

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

# The Light

Vol. 66 Issue 11 November 2023



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

## How do we build Beloved Community?

From Your Board: President's Letter

Dear friends,

I have to admit, this month has been a little hard on the soul. Right after I sent in my last letter to the congregation, I learned of the passing of Mrs. Georgia Blackmon. It was only a few months before that I stood on the stage and introduced Mrs. Blackmon at UUCP. Even then, though, she seemed to be a little distant. She had recently lost her husband, Johnny Blackmon, and told me that she was still grieving his loss and was very depressed. I was happy to see her again, but sad that she was clearly in emotional pain over this loss.



I know many of you knew her, as she has been to our church several times, and maybe you went to her bookstores. I used to go to her bookstore on "E" Street for years, and also when she moved to the Belmont-Devilliers block. It's funny because I'd often buy a book, if only just to support her work, but I'd stick around and talk with her for hours. A powerful force in the African American community, Georgia Blackmon was an incredible woman whose loss is incalculable.

The same day as her funeral, however, I had another funeral to attend: that of Ernest Leatherwood. A member of Veterans for Peace, Ernest Leatherwood, was someone most of you probably don't know. I knew Ernest through Lauren and my work with Movement for Change. He was one of those people who was always around, helping out however he could, and always with a smile. I can still hear his raspy voice when he'd greet us at Movement for

## 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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Members at Large:  
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Patti Underwood  
Marianne DeGrado

### MINISTRY TEAMS

**Adult Exploration:** Trista Blouin  
**Buildings & Grounds:** Hugh Ed Turner  
**Communications:** Joe Vinson  
(communications@uupensacola.org)  
**Denominational Affairs:** Laura Keith King  
**Finance:** Laurie Winterberg  
**Fun and Fellowship:** Trista Blouin  
**Leadership Development:** Laura Keith King  
**Membership:** Lauren Anzaldo  
(UUCPMembership2021@gmail.com)  
**Safer Congregation:** Hugh Ed Turner  
**Social Justice:** Paula Montgomery  
**Sunday Services:** Nancy Hagman  
**Care Team:** Trista Blouin, Maggie Lovins,  
Marcy Moreland (caring@uupensacola.org)

Change meetings with a smile. Ernest was a Vietnam veteran who was shot in the hand on Valentine's Day 1967. I told him that was a terrible Valentine's Day gift, but he laughed and said: "Well, it got me out of Vietnam! I was ok with that." Ernest joined Veterans for Peace during a meeting, back when we used to meet at the Center for Social Justice. He said, "If this organization does what it aims to do, there will be no more veterans? Sign me up!" He paid his dues on the spot and had his VFP sticker on the back bumper of his truck, right next to his Purple Heart license plate.

Ernest Leatherwood's funeral was much smaller than Georgia Blackmon's, but that was to be expected. Some people take more of a public role than others. Ernest made a strong impact in different ways. What I appreciated about both Georgia and Ernest was how they impacted the community, even if in a different capacity. Georgia held space for people through her bookstore and was always welcoming people into her world. Ernest, on the other hand, physically made it possible for you to be a part of his space by fixing the steps and ramps at the Center for Social Justice, home of Movement for Change. He also helped behind the scenes with various committees and sitting on the Board of Directors for Movement for Change at various times. A good man whose impact was positive, if a little more low-key.

Today, both Georgia and her late husband Johnny, along with Ernest, are now buried at Barrancas National Cemetery. Their graves are near the late Leroy Boyd, and several of our congregants from UUCP.

Then, out of nowhere, we all heard about our longtime UUCP member Gerry Donnelly's death. For all of you who knew Gerry, I think you can attest to what a great person he was. Fun to be around, quick to host a party to support the church, and play the part of the characters in the movie's he'd show at those parties. A well-read and smart man, Gerry was such a kind person and always willing to help wherever needed. He gave to his community—our community—and was simply a good man who will be dearly missed by many of us, especially his wife Marylee, whom I hope you will all hold close in your hearts.

When writing my letter, I wanted to pay tribute to all of these people because of their role in the community. While many of you knew Georgia, probably few of you knew Ernest, but almost all of you knew Gerry. All three, however, held something in common in that they loved the community and were active in their communities. As we grieve for the loss of our friend(s), as well as all of the heartache we see in the Middle East, I think it's important to make sure we take care of ourselves and check in with one another. Also, I would encourage all of you to find time to focus on our building our community through service to our community. What Georgia, Ernest, and Gerry all had in common was a love for the community, and a willingness to help where needed to the best of their abilities.

This alone does not take away from the pain that is close to all of us in this very sad time, but it does give us a place to center our thoughts and make a difference. You never know whose lives you will touch, and what a wonderful way to pay tribute to our friend(s) by helping where you know you will make a difference.

♥,

*Scott*

Scott Satterwhite



## Sunday Services in November

**November 5, 2023**

Understanding Generosity in Turbulent Times

Rev Theresa M Everett will be our guest speaker.

"In a world that seems to be at war with itself right now, the spirit of generosity can seem out of reach, but there are different meanings to generosity, which encompasses so much. Together we will explore what it means to be generous; not only to be generous to ourselves, but to others, as we struggle through these turbulent times."

This service will include a New Member Ceremony.

Second Hour: Heathen Kinship meeting

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).

## **November 12, 2023**

"You Don't Look Like a Marine."

Ericka Streeter Hodge, veteran, will be our guest speaker.

This promises to be an inspirational talk on being more than what others think of you.

## **November 19, 2023**

Annual Bread Communion

Brett and Marybeth Ramsey will lead our Bread Communion Ritual.

The Bread Communion has become one of our three yearly rituals. It appropriately comes at this time of the year to remind us of the importance of bread and its life sustaining power which we all deserve. Bread is symbolic of our needs spiritually and physically as we gather together to "break bread together."

Second Hour: Heathen Kinship meeting

## **November 26, 2023**

Monty Mountcastle's "Secret Ministry of Jesus"

Thom Botsford, member of UUCP will present on the late Professor Montcastle's book.

Is it possible that Jesus escaped death on the cross and traveled to the East, where he conversed with Buddhist and Taoist sages? The late Professor William “Monty” Mountcastle thought so and published a scholarly book about it in 2008. This service will summarize his intriguing case. Until his death a couple of years ago, Monty was a dear friend and active member of UUCP while also maintaining a connection to the United Methodist Church. He was a beloved professor of philosophy and religious studies at the University of West Florida.

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## November at UUCP

### November Sunday Sweets

Sunday Sweets for the month of November will be held on Sunday November 12th. Plan to stop by and grab a tasty treat!

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# 80'S RAD PARTY

When: Friday, Nov. 3, 6:00pm

Where: UUCP, 9888 Hwy 29

Join us for a casual get-together, no agenda, just music, dancing (if you want), and a potluck

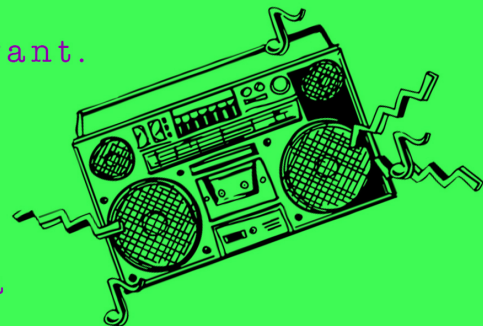
Feel free to dress up if you want.

All ages welcome.

BYOB, a shared dish, and your friends.

Be there or be square!

Questions: Call or text Trista



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## Michael Newcomb's Surprise Birthday Potluck

As members of Michael's church family, we had a surprise birthday potluck for him on Sunday, October 15th after church. He was really surprised. We are happy to announce that \$570 was received for UUCP from contributors in honor of Michael Newcomb. The contributors to UUCP in his honor are listed below. Everybody had a great time eating great food. Thanks for making it a success.

Contributors: Dolly Berthelot, Georgeianna Bryant, Farin Collins, Linda Cobb, Jack Comstock, Charlotte Crane, Denise Gunn, Jan Hervieux, Nadine Hubble, Elizabeth Irby, Marcy Moreland, Hannelore Musial, Marybeth Ramsey, Philip Ryes, Patti Underwood, Laurie Winterberg and Barbara Wright.



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## A Message from Michael

I want to thank the congregation for the many cards and the cake presented to me at the October 15th potluck and also for the monetary donations which will be given to the Charitable Trust.

— Michael Newcomb

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Remember to email your birthday to [uupensacola@gmail.com](mailto:uupensacola@gmail.com) if you'd like it to be included in future issues of *The Light*!

## LUUnch BUUnch November 8

Well, for some reason, I got to thinking about pizzas, and I Googled Pensacola Pizza to read about 10 locations; several looked worthwhile, especially one that offered anchovies on top, something I haven't seen since high school days in Birmingham - but it's a bar that doesn't open until 4 PM. So I think we'll go back to a regular (and recently requested): Founaris at 6911 Pensacola Blvd.



between Airport and Burgess (on the west side). They do a pretty good Greek pizza, along with lots of other good food and usually all you can eat and then some. As usual, 1:00 lunchtime, on the 2nd Wednesday of November, the 8th (which means

Thanksgiving is 2 weeks away and won't interfere with your diet). As usual, let me know whether the first arriver needs to choose a table for eight or a booth for four.

Last Lunch Punch, no Bunch, (11 Oct.) we chose a table for 6, but the rainy day cancelled at least one, so we had four at Xian, where we had a knowledgeable waitress. I got introduced to Woodear mushrooms, a Chinese specialty, in a spicy, not quite hot, salad. Later Googling found it to be an interesting and good for you mushroom, so named (in English at least) because it grows on trees

(three types mentioned) and looks like the outer part of your (or someone else's) ear, black in color (at least when cooked). And a slightly odd eating sensation. Took most home and finished them up. Had the vegetable soup, which was good while it was hot but more bland in cooling off. The other three enjoyed their meatier fare; and maybe I'll try the fish soup next time; the duck also looked good.

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## UUCP Holiday Sale

Are you ready to think about the Holidays yet? Me either, BUT what if I said we are bringing back a times gone by activity- **the UUCP Holiday Sale**?! December 10, after service and in tandem with Sunday Sweets, our very own artisans and small business owners will have small displays with their merchandise for sale and a percentage is donated back to UUCP. We are hoping to also have a kid's sale that day so our kiddos can shop for the adults in their lives, donations for this sale are gratefully accepted! (Think small things like puzzles, game books, mugs, etc.) If you would like to be a vendor that day or would like to volunteer to make it all happen, please contact Rev. Maggie Lovins at [maggielovins@gmail.com](mailto:maggielovins@gmail.com) or at (850) 525-6858. So, make sure to grab your cake from Sunday Sweets and come to the conference room for in-house holiday shopping for a cause! Help setting up the tables and taking them down is always appreciated.

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## Update from Your Caring Team

Greetings my UUCP Family, I bring good news as it pertains to our Beloved Community! I am excited to announce our Caring Team has been revamped and is now ready to help in meeting the needs of our church members and friends. I, Rev. Maggie Lovins, along with Chaplain Trista Blouin and Marcy Moreland have come together as co-Leads with the support of Penny Featherstone and Nadine Hubble we all form our church's Caring Team for the betterment of all UUCP'ers.

We welcome and would appreciate your participation on the Caring Team. The best and most efficient way to reach the Caring Team is to e-mail our new address: [caring@uupensacola.org](mailto:caring@uupensacola.org). This e-mail is checked daily so please send your requests directly to it and include your preferred method for one of us to contact you. We will return your email, call, or text you just as soon as one of us is available. Of course, if you are having an emergency, please call 911, or if it's another kind of urgency feel free to leave a message at (850) 525-6858.



The Caring Team is available if you or one of our members/friends are in need of assistance - be it spiritual, ministerial, supportive services, tangible assistance help with rides to doctors, meals or misc. tasks, or if you know someone who appreciate a thinking of you or get well card. Reminder: Please keep this new e-mail UUCP Caring Team contact address as it is the most timely/direct way of reaching the Caring Team. [caring@uupensacola.org](mailto:caring@uupensacola.org)

With the Health of our Community in mind,

Rev. Maggie Lovins

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## **Welcome a New Member**

By Dolly Haik-Adams Berthelot

### **Victor Musial: Caring Activist Since High School**

Victor Musial was a lively long-hair joint-smoking activist at Pensacola's Woodham High School in the 1970s, and his social action persisted through a dynamic professional life working with unions in Florida, Wisconsin, and Oregon.

While a junior, after learning of Watergate, Victor joined six other friends a year older than him to muster support to impeach President Richard Nixon. "The ACLU had encouraged such action and there was no ACLU here then, so we took the lead. I took mimeograph paper from the teacher's lounge for flyers we printed on a machine from Helpline where I was volunteering. We posted all over town." This young handful of boys managed to persuade the city to allow a demonstration that was at first resisted, and they attracted 100-200 people of various ages and backgrounds to join them in a peaceful anti-Nixon rally downtown. When Nixon quit, they had a big party with champagne and a giant cake that said "Better a Ford than a Lemon."

Hulda Carastro helped. She happened to then be his teacher and president of the small Pensacola Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (PUUF) at 904 E Scott St.

Victor then visited PUUF periodically as well as UU churches in Duluth, MN. After he and his family moved to Salem, Oregon, he was a member for 2-3 years.

After Victor's dad died, as his mother Hannelore Musial aged, his concern for and devotion to her lured him back to live with her, leaving wife Diane, son Julian, and stepson Mark in Salem for nearly 20 months so far. They talk almost daily and plan to visit soon.

Since Victor was now coming regularly to UUCP with his mother, he decided to join. He likes that our congregation tends to share his values: working for social justice, peace, and an end to suffering of all sentient beings. He follows the teachings of His Holiness the 14th Dali Lama.

Ever the change agent, he shares ideas for future services. "I'd really like to see a lot more about various religions, Sikhism, Buddhism, and other Eastern and World religions for sure, but why not also some very different Christian faiths, even a Pentecostal or Evangelical sharing personal perspectives? UUs are open minded and like to learn, right? We can take it!"

When asked his pronouns, Victor quoted Soren Kierkegaard, his favorite philosopher (along with Immanuel Kant): "To label me is to negate me."

A lifelong pacifist with compassion for all, Victor resonates to Eastern religions that espouse that. In fact, his only tattoo is an OM symbol on his chest. The symbol stems from Hindu and is used in Tibetan Buddhism. Though normally "allergic to pain," Victor spontaneously decided to put that symbol on his chest in mid-life as he explored Sacramento and spotted a tattoo shop.

In young adulthood, Victor dropped out of community college and was employed by state of Florida as a Juvenile Detention Worker, and then he became involved in unions. He became President of AFSCME local 2863 from 1981 through 1987, then started working as staff for the Union–American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO. He worked for AFSCME from 1987-1999, responsible for negotiating Collective Bargaining Agreements Florida and representing members for five years in Wisconsin. Back in Pensacola, he married in 1994 his Michigan-reared wife. Tired of Southern heat and neither wanting the Midwest, they looked west and northwest and in 2000 moved to Salem, where Victor worked for Oregon School Employees Association doing what he did with AFSCME. Then, in 2001, he was promoted to Director of Field Operations and Organizing.

Governor Ted Kulongowski appointed him in 2007 to serve on the Oregon Education Benefits Board, which delivered health insurance and other benefits to 90,000 Oregon school employees.

"I really loved this work because of the opportunity to help oppressed workers obtain fair wage increases and health benefits, as well as defending workers who were unjustly disciplined by their employers," Victor recalled. "This was like a quasi-legal procedure with an independent arbiter." He was responsible for investigating, preparing cases, presenting cases to the arbiter, questioning witnesses, cross-examining employer witnesses, presenting closing arguments, and writing post-hearing briefs and reply briefs if necessary.

Victor added, "I miss this work extremely and always would have done it even without pay." He retired in 2012.

Fatherhood is one of the most important aspects of Victor's life—both his forever bond with his own father, Victor Sr., a Polish immigrant and our dear member who died in 2006, and with his son. His dad was 40 when he was born, and Julian, his only biological son, was born when he was 40. In March 2024, Diane and Victor will have a 30-year anniversary. She brought her son Mark into the marriage. "A better family cannot be found," says Victor.

Of course he misses them, as well as the diverse natural beauty and blue liberal politics of Oregon. But he is glad to be able to be here helping his mother, Hannelore Musial, a German immigrant. He calls her "the most awesome woman anywhere." Hannelore has been a beloved member of this congregation for three decades. She and Victor Senior initiated and made most of the white Polish stars that cover our annual Christmas tree.

Although most of Victor's time now focuses on helping and chauffeuring his mom, he does enjoy politics, all things legal, "reading with his ears," re-exploring this area with some nostalgic memories, volunteering for Pensacola Archeology Society, and watching sports on TV, especially football. He quips, "I'm now too old and fat to play."

He favors a Mother Jones quote: "Pray for the dead, fight like hell for the living."

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## **10 Simple Tips to Avoid Getting Scammed**

By Herb Weisbaum (from Today.com)

We are all targets and we are all vulnerable.

Criminals across the country and around the globe – small-time thieves and devious computer hackers – are working around the clock to steal your money and your personal information. There's nothing you can do to guarantee you won't get taken, but there are many things – some of them very simple – that can reduce the risk.

With most scams the warning signs are there, if you look for them. As we celebrate National Consumer Protection Week, it's a good time to review the rules. My 10 tips to fight fraud are based on 35 years of consumer reporting and talking to thousands of people who have been conned, scammed or ripped off.

**Be skeptical:** Question everything: phone calls, mail solicitations, email offers, links on social media. Don't take things at face value. Con artists know how to make their scams look and sound legitimate. They can doctor pictures, copy logos, fake testimonials. It's also easy to "spoof" caller ID and create fake websites.

Think it through and check it out before you respond in any way. A phone call or quick web search could keep you from losing thousands of dollars or giving out very personal information. You can check out companies and offers with the [Better Business Bureau](#), [Federal Trade Commission](#) and [National Fraud Information Center](#).

**Guard your personal information:** Fraudsters use a variety of tricks to get you to divulge account numbers and passwords. They send bogus emails designed to look like it's from your bank and make calls pretending to be with your credit card company.

There's always a reason why they need your personal information. A common ruse is for a phone bandit to ask for your account number and PIN to solve a computer problem or to stop fraudulent transactions spotted on your account.

It doesn't matter what they say – hang up! Those who need your account numbers, PINs or passwords already have them. They'd never call you or send you an email asking for them. When in doubt, contact the company in question by phone – use a number you know to be legitimate, from your statement or the phone book – and ask what's up.

Your Social Security number is the key to your life. A thief can use it to steal your money and your identity. Social Security numbers are also used to access many financial and medical records. So guard that number and only give it out when absolutely necessary to someone you know and trust.

**Beware of counterfeit checks:** When you sell something online, never accept a check that's made out for more than the agreed-upon price. Fraudsters will do that and instruct you to wire back the extra amount. The check may look legit, but it's counterfeit. The bank may tell you the check has "cleared" and the money is in your account, but once that check is found to be bogus – which could take weeks – the bank will withdraw those funds from your account. That means you'll be left holding the bag for all the money you wired off.

**Take your time:** Don't let anyone rush you into making a purchase. The buy-now-or-else approach is designed to keep you from comparison shopping. Don't fall for it. If they're really offering a bargain, they don't have to high-pressure you into buying on the spot. If the sales person tells you the price won't be good if you walk out the door – turn around and leave.

**Get it in writing:** Verbal promises don't count. It doesn't matter what the salesperson tells you, the only thing that matters is what's written down. Most sales contracts specifically state that verbal promises are not binding. That's why you need to read, understand, and agree to the terms before you sign any contract.

**Be wary of all links and attachments:** It's so easy to click on a link in a text, email, or social media post. It's so tempting to open an email attachment, especially when the message says it's a shipping invoice or some other document you'd want to see.

Fraudsters count on curiosity and that instant response to load malicious software onto computers, smartphones and other mobile devices. And with shortened URLs, you really don't know where that link will take you – maybe a malicious site run by the crooks.

Unless it's something you're expecting and know for sure who it came from, don't open that attachment and resist the temptation to click any links.

**If you've really won a prize – it's free!** Never pay to play a contest or to claim a prize. If the contest is legitimate, you're not required to buy anything or pay any money to get your prize – that's the law. You don't have to send in a processing fee, pay shipping or handling charges, or provide your credit card or bank account numbers for any reason. And if you owe taxes on your prize, you pay them to the government, not the contest promoter.

Remember: You can't win a contest you didn't enter. If someone says you did, they're lying.

**Don't be fooled by free merchandise offers or money back guarantees:** Free is good, but be skeptical of ads that offer to send you a free sample. The initial product may be free, but they'll probably make you pay for shipping and handling. To cover that charge, you'll need to provide your credit or debit card number. Some dishonest companies then sign you up for additional monthly purchases – whether you realize it or not – which can be hard to stop.

A money-back guarantee is designed to get you to make a purchase you might otherwise skip. That guarantee is only as good as the company that offers it. Sometimes the rules are so restrictive it's impossible to get a refund. For example, simply opening the package might void the offer. If you are allowed to return the product, you can expect to pay to ship it back.

**Use a credit card for online and mail order purchases:** A credit card gives you better fraud protection than a debit card – credit cards are governed by different federal rules. With a credit card, you can dispute an unauthorized charge and the credit card company must take that charge off your bill while it investigates. That's not always the case with a debit card. You can also dispute a credit card charge if the merchandise doesn't arrive or if it's defective and the company won't help you.

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

TO:



Deadline for the December *Light*:  
Tuesday, November 21

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