjoy the ambience and large size of Miller Ale House.

JUST Pensacola Update from Paula Montgomery

A little introduction for folks who don't know what JUST Pensacola is and is about.

At a congregational meeting several years ago, UUCP voted to join JUST Pensacola as individuals and as a congregation. You need to know what we/you have joined! JUST Pensacola is a local organization of multiple congregations of faith, all working together for justice. While most of the congregations are protestant, there are also Catholics, Jews and Unitarian Universalists. For a while we had a Muslim congregation, but their lead associate with JUST Pensacola dropped out, and we have lost that connection despite reaching out to them.

The work is arranged in an annual cycle. In the fall we gather to hear from each other about injustices in our community that we would like to address. Over the winter small groups of us do research into the problem, talking to local people who have the power to make the changes we need. We also reach out to people from other communities who have worked on the same problems in their communities and had some successes. As we discuss the problems, we come up with suggested requests for the people who have the power to make the needed changes. We acquaint them with our suggested plans and invite them to a Nehemiah Action in the spring. At the Nehemiah Action, before hundreds of members of the community, we ask the people who can make the changes if they will commit to a solution. After a celebration for a successful year of justice work, it is time again to listen to the voices describing injustice, then research, then Nehemiah Action and the wheel

turns.

On November 6th we will meet with other congregations in what is called a Community Problem Assembly. In previous years we met in small groups in people's homes to listen for problems. This year we will meet in a larger group at Gateway Church. There we will identify the injustices to undertake.

The work for justice is never done. It was great to have so many of us at the Nehemiah Action last April. That was a culmination of one year's work and the beginning of the next. Some of us made pledges for continuing financial support at the celebration. Others of us have made no commitment yet. It is time to consider if you would like to make a personal contribution for the good work undertaken and continuing. The pledge can be as small or as large as you feel comfortable making. The suggested level is \$200, but the amount is up to you. Our church also makes an annual donation.

Please mark November 6th on your calendar. You will get the time and address in a later newsletter. I hope to see you there.

Questions to Paula Montgomery

Sunday Sweets Fall Schedule

Sunday Sweets has taken a break over the summer, but will resume again in the fall. The next Sunday Sweets will be held on Sunday, September 10th. The fall schedule for Sunday Sweets is October 8th, November 12th, and December 10th.

Welcome a New Member

By Dolly Haik-Adams Berthelot

From Egypt on Camels to Walmart on Scooter

Even among UUCP's many world travelers, new member Diane Aiken may be the only one who was tossed by the camel she was riding through the Sinai Desert and flung down a rocky ravine. Fortunately, the camel she expected to roll down on top of her regained its footing and remained blithely seated far above her.

While camping in the those rolling sands, she has reveled in the myriad green and watery oases, enjoyed staying in St. Catherine’s Monastery (built by earliest Christians in 300 ad) and adored snorkeling in the Red Sea. “Egypt is so much more than the Pharaonic part,” Diane says, “the Pyramids and such—though those are great too.”



Diane, now 85, loved the six years she lived and worked in Egypt. She explored every aspect of that varied country and its people while serving as a Physician Assistant in a remote clinic in the town of Ismailia on the Suez Canal. She had previously spent years as an RN—hospital staff nurse in mental health, geriatrics, home health, and hospice. She graduated in 1980 from Emory University in Atlanta and worked mostly in internal medicine at the VA Hospital in Lake City, Florida. Egypt was her grand finale as a PA.

But it was hardly her only travel. In fact, this petite woman has visited all of the seven continents except Antarctica—four of them even before she and a friend did a world tour! And though her life is now more limited, she hopes to hit Barcelona next Easter, with a new friend met since her recent move to Pensacola from Gainesville.

Her sons Billy and Mark are “happy and well living in Gainesville, Florida.” She has four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, the last born this summer. “They all make me proud,” she says. Yet she still grieves the loss of Laurie, her second daughter, who died of cancer in 2021.

Diane currently lives in Navy Point, Warrington, with her daughter Vicki Goldsby and Vicki’s husband Mike. “Vicki is why I moved here in September and is with whom I plan to spend my last days, a great companion and helper. We enjoy and argue our days together. I have found friends and interests in Pensacola and enjoy this city. . . I am happy here.”

She hopes to move by January into Westminster Village near Baptist Hospital.

In childhood, moving often for her dad’s work with Dupont, she would have preferred to stay put. She was born in the small town of Charleston, Tennessee, and lived also in Maryland, Delaware, and Florida before graduating high school back in Tennessee. “Changing schools was sometimes hard,” Diane admits, “especially our move between my 10th and 11th grades.”

After decades of travel, camping, kayaking, canoeing, and otherwise enjoying the rugged outdoors and exploring the world, she now is more limited by health and finances. She has no car, and awaits space in HUD Housing. But she also has “no regrets.” She’s still going strong in her own way. She

says, “I like riding the bus in town, talking to strangers, meeting new people; also classical music, reading and writing.” On her battery-operated scooter, she putters around Navy Boulevard to shop at Walmart, CVS, and Big Lots—even in Pensacola’s current high 90’s temperature. Diane Aiken is nothing if not adaptable!

Although committed as a new member of UUCP, she relies on rides, and sometimes gets more easily to much closer Episcopalian churches. She hates to miss UUCP, but does enjoy the music at Christ Church.

“Religiously, I am a truth seeker,” Diane says, “for as long as I can remember. A Baptist, then Episcopalian, my previous churches were not the answer for me. Finding U.U. about six years ago was God sent. I believe in a spirit of love and truth that dwells around us and in us. U.U. is the answer. I can feel the love of its people. I can give myself as well.” She remains eager to give to others. “I am planning to volunteer in a homeless center,” she says. “My main interest now is the challenges and joys of being old, old.”

Introducing Mike Kilmer

By Charlotte Crane

We have watched and listened with delight as Mike Kilmer has hit the keys on Sundays to add melody to our UU spirits.

Time now to say “howdy.”

Mike joined UUCP service in June when our president Scott Satterwhite—Mike’s longtime Pensacola contact—signaled we were looking for an accompanist. Scott had booked Mike’s first musical shows in Pensacola 20 years ago, just before Mike and his family picked Pensacola as their new home.

“I was just 11 when I decided to begin writing songs and orient my life around music,” said Mike, who attended New England Conservatory of Music. Among his early accomplishments was a record released on Warner Brothers. Today he is part of a local three-musician band named Giggle Out Loud. Among the band’s touring fetes: a musical writing called *Joys of Armageddon*, produced in New York City.



Music is a keyboard composition among family lives. “My mom, Beth, who will be in town in early October, has a master’s degree in classical piano, was a church organist, and taught me to play starting at age seven.”

Mike’s family members—spouse Rivka and daughters Rinah, 14, and Ashirah, 11—share musical inclination, but also pursue other skills. Regarding breadwinner needs: “The genre-fluid music we make has never been lucrative for us,” says Mike. He was glad to be hired, part-time, by UUCP, he says. He also teaches music to students, including Desmond and Maddy Satterwhite, and does freelance web development.

Rivka is also a business person, says Mike. “Aside from singing and writing, she cuts hair out of our home, and makes skincare products.” You can check out her website: Rivka.com. Daughter Rinah, Mike reports, “is very interested in artistic makeup and costumes, and this summer was the makeup designer for *SpongeBob the Musical* at Pensacola State College. And Ashirah played Little Red in *Little Red Robin Hood* at Pensacola Little Theater.”

Both daughters enjoy singing in the Pensacola Children’s Chorus.

For Mike and partners in Giggle Out Loud, the band is always available for gigs. “We use drums, voice, keyboard, and electronics, and sometimes guests on violin or bass or horns,” says Mike. “During many years of touring the country playing mostly small venues, we recorded a record with Tina and Chris Waymouth from The Talking Heads.”

Those tours also introduced the Kilmer family to Pensacola; they moved here in 2003. “We had been traveling a lot and liked Pensacola,” says Mike. “Hoboken, New Jersey, where we had been living, was becoming too expensive, and winters there are cold.”

A warm welcome, musicians, to Pensacola and UUCP.

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

TO:



Deadline for the October *Light*:
Thursday, September 21

UUCP is proudly an



LGBTQ

Welcoming Congregation



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