

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

The Light

Vol. 67 Issue 9 September 2024



Celebrate Diversity *Strive for Justice* *Inspire Love*

As the Season Shifts...

From Your Board: President's Letter

Dear UUCP family,

As we step into September and await the arrival of fall's (hopefully) cooler temperatures, I am filled with a renewed sense of hope and excitement for the journey ahead. The changing seasons remind us of the beauty in transformation, and it is with this spirit that I share with you the latest news from our beloved congregation.

Recently, the UUCP board held its annual retreat, and I am happy to report that our time together was both invigorating and inspiring. We spent thoughtful hours reflecting on our goals and vision for the year ahead, and we are excited about the many opportunities for growth and connection that lie before us.

This month, our Sunday services will be enriched by five exceptional speakers, each bringing a unique perspective and depth to our exploration of important topics. In honor of Labor Day, Chasidy Hobbs will provide an update on the anti-union sentiment in Tallahassee and its impact on academic freedom and educators. UUCP member and board member Claire Helton will lead our ingathering and water communion, where we come together to celebrate our unity through the symbolic mingling of water from. All are invited to bring a small container of water from your home or recent journeys. Ruth Spears, also known as Chief Iyanifa Osunfemi, will describe the history and rituals of the Ifa/Orisha spiritual tradition, which originated in West Africa thousands of years ago and was brought to America by enslaved people. Dr. Lusharon Wiley, executive director of the Equity Project Alliance, will discuss the organization's work in Escambia County, bringing people together to discuss issues ranging from social injustice to arts and culture. And finally, Tricia Wessel, lead organizer of JUST Pensacola, will provide an update on the important and evolving work to address the systemic problems in our community as we begin a new justice cycle.

As the season shifts and we prepare for these enriching experiences, I encourage each of you to embrace the opportunities for connection and learning that September brings. Whether through our engaging Sunday services or the many other ways we come together as a community, let us welcome the fall with open hearts and a shared commitment to our UU values.

Thank you for being a vital part of our congregation. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events, and I encourage you to invite a friend, colleague, or family member who might be enriched by one of these services.



Joe Vinson, UUCP Board President

With warm regards,

Joe Vinson
President, UUCP Board of Directors

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

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(treasurer@uupensacola.org)

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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)

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(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

ATTENTION FRIENDS OF LONG-TIME UUCP MEMBER, BARBARA GOGGINS

*Barbara was a very generous person and gave to several charities throughout her life. Her final will provided for the bulk of her estate to be given to the UWF Historic Trust to continue the work on Historic Pensacola Village where she served as a tour guide for many years. The University of West Florida is recognizing Barbara by dedicating the Historic Pensacola Train Pavilion in her honor. A ceremony to commemorate this dedication will be **Monday, September 23rd, 2024, at 10 a.m.** downtown at the Historic Train Pavilion which is on the corner of Zaragoza and Tarragona streets across from the Museum of Commerce. Her friends are invited to attend. If you have any questions, please contact member Georgianna Bryant.*

Bands on the Beach Presents
BRITISH INVASION
Groovy 60's Music Show!

FEATURING
The Lads!

Performing the music of: The Zombies • The Kinks • The Rolling Stones • Dave Clark Five • The Beatles • Herman's Hermits • The Hollies • Badfinger • The Who • Cream • The Searchers • Deep Purple • Gerry and the Pacemakers • The Moody Blues • The Foundations • Spencer Davis Group • more...

Tuesday, October 29, 7-9pm.
Gulfside Pavilion, Casino Beach Boardwalk, Pensacola Beach, Florida

Join our UUCP group for the last concert of the year in the Bands on the Beach series.

THE LADS

The Lads, led by Dickie Williams, are a British Invasion group playing a "Tribute Band" quality show that includes only British bands from 1963-1969.

The Lads consist of Brad Scott (Hammond B3), Johnny Wilson (Guitar), Doug Zimmerman (Drums) and Dickie Williams (Bass).

Tuesday, October 29, 2024, 7-9:00pm.

We will meet at the Gulfside Pavillion, Casino Beach, Pensacola Beach. **Barbara Wright** is coordinating this event. Please let her know if you are interested in joining the group.

Bring a beach chair, beverage and snacks.

Sunday Services in September



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).

September 1, 2024

Labor Issues of 1950 2024

Presenter: Chasidy Hobbs, President, United Faculty of Florida UWF

The anti-union sentiment in Tallahassee is strong and it is impacting education in Florida at all levels. Academic freedom, cross cultural collaborations, and shared governance in higher education are all being threatened. An update on the current attempt to stifle the voice of educators across the state will be given.

Second Hour: Heathen Kinship

September 8, 2024

Ingathering & Water Communion

Presenter: Claire Helton, UUCP member

Annually we mark the significance of our community coming back together as a congregation after the summer months. All are invited to bring a small container of water - perhaps water from the tap that meets your daily thirst, or water brought back from distant travels. All will be mingled together and blessed, just as we ourselves are. Children will be included in this service. (This is the first of our three Communion Rituals at UUCP)

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

September 15, 2024

Rituals and Practices of Ifa/Orisha

Presenter: Reverend Ruth Spears, also known as Chief Iyanifa Osunfemi, a non-denominational Christian minister.

Rev Spears will describe the rituals and practices of Ifa/Orisha as well as its evolution through slavery and into the current day. Ifa/Orisha is a West African spiritual system dating back more than 10,000 years and became one of the most ubiquitous African spiritual foundations to be integrated into American culture, its Catholic-syncretized sister, Santeria having become fairly ubiquitous in popular culture.

Second Hour: Heathen Kinship, Service Leader Training

September 22, 2024

Equity Project Alliance

Presenter: Dr. Lusharon Wiley, Executive Director/Equity Project Alliance

The Equity Project Alliance (EPA) grew out of the desire to create a more equitable Escambia where everyone can live well and thrive. The EPA understands that to be successful in bringing about

transformative thinking, education and interaction have to take place. James Clear wrote, "Sitting down at a table with a group of strangers has the incomparable and odd benefit of making it a little more difficult to hate them with impunity." He goes on to say, "Perhaps it is not *difference*, but *distance* that breeds tribalism and hostility." The EPA shortens the distance between people by bringing them together to discuss issues ranging from social injustice to arts and culture. We understand that bringing people together can lead to transformative thinking – and ultimately, to transformative action.

Second Hour: Service Conversation Continued

September 29, 2024

JUST (Justice United Seeking Transformation)

Presenter: Tricia Wessel, Lead Organizer for JUST Pensacola

Our congregation voted to join JUST Pensacola forces for justice with 17 other congregations of different faiths in Pensacola five years ago. Since that time, a lot has happened, including the COVID Pandemic and a few floods and hurricanes. UUCP has come through strong and getting stronger. The same is true of JUST Pensacola. Tricia Wessel is the new Lead Organizer. She moved

September at UUCP

here from an academic career in Wisconsin and hit the ground running in May of this year. She is visiting the member congregations and attending the organization's trainings, in addition to catching up on ongoing projects. She will bring us up to date on JUST Pensacola as we begin the next justice cycle. As part of the service we will be organizing the house meetings for collecting ideas for injustices that need our attention.

After the service, Tricia will be available to meet and greet us over coffee.

(Our 5th Sunday observance of a Non-Profit Organization will be delayed until October 27th.)



Sunday Sweets

is returning in September. It will be held on Sunday September 8th. To accommodate members who are practicing gluten-free eating there will be a separate table for gluten free baked goods to prevent cross contamination..

Readers' Group Resumes Sept 9th

Now in it's 6th year, the Readers' ZOOM Group dates are September 9th, October 14, November 11 and December 9th.

The sessions are via ZOOM, lasting about 1 hour. The Login link is sent out by email a few days prior to the meeting.

Participation is casual, and there are no required books to read. And no 'bouncers'

Want to know more - contact Laurie Winterberg



Coffee Hour Crew and Clean up



Many thanks to the many people that make our Coffee, Tea and Talk time available every week after service. Michael Newcomb and Jack Comstock are two of the regulars and there are more that provide the refreshments..

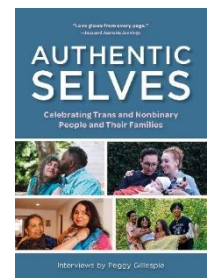
The clean up afterward is headed up by Michael Newcomb and we have several people that assist him. Many thanks to Laura Ericson,

Marybeth Ramsey, Lisa Rawson, Leah and Sam Fox, Paula Montgomery, Heather Viron, Nancy Hagman, Laura and Ed King, Jaqueline Straus, Dianna M and Renee Perry.

It would be wonderful to have a few more individuals that would be willing to stay after the Coffee time to clean up. Michael runs the kitchen and dishwashing. So that allows the assistant to gather everything to the kitchen, gather up the garbage bags and help overall clean up in all the spaces.

If you are willing to spend a little extra time please contact Nancy Hagman. She is coordinating the "assistants" with an email request and Patti Underwood tries to text a reminder each week to the volunteer.

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](#)

September LUUnch BUUnch

I'm not immune from being interested in new chain operations that come to town. Even the sit-down only outsiders seem to outnumber the local-only operations (including Pensacola's own "mini-chains".) For September's 2nd Wednesday I've been tempted by the barely a-year-old Bubba's 33, on the northwest corner of Davis and Creighton. So, for 11 Sept. at 1 PM, we'll try it out. I did take an 11AM/Monday view of the activity, so anticipate that reservations will only be taken at the door



with all potential seat users ready to walk in, but I'd like to have a heads up about who plans to wait for... by Sunday, the 8th or Monday email.... FYI, the parking is on the west and north side of the building, and it's entry on the south/Creighton side. Also, the menu reads pretty well on-line, with no prices; ask for my copy if you're interested. (I did consider New Hong Kong House, further south on Davis, and decided their higher prices could wait awhile.)

And how was our August 14th Registered Dietician with chicken salad (by Firehouse Subs) at the new Baptist Hospital on Brent? Up to expectations. I was later told by one our members that called the day before to be told that there were no more seats left. Indeed, the room capacity was expanded by about 50%, suggesting to me (mental count) that about 110-120 were present. Ms. Saramin and her "slide" presentation was up to par and she did handle a number or question's re dietary intake, but particularly, her info on the vegetables inherently endowed with the right daily nutrients was of special interest. (Q&A to Hugh Turner any Sunday.)

-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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**The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola
9888 Pensacola Boulevard
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TO:



LGBTQ

Welcoming Congregation

Deadline for the October
Light:
Saturday, September 21

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