

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

# The Light

Vol. 67 Issue 1 January 2024



*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,

The holidays have come and mostly gone, but we still have the last days of Kwanzaa and the New Year to look forward to as 2023 comes to a close. While we could easily do a look-back to see what we gained and lost this last year, let's instead look forward.



With the new year comes new challenges. Many of those challenges will be addressed at our upcoming mid-year congregational meeting, where you get to see and experience the democratic process in action. You also get to see our congregation walk the walk and talk the talk of our spirituality. Praxis.

If you'll indulge me, let me tell you a bit about my own journey to this congregation. Just like most of you, I came to Unitarian Universalism from another faith background. In fact, the first time I heard of UUs, I thought it sounded weird. Not just the faith, but even the name. It reminded me of couscous. The odd part, though, was not just the name but what they did. My friend was telling me that she was on the political action committee of the UU church and they were working to help free a political prisoner. I thought it was cool, but also odd that a church was doing what was taking a pretty radical stance. Radical in some ways, but really just standard liberal ideals that are rooted in democracy and freedom for all.

## DIRECTORY

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

### Office Administrator

Laura Herbek  
(850) 475-9077, [uupensacola@gmail.com](mailto:uupensacola@gmail.com)

### Community Minister

Rev. Maggie Lovins

### Governing Board

President: Scott Satterwhite

President Elect: Joe Vinson

Past President: Laura Keith King

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Bradley Vinson ([treasurer@uupensacola.org](mailto:treasurer@uupensacola.org))

*Members at Large:*

Marianne DeGrado

Denise Gunn

Patti Underwood

Barbara Wright

## MINISTRY TEAMS

**Adult Exploration:** Trista Blouin

**Buildings & Grounds:** Ed King

**Caring:** Trista Blouin, Rev. Maggie Lovins, Marcy Moreland ([caring@uupensacola.org](mailto:caring@uupensacola.org))

**Children's Religious Education Coordinator:**

Teresa Latendress ([cre@uupensacola.org](mailto:cre@uupensacola.org))

**Communications:** Joe Vinson

([communications@uupensacola.org](mailto:communications@uupensacola.org))

**Denominational Affairs:** Scott Satterwhite

**Finance:** Laurie Winterberg

**Fun and Fellowship:** Trista Blouin

**Leadership Development:** Laura Keith King

**Membership:** Lauren Anzaldo

([membership@uupensacola.org](mailto:membership@uupensacola.org))

**Outreach:** Laura Keith King

**Safer Congregation:** Denise Gunn

**Social Justice:** Paula Montgomery & Scott Satterwhite

**Sunday Services:** Nancy Hagman

Nonetheless, a liberal church was not something I was used to, and often felt the two words together were oxymoronic. No church I'd ever been to was liberal in its ideals, thoughts, or even the consistency of its beliefs. Some aspects, maybe, but not overall. What I've come to realize is that UUs tend to be very liberal minded because we operate in a sea of diverse political and spiritual thoughts in our congregation.

One of the things I love about being a UU is that we all see the world somewhat differently, but are still united in our eight principles, despite our different backgrounds. We saw this reflected in our services throughout December. While one member is lighting the advent candles during Christmas, another friend is lighting the menorah. The next week we are talking about the pagan holidays, and then later we'll have a service that's not even religious but a holiday sing along.

When I first started coming to the church, one of the things I liked about it was that you never knew what you'd get. Each week could be very different. I grew up Roman Catholic, and for those lapsed Catholics out there, you can attest to the fact that little changes from week to week. With the exception of a short five to ten-minute homily, everything else has been scripted years in advance and often performed exactly how it's been performed for around two thousand years (give or take a century). The UU church is not like that.

The fact that the church is accommodating to so many humanists, myself included, is a great example of how we differ from other faiths. I may not believe the things the person next to me believes, but that's what makes our journey interesting. While some might hold Christian beliefs, others hold Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Pagan, and other beliefs that are not contradicted in our eight principles.

We see these principles every week at the beginning of the service, but we might not take in what they mean. When we recognize each other's inherent dignity, we are upholding the first principle. When we seek justice and compassion in our relations with each other, inside or outside our congregation, we're upholding the second principle. When we accept each other's beliefs or spiritual paths, we're upholding the third principle and fourth principles. If we participate in the democratic process, within our congregation and in society, we're upholding the fifth principle. When we hope and work towards peace, justice, and liberty for the oppressed people of the world, here or overseas, we're upholding the sixth principle. When we recognize that all of our paths are connected, we're upholding the seventh principle. Lastly, when we work against racism and other oppressive systems within our society, we're upholding the eighth principle. As you know, we don't have a creed in our church, but we have a covenant that we say to each other each week: To dwell together in peace, seek the truth in love, and help one another. When we uphold our eight principles, we're doing this service to ourselves and the larger community, and acting out our faith.

So when we say that the UU faith is not like other faiths, I think that's true. There are certainly similarities between our faith and others, but it's not the same as any other denomination. For that matter, it's really more than just another denomination but a way of life that goes further than Sunday morning.

Those are the reasons I am a UU. When I decided to join, it was after growing up in a Catholic background. I never really left Catholicism, and still consider myself a secular Catholic, which meant that the religious aspects of Catholicism weren't speaking to me as much as the rituals. Along the way, I dabbled in some other denominations of Christianity, but I found the practitioners to be hypocritical and often hateful with smiles on their faces, so I stopped going to those churches. In fact, I was so turned off by most of these churches that I stopped going entirely, until I met a lot of UUs.

Where did we meet them? At anti-war protests. At League of Women Voters meetings. At university discussions. At peace vigils. At civil rights marches. At talks against religious intolerance. At humanist meetings. At rallies for political prisoners. At plays. At bookstores. In short, I met UUs in the

community that I was a part of where they were living their principles. Walking the walk and talking the talk.

So when Lauren and I were looking to find a faith community that shared our beliefs, joining the UUCP was not a hard decision. In many ways, I was already one before I became one, which I suspect is the case for most of you. Is this spiritual? Is this religious? Sure. Not in the traditional way most of us have grown up with, but it's more real than anything else I've experienced and more spiritual than I've known in very religious communities. Again, we walk the walk and talk the talk.

With that I mind, I hope to see you at the upcoming congregational meeting. As our society grapples with our own fragile democracy, it's nice to be in one environment where we know democracy is strong. It's also nice to be in a space where our just principles are center stage, and where we put our beliefs into practice through the democratic process in a loving community. Until then, I wish you all a Happy New Year.

♥,

*Scott*

Scott Satterwhite



## Sunday Services in January

**January 7, 2024**

### Identify Your Bias

Guest Presenter: Nicole Dickson has a B.A. in Theatre from the University of West Florida and has an extensive background in public speaking, education and performance

Where Does It Fit? Scientists classify and sort to make sense of the world, but their decisions are based on their perspectives. Explore how categories are formed and how our brains use shortcuts to make conclusions. This presentation is based on an exhibit featured at the Pensacola MESS Hall during Summer 2023, on loan from the Smithsonian, exploring implicit bias and how it affects our lives in hidden ways. This presentation will be interactive and children are participating in the service.



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).

## January 14, 2024

Freedom Riders, inspired by Martin Luther King, Jr

Presenter: Nancy Hagman, UUCP member

Originally there were 13 Freedom Riders, 7 African Americans and 6 white Americans who banded together to demonstrate non-violent protests in the South. These civil rights activists initiated a significant movement and helped to make political changes with their courage. They were influenced by Martin Luther King, Jr and Mahatma Gandhi's prior demonstration and teachings of non-violence protests. Perhaps we can learn from their actions and courage to apply to our own lives.

## January 21, 2024

"Comes a Love So Enormous"

Presenter: Claire Helton, UUCP Member

January's Soul Matters theme is "Liberating Love." What if the most direct path toward the kind of liberating love we long for isn't "loving harder" but stepping back and getting some perspective? We'll explore what poets, artists, and even Mr. Rogers have to say on the subject.

There will be a New Member Ceremony in this service.

Second Hour: Heathen Kinship meeting

## January 28, 2024

"Need a Hug?"

Presenter: Barbara Wright, UUCP Member

National Hug Day is a holiday that is celebrated annually in January. As its name implies, this holiday is one in which people are encouraged to hug one another. Hugging is not only a way for people to show affection to one another, but hugging also provides distinct health benefits to both parties involved. Just another reason to celebrate this holiday and to give loved ones the hug they deserve.

The Mid-Year Congregational Meeting will follow this service.

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## January at UUCP

### **Newcomer Orientation**

**Sunday, January 7 after Sunday Service**

This Newcomer Orientation will provide recent UUCP members and friends as well as prospective members with useful information about our church. Topics covered will include how to get involved in the activities of UUCP, the rights and responsibilities of membership, Fun & Fellowship activities, our budget and pledging, our Children's Religious Education program, and more! Orientation is presented by the Membership Team with support from other Ministry Teams and the UUCP Board.

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### **UUCP at the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade**

UUCP has been participating in the MLK Parade since the beginning. Come on out...Bring the family!!!

This year the theme is "Live The Dream - Achieve Excellence." This quote comes from an excerpt from Dr King's speech, "What is Your Life's Blueprint."

Participation is requested! Come be a part of our community within our larger community! All are welcome! We will have hand drummers (bring a drum) on our floats, providing a rhythm as we proceed. We throw beads, candy, and toys; carry signs and banners; and most of all, share our



common goals and make connections. If you have beads to recycle or donate, and/or candy and throwable toys for our efforts, please leave them in the box labeled for them in the church's foyer.

Rev. Maggie Lovins introduced handing out our handmade tissue paper flowers with an attached quote by MLK and information about our church. We will be gathering after the music service on the 31st to gather and make flowers for the event. We focused on gifting older women a flower; the practice of

making and gifting flowers is special and fills me with love and community.

Daniel Cob has donated the use of his truck and trailer for our float. We will be gathering to decorate the float in the parking lot behind church after the service on the 14th.

I love that Pensacola and UUCP continues honoring Martin Luther King JR with a parade, and I am so glad we can be part of it! Can't wait to see you all there! The Parade runs 11:00-1:00. We often stop somewhere to have lunch together afterwards. I hope you will join us.

### Please Join Us:

December 31: Gather in Rainforest room  
11:15 AM-12:00 PM to make flowers and signs and discuss ideas for parade preparations

January 14: Meet behind church at 11:15 AM  
to decorate the float

January 15: Meet on Spring Street near  
Government at 10:00 AM (location will be updated if it changes)



For your information: There is an erroneous post by eventsliker.com. It claims the parade is on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Do not believe it; the parade is put together by a group called MLK CCC (Commemorative Celebration Commission). They have a Facebook page you can check out.

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## Attention All Bakers!!

Your Sunday Sweets bakers would love to have a couple of new members to add to our crew. If you enjoy the Baking Arts and would like to practice your skills, let us know; we will be very happy to have you join us.

The job entails baking once a month from September through to May. If you'd only like to bake occasionally or as a backup baker, that's okay too. We can still use your skills whenever it suits you.

This is a fun way to benefit the congregation (with yummy treats) and the church's offering basket (more than \$1,500 this year, so far).

We hope you'll join us. We're a fun group!

Contact Patti Underwood to participate.

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## Sunday Sweets 2024 Schedule

Sunday Sweets for January 2024 will be held on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. The remaining schedule is as follows: February 11, March 10, April 14, and May 12. All Sunday Sweets are held on the second Sunday of each designated month.

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## January LUUnch BUUnch

Dear ALL:

I start this LB January 2024 announcement the day before we're about to have our last LB event of 2023, on Wednesday, 13 December. It seems a trifle optimistic to believe that on 10 January, we'll all be getting together again; I will have been to South Florida and back by that time. With the advantage of The Light, likely "on the news stand" soon after the 20th, I send you all a sentimental Bon Noel and Happy New Year. Please return safely and in a good state of health.

So, where will we share the first Second Wednesday of 2024? Well, read further to find out what the 13 December crew most strongly recommended... Well, they brought up a number of eating places, but more-so, wondered, why some of the "new folks" had not chosen to join us. Perhaps some confusion about how "exclusive" the Lunch Bunch is (???) or how it works. It works pretty simply, that

those who are pretty much retired and would like to get to know their fellow UU's a bit better (than the service plus coffee time presents), while enjoying food from the local, ever-changing Pensacola restaurant scene provides. We generally favor non-chain eateries, but exceptions are made for cuisine that promises an interesting look or taste, or is just new to most of us. We've done Mex/Tex-Mex, Italian, Oriental/Chinese/Japanese, Greek, Indian in the past, as well as "standard" American, good restaurants by word of mouth; we check 'em out.

We meet at 1 PM on the second Wednesday of the month; 1 PM because we want to avoid the usual lunch time crowd and not complicate the eateries' usual operation; 2nd Wednesday of the month because the time allows a few days to write up the event and project the next event for the month ahead while meeting the deadline for the "printing" of The Light. In the past, before internet/etc., it was a multi-page xeroxing event that took an editor and printing and assembly and mailing crew and drive to the post office. And the second Wednesday can be as late as the 14th, so



we stick with it.... It does help me to know how many are coming, as some restaurants more "formal" than others; more than an extra 1-2 can confuse the seating situation, especially when we go to more than four (our current "crew," but 8 - 10 plus in the past). So I appreciate when you let me know by the Sunday before the 2nd Wednesday, but a phone call on Tuesday works also.

So, this coming January 10th, we'll visit Goat Lips Chew and Brew House at 2811 Copter Rd. east off Davis at to near 9 Mile Road. Phone: 850-474-

1919. Its been several years since we (or I) have been there, so time to refresh. Please advise by Sunday the 7th. Goat Lips is pretty informal, so just showing up should fit in for all. ("Chew" relates to the food of course; no spittoons on the premises that I can recall.)

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## A Message About Interacting with Our Employees

Have you ever had a job with too many bosses? It has become evident that our two employees have recently been "blessed" with many "helpful" members of our beloved congregation telling them what to do!

For this reason, we are taking this opportunity to clarify the roles of our Office Administrator, Laura Herbek, and our new Children's Religious Education Coordinator (CREC), Teresa Latendress.



We have a wonderfully involved, intelligent, and opinionated congregation, and we have no desire to change that. At the same time, we have two relatively new members of staff, whom we are very lucky to have, and we want to keep them! We don't want them overwhelmed with unsolicited advice, requests, and direction. With too many bosses, it can seem like one person is telling them to turn right, another is telling them to turn left, and someone else is telling them to go straight.

Did you know that each of our employees has an immediate supervisor? Yes, of course, they work for the congregation, and their salary is paid by all of us, but to be a good employer, the board has created a job description for each of them, and the job description identifies one person whom each of them "answers to." Each answers to and is supervised by a representative of the Board.

The Office Administrator is supervised by Laura Keith King and the CREC is supervised by Denise Gunn. Laura and Denise are both happy to hear your ideas and constructive criticism.

Please always feel free to tell Laura Herbek and Teresa Latendress how happy we are to have them with us, and please feel free to work with them as needed, but if you have information for either of them about how we used to do things, have work you think they could or should be doing, and/or ESPECIALLY if you have constructive criticism or complaints, please bring them to Laura Keith King or Denise Gunn.

With all love and respect, no matter how long you have been with this or any other church, this applies to everyone.

Thank you so much for helping us make the UUCP a great place to work!

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

TO:



Deadline for the February *Light*:  
Sunday, January 21

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