

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

The Light

Vol. 67 Issue 5 May 2024



Celebrate Diversity *Strive for Justice* *Inspire Love*

Technology and a Lasting Legacy

From Your Board: President's Letter

Dear friends,

This last month we've seen a lot going on in the church, and I wanted to highlight one thing in particular: technology. Over the next few weeks, we'll be preparing for our annual meeting. The annual meeting is where we get together as a congregation to talk about the budget, but like many things, our budget is a reflection of our priorities. As UUCP continues to grow, we see a few areas where we need to fix—specifically in our messaging.



As you know, we've done a tremendous amount of work in our audiovisual "department" of the church since COVID. If you remember, our online presence prior to COVID was nearly non-existent outside of our website and Facebook page. With the help of Reverend Alice, Erin Renfroe, Laura Keith King, Bill Caplinger, and several other members, we now have a healthy presence on YouTube. Our services have been recorded and sometimes broadcast live. As a result, people who wanted to learn about the church had the ability to watch a few services in comfort of their homes or their phones, or even listen to them on their phones during a walk or while driving to pick up the kids. Considering how much we've grown shows two things: 1) people apparently like our message, and 2) the videos are working. That's great! Now, here's the issue: our technology is outdated and our volunteer crew is getting tired.

We just marked four years since COVID forced us all to learn more about technology. This has been good for many of us, but it also means we need to grow as the technology advances. Some of these advances will help our congregation grow, but to get state-of-the-art technology, we have to spend a few dollars. If the budget gets approved, we hope to use the money that

was gifted to us by our late member Rob Palme to help update our audiovisual presence online and continue to grow the church. Considering the last gift by a member of the Palme family helped to give us the projector we see every week (to see the effectiveness of that, try to think of a service recently where we didn't use the projector), we think this is fitting and our congregation would be good stewards of his donation if it went towards something that we strongly believe will enhance our church and move UUCP well into the modern era.

As you know, Rob was a very generous man with a kind heart. He also loved UUCP. We have honored him by placing his name on our memorial wall, and we hope to continue to honor his memory through a major technology upgrade that will allow our message of peace and justice to resonate throughout the community and help find those folks who need to hear it.

DIRECTORY

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

Office Administrator

(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

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(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

(caring@uupensacola.org)

Children's Religious Education Coordinator:

Honor M. Bell, III (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

(safer@uupensacola.org)

Social Justice: Paula Montgomery & Scott Satterwhite

Sunday Services: Nancy Hagman

And yes, we strongly believe that some of those people who hear our message will join us at UUCP one day. Like all investments, especially into advertising, you won't likely see the pay offs right away. The board does believe, however, this is the time to begin these upgrades to make the work easier for our volunteers who've been staffing the cameras and editing the videos that you see online. Through this purchase, there will be a tangible use of Rob's donation that we feel will be fitting and truly give Rob a lasting legacy that we hope would make him proud.

♥, Scott Satterwhite



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

2024 UUA General Assembly: Virtual and Vibrant by Scott Satterwhite

If you haven't already, I'd like you all to strongly consider attending this year's UUA General Assembly taking place online from June 20-23rd. The topics are dynamic and have such a diverse range it's hard to capture everything in a short blurb. Let me try, though, as the topics generally include, but are not limited to UUs and the following: Spirituality, Hinduism, Mental Health, Small Congregations, Labor, Immigration, Eco-Socialism, Gaza, War, Race, Religion, Gender, Youth, Elders, Borders, Climate Justice, Accessibility, and so much more. All of this is capped off with the keynote speaker, otherwise known by UUs as the Ware Lecture, with Rabbi Julia Watts Belser. Rabbi Belser's work focuses on religion and accessibility, a topic that is always important, along with the intersections of feminism and queer theory. Her talk promises to be uplifting and important, especially at this moment in our shared history. For more information about Rabbi Belser and her talk, please visit uua.org/ga to learn more about the speaker. While you're there, it's worth your time to take a look at the impressive list of people who've spoken as the UUA's previous Ware Lecture speakers--a list that includes Kurt Vonnegut, Cornel West, Jane Addams, Shirley Chisholm, and even Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Many of their speeches are still available on the UUA's website.

So please, if you have not considered this yet, consider registering and attending the UUA General Assembly. It's virtual this year, so no need for plane tickets or hotels. Just order a pizza, pop some popcorn, make a salad, and enjoy what promises to be an incredible and inspiring three days from the comfort of your home. Bring a friend, too, and make it a watch party. I think they'll thank you.

For more information and to register, go to uua.org/ga

Sunday Services in May



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).

May 5, 2024

"Trust Yourself Again: Reclaim Your Inner Compass After Leaving Evangelical Subculture"

Presenter: Catherine Quiring, MA, LMHC, Guest Speaker

This program will include 5 steps you can take to complete the healing cycle after leaving an evangelical subculture (or another form of high-control religion): Reflect, Release, Reconnect, Reclaim, and Re-emerge.

Self-trust includes befriending your desires, trusting your perceptions, developing inner harmony and integration, and living out of your inner knowing

Second Hour: Heathen Kinship

May 12, 2024

"Celebration of 'Mother's day' Concert"

Presenter: Holly Shelton, Local Vocalist

This will be a mini-concert featuring well known singer Holly Shelton. Ms Shelton is a local entertainer and well respected for her talents in Pensacola. There will be John Link on piano, Walt Kattner on bass, our own Jack Wolverton and Thom Botsford.

(Thom Botsford is sponsoring this event.)

In this service we will also be honoring the members who have supported the Children's Religion Education Program this year.

Second Hour: TBA

May 19, 2024

"OutoftheBox: The Transformational Power of Story & Play"

Presenter: Claire Helton, M.Div., UUCP member

It can be difficult to find resources for spiritual growth that are aligned with our UU values. OutoftheBox is one avenue for doing just that. In OutoftheBox story circles, participants listen deeply to themselves and one another, exploring deep truths through the lens of wisdom stories from various traditions, all in a spirit of playfulness and wonder. This service will give a taste of the OutoftheBox experience - and if you find it meaningful, plan to join us for Second Hour on Sunday, June 2!

Following the service will be the Congregational Meeting

May 26, 2024

"Have We Forgotten about Memorial Day?"

Theresa Everett, Licensed Lay Preacher of St Augustine Episcopal Church in Navarre.

So... you think you know about Memorial Day? What is it about Memorial Day that you remember? Is it something that happened so long ago that the true meaning is a vague memory? We will take a journey to remember that this holiday should be about those who can no longer tell their story.

Second Hour: TBA

Second Hour:

Sunday, June 2, 11:30-12:30, in the Library

OutoftheBox Story Circle, facilitated by Claire Helton

In this contemplative space we'll listen deeply to ourselves and one another, exploring deep truths through the lens of wisdom stories from various traditions in a spirit of wonder & play.

Childcare will be provided.

May at UUCP

May Sunday Sweets

Sunday Sweets will be held on **Sunday, May 12th**. It is also Mother's Day. Remember to honor your mom by purchasing a piece of cake.

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 continue in May.

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 2 months of the Zoom Readers' Groups are:

*Monday, May 13 and
Monday, June 10
(2nd Mondays 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

From FUUn and Fellowship!

Friday, May 10th @ 6:00pm - Game Night @ The Ramsey's.

Bring your favorite finger food, beverage and Game. Please sign-up by Sunday, May 5th with Marybeth Ramsey so she can provide location, and this will help us know what's being brought and how many tables to set up. Sign-up in church foyer or online: <https://forms.gle/RCoyGsrqMAxwi5B6> *no childcare

Thursday, May 23rd @ 6:05pm - Blue Wahoos Game! Wahoos vs. TN Smokies. \$13.00 per ticket. Sign-up at the announcements bulletin board in the foyer OR online: <https://forms.gle/CXr3pLPa3Z6wvjK47> . You MUST sign-up **AND pay** by Sunday, May 5th. See Marybeth Ramsey for payment.

Saturday, May 25th @ 7:00pm - West FL Roller Derby match! Help us cheer on our very own Audrey "Hipburn" and her team at Weber's Skate World in Milton. Buy your ticket early online for \$10.00 (<https://linktr.ee/wfrd>) OR at the door for \$15.00. Bring a chair if you wish to sit and come early as parking fills up fast.

Big News from JUST Pensacola!



On Tuesday, April 9th, the JUST Pensacola Board of Directors voted to hire Dr. Tricia Wessel as the new Lead Organizer effective May 28, 2024



The Nehemiah Action has a new name:



The Summit on the Crisis in Affordable Rental Housing: What is Possible

The Affordable Housing Steering Committee invites you to a Summit on Affordable Rental Housing in Escambia County. This is an opportunity to gather community members, business leaders, nonprofit leaders and government officials from Pensacola and Escambia County together to hear local and statewide experts speak about the need in Escambia for affordable rental housing, best practices for addressing the crisis, what is being done in the City, and how other Florida counties have been successful. Come see what is possible!

Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. First United Methodist Church's Wesley Abbey 6 E. Wright St., Pensacola, FL 32501

May LUUnch BUUnch



Well, so much for storm warnings and those days when staying in bed might have worked pretty well (as on 10 April); after much thought (not while in bed), I'm headed to Taqueria Olgy's on Wed., 8 May for the next Lunch Bunch. At 5222 North "W" St. (850 292 4642), Taqueria Olgy's is a little off the beaten track, on the east side of "W", 1/2 block south of Beverly (Brent/Bayou) in a 4-6 shops Strip Center, about the first opportunity to turn left (if south bound). From Google you can note the food variety, not just the tacos. ... At 1PM as usual; though reservations may not prevail, letting me know will help Michael and I find the right size table and number of chairs.

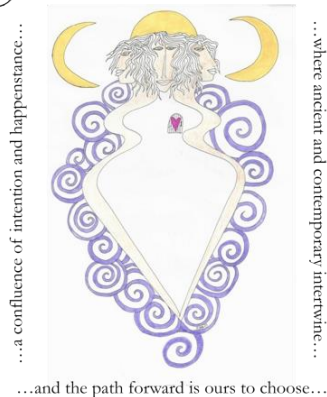
So how did April's second Wed., the 10th, work out? Well, as I suggested in the April Light and email, I was looking for vegetables and a recently recommended Vietnamese site on Davis, Golden Pho Palace. However, the weather forecast discouraged all with 100% rain and potential tornadic winds; Michael even let me know on the Sunday before that it looked negative. So it was no surprise to find me there alone, about a 3 mile roundtrip with checking the weather up to 12:45. The menu studied, being one of perhaps 4 customers, I thought the Tofu with lemongrass and vermicelli (to-go) about right for my need.

Little did I appreciate, and the main reason I'm writing this review, is that when they say vermicelli, they don't mean "and vegetables". Aside from bean sprouts which looked sufficient in quantity to be intentional, the only other veggies noted (2" carrot strings, and scallion clips) were likely scrapings off the salad cutting board.... So, getting home, tuning up the three local weather forecasts (3, 5 and 15 - I nominate Kelly Foster/15 as the most informative), I ate my lunch until finishing most of the Tofu - nice searing but inconsistently lemongrass flavored and all the vermicelli I needed (but sauce too watery), I still had 7/10 of a pound of only vermicelli left. Obviously, I will ask more questions about veggie contents in the future.

-Hugh Ed T.

UWomenspirit invites all who identify as women to join us from **May 15-19** for **Gather at the Crossroads**, a retreat taking place in Highlands, NC. The Crossroads is an ancient symbol that in modern times manifests in careers, relationships, marriages and friendships, and any decision that impacts the path we follow. We will explore our own crossroads through workshops, sacred ritual, and beautiful community with other supportive women. Find out more about the event and UWomenspirit at <https://www.uwomenspirit.org/spring>.

Gather at the Crossroads



Let's hope Athena achieves her dreams, yet stays happily with UUCP as long as possible. Note to UUs and UU friendly folks!

We would love to invite you to join us at **SUUSI** this summer, **July 21-27 in Radford, VA**, a fantastic weeklong adventure with some of the most favorite people you will ever meet.

The Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute is an intentional community of UUs and kindred spirits, including all ages and races, LGBTQIA+ friendly, singles, families, adventures from outdoor hikes to board game to nightlife to crafts to worship. We come together to explore our interconnectedness, delight in nature in the Blue Ridge Mountains, enjoy music, art, and learn new ways of seeing ourselves, our world and each other.

Visit SUUSI.org, and please sign up [here](#) to get our latest information. You may also follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)!

NEW UUCP MEMBER ATHENA LIETZAU Young World Traveler, “Jill of All Trades”

By Dolly A. Berthelot

At

merely 34-years-old, Athena Lietzau has experienced more of the world than most twice her age. An “Army Brat,” she grew up on the move, kept at it, and has no intention of stopping. She loves Germany, especially Bavaria, where she has lived three different times, twice in childhood and as a young adult, and enjoyed much of Europe so accessible from that central country.

“I love learning about different cultures and ways of life, and I enjoy feeling connected with people all around the world.” Athena recounts. “One of my favorite experiences thus far has been volunteering at a school in Accra, Ghana. The connections I made and the lessons I learned there were some of the most enriching of my life, and I’ll forever be grateful for the opportunity. Other than that, a few of my favorite places to visit have been Istanbul (I only spent a couple days there but it made a huge impression on me), Paris and southern France (I got to study abroad there for a summer), and most recently Japan (I spent a couple weeks traveling there with a group of friends).” She enjoys traveling alone as well as with others.

And her family is also very dear to her: Her mother, two younger brothers, one sister, a niece, and a nephew.

Following a recent period of transition (divorce and loss of her Dad), less than a year ago, Athena moved from Steamboat Springs, Colorado, to Pensacola, joining her recently widowed mother in their new Florida experience. A lover of the culinary arts, especially baking, right now the young woman is working at a donut shop on Palafox St., but she sees law school on her horizon. Her goal: Employment Law, especially to help workers in the low-paying high-demand restaurant business, in which she has years of past experience. “The system is not set up for work/life balance,” Athena says, “Some mean chefs, unreasonable demands, sexual harassment, and other issues too often make it especially hard for those who may be stuck in menial jobs. High rates of drug and alcohol abuse and suicide are no accident. I’d like to help. I’ve always wanted to help make the world a better place.”

That sounds like a UU, and Athena is delighted to have found us. “UU Principles sum up what I feel about life,” she says, “and I like knowing that all around me are people sharing similar values.” Her break with her Lutheran roots started early. “As a teenager, I came out as an atheist. I first learned about UU when I was president of Atheists, Humanists, and Agnostics at LSU. A member suggested attending a UU service, and I was honestly shocked to experience a church that really didn’t care what faith I practiced. I had often felt judged for not being religious, and to feel accepted by a group of church goers was pretty eye-opening....I now consider myself agnostic, and I think having my own relationship with spirituality and forming my own beliefs has been very important for me. I feel incredibly lucky to have been able to join UUCP and get to know some of the amazing people here...and fulfilling to spend time with people who’re brought together not because they share the exact same beliefs about higher powers and an afterlife, but because they share similar values and beliefs about how we should be treating each other and the world around us in this life,”

Athena says. “I’m looking forward to gradually getting more involved; I’d love to work through the church to more directly help underserved communities and take action for social justice.”

Her interests and skills are multi-varied. She started singing as a child and is now active in our choir. Ukulele playing came at LSU in Baton Rouge, where she enjoyed the Cajun culture, was active in social issues, and



graduated Summa Cum Laude. She loves school, enjoys logic and a good argument, tendencies handy for law school. Yet her creative interests are also strong: painting in various media, musical theater, knitting, crocheting. She quips, “I guess I’m a Jill of all Trades. She is attracted to life in major urban centers, and aspires to live in NYC.

UUCP Hosts Pensacola Abortion Rights Taskforce Event

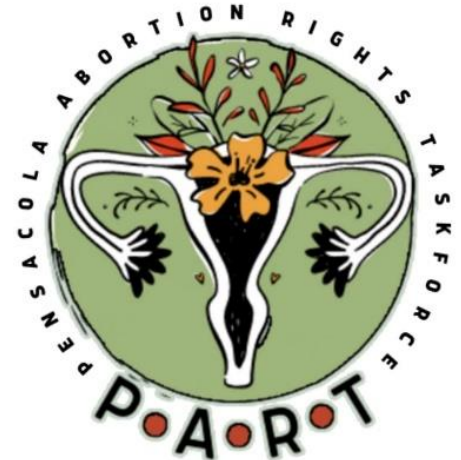
On March 29, members of the Pensacola Abortion Rights Taskforce (PART) organized an event at UUCP that brought out several dozen people to give a history of the long struggle for abortion rights in Pensacola, with part of presentation devoted to the church’s contribution to this fight.

The event began with a film screening of the film “Pensacola’s Struggle for Abortion Rights” that was researched by our own Lauren Anzaldo. The short documentary focuses on our city, with some of the focus on the UUCP congregation that was so heavily involved in those movement to protect women’s right to seek an abortion. During the early 1990s, several members of UUCP helped with clinic escorts, largely organized by Bill Caplinger, the point of placing their bodies on the line to fight against religious fundamentalist efforts to stop women from exercising their rights to seek a legal abortion. In 1993 and 1994, religious fundamentalists shot and killed two doctors in Pensacola, killing one UUCP congregant in 1994. The film highlighted the murder of Drs. Britton and Gunn, along with the murder of clinic escort James Barrett, while bring the story into the modern era.

UUCP actively participated in clinic escorts before and after the 1993 and 1994 murders until Ladies Clinic was ultimately firebombed and burned down by a religious fundamentalist in 2012.

After the film, a dynamic panel convened to briefly speak on various aspects of the local history of abortion rights. The panel featured Robin Reshard (local historian), Paula Montgomery (physician and UUCP member), Ashley Faulkner (abortion rights activist and clinic escort), and Robin Blyn (founder of PART). After short presentations, the panelists held a brief Q and A that only ended because of time constraints with the hired security guard for the evening’s events—a stark reminder of the still volatile situation in Pensacola and across the United States surrounding this topic.

Another screening of the film will be held in the near future, followed by a longer Q and A with Dr. Paula Montgomery and Bill Caplinger to speak more on the role of the church in the events of the mid-1990s and the role of the church in helping to bring a tentative peace to the anti-abortion protests outside of the Ladies Clinic. The date for this event will be posted as soon as available.



Kids' Corner

Hello UUCP family, we are having a grand time getting to know each other and building community in our One Room Sunday School CRE program. We are also getting to know how we live our values through our Soul Matters curriculum. May’s theme is **Pluralism**. We’d also love you to join our CRE Ministry Team! Contact Honor M. Bell, III or Scott Satterwhite for more information.

HB 1365 now essentially makes homelessness illegal. Strive is looking for people willing to participate in our temporary emergency housing program. If you can or know someone who can provide a couch, room, or even an Airbnb for short-term housing for LGBTQ+ people in our community experiencing homelessness reach out to Honor M. Bell, III or email strivepensacola@gmail.com

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

TO:



LGBTQ

Welcoming Congregation

Deadline for the June *Light*:
Tuesday, May 21

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