

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

The Light

Vol. 68 Issue 5 May 2025



Celebrate Diversity **Strive for Justice** **Inspire Love**

Thank you all for your energy, your presence, and your commitment

From Your Board: President's Letter

Dear UUCP friends,

As May unfolds, we find ourselves standing at the threshold between seasons—spring drawing to a gentle close, and summer waiting just around the corner. The days grow longer, school years wrap up, and the energy in the air feels full of change, possibility, and renewal.

This month, our congregational life mirrors that seasonal shift. As we near the end of our church's board year, we will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 18, following the service. This meeting is our opportunity to live out our Fifth Principle—"the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." Together, we will vote to affirm the next year's board members, approve a new budget, and consider two important motions: one to amend our bylaws and another to determine our path forward on wind insurance for the church. Your presence and voice matter, and I hope you will plan to stay, participate, and help shape the direction of UUCP.

May is also a time to demonstrate our shared commitment to building a more just and compassionate society. We'll begin by hosting a Law Week observance on Sunday, May 4, welcoming members of the legal and judicial community to reflect on the spiritual meaning behind our national motto (and this year's Law Week theme): "Out of Many, One."

Our commitment continues as we participate in the JUST Pensacola Nehemiah Action on Tuesday, May 6. Alongside other faith communities, we will gather to demand meaningful progress on pressing local issues, including affordable housing and criminal justice reform. These actions are powerful expressions of our UU values in the public square. As Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Thank you all for your energy, your presence, and your commitment to the shared life of this church.

With justice united and seeking transformation,

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.

Georgieanna 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 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 4, 2025

Spirituality behind *E Pluribus Unum*—"Out of many, one"

Presenter: Zach Helton

As part of Escambia County's Law Week, Zachary Helton explores the spirituality behind our national motto, *E Pluribus Unum*—"Out of many, one." More than a civic slogan, it points to a sacred truth: that wholeness comes not from sameness, but from honoring and connecting our differences. From the inner workings of the brain to the fabric of democracy, this talk invites us to reflect on how life emerges through relationship—and what's at risk when we move toward isolation or uniformity. Join us to explore integration, identity, and what it means to become more together than we could ever be alone.

Zachary Helton is an ordained minister, writer, and Board Certified Chaplain who's been exploring the sacred through story for over a decade. His work has been published in *Braided Way*, *Flash Fiction Magazine*, and *Nurturing Faith*, and he was recently nominated for the Orison Best Spiritual Literature Award. You can find his essays, stories, and weekly video reflections at zhelton.com or on Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok.

Second Hour: Heathen Kinship; OutoftheBox Story Circle

May 11, 2025

Mother's Day

Presenter: Theresa Everett

Join us as we reflect on this day. A blessing or a challenge? Who gets to celebrate?

Theresa Everett is a certified and licensed Preacher, Worship & Eucharist Minister and Pastoral Care leader in the Episcopal Church. She is an active member at St. Augustine Episcopal Church in Navarre, where she serves regularly as a preacher and worship leader and coordinates the pastoral care and lay eucharist team for the greater Navarre community and beyond.

(During this service we will be acknowledging the CRE staff and teachers.)

May 18, 2025

Shame Resilience as a Path to Collective Wholeness

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Frances Jeanne Smathers, founder and director of The Order of Hildegard

The western religious landscape has been heavily influenced by concepts and ideologies rooted in shame. How can we develop shame resilience and live into

community life with a more embodied and connected ethic?

Frances (she/they) is an interfaith community chaplain who trains interfaith community chaplains from all vocations. She has based her community development work on her lived experience and that of many who have been marginalized from traditional institutions.

Second Hour: Heathen Kinship

May 25, 2025

UUCP in Song together

Presenters: Marybeth Ramsey, Laura Keith King, Claire Helton, and Joe Vinson

Join us this Sunday for a Musical Service! We will hear from four UUCP members, each sharing a song that holds deep meaning for them, who will then lead us all in a sing-along. Join us in celebrating the joy and unity that music brings to our hearts!



May at UUCP



Sunday Sweets

The Sunday Sweets Schedule for 2025 is:

Spring: May 11th (Mother's Day)

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

April's Readers' Group Recommends.....

Can't join the monthly ZOOM session and in need of new book to read (because the last was SOOO good), check out where UUCP readers recommend...

The Overstory – *Richard Powers*

Jane Austen's Bookshelf – *Rebecca Romney*

How to Know a Person – *David Brooks*

The Grey Wolf – *Louise Penny*
Table for Two – *Amor Towles*

Holly – *Stephen King*

A Death in Venice – *Thomas Mann*

Sipsworth – *Simon Van Booy*.

When We Had Wings – *Ariel Lawhon*

The ZOOM Readers' Group meets at 10 am the 2nd Monday of the month. The ZOOM Link is emailed a day or so before the meeting.



The UU Women's Federation - Clara Barton Sisterhood Honorees 2025

Universalist Clara Barton is best known for her work in organizing nursing

services during the Civil War and, later, founding the American Red Cross. She

did not start this work until she was over 40 — in an era when many women died before reaching that age.

In 1979 The UU Women's Federation created the Clara Barton Sisterhood in her

name as a way to honor women aged 80 and over to recognize their contributions to the life of their congregations and communities.

The following UUCP women join almost 800 other women who have been

honored for their commitment, generosity and service. They join previous

honorees, Flo Fulwiler, Priscilla Lamore, Billye Cutchen and Barbara Goggins.

Their names will be added to the display located in the rear hallway.

They are:

Dolly Berthelot

Georgieanna Bryant

Charlotte Crane (posthumously)

Margaret McLarin

Paula Montgomery

*Marcy Moreland

*Mae O'Shea

**missing from photo*

They will be recognized at the upcoming Annual Congregational Meeting on

Sunday, May 18th .

Submitted by:

Lauren Anzaldo

Penny Featherstone

Nancy Hagman

Patti Underwood

Laurie Winterberg

May's LNCH BNCH with UUcp

Happy May to Everyone!



I think I can say that being with each other, as on Sunday AMs, adds a bit of optimism to my internal esprit de corps, and the lunches do the same in a more confined atmosphere. At our last event (see below), discussion revealed an interest in "water views" and outside dining, a sort of celebration of Spring (and Summer to come). So, we'll see how this works out for.... Lunch at the Nick's Boathouse at 455 West. Main. We've usually done Nick's after the MLK Parade in January, the last probably '23. So, please let me know for 1300/1 PM on 14 May.

But before May, , a review of Siam Thai: As I tried to forecast, the interior scenery continues to catch your eye, almost distracts, somewhat reminding you of the gold finish you see in Bangkok outside scenery (three of us had been there). They nicely maneuvered their heavy (no square corners) tables to seat the ten I was anticipating. Unfortunately, the heavy tables could not be uncoupled easily, so the talking distances were more than usual. but we talked a bit louder; there was little restaurant noise. Overall Siam Thai is worth a redo, and not as expensive and some the locations I've Googled today. (Hugh T. wrote this distraction.)

-Hugh Ed T.

JUST Pensacola

The Nehemiah Action will take place May 6th at 6 PM at First Baptist Church of Warrington.

The address is 18 S. Merritt Street.

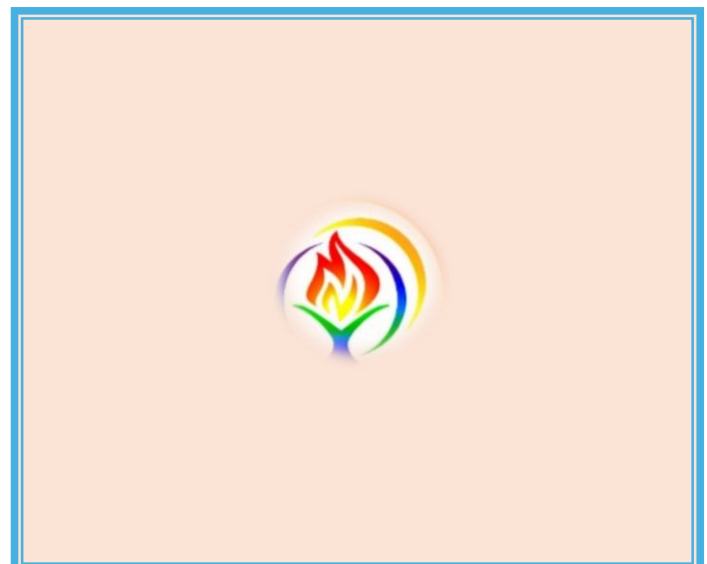
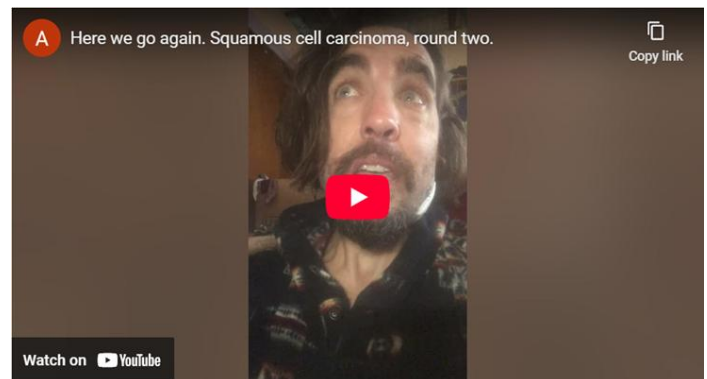
I hope that you have made your arrangements to attend. Our congregation has committed to bring at least 60 people, and we hope for more. If you have not done so, please contact the people you plan to invite. They can be relatives, friends, neighbors or people you know from work or some other way. They do not have to members of this or any church. If they are coming, have them make reservations at JUST Pensacola.org. Click on "events" and when the Nehemiah Action comes up, click on "register", fill out the form and you/they are done. If they are nervous about computers etc, you can register for them.

If people are registered it will make checking in at the event a lot quicker and smoother. With 800 people this is important.

I am looking forward to this big event. It is exciting to be among 800 people all asking for justice in our community.

If you have questions, ask Paula Montgomery or your team leader.

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



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

TO:



LGBTQ

Welcoming Congregation

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

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