

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

The Light

Vol. 68 Issue 4 April 2025



Celebrate Diversity *Strive for Justice* *Inspire Love*

As April Unfolds...

From Your Board: President's Letter

Dear UUCP friends,

Spring has fully arrived, bringing with it longer days, warmer breezes, and the joyful sight of nature in bloom. In front of our church, we might see the fresh green leaves and colorful blossoms of crepe myrtles and azaleas, a beautiful reminder of renewal and growth. And speaking of refreshment, our recently pressure-washed church shines brightly in the sunlight, a testament to the care and stewardship of our congregation. What a pleasure it is to welcome this season of transformation in such a lovely setting!

Our services this month will reflect the themes of renewal and rebirth that come with spring. We will explore the lessons of Passover and Easter, considering the deeper meanings of sacrifice, hope, and liberation—not only in their traditional religious contexts but also in how they resonate in our world today. We will also celebrate nature's revival through flower and water ceremonies, embracing the sacred cycles of life and the interconnections we share with the natural world.

As April unfolds, we also turn our attention to the future of our congregation. On May 18, we will hold our annual meeting, a vital gathering where we come together to shape the direction of our church. In preparation, this month we will be discussing important topics that require thoughtful consideration, including proposed revisions to our bylaws and the significant question of self-insurance. These discussions will ensure that when we vote in May, we do so with a full understanding of the decisions before us. Your voices and perspectives are essential in this process, and I encourage everyone to participate.

I am continually inspired by the dedication and engagement of this congregation. Thank you for all that you do to support our community, whether through your presence, your service, or your thoughtful contributions to our shared journey. May this season of renewal bring you joy, hope, and a sense of deep connection.

With gratitude and warmest wishes,

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

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:

Denise Gunn

Claire Helton

Marybeth Ramsey

Barbara Wright

MINISTRY TEAMS

Adult Exploration: TBD

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: Marybeth Ramsey

Leadership Development: Scott Satterwhite

Membership: Lauren Anzaldo
(membership@uupensacola.org)

Outreach: Laura Keith King

Safer Congregation: TBD
(safer@uupensacola.org)

Social Justice: Paula Montgomery & Scott Satterwhite

Sunday Services: Nancy Hagman

Who wants to go? Who wants to share a group to watch sections virtually from UUCP? Contact Paula



The UUA General Assembly is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association, where delegates from congregations gather to conduct business, engage in worship, and discuss social justice issues.



At the congregational annual meeting in 1987, it was decided to establish a Charitable Trust for the Pensacola Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. The purpose of which was to manage the assets of the Trust so they grow and produce perpetual income for the benefit of the Church and ensure the presence of liberal faith in our region

The Trust's assets began with a \$1,000 donation and in its 38 years, not only has the name of the Church changed to UUCP, but the assets of the Trust have grown to over one half a million dollars.

The Church has benefitted from the assets held by the Trust in ways such as support for the annual operating budget, member Memorial Garden nameplates and building repair/renovation loans.

The Trust Members of the Charitable Trust, would like to THANK those who have contributed in 2024-2025.

Georgianna Bryant
Linda Cobb
Heather and Daniel Cobb
Jack Comstock
Marylee Donnelly
Michael Newcomb
Hugh Turner
Laurie Winterberg

More information on the Trust is available on the church website at: <https://uupensacola.org/about-us/uucp-charitable-trust/>

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 6, 2025

"Scapegoats, trans panic, and Omelas"

Presenter: Joe Vinson, President of UUCP

In a system of parochial altruism, some will always look for an out-group to sacrifice. Here's why we cannot throw marginalized groups under the trolley of utilitarianism.

Second Hour: Heathen Kinship; CRE Meeting-Library

April 13, 2025

"Palm Sunday: A New Way to Read the Story"

Presenter: Zach Helton is an ordained minister, board-certified spiritual care counselor at Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola, and a writer exploring the intersection of storytelling and spirituality

The Palm Sunday story has been told in many ways, often weighed down with religious baggage, but what if we understood it differently? What if we read the "Triumphal Entry" as a story of a bold political resistance and anti-imperial protest, leading into a week of courage, hope, and transformation through overwhelming odds? This talk explores how the Palm Sunday parade invites us into courageous action, even when the path ahead is uncertain.

Second Hour: OutoftheBox

April 20, 2025

"Our Flower Communion"

Presenters: Audrey Preston and Penny Featherstone, UUCP members

As Rev. Maggie Lovins describes the service: This ritual was originally created by Czechoslovakian Unitarian minister Norbert Capek in 1923.

Come, enjoy the beauty of and olfactory splendor of our Flower Communion service as we celebrate the renewal of life and hope that is at the heart of the Easter and Passover season! You are invited to bring a favorite flower from your home, a field, or the roadside. As you enter the sanctuary, please place the flowers in the vases at the front of the dais. We will process at the end of the service forward where we will choose a flower, then exchange it with a neighbor, bringing to light our beautiful similarities and our unique differences! This symbolic gesture brings us soulfully and spiritually together as one celebrates the emergence of springtime and the rebirth and restoration that occurs both within us and in the world at large.

Second Hour: Heathen Kinship

April 27, 2025

"Gaia's Lament"

Presenter: Gay Yow, Friend of UUCP and Former Spokesperson for Greenpeace

Join in learning more about "Gaia", Mother Earth. Gay Yow will present the "Magic of Mother Earth: Grounding and her amazing science of water."

Second Hour: Gaia Fest on the church lawn 11:30. A ritual to honor Earth Mother, all are welcome.



April at UUCP



Sunday Sweets

The Sunday Sweets Schedule for 2025 is:

Spring: April 13th; May 11th

Summer Break

Fall: Sept. 14th; Oct. 12th; Nov. 12th; and Dec. 14th.

Sunday Sweets is held on the **second Sunday** of each month.

Thank you. Michael Newcomb

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

READERS' ON-LINE GROUP - RESUMES

Join your fellow readers on Monday, April 14th at 10am on ZOOM as we resume . Now in it's 6th year, participants enjoy answering the perennial question - "what are you reading?"

An email with the ZOOM link will be sent to all UUCP Members and Friends a few days before.

Tell me a book that made you stare blankly at a wall for 20 minutes after it finished. One that you couldn't stop thinking about and made you question everything.



@Goodwill Librarian

The March Readers' Group

As is the practice, participants in the monthly ZOOM Reader's Group are sure to have paper and pen at the ready . Here are a few of the books we've been reading.

Next meeting - Monday, April 14th - 10 am. An email with the Zoom login link is sent out the day before.

How to Say Babylon - Safiya Sinclair

Mink River - Brian Doyle

Color Television - Danzy Senna

A Refiner's Fire - Donna Leon

Glamorous Notions - Megan Chance

Lilac Girls - Martha Hall Kelly

The Life and Death of Rose Doucette - Harry Hunsickerd

The Map of Bones - James Rollins

The Shred Sisters - Betsy Lerner

A Two-Hour Vacation

The monthly "Coffee and Conversation" has been described by one of the regulars as a 'two-hour vacation.' Like many of us,

in these tumultuous times, being among like-minded friends is refreshing, nourishing, encouraging - and just downright fun.

Consider being a part of a Coffee and Conversation group by hosting a small group of fellow-UU Members and Friends one time a month forcoffee and conversation.

Want to find out more - talk to host Barbara Wright, or participants Patti Underwood or Laurie Winterberg.

Jack & Kate's "See You Soon" party will be held immediately after service, Sunday, March 30th. The theme is "Around the World", so please bring a finger food inspired by one of your food places. Let's send our friends off into the world with love and support!

If you are willing and able to help with setup/cleanup, please reach out to Marybeth Ramsey

CRE Parents and Volunteers Meeting

On **April 6th** we will be having a meeting for parents and volunteer to discuss the state and future of our CRE program. All are welcome to join, whether you want to know how we are doing right now, how the applicant search is going for another childcare provider, or would like to volunteer to support our fantastic staff in the program. We will meet in the **Library at 11:30am**

UU Lunch Bunch for Wednesday, 9 April



So, Peralta's was further than I expected, my first visit. Good turnout, with 7. And good service, fairly speedy waitress and hot dish delivery. I got the manicotti with shrimp and crabmeat and lots of cheese, enough to take home; I should've saved more to take home as the over-full feeling lingered into the evening. The next time I'll probably choose something in the noodle lineup.

For the 2nd Wednesday of April, we'll go Thai, at Siam Thai, 7164 North 9th Ave. (850-479-2882), about half-way, on the eastside, between Creighton and the I-10 overpass. They recently moved from further south on 9th Ave., in the dark rooms of the the Shell station, where they were for many years. We ate there once, probably 8-10 years ago. The new location is much fancier, both outside and in, glittery as you might see in Bangkok, and the PNJ gave a nice write-up, February I think. As usual, 1 PM and it doesn't hurt to let me know so we can get the right size table. And the menu is on line, appetizers from \$5, entrees to \$15 for most, but \$30 at least once.

-Hugh Ed T.



Who's ready for some Fun & Fellowship?! The following events have been planned:

- • **Sunday, April 27 - Blue Wahoos Game, @ 1:00pm (\$17 per ticket). RSVP by April 20th**
 - o <https://forms.gle/LakZwrSUR3rDDZH06>

Voters are encouraged to register to VOTE BY MAIL...by calling the Supervisor of Elections at 850-595-3900 or on line at escambiovotes.gov

2025 Special Election Key Dates to Remember:

- March 3, 2025 – Voter Reg. Deadline
- March 20, 2025 – Request VBM Deadline
- March 22 - 29, 2025 – Early Voting
- April 1, 2025 – General Election Day

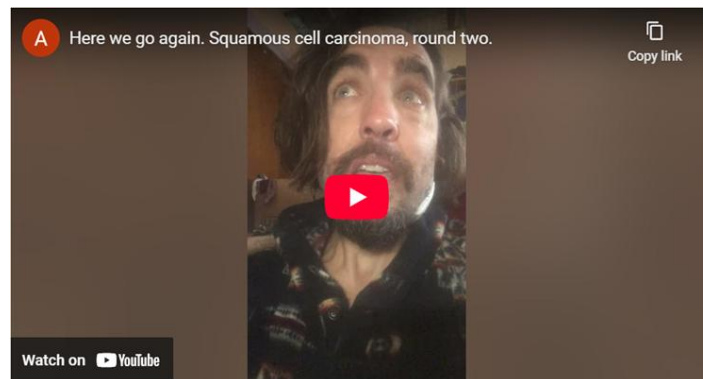
****During Early Voting Days, you may vote or return your Vote By Mail Ballot at any Early Voting Location. Early Voting Hours are from 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM Escambia**

Florida Voter Protection: (833) 868-3352

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

- Escambia County SOE**
213 Palafox Place, Second Floor, Pensacola
- Downtown Library**
239 Spring Street, Pensacola
- Molino Community Center**
6450 Hwy 95A, Molino
- Tryon Library**
1200 Langley Avenue, Pensacola
- Southwest Library**
12248 Gulf Beach Highway, Pensacola
- Bellview Library**
6425 Mobile Highway, Pensacola
- Escambia County Extension Service**
3740 Stefani Road, Cantonment
- Brownsville Community Center**
3200 West DeSoto Street
- UWF Center for Fine & Performing Arts**
11000 University Parkway, Building 78, Room 136
- Billy G. Ward Courthouse**
7500 North Century Boulevard, Century

[Click to help Mike. Help them fight their cancer.](#)



Welcome New UUCP Member Kristi Ging
Social worker, reader, gardener returns to
Pensacola

New members are asked to contact me for a questionnaire, fill out in their own words, and re-email it. I'll question, edit, and format as needed and supply to LIGHT. Dolly Berthelot

What are your pronouns?

She/Her

Where were you born and raised?

I was born and raised in Pensacola.

Education –High school, college, major, graduation?

I am a graduate of Booker T. Washington High school in Pensacola. I studied Philosophy four years at Agnes Scott College in Atlanta, GA and received a BA in Criminal Justice and Master of Social Work degree at the University of West Florida.

Current or former work? Your chosen profession?

Since 2014, I have been a clinical social worker in private practice providing individual counseling for adults. Before my current role, I counseled mental health hospital and substance abuse treatment center residents, implemented a restorative justice curriculum with inmates, and provided crisis intervention and support to first responders, crime victims, and individuals affected by traumatic loss. Prior to focusing on human services, I worked as a criminal defense paralegal, gallery assistant, and art exhibit installer.

What do you like about your career?

I value the role of providing a “soft place to land” for clients where they can feel both supported and challenged. My work perfectly matches my skill set and disposition. I honestly cannot imagine doing anything else.

Family: Parents, siblings, spouse, special relatives, friends.

I live with my husband and our three cats. My older sister lives in Tennessee and my father lives in Cantonment. My mother and step-father passed away several years ago.



Are you from the Pensacola area, or recently moved here? What made you decide to choose the Pensacola area and where did you move from?

I was born and raised in Pensacola and moved away for college in 1996. I returned to Pensacola in 2003 due to health issues and family obligations. I originally planned to move away again, but I reconnected with the man who would become my husband, discovered my professional niche, and decided to create a life for myself here.

What do you like about the area?

Hands down, my favorite thing about Northwest Florida is the diversity of its ecosystems. A close second would be the extended gardening season that the local climate allows.

Special interests or hobbies – now or in the past?

I enjoy reading, gardening, cross-stitching poorly, listening to podcasts, audiobooks, and music (while gardening and cross-stitching poorly), playing the flute (especially music from the Baroque era), bird watching, and getting lost down a rabbit hole while learning about whatever new subject has caught my attention.

What is your religious background?

Though my parents identified as Christian, I was raised in a secular household. Instead of church, I found solace and knowledge in books, which became my primary means of understanding the world. Friendships with people of varying beliefs, both religious and secular, expanded my worldview beyond the pages of my books. These friendships helped me

develop a deep respect for the diverse ways people find meaning and purpose. My upbringing, coupled with a voracious reading habit and diverse friendships, allowed me to develop a personal code centered on compassion, integrity, and equity.

When did you become interested in Unitarianism? What about UU appeals to you?

As a teenager, I first learned about UUCP because of members' involvement in the local community. I remember being shocked, in the best way, that there was such a progressive church in Northwest Florida. This exposure prompted me to learn what I could about Unitarian Universalism, and the focus on "deeds not creeds" resonated with me. Though, I didn't join at the time, UU remained a subtle yet persistent presence. Members repeatedly appeared in the periphery of my life, involved in issues important to me. These interactions served as a reminder that UU principles overlapped with my own personal code. This past year highlighted the importance of aligning myself with a community that shares my values. Recalling my earlier interest, I revisited Unitarian Universalist beliefs and was motivated to finally reach out and join UU for the first time.

What do you like about our church?

The members have been my favorite part of the church so far. I was a bit nervous whether I would mesh with UUCP's culture and personalities. My concerns were unfounded because everyone has been exceedingly kind and supportive without overwhelming me. Aside from the lovely members, I also really appreciate the variety of topics covered during Sunday services, the music, and the beautiful building and grounds.

Changes you would like to see made? Programs you'd like to see added?

While I do have some ideas percolating, I'm still learning all the ins and outs of UUCP, so I'll hold onto them for the moment. I promise that I'll share them!



Marcy Moreland recognized with Lifetime Achievement Award

Longtime UUCP Member Marcy Moreland was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award during March, which was Social Work Month. The award was presented by the local unit of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) during the group's annual Social Work Luncheon held at UWF. Marcy enjoyed a decades-long career as a clinical social worker in Pensacola, focusing on mental health. Among her accomplishments was opening the first social work private practice in the local area in the 1980s. When accepting her award, Marcy shared about bringing her then-young sons with her to class or to volunteer shifts at the local crisis line during her early days as a social worker and thanked her family, including husband Ron, for being her biggest supporter. She said that joining with her clients over the years was a meaningful part of her career.

“Marcy served as a mentor and supporter to me as a younger social worker since I first met her around 2008, even before I knew her from UUCP,” said fellow UUCP Member and social worker Lauren Anzaldo. “And we all know of her contributions to our church, serving on the Board and Charitable Trust, as a member of the Caring Team, active with JUST Pensacola, and just as a general supportive listener and friend.”

Cheers to Marcy on this accomplishment!



2025 Power List

In Pensacola, one publication is crazy enough to quantify influence—annually ranking the movers, shakers and decision-makers who shape our community. The Inweekly Power List emerged...

And our own Luran Anzaldo, look who's the 99th most powerful person in Pensacola. That's right!



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

TO:



LGBTQ

Welcoming Congregation

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

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