

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

The Light

Vol. 67 Issue 2 February 2024



Celebrate Diversity *Strive for Justice* *Inspire Love*

How do we build Beloved Community?

From Your Board: President's Letter

Dear friends,

It was great to see everyone at the recent Mid-Year Congregational Meeting. As we learned from the meeting, and even me putting together the meeting, we have a lot on our plate here at UUCP. We wouldn't be able to do this work without the incredible assistance of so many incredible folks in



our congregation. I would name you all, but I know I'd forget a few, but I think it's safe to say that if you're reading this letter that you are doing your part. For that, I want to say thank you.

You probably know this, but we're some generous people, with both time and money! Whenever we go to JUST Pensacola meetings, we see a heavy involvement from UUCP. We see this in the leadership and in the pews, and that is emblematic of our overall approach to service. When we see the MLK Parade, we see our folks in the streets. When we bring donations for Manna Food Bank, we do so in droves. When we collect on the 5th Sunday, we're always generous. As you know, service is our mission and this extends inside our congregation and into the outside world.

Speaking of the outside world, I did want to spend a minute to talk briefly about the recent security issues--specifically the phishing scams that have targeted our congregation. For those at the meeting, probably the liveliest few minutes of our gathering (second only to when Lauren Anzaldo brought the sandwiches) was when everyone was sharing their stories about potential scams. People

DIRECTORY

See our website, uupensacola.org, for updates and a complete list of teams

Office Administrator

Laura Herbek
(850) 475-9077, 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)

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)

Children's Religious Education Coordinator:

Teresa Latendress (cre@uupensacola.org)

Communications: Joe Vinson

(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)

Outreach: Laura Keith King

Safer Congregation: Denise Gunn

Social Justice: Paula Montgomery & Scott Satterwhite

Sunday Services: Nancy Hagman

had a lot of questions, and they also had a lot of solutions. I hesitate to belabor this point because I don't want to freak anyone out, but it's just good to be street smart and remember that people are actively trying to get you to send them money through deception.

Lauren and I were talking about this on the way home, and just how rotten it is that we have to be constantly thinking of this, but it's a simple reality of our moment. Even if we didn't have this specific breach a few months back, we'd be dealing with this sooner or later in some other capacity. With that in mind, I just want to remind you of two things:

1) No one from UUCP will be reaching out to you asking for gift cards or directly for money. If you think that a request seems strange (after all, how many UUs do you know who end their letters with a "blessings"?), it's probably not one of us who's writing asking for money. However, if you think it might be one of us, then call the person directly on the phone with the number you have available on Simple Church. That's one of the best ways to find out if it's real. That said, in nearly every instance, this will not happen.

2) If any member actually does need help, I want you all to know that we have a member's assistance fund. No shame in asking, too. Believe me. I grew up dirt poor. My family was the one that received those boxes of canned foods and the free turkey from some random

church for a long period of my youth. In fact, if it weren't for those generous people who donated way back when I was a kid, I don't know where my family would've found food in some pretty lean years. Between "Reagan Cheese" (as they say, "if you know, you know"), food stamps, and church assistance, my family probably would've starved back in the '80s. I'm saying all this to say that when times are hard, and it gets like that sometimes, we are family here at UUCP and we have a member's assistance fund available. This is important to know because there might be a time when you need a helping hand, and I don't want you to think that you need to keep quiet if you need help because everyone's going to think it's a scam. On that note, I also don't want everyone to think everyone's out to get you, too. It's good to be street smart, but you don't have to be cynical about everyone who might need some help, too. There's a balance.

In short, stay generous, keep being street smart, but don't feel like you can't ever ask for help if you need it. We're family, and family looks out for each other.

As always, thank you to everyone who's played a role in our church, whether it's in the present or even the past. We wouldn't be here without all the ones who kept it going long before we got here, and we wouldn't be here now if not for the work that's being done by some really great folks at UUCP. I'm proud to be associated with each and every one of you.

♥,

Scott

Scott Satterwhite



Sunday Services in February

February 4, 2024

"Now and Then": A Beatles-Inspired Sunday

Presenter: The Beatles and UUCP members

The Beatles newest song and video "Now and Then" AND the upcoming 60th Anniversary of their first appearance on US TV are the inspirations for not only today's energizing service but also to set a

theme for the beginning of our annual Members and Friends pledge drive. (In addition, we have a fun event on Friday evening, Feb the 9th.)

Pledging is how we make tangible our appreciation and support of our faith community – by making an annual pledge of financial support.

We are only able to provide, accomplish and support the activities important to us because of your support by making your renewed or new pledge of financial support each year.

UUCP is where we have been *given the gift of a worship tradition that draws us together in a place of Hope, Memory, Learning, Healing, Growing and Serving.*

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).

February 11, 2024

“Turning People Into Trees”

Guest Speaker: Zachary Helton

Zachary Helton (he/him) is a writer and chaplain. He holds an M.Div. from Baylor University and is currently working on an M.A. in English from UWF. He’s been published in Baptist News Global and has a forthcoming piece in *The Braided Way Magazine*. You can find out more about his work at zachhelton.com.

It’s a commandment common across nearly every major spiritual tradition to “love our neighbor as ourselves,” but far less common is any practical instruction on how that’s even possible. Let’s face it, some people are undeniably hard to love. Are we supposed to white-knuckle our way to love? Fake it ‘til we make it? In this service, we’ll explore how we can genuinely become the kind of people who truly love one another without condition.

February 18, 2024

Honoring Black History Month: "The Struggle and Triumph of Black History: Overcoming Adversity with Faith"

Guest Speaker: Derail Holcomb, Visiting UU Intern Minister from Frederick, Maryland

We will examine the challenges and struggles faced in the fight for justice, both then in history and now in our modern day. We will reflect on the importance of speaking out against injustice, even in the face of adversity, and the transformative power of nonviolent resistance.

Second Hour: Derail will be available to speak with the congregation

Additional Second Hour: Heathen Kinship meeting

February 25, 2024

“Introducing: Love Unleashed”

Guest Speaker: Derail Holcomb, Visiting UU Intern from Frederick, Maryland

Prepare to be captivated by the unyielding power of Love. Join us for a Unitarian Universalist sermon that dares to challenge the status quo. In a world filled with chaos and uncertainty, Love remains a constant, beckoning humanity to embrace its essence.

Join us for a sermon that will challenge your perceptions, ignite your spirit, and awaken your soul. Love is alive, and it's time to unleash its boundless potential. Don't miss out on this extraordinary experience. Be a part of the revolution of Love.

Second Hour: Derail will be available to speak with the children and teens regarding their thoughts and questions including faith, maturing in the UU church and sexuality.

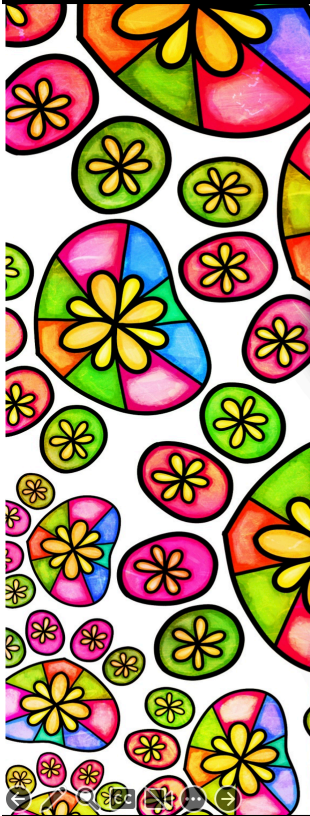


February at UUCP

February Sunday Sweets

Sunday Sweets for the month of February will be held on Sunday, February 11th, after church. Be sure to stop by and enjoy a tasty treat!

Now and Then Budget Drive



Now and Then

2024-25 Budget Drive

February 4
thru
February 18
2024



These last 18 months have seen us make the transition to a 100% lay-led congregation. It could not have been possible without the commitment, dedication and hard work of our lay leadership. We owe a huge thanks to our leaders as well as everyone who has stepped forward and asked, "How can I help?", and then did! Whether serving as a Sunday Service leader or speaker, moving chairs and folding tables, laundering tablecloths, greeting all who walk through our doors, or creating culinary delights, we did it!

With our vision in all we do—to **celebrate diversity, strive for justice, and inspire love.**

This coming year we want to:

NOW

- **Maintain quality Sunday Services** – with engaging speakers and relevant topics. And of course...
- **Support great Sunday music** – professional musicians, as well as our in-house musical and choir talent.
- **Support our Children's Religious Education (CRE)** program with the resources needed as it continues to grow!
- **Strengthen our building and grounds** which we worked so hard to purchase and turn into our spiritual home over 25 years ago.
- **Affirm our UU Principles** by engagement in the larger community through Social Justice activities, and

- **Foster** our beloved community with a strong Pastoral Care program for our congregants and expand adult exploration and fellowship activities.

AND THEN

- **Continue to rebuild and renew** our financial resources for the coming years.

Sunday, February 4th, begins the time of year when our Members and Friends make tangible their appreciation and support of our faith community – by making their annual pledge of financial support.

We are only able to provide, accomplish and support the activities important to us because of your support by making your renewed or new pledge of financial support each year.

You will receive all the information you will need to make your pledge in your email. Paper “pledge packets” are available by request as well.

Need help or information? Contact Finance Team - Laurie Winterberg or Treasurer - Bradley Vinson

Kids' Corner

Hello, Unitarian congregation,

It's Teresa here giving out a little information on what's going on with our youth group. Denise Gunn, Bradley Vinson, and myself have been working to find ways to improve the children's services.

We have grown in size and hope that we continue to do so. With that in mind, I am asking for volunteers to teach a class when you are available, or possibly work in the nursery with the smaller children when needed. We are also wanting to add to the play room and are asking if someone may be willing to donate a ping pong table or any other supplies that the kids would like. We are always open to new ideas and will take them into consideration. Please let me know what you have that can be donated (please do not leave anything or bring any donations without talking with me, Denise, or Bradley).

Thank you so much,

Teresa Latendress, CREC

SAVE THE DATE

February 25, 2024 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

“Just Bobby”
van Deusen

**Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola
9888 Pensacola Blvd., Pensacola, FL 32534**

Join us for an afternoon of piano music to benefit UUCP

60th Anniversary Beatles Party

On Friday, February 9, 2024, at 6:00 PM the UUCP will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Beatles coming to America. Some of us remember seeing the Beatles performing on the Ed Sullivan Show on that February night in 1964. It seems like “Yesterday.” Join us in hearing and singing. Let it be a fun family night. Please bring some finger food.

Some Top Beatles Songs:

“Let It Be”

“A Day in the Life”

“Don’t Let Me Down”

“Hey Jude”

“Yesterday”

“Here Comes the Sun”

“Strawberry Fields Forever”

"Penny Lane"

"Eleanor Rigby"

"In My Life"

"Come Together"

Above is a list of some of the top Beatles songs; if there is another song you want to hear and sing, please let Jack Comstock know.

We will have Karaoke singing with the words projected; that is why we need the list of your favorite Beatles songs. Thanks for your help.

Beatle loving (non-UU) friends are welcome to attend, particularly if they can sing. Please bring your kids. This will be a fun night.

February LUUnch BUUnch

Nine of us attended to the LB of January; see the rundown below. I dropped by February's LB location before meeting at Goat Lips to visit Sree's Kitchen at 5800 North "W" St., Suite 3, just south of the Airport/"W" St. "T" intersection. It's on the East side in a substantial looking "strip center"



(also housing a "halal and international foods" shop where 1.8 kilograms of dried Black Eye peas from Madagascar are sold for \$7.98). When asking for a carry-out menu, the Sree personnel refer you to the calling card rack on which one side says "SREEKITCHEN/SK" and on the other side "Sreelatha Pati" with a QR code with print saying "Scan Me" and a phone number (952-657-6493). So, the digital revolution has invaded the dining industry full force, and I suggest you try the QR. A Googling of Sree's/Pensacola turns up some menu info, but not quite the usual.... The dining room is similar to the Fishing Hole interior, quiet and "tasteful". (I used quotation marks since that's not a word in my common usage.) Not so many tables, so I think reservations will be in order; please let me know by Sunday the 11th.

We had our more or less usual six, plus three newer UU members at Goat Lips, and we did get somewhat more acquainted (but not names; that comes later). We sat in the way-backroom of Goat

Lips, and saw no other customers. The servings were large enough, and tasty for me, but the service, though good, seemed a little awkward. And the bill and tip ate up a \$20 bill, about twice the remembered Goat Lips.



welcome little one!

SHOWER FOR BABY VINCENT

A baby shower for Heather and Daniel's soon-to-be arrival will be held on **Saturday, February 24, from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM** at the church. Everyone is invited!

New Member Honor Bell On Path to Social Work

By Dolly Berthelot

Honor Bell III has a mission: Revolution. To Honor, revolution means putting the power of the country and the world in the hands of the working class and disenfranchised.

Honor says four years recently spent in San Diego "...was a revolution for myself. Shortly after moving there, there was a leadership crisis and a time for a mini-revolution at the UU church. So I spearheaded the creation of a BIPOC Platform (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) calling for and laying out the plan for restructuring church leadership, church programming, living wage compensation for all staff, and more. The program restructuring plan was a framework on how to create services and choose speakers and musical accompaniment. It pertained to having regular



representation in proportion to the demographics found in the area census."

Now back in his native Pensacola with family—biracial parents, two younger brothers, and two nephews—Honor returned to UUCP, which he had previously attended often. Honor identifies as nonbinary. Henceforth, where necessary this article will use Honor's preferred plural pronouns—they, them, their instead of he, him, his.

Honor grew up Catholic, but says, "I always questioned my place in the world. About 18 I searched and found UU. I appreciate the espoused values." Working at Target often makes this new member unavailable for Sunday services. They would like to see UUCP grow with a diversity of services but currently have no specific suggestions.

Honor was born March 31, 1991, graduated West Florida High School in 2009, and earned a General Studies degree from PSC in 2022. Prior journey considerations have included property management and even UU ministry.

"Since moving back, I've tried to make a new life after COVID and go back to school for a degree in social work...I learned I could do what I wanted to do with more flexibility under the title Social Worker...I plan to stay in Pensacola but don't plan to be the conventional social worker as I am more macro focused," Honor explained.

As previously published in *The Light*, Honor was designated National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Social Work Student of the Year for both NWFL and the state of Florida. UWF graduation with a BSW is expected in Spring 2025.

With work, school, and other obligations, it's hard to find volunteer time, but Honor really enjoys what volunteering is possible with three local agencies: Covenant Hospice, Alfred Washburn Center, and NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness.)

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

TO:



Deadline for the March *Light*:
Wednesday, February 21

UUCP is proudly an



LGBTQ

Welcoming Congregation



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