

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

# The Light

Vol. 67 Issue 4 April 2024



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

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## The Little Things in a New Season

From Your Board: President's Letter

Dear friends,

As with many of us, I enjoy the changing of the seasons.

Having grown up almost entirely in the South, and never really lived anywhere else except for a year in Japan, just about every year of my five decades has been in the southern states. You might think that would get me used to the heat, but it has never been something I have enjoyed. That is why spring is a nice moment for me. Here in Florida, you never know how long the good weather will last, so a nice day makes me appreciate the good days much more than I might otherwise.

It also makes me not take for granted all the beautiful things that come about during this time of the year. The flowers are blooming. The scent of jasmine is in the air, and it makes many of us smile whenever we smell that sweet scent. Living in Florida for three decades now, I also know that the weather is unpredictable, just as life itself is unpredictable.



Recently in my own life, I've had a few ups and downs. My mother was in an accident that threw her like through a major loop. Sadly, her injury is something that I suspect she will be dealing with for the rest of her life. Through no fault of her own, she was hurt at work and now we're dealing with lawyers and medical bills as my family in Texas begins to rearrange of her life. In a sense, this is another season of her life and that of my family. But just like the scent of jasmine when you're walking down the street, or hearing some good news for a change, small things make the good days become that much more special. As for my mom, she has a long road to recovery, but is leaving the hospital now and is happy to get back home. It's a small thing, but it's also a big thing that is now making her very happy.

To be honest, when I have some of these good days and good feelings, there is a little bit of guilt it goes along with it. Maybe that's a byproduct of growing up Catholic, but guilt is just a big part of me, and feeling guilty for feeling good is famously not a rare emotion with us lapsed Catholics. When I think of the issues that are going on around the world, from Ukraine to Gaza, our problems seem miniscule in comparison. Yet knowing that people are suffering in a far-off land does not make your pains go away. There is a Bob Marley line that often sticks out to me: "Everyone thinks that his burden is the heaviest." In many ways, that is true, especially when

## DIRECTORY

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

### Office Administrator

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

**Children's Religious Education Coordinator:**

Honor M. Bell, III ([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

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

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

**Sunday Services:** Nancy Hagman

there is "so much trouble in the world" (to use another Bob Marley line). Knowing that other people are suffering worse than I am rarely makes me feel better when I have a sharp pain in my back or during an unexpected hardship.

Knowing our congregation, I know that many of us are very empathetic and feel the pains of the world very closely, but it still doesn't take away the pains in our own lives. I say this to remind everyone to also make sure that you're taking care of yourself while also looking at the big picture. What makes us unique is that the big picture is often very close at hand, but it's also important to be able to take care of yourself at the same time.

For me, that is why Spring is nice. This season allows me to think about the good things, knowing that sometimes the good days are fleeting. Remembering that in a world of pain and suffering, there are also good people and good things. Stopping for a minute to smell the jasmine doesn't change the world, it doesn't help my mom, and it doesn't stop the wars, but it might change your ability to move and function in the world if you stop for a second and enjoy the beautiful things in life.

It might even make you smile.

♥, Scott Satterwhite

## Kids' Corner

Hi all, my name is Honor (they/them) and I am excited to journey with UUCP as your new Children's Religious Education Coordinator (CREC)! I am currently a student at UWF majoring in Social Work and minoring in Public Administration. I am also a substitute teacher, spending most of my time subbing at Escambia Westgate, a school for people with profound disabilities. I intend to continue to make CRE a time for youth of all ages and capabilities. For the month of April we will be delving into the theme of Interdependence with our Soul Matters curriculum. Be on the lookout for more great news!



-Honor M. Bell, III (they/them)

CRE Coordinator.

## Sunday Services in April



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).

### April 7, 2024

#### An Easter Message: "You Are Accepted"

Presenter: Thom Botsford, Friend of UUCP

Christian existentialist Paul Tillich--one of the 20th century's most influential theologians--distilled the essence of Christianity in his sermons, including "You Are Accepted," published in 1948. We will review that surprising sermon and consider its implications 75 years later. Tillich declares, "You are accepted by that which is greater than you, and the name of which you do not know....Do not seek for anything, do not perform anything, do not intend anything. Simply accept the fact that you are accepted."

**Second Hour: TBA**

### April 14, 2024

#### "How America Got Mean" according to David Brooks

Presenter: Dr. Paula Montgomery, Member of UUCP

Is it anger? Is it fear? Or just "ornery cussedness"? What makes us act so mean? And how did we get here?

**Second Hour: TBA**

### April 21, 2024

#### Nurturing Resilience: A Spirituality for Climate Anxiety

Presenter: Zachary Helton, M.Div.

In 1970, Earth Day was created as a day for education and awareness. It was a time to stand in awe of the Earth and to nurture hope for the future. 54 years later, for some of us, Earth Day can stir up more anxiety than hope. In this talk, we'll talk about the kind of spirituality that can nurture resilience in the face of eco-despair—a spirituality that helps us deal with difficult feelings so we can go about embodying the change we want to see.

**Second Hour: TBA**

### April 28, 2024

#### "Our Moral Compass"

Presenter: Lauren Anzaldo, Member of UUCP

In a complex world, how do we determine where we stand on important issues? Where do we find our moral compass? This talk will explore common social problems from a human rights perspective and will present a social justice model of decision-making based on the work of Paul Farmer, an anthropologist and physician who died in 2022.

**Second Hour: TBA**



*We'd love you to join our CRE Ministry Team and/or taskforce!*

*Contact Honor M. Bell, III or Scott Satterwhite for more information.*

*And if working with our children or youth is your fancy, we are looking for volunteers who can sit in, assist, or even lead one of our Sunday classes! No worries, the curriculum is already laid out for you, and if you'd like to share your own message or share a skill or talent, we'd love to hear from you! If you have any questions reach out to*

*Honor M. Bell, III CREC  
[cre@uupensacola.org](mailto:cre@uupensacola.org)*

# April at UUCP

## April Sunday Sweets



Mark your calendars: Sunday Sweets for the month of April will be held on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.



## Curious About Coffee and Conversation 2.0

The 3-month pilot project for a neighborhood-based fellowship gathering, "Coffee and Conversation 2.0," was extended and will begin the 7th month in April.

If you'd like to host a neighborhood monthly meeting where your fellow UUs can spend congenial time with kindred folks, contact Laurie Winterberg for more information.

## Readers' Zoom Group Resumes

The dates/times for the upcoming 3 months of the Zoom Readers' Groups are:

*Monday, April 8*

*Monday, May 13*

*and*

*Monday, June 10*

*All are 2nd Monday's of the month.*

Zoom login info will be sent by Simple Church email a few days before each session. Sessions last an hour. If you've not yet attended, these group meetings are an informal gathering of our Members and Friends who enjoy reading. There are no assigned books to read. Participants share reviews of books and authors they would recommend.

Questions? Contact Laurie Winterberg



The **UUCP Pi Day Celebration** of eating homemade pies was a enjoyable success.

*The bakers were Hannelore Musical, Michael Newcomb, Patti Underwood, Jack Comstock, Natalie Denn and Bill Sloan.*

The food was good, the conversation better, and being together with UU friends was the best. The event raised **\$225.00 for UUCP.**

## April LUUnch BUUnch



For the second Wednesday of April, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, let us visit Pho Golden Palace at 7156 N. Davis Hwy. Ph. 850-857-8892. Pho is just a shop or two north of Tu Do which we visited last year (leaving somewhat disappointed). Pho comes recommended from an experienced pho consumer and an occasional (and Veteran) UUCP attender. (I have been in the mood for Mexican, and spent some time with Taqueria Olgy's menu, but got less inspired while reading it. I would like more vegetables. Also, we had a Navy Blvd. Filipino Restaurant suggestion last time; let me know if you have similar interests, wants, or desires.) As usual, we will meet at 1 PM at Pho, and though they take no reservations, it helps the early birds select a table for four or 10. Please

contact me preferably by Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup>, or by phone/text/email by Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> by noon.

But of course, we did hang out together on 13 March at the Marcus Point Golf Club, and there were 7 of us there - more than expected but two short. Explained, three arrivals were unanticipated but two anticipated arrivals self-canceled. Unanticipated arrivals are always welcome, though a change of seating might be in order... and was easily made, (but if I'd checked my phone messages, it would have been unnecessary.)

As for getting to the location, once you leave "W" St. west bound for the Marcus Point dining facility "Rustyc Spoon", the south end of the only business building seen on the golf course, you get no encouragement until a sign directing you left (and a Dead-End sign too, I believe) off MCP Drive. The entry, for future planning, was designed/built before Handicapped accessible was the rule of the day.

The menu offers a fair variety of choices of hand-held lunch fare, but I was attracted to the salads, which turned out to be substantial, the last 1/4 - 1/3 being tasty enough to want to finish but wondering if it was too much. Along with a tasty dressing, Caesar-like, the topping included bacon bits (maybe 1/2 piece, crispy) and feta cheese, a bit more firm and less crumbly than I've had before, and very nice small leaf spring greens of several colors. Since the kitchen is in the same room, some kitchen banter was notable until we got warmed up. Everyone expressed satisfaction with the food, except for the overcooked sweet-potato fries, which were supplemented with a second less cooked batch.

-Hugh Ed T.



### A Special Thanks to Ed King

for getting our new louvered doors up in the Nursery! They look fantastic! And we appreciate you!



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
VIRTUAL GA • JUNE 20 - 23, 2024

### Love Unites, Stories Ignite

**General Assembly (GA)** is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to have voting delegates.

The 63rd **General Assembly** will take place virtually **Thurs, June 20 through Sun, June 23, 2024.**

Visit [www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga) to learn more.

## Meet New Member Kenny Hensey Navy and Spectrum Retiree Now “Reinventing” His Life

By Dolly A. Berthelot

Kenny Hensey is a Ham. Well, a happy ham radio enthusiast, that is. He started at age 16 through Boys Club in his home town of Chicago, and he continues today in Pensacola as a retiree from both the US Navy and later from Spectrum Systems, Inc. Kenny relishes communicating with other ham operators around town and around the world and meeting some of them at local ham radio meetings. Mostly they talk tech.

Having enjoyed 22 years with the Navy, he agrees with the slogan “It’s not a job, it’s an adventure.” His far-flung adventures included Okinawa, Japan, Taiwan, Korea, several countries in Europe, plus Alaska, DC, and other parts of the USA. Greece was a favorite, particularly Athens and Rhodes “because the people were so friendly.”

Friendliness matters to Kenny Hensey. And isn’t his rhyming name fun?

In 1969, like many of us, he fondly remembers the first US moon landing. Unlike most of us, he witnessed this historic milestone while on a ship in the Mediterranean, and shared the boisterous jubilation with shipmates, then all males, of course. They even blared the good news on their PA system to a nearby Russian ship. Altho the Cold War was long active, the Russians replied with congenial congratulations. This was before

the Sea Treaty that prohibited such ship proximity and contact.

International cultural assumptions can be amusing, especially in the decades when people relied only on a few movies and TV shows, before today’s wider travel exposure and digital interaction offered a bit more realism.

In Japan, at dinner with a Japanese family, a man asked Kenny where he was from. “Chicago,” Kenny said.



“Oh, Chicago!” Replied the man with excitement and apparent seriousness, “Could you show me your machine gun?!”

Kenny’s humor quickly kicked in, “Ah, no, the Navy wouldn’t let me bring it with me.”

Kenny’s most memorable tour of duty was during the US Bicentennial era at the “top of the line” Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, DC. He was chosen as the “test sailor” evaluating the secret military something they were creating, a high school graduate among many PHDs. “They really value the opinions of the troops,” Kenny

recalls. “It was a once in a lifetime experience for an ordinary sailor and helped promote me to Chief Petty Officer.”

In 1986 this Chief Petty Officer returned to Pensacola, where he had previously both trained and taught. Through PJC (now PSC) and UWF, he earned a degree in Computer Science, met Jeannine Goff, and married her four years later. He was 46. They had 30 “good years” together before her death of a heart attack in 2022. He had

been her caretaker and chauffeur during the last years.

Kenny has one daughter, Kathy Jones, who lives in Prattville, AL, near Montgomery, four grown grandchildren, and three great grandchildren, all who live in the nearby South and visit often.

Having first come to Pensacola Corry Station in 1964 for Navy schooling, taught there in 1970 and again in 1983, after his Navy career he made Pensacola his permanent home. He liked the lack of state income tax and plethora of things to see and do. After graduating, he worked for Spectrum for 24 years as an imbedded systems programmer until his 2015 retirement. Spectrum made, sold, and sometimes serviced pollution-

monitoring equipment. “It was enjoyable work with a good group of people,” Kenny says. “Soon after I started, Spectrum initiated a smart Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP); everyone knew what a good deal it was. It was a great place to work.”

His family of origin had attended protestant churches, and his family here joined Pinewoods Presbyterian for

a while, but now he was ready to select a spiritual home for himself.

Since losing his wife and benefitting from some hospice grief groups, Kenny has been “Reinventing myself.” Mental health is a priority, supporting mental health for himself and for others. “UUCP is a part of that, an Oasis in a crazy world. I’m so happy I have found a place full of diverse but like-minded people, so many well-educated, interesting people. The eight principles and Sunday services are all so relevant to my life. I especially like the communion services, flower and water communions, that is, the broader view of spirituality.” He praises UUCP’s financial management and transparency and has enjoyed some fun events, like the recent Bobby Concert and the Beatles evening.

He finds everyone at UUCP “very friendly,” as he did when briefly visiting PUUF at our former little fellowship hall in East Hill. He remembered that warmth, and is delighted, decades later, to find it still true.



## The Invitation to National Conversation

- Awareness of the proposed Article II changes
- Analysis of the new Article II language
- Discussion within your community
- Decision by your congregation on what is the best direction of Unitarian Universalism
- Share your thoughts at Town Hall meetings



## Decision at GA in 2024

A decision at GA in June will be made to accept or reject the proposed Article II language. The changes are sweeping impacting all sections of Article II.

More conversation is needed before this decision!

[UUtheConversation.org](http://UUtheConversation.org)

Dear Unitarian Universalist Leaders and Friends,

Please join us for the upcoming **Building Beloved Community: Beyond the Binary** event - our first collaborative, multi-site, justice-making event happening throughout the Southern Region!

View a [video invitation from Natalie Briscoe](#),  
UUA Southern Region Lead.

Join us (in Cedar Park TX, Nashville TN, Orlando FL, Charlotte NC, or online!) **Sat, April 27, 2024, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm EDT** for a day of creating community with transgender, nonbinary folx, and our allies.

This conference is an opportunity for LGBTQIA+ folks in our local communities to gather, laugh, create joy, and find partnerships in our local communities which will be a sustaining force throughout the upcoming year AND for folks not in the LGBTQIA+ community to learn effective, appropriate allyship through a Unitarian Universalist lens. We will gather online and in-person at various host-sites around the Southern Region to learn, grow, and become - together.

Learn more about *Building Beloved Community: Beyond the Binary* on our [website](#).

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

**TO:**



**LGBTQ**

**Welcoming Congregation**

Deadline for the May *Light*:  
Sunday, April 21

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