

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

The Light

Vol. 67 Issue 7 July 2024



Celebrate Diversity *Strive for Justice* *Inspire Love*

The Future of UUCP is Bright

From Your Board: President's Letter

Hello friends,

This month I begin my term as your UUCP board president, and it's an honor to serve a congregation of such excellent and admirable UUs. I will do my best this year to continue the momentum of outgoing president Scott Satterwhite and the previous board. I'm very excited about the projects and progress we have in mind for the coming year.

One initiative, the fruits of which I hope you will see soon, is an upgrade to our audio-video equipment. Many guests and new members have told us that they watched our YouTube videos before they attended in person, to get a sense of what we're about. These videos take a lot of behind-the-scenes work to put together — thank you, videographers Ed and Laura and editor Erin! — and the audio quality has been limited by proximity to the podcasting microphone at the lectern. The new setup will allow the soundbooth technician to edit and stream service videos as they happen, using audio from every available microphone. This upgrade is possible thanks to a generous bequest from the late Rob Pallme.



Joe Vinson, UUCP Board President

I'm grateful for all the people who make our church function week after week. We have amazing volunteer teams that plan our Sunday services, keep our building beautiful and secure, and connect us through fun, fellowship, and social justice projects. Mike Kilmer has raised the musical bar for our weekly services through their flexible accompaniment and original songwriting skills. And Honor Bell has brought their professionalism and tremendous empathy to the dual roles of office administrator and CRE (children's religious education) coordinator.

Speaking of CRE, it's been wonderful to see so many children and teens attend church in the past year — and to welcome baby Vincent into the UUCP family. Honor and Bradley recently attended a training in New Orleans for the OWL (Our Whole Lives) sexuality curriculum. They hope to meet with parents and families to discuss incorporating this in an age-appropriate manner for the benefit of our young people.

Even as the world can sometimes seem bleak, the future of UUCP is bright. Our lay-led services are thought-provoking and represent an impressive diversity of perspectives. We continue to see new faces on Sunday morning, and we will keep adding ways to socialize with each other the rest of the week.

Since the memorial service for our dearly departed member Charlotte Crane, I've found myself thinking a lot of her poem, "A Postscript." While the poem is about death, it's also about life. It's a wonderful encapsulation of the beautiful humanist spirit I associate with Unitarian Universalism. I hope she won't mind my sharing it here:

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: Joe Vinson

President Elect: Crys Brockway

Past President: Scott Satterwhite

Secretary: Lisa Rawson

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
(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

Growing old is like a postscript,
Saying "Amen" to a life well lived.

No more dreams,

No more wars,

Only what is.

There was always blood,

Always an ending.

Be kind now.

Be willing.

Hear the bird sing,
the dog bark.

Let the tiger roar
and the infant laugh.

Be content.

Write your story.

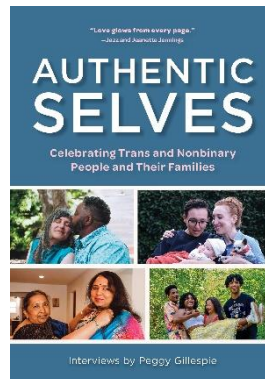
Close the book.

Love more than before.

Leave a memory for your grandchild,
and a legacy for the earth.

Peace will come,

Later or sooner.

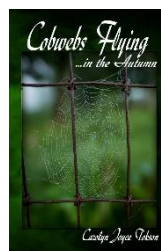


UUA Common Read

The 2024–2025 UU Common Read is *Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families*, edited by Peggy Gillespie. The Common Read builds community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared platform for reflection and a shared focus for action. *Authentic Selves* invites us to explore the nature of living authentically and the ways connections among us help us thrive.

[Click for entire announcement](#)

Member Spotlight



Carolyn Joyce Tokson, member of UUCP, has published a volume of poetry "[Cobwebs Flying in the Autumn](#)" available now on [Amazon](#) or at Open Books in Pensacola. Her poetry has been described as "powerful" and "stark" as well as lyrical. A practitioner of Zen Buddhism for many years, Carolyn's poetry has a Zen quality in its reverence for nature and its exploration of the transience of life. Until recently she was the secretary of the board of Jazz Pensacola as well as editor and writer of the Jazz Pensacola newsletter. She is also a former board member of the Emerald Coast Writers and a member of the local Pen Women chapter.

Sunday Services in July



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).

July 7, 2024

Banned Books, Free Speech and Parental Responsibility

Guest Speaker: Rosalind Fisher is a retired Sociology Professor who taught Inequality, Social Problems, Women's Studies, Sex Roles, Race, and ethnicity. She has a B.S. in Psychology, an M.A. in Community Development, and an M.S. in Sociology.

Join us for a thought-provoking discussion on book banning, a topic that has been a hotbed of debate in Florida and other parts of the South. The talk by Rosalind Fisher will explore the motivations behind book banning, its profound impact on free speech, and the compelling case against censorship. By attending, you'll gain insights into the reasons books are banned and the need to advocate for free expression. We'll also explore the educational value of controversial literature and the crucial role of representation in literature. This is an opportunity you don't want to miss as she discusses this critical societal issue that demands our attention.

Second Hour: you are invited to join in further discussion regarding this critical societal issue.

Heathen Kinship

July 14, 2024

Running for Office, What's it about?

Speaker: Brett Ramsey, UUCP member, is currently a travel agent who also spent 10+ years teaching political science and was the Democratic candidate for state representative in TN district 68 in 2010.

Brett will provide some insight into what it's really like to be a candidate for public office. He'll also discuss our lofty expectations for politicians and how that creates problems for the people who get elected and makes it tougher to recruit people to even consider mounting a campaign.

Second Hour: *OutoftheBox* Story Circle, facilitated by Claire Helton 11:30-12:30, in the Library

July 21, 2024

Two movies and a tv show that changed the way I think about my life

Guest Speaker: Zach Helton is a writer and interfaith chaplain who likes exploring practical spirituality and the formative impact of story. You can read some of his published pieces or find out more about his work at zhelton.com.

Zach will share why he has never been a big believer in reincarnation. For some reason, though, the movies and shows that have most impacted my thinking over the last few years have all been about reincarnation in one way or another. Why?? This talk explores what modern reincarnation stories may have to teach us about meaning, purpose, and intention.

Second Hour: *Heathen Kinship*

July 28, 2024

Homelessness in Pensacola

Guest Speaker: Michael Kimberl, Director of the Alfred-Washburn Center, Co-founder/Director Sean's Outpost and Satochi Forest, Organizer with Food Not Bombs, and On the Board of Directors of Trinity House and 309 Punk Project

Michael Kimberl will speak about "those we serve" and the future of homelessness in Pensacola. Some recent laws were passed that will go into effect in October and it is unclear how they will impact our community. (This Sunday will be our "Pass the Plate" Service for a non-profit organization, since we were unable to do it on June 30th, 5th Sunday. Alfred-Washburn Center is a Non-profit organization.)

Second Hour: TBA

July at UUCP



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

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 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.

Sign up deadline for bowling lane reservation was June 23rd, but feel free to join us and cheer us on!

Fun & Fellowship is hosting an **ALL-CHURCH POTATO BAR POTLUCK after service, Sunday, July 28th**. Potatoes will be provided. We're asking you to bring the toppings and desserts. Here are some ideas for toppings: cheeses, sour cream, BBQ, chili, meat substitutes, beans... Please

bring enough for a family. We will eat, socialize and play some family friendly games. These games will be easy to play and entertaining to watch. Signup sheet is in the church Lobby on the Announcements board. For questions, contact Marybeth Ramsey.

FUTURE NEW MEMBER INTRO PROCESS

After this issue, UUCP new members will be given a questionnaire to fill out as has typically been done. However, whereas I have been using responses as the first of several complex steps in developing a profile article, subsequently newcomers will be fully responsible for their own responses, except for any essential corrections that may be required in the replies.

Any new member that has not been profiled and pictured and would like to fill out a questionnaire is encouraged to request one.

We hope the important goal of introducing each new member to our congregation will continue to be met each month, with the newcomer having responsibility for details presented. I will continue to facilitate that process, in conjunction with Membership Chair Lauren Anzaldo and the Membersip Team. Dolly Berthelot



July LUUnch BUUnch



For July 10th's (2nd Wednesday) Lunch Bunch, we'll venture to Cottage Café (CC), south across Gregory from the downtown/Main Library, just west of Spring Street at 203 W. Gregory, Ph. 850-437-0730. Perhaps some of you saw the recent PNJ (rather long) article on the CC. It's not like we've ignored the Cafe in the past, we just haven't been there in six or more years.... The menu (on line) is perhaps unique with the desserts (Homemade Treats) coming between the salads and the sandwich/wrap selections (and the Quiches and the Soups).

I checked by at CC before opening, and the next time, on Vacation until July 1st, so no info on whether they take reservations. The inside wooden chairs and tables have a comfy and cool look, while the outside

table/seat/sunshades setups look good for the right time of the year, but not for July, I anticipate. If possible, I'll reserve for 6, and if you haven't been one of those 6, lately, let me know (Sunday, July 7th). They stop taking orders at 1:30.

Our Wednesday June 12th outing was for six, and proved that Golden Corral's 6-seat table and chairs can be a bit tight for us, they reasonably fit that we represented.

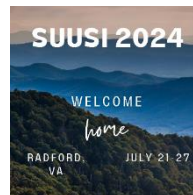
As to the cuisine, well, no surprises on the high side I guess; I usually find the salad bar pretty basic but a good place to start -but no avocado. No particular high points in the veggie line, though I usually find their tomato/okra (no protein succotash ?) satisfactory. (Usually is meant to indicate my once/twice a year visits, though only a 10-12 walk minute from home.) The blackeye peas disappointed, but when I finally reached the fish preps, I felt OK. And though you can no longer get, and walk out with a soft-serve ice-cream cone, I did find a slim piece of very-chocolaty chocolate pie worth appreciating.

-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 NEWCOMER PENNY FENDT: Lots of Love, Now Including 7 “New” Siblings!

By Dolly A. Berthelot

Penny Fendt joined UUCP in April after losing her beloved husband Hank just seven months before. But UU isn't new to her. She was active in the Toledo, Ohio, UU Church, raised her oldest daughter in their Religious Education program, and served as head of a Wednesday evening adult ed program. The UUA course Building Your Own Theology is a particularly fond memory for her as for many of us who enjoyed that at “PUUF,” Pensacola Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, our predecessor, at 903 E. Scott St.

Penny moved to Pensacola in 1983 and attended PUUF before marrying her second husband, Retired Navy Commander Hank Fendt in 1986.

After divorce from her first husband, Penny directed a Senior Citizens Center, then worked for the Toledo Health Department until the early 1980s auto industry decline impacted that region and took her job. That loss brought her to Pensacola, where she had friends, and she has gladly remained here.

Her family life is richer than she ever imagined, steadily growing in several directions.

Penny's first child, Korinne Akridge, now 54, lives in Boulder, Colorado, where Penny loves to visit her. Penny's beautiful gouache mountain painting captures the exuberance felt when that daughter made it through serious cancer.

After marrying Hank, Penny left PUUF to join United Methodist Church on 12th Ave, in which he and his parents were charter members with deep personal and family roots.

She also helped raise his three young children. Daughter Kristin Fendt died of Lupus at age 25. Sons Edward, 45, and Ryan, 42, remain in this area. They and their children are quite active in Penny's life.

Her theology, she said, is simply UU. “I know people need to love each other and need to figure out how to love each other and the earth.”

Penny spreads love to both humans and nature. The day of our post-questionnaire interview, she and a friend with the Native Plant Society had spent two hours in the June heat putting cards on doorknobs of new neighborhood homes encouraging native plantings compatible with bees, butterflies, and other creatures. ([See the door hangers here](#))

She enjoys being active: Bridges to Circles (now defunct), Learn to Read of NW Florida, League of Women Voters, Pensacola Impact 100, JUST Pensacola, and more. She says, “I just want to contribute something that helps locally.” Her varied career has also reflected that inclination. Beyond the Ohio work, in Pensacola she owned a service that cleaned homes after fires and floods, then worked for Sylvan Learning Center before soon owning one, then two Sylvans in Santa Rosa County, north and south. “That was my absolute favorite job,” she exclaims. “If I was awake I was working on it. It was rewarding to help children succeed in school and I also loved my teachers and directors as we learned new ways to improve. I miss it terribly since retiring in 2012.”



Although Penny's adulthood has been in Ohio and Pensacola, she was born in Manhattan, NY, adopted, and raised in Ridgewood, New Jersey, from birth to 14, then Huron, Ohio, where she completed high school. Her bachelor's from the University of Toledo was in public health with a minor in mathematics. The woman loves math.

Her family life has multiplied in recent years, not only with grandchildren ages 2-34 and her first new great grandchild, but—thanks to DNA services 23 and Me and Ancestry, and the first outreach of her biological mother's oldest legal daughter—she has added seven new half siblings! Three from her DNA mom, later four from her DNA dad.

Penny originated from a WW2 affair between two service people who were married to other spouses.

When her bio mother's husband could not accept this pregnancy, Penny was adopted by wonderful parents. She knew nothing of her origins, other than that she was adopted as an infant by two parents who loved her unconditionally: "They encouraged me physically, educationally, and emotionally. I was a very lucky girl."

Once Mildred and Henry Purwin died, Penny listed herself in 23 and me, was spotted by her unknown half niece who alerted her mother, Linda Le Davis, who lives in Cal. "Le" Davis was the only one to know her mother's secret, and, since her mother had also passed, finally decided to share and connect. Thus, all their lives were greatly expanded and enriched. "All have reached out to me in a loving and accepting way," Penny says.

Through frequent texts, phone calls, and a serendipitous visit, Penny and Le have become

particularly close, though living across the country; Penny cherishes photo books of her "new family" plus a handmade quilt and pillow Linda sent. Le's son happens to live near Fort Walton and now visits Penny often. They plan a family reunion in Las Vegas where one of Le's daughters' lives.

Also, through DNA services, and a vigilant half cousin, Penny has also connected with the four legal children of her bio dad, and fostered that relationship. At their reunion in Nebraska, she learned about that father and his fascinating personal and family history. She's exploring all sides now, particularly through our local genealogy library.

While still grieving the loss of her dear husband, Penny Fendt remains multiply enriched, beloved, and very far from alone.

In Appreciation

The Sunday Services Committee often receives wonderful feedback and some corrective suggestions regarding the Services on Sunday morning. We appreciate hearing all the thoughts, responses and feelings about the services.

We have had some guest speakers, however, it has really been many members of our Church Community that have willingly and graciously contributed with thoughtful and creative offerings.

It often takes courage and encouragement to speak in front of our peers and we are grateful to have members and friends willing to step forward to offer their knowledge, expertise and experiences. Sunday Services would like to express our appreciation to the following members and friends who have shared a message willingly in the past year.

Barbara Wright, Claire Helton, Pat Gleich, Dolly Berthelot, Lauren Anzaldo, Joe Vinson, Thom Botsford, Rev Maggie Lovins, Rev Trista Blouin, Margaret McLarin, Mae O'Shea, Hugh Ed Turner, Bill Sloan, Hannelore Musial, Crys Brockway, James Brockway, Rivka Kilner, Rinnah Kilner, Honor Bell III, Nancy Hagman, Paula Montgomery, Scott Satterwhite, Faerin Collins, Penny Featherstone, Brett Ramsey, Marybeth Ramsey, Jack Comstock and Laura Keith King. (Our apology if anyone was missed, it was not intentional.)

In addition, there are others filling roles of Service Leader, Sound Personnel, Musicians, Choir leader, choir members and video experts that make Sunday Morning available to all of us and out to the larger community on YouTube.

In appreciation,

The Sunday Services Committee:

Barbara Wright, Dolly Berthelot, Jack Comstock, Paula Montgomery, Claire Helton, Penny Featherstone, Laura Keith King, Honor Bell III, and Nancy Hagman, Chair



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

TO:



LGBTQ

Welcoming Congregation

Deadline for the August
Light:
Sunday, July 21

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