

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

The Light

Vol. 67 Issue 6 June 2024



Celebrate Diversity *Strive for Justice* *Inspire Love*

The Most American Holiday

From Your Board: President's Letter

Dear friends,



As you may or may not know, May 20th is Emancipation Day in Florida. Emancipation Day is when the Union Army came to the capital of Florida at the end of the Civil War, read the Emancipation Proclamation a month after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, and publicly stated that chattel slavery was no more. To celebrate this occasion, our city is hosting a series of events called the “Journey to Juneteenth,” beginning with celebrations marking Emancipation Day. I was delighted to attend one of the first events that was a concert by the Choral Society of Pensacola, featuring several of our members, with numerous events that will continue until after the official Juneteenth holiday.

Forgive me for going down memory lane a bit as I talk about my experiences and thoughts on Juneteenth. A few years ago, I was at Scout camp with my son when I heard about the creation of the official holiday, and I remember chatter at our dining room table about how this was a new holiday. Having grown up in Texas, the home of the original Juneteenth celebrations, I had to educate my friends and tell them to this was far from a new holiday. Since the end of the Civil War, this holiday was a mainstay in Black congregations throughout Texas and beyond.

My first Juneteenth celebration was at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Corpus Christi, Texas. I can't remember the exact year, but probably 1988. Holy Cross was the main predominantly Black Catholic church in our area, and the one that my aunts had been members of for years. I remember brisket served on Styrofoam plates along with a heaping spoonful of beans, coleslaw, mac and cheese, and cornbread. I also remember the speaker telling everyone what the Juneteenth holiday was and what it meant. To be honest, the memory might stick with me more because I thought the name was very clever. June 19th, condensed to Juneteenth. Several years later, a long-lost novel by Ralph Ellison was released and it was called “Juneteenth,” and that might have been the next time I had heard of the holiday, and it immediately brought me back to memories of my hometown in Texas. Since that time, I've tried my best to mark the holiday in whatever ways I could, whether it be joining big community celebrations, helping to organize with friends, or just dropping by the university celebrations.

Besides enjoying the holiday, I've also found reasons over the years to hold it closer than I did in my youth. As I mentioned in other letters and talks, my family history is layered and several members of my family made the choice to pass as white, thus cloaking the Blackness in my family for decades. While I knew that some of my direct descendants fought in the Confederacy, I didn't know that others were enslaved by people who fought in

DIRECTORY

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

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Social Justice: Paula Montgomery & Scott Satterwhite

Sunday Services: Nancy Hagman

the Confederacy. On a personal note, this was a puzzle piece in my life that helped so much more make sense. Juneteenth is a holiday that brings back fond memories of my youth, but the holiday also gives me and many others a necessary opportunity to reflect on our ancestors—for many this could mean blood ancestors and for others this could mean chosen ancestors, like the people in our past that we align with historically.

To be honest, even though Juneteenth may come across to many people as a new holiday, it is probably one of the most American holidays we have. Considering Thanksgiving only became an official holiday in the last years of the Civil War, Juneteenth is about as old, and much less fraught we uncomfortable histories. When a country ends slavery, this should be celebrated, and should've been well known long before President Biden created the federal holiday. Juneteenth is a recognition of what Langston Hughes had written about in his poem, "Let America be America Again." If you read the poem, you'll hear Hughes asking if America was ever "America," meaning the ideal land of freedom. Hughes questions whether this was the case for most oppressed people in the U.S., but still demanding that America become "America." Not in the "Make America Great Again" way, but more so saying that it's always been somewhat conceptual, with freedom often being in flux for most people. But since we're here, having put so much of our blood, sweat, and tears into this country, maybe we have no other choice but to fight for freedom. If I'm reading Langston Hughes right, we either resign to our worst impulses or encourage the better angels of our nature as we continue the struggle for freedom. After all, are we comfortable living in a land that praises freedom, but has one of the largest prison populations in the world? Can we celebrate Independence Day easily, knowing that a large section of our population is far from economic independence, much less political independence? Can we think of ourselves as free, when the rights of so many others are being restricted—including many in our congregation and community?

What I like about Juneteenth is that it is not only a celebration of freedom from slavery, first and foremost, but it is also an aspirational holiday for freedom in our lifetime. For those who celebrated the first Juneteenth, I can only imagine what that feeling must have been like to live through slavery and learn you are free. I can also imagine how terrible it must have been to witness the rise of Jim Crow laws only a few years later, followed by codes that restricted movement and employment and the subsequent racial terrorism that was inflicted upon many of those people who were only recently celebrating freedom.

So as we are celebrating Juneteenth in the many different ways our community offers, let us also continue the work towards freedom so we do not continue to repeat the bad parts of our past. Let's celebrate Juneteenth in the way it was intended to be

Continued on page 4

Sunday Services in June



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).

June 2, 2024

Why are Pronoun changes important to individuals?

Organizers of the service: Crys Brockway, Marybeth Ramsey and Brett Ramsey

In honor of Pride month, this service will have a panel discussion with several UUCP members and friends. They will share some of their insights and experiences about their preferred pronoun changes and how it has affected their lives.

Second Hour: *Heathen Kinship in the teen room; OutoftheBox Story Circle, facilitated by Claire Helton 11:30-12:30, in the Library 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.*

June 9, 2024

Wisdom from the ages

Presenters: Margaret McLarin, Mae O'Shea and friends

In honor of diversity and inclusion, we will hear "Wisdom from our Seniors" as they have journeyed through their lives as UU's. They will present their delightful

insights, humor and tidbits for joy in life.

Second Hour: TBA

June 16, 2024

Emancipation Day

Mr. Walter Gulley Jr, will Explain Florida's Emancipation Celebration. Juneteenth is a national holiday celebrating the date that the enslaved persons in Texas learned that they were free. Emancipation Day celebrates a similar day in Florida when Union soldiers arrived in Tallahassee on May 20th 1865 to announce and enforce the freedom of the former slaves in Florida. Mr. Gulley recently organized an Emancipation Day Celebration in Pensacola

He will also update us on the Ella Jordan Home Museum which has previously been the recipient of a 5th Sunday plate donation.

Second Hour: *Heathen Kinship*

June 23, 2024

The Queerness of the Natural World: Revelations in Liminal Space

Presenter: Nate Schweigert, Chaplain, Guest Presenter

The most beauty in the day comes at sunup or sundown. How does this pertain to our humanity as we ebb and flow in constant states of change? Nate is a nature artist and a hospital chaplain who engages spirituality through panentheism and mysticism in the body and the natural world. In this service, he'll explore the intersections of spirituality, queerness, nature and art as a means of remembering the fullness of who we are as psychosomatic beings.

Second Hour: TBA

June 30, 2024

Seeking Justice in a Disordered World

Presenter: Joe Vinson, UUCP member and incoming President

In this service Joe will present challenges we experience in examining our shared commitment to peace, liberty and justice for all.



June at UUCP

President's letter continued...

celebrated, with BBQs in the community and celebrations honoring Pensacola's Black community, while always remembering the ongoing struggles for freedom and independence as our driving light this summer and into the coming year.

Happy Juneteenth, y'all.

♥, Scott Satterwhite

Sunday Sweets

will be taking a break over the summer. The event will resume in the Fall. The Fall schedule for Sunday Sweets is **Sept.8th, Oct.13th, Nov.10th and Dec.8th**. Thank you members and friends for supporting this fundraiser for the church.

Readers' Zoom Group Season Finale

The final scheduled ZOOM Readers' Group is scheduled for **Monday, June 10th at 10 am**.

There are no scheduled group sessions for July and August. The Fall Season will begin in September.



Enjoy the cartoon - seems appropriate for summer travels. Questions? Contact Laurie Winterberg



From FUUn and Fellowship!

UUCP BEACH DAY! Saturday, June 8th @ 11:00 am. We will meet at Park West Beach (1225 Fort Pickens Road, Pensacola Beach, FL 32561). We'll be near the lifeguard tower & bathrooms. This is a BYOS event (Bring Your Own Stuff). We can hang out, play games and enjoy our church family on our beautiful beach!

ROLLER DERBY MATCH! Saturday, June 22nd @ 7:00pm @ Weber's Skate World:6056 Stewart St, Milton, FL 32570 Come cheer our UUCP sister Audrey "Hipburn" and the West FL Roller Derby team as they take on Roe City. Tickets are \$10 online (<https://linktr.ee/wfrd>) or \$15 at the door. Remember to come early as it fills up fast and bring your own chair!

UUCP LUNCH & BOWLING DAY: Sunday, June 30th @ noon, we will meet for lunch at the Cordova Mall Food Court @ noon. After lunch at the food court, come

on over to Cordova Lanes to bowl! **We will start bowling at 1:30 pm.** It is \$3.50 per person, per game and shoes are \$3.50. We'd love for you to attend either or both! chair if you wish to sit and come early as parking fills up fast.

Please sign up by Sunday, June 23rd. Sign-up in the church lobby or [online: https://forms.gle/rKK3maxajewWq6G3A](https://forms.gle/rKK3maxajewWq6G3A)



Happy 102 nd Birthday Flo!!!

We wish a special Happy Birthday to Honorary Member Flo Fulwiler on June 26 th when she will be 102 years young. Flo is not only our oldest UUCP member, but also our most senior member. She became involved with UUCP when a small group of like-minded people were meeting in member's homes. Over the years, Flo has served as Secretary, Newsletter Editor, and helped with children's activities for our church. While she can't make it to church anymore, she would love to receive phone calls or cards. You can see a 1960's era black and white photo of Flo at a church Fun & Fellowship backyard picnic among the photo collage of F&F activities in the back hall photo gallery. Her US post address is in the Simple Church directory.

June LUUnch BUUnch



Lunch Bunch for Wednesday, June 12th. Maybe it's the inflation prices of the restaurants we've visited lately, or the range of food choice, or maybe the weather, or... whatever is keeping the LB crowd down, so maybe time to turn back to basics. For me, that suggests a return to one of the old ('90's) favorites, Golden Corral (just west of 9th Ave. on Langley). I'm recalling that GC, back in the '90's and '00's was a pretty regular 2nd Wednesday play for UU Lunch Bunch; sometimes a small crowd, and sometimes many more.... I've just visited GC's web site, and found more info than anticipated, but while no prices, the extensive nutritional data available on the their web pages was a surprise. (There's also details on a bonus/points accumulation system for reduced price opportunity - before you go to eat.)

As usual, we'll gather in their lobby - some seating available- go thru together about 1:00, and head to the right so that our chosen table(s) will be opposite the Salad bar area. Anyone who comes in late can find us there. As usual, I'd like to know how many to seek table space for; four is usually pretty easy, but to go eight is a case of looking for the right configuration and having fellow diners to hold the space with jackets on the chairs or actual presence.... Certainly I note the one "danger" of GC is overeating, and I caution you in advance, and it's one reason to locate in the north/salad bar area. (The restrooms are also in that Northeast corner.)... As to prices, there is a display with small numbers up behind the cashiers, and though confusing, the Senior+ price is \$9.49, 1-3 PM, and above that, 11 to 4, \$9.99; yes confusing, and I didn't take notes; do your reading before you hand your \$10+ to the cashier (and save a \$1 or two for the table tip).

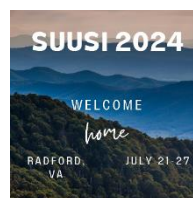
We had a turnout of 4 for Taqueria Olgys, on "W" St., and all ate well and felt satisfied I think. In particular, I ate the vegetarian Quesadillas, noting in particular that the main internal ingredient was cactus. I'm unaware of having had cactus before, and found it to be more substantial mastication than the (perhaps usual) green bell pepper. From the internet I note its low calorie and fat content, with a bit of protein. The kind of cactus doesn't seem to make a difference for eating, of the four in the Google article.

-Hugh Ed T.



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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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](#)!

UUCP Newcomers Leah and Sam Fox

By Dolly A. Berthelot

New UUCP members Leah and Sam Fox are also new to this area. They share similar Ohio and Christian roots. Both delight in UUCP and in the Pace home they bought in 2021 and share with daughters Elliott, 5, and Evie, 3. Their career paths are quite a contrast, though both now work out of their home.

They met in 2014 at Ohio University while working in a coffee shop, soon started dating, and have since been inseparable. After earning her BS in Geography and Urban Planning, Leah worked five years in urban planning and briefly technical writing and project management before finding “My true passion is art—illustration and surface pattern design (fabric and wallpaper design), especially floral and botanicals in watercolor and ink.” Late 2023 she started a design consulting firm, Creative Sunflower Design and is building skills in Photoshop, Illustrator, and other creative platforms, hoping to land larger contracts and maybe illustrate children books. She’s dreamed of such work since age 4-5. Learn more at creativesunflowerdesign.com and on Instagram and FB.

Sam’s 2014 bachelor’s from Ohio University is in Information and Telecommunication Systems with a minor in Psychology. He is now an Attack Surface Specialist and Operations Manager for a cybersecurity consulting firm based out of South Carolina. His career focus is around offensive security consulting for a variety of industry verticals: infrastructure, manufacturing, etc.

The couple enjoyed exploring Bavaria, Germany, for work and expect future travel, particularly National Parks in the Western US and European train trips.

Covid helped bring them South, nearer Sam’s parents (Shelly and Mike Fox) who had moved here in 2012 while the couple was in college. Elliot was about 14-months-old when all Ohio daycares shut down and his parents invited them to “winter” out the pandemic while the couple adjusted to working remotely. They officially moved down that summer.

Sam says they enjoy access to family, being in a place friends and family want to vacation, the weather 75% of the year, and the variety of Pensacola events like the Palafox Market, good parks, and the Children’s Museum.

Leah also enjoys “being able to garden most of the year, hike and enjoy all the beautiful spaces here, and occasionally visit the beach.” She would like to do more with citizen science, monitoring backyard butterflies and fireflies.

Her parents (Mike and Kris Wilson) live in Lancaster, Ohio, where she grew up with three younger siblings, Ben, Isaac, and Addie.

Sam’s younger brother Zac and wife Shelby have two young sons.

Sam calls himself a “serial hobbyist.” He currently enjoys

home brewing (specifically mead), video game design/development, reading, and digitization of old media (converting VHS to digital). He says, “My biggest joy is my family. I always wanted to be a husband and a father, so being a ‘family-man’ tends to be my proudest part of my life. I also enjoy supporting and volunteering with local areas, but since the



Leah and Sam Fox and their two daughters.

pandemic and moving here, I haven't had as much involvement as I'd hoped."

Sam, Leah, and close friend Chase Lindquist created a small indie video game for a game creation contest in January, providing Leah's first taste of art directing. "That certainly built up my confidence and allowed me to see the process of building a game start to finish," Leah says. "We hope to develop another game independently in the near future."

Religiously, Leah grew up Methodist but began questioning things like how LGBTQ members and people in general were treated, and "I wondered how I would eventually be treated after coming out as bisexual; sex education shared by the church; and just a lot of the teachings overall, especially since I so believe in science."

"I particularly became interested in Unitarianism when I was feeling alone and wondering if anyone else in

this area had similar beliefs as I. During my bout of depression Sam suggested we consider attending UUCP to help me feel more integrated into the community—and I'm so glad and thankful.

"I love the inclusivity. Everyone is welcome and cares deeply for one another. I don't worry that my children will be taught hateful rhetoric or discriminating beliefs. I can trust that people around me value similar aspects of the church and feel included and welcome. I'm eager to see the CRE program continue to grow. I think it's an incredible opportunity for all the kids in the congregation."

Sam affirms Leah's perspective. He grew up Northern Baptist but without a strong family religious commitment, dropped out in high school, and, once looking for a more openminded group, was delighted to find UUCP. A simple Google search for liberal religion led the way.

CHURCH KITCHEN IS NOW GOGGINS' GALLEY

Barbara and Bill Goggins loved our church and contributed in many ways to the life of the church over the years. They both chaired and served on many committees when our church was PUUF (Pensacola Unitarian Universalist Fellowship) as well as UUCP (Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola). Both were involved with the creation of the Charitable Trust, Barbara as one of the initial officers and Bill with his financial knowledge and stock market expertise. They provided significant financial support over the years, most of which was done confidentially. Now that they are both deceased, their contributions can be known.

They made a significant donation to the Building Fund in the late 90's when our congregation was acquiring our current building. When the sanctuary had a capital fund drive for its renovation, Barbara contributed over half of the funds. Likewise, when the building roof needed to be replaced and another capital fund drive was launched, Barbara contributed over half of the funds needed. When volunteers could no longer remove stains from carpet, Barbara provided new non-carpet flooring to almost 100% of the building so that it could be easily cleaned. When the Board determined that the old kitchen needed to be renovated, Barbara renovated it with state-of-the-art equipment, electrical wiring, etc. Barbara started the Circle Dinners and chaired that venture for many years. Many members and former members will attest to the fact that when they visited our church for the first time, Barbara was one of the first persons to speak to them and encourage them to return the following Sunday. When our church hosted a memorial service for a member or friend, Barbara immediately volunteered to chair the reception. And when she called to ask you to help, you couldn't say "no" because everyone knew how much Barbara did for the church. And Barbara helped with every fund-raiser, whether it be a yard sale or an auction.

To honor the legacy of Bill and Barbara Goggins, the Charitable Trust recommended to the church board that the kitchen be named Goggins' Galley. The Board agreed.



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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