

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

The Light

Vol. 68 Issue 9 September 2025



Celebrate Diversity *Strive for Justice* *Inspire Love*

... Nurture the Changes we Hope to see...

From Your Board: President's Letter

Dear Beloved Community,

As September arrives, we begin to feel the first hints of change in the air. The long days of summer gradually give way to cooler mornings and earlier evenings, reminding us that seasons are always in motion. Here on the Gulf Coast, we balance the beauty of this transition with the reality that hurricane season is still upon us. May we hold one another in care and preparedness, knowing that our community is a source of strength no matter what the weather brings.



This month, our Sunday services will focus on themes that are deeply relevant to who we are as Unitarian Universalists and how we live our values in the wider world. We will be reflecting on our local immigration crisis—recognizing the struggles of individuals and families in our own community who face uncertainty, hardship, and displacement. As a congregation committed to justice, equity, and compassion, we are called to listen, to learn, and to discern how best to respond with both courage and kindness.

Alongside this, we will also explore what it means to be a truly welcoming congregation. Not just in words, but in action—opening our doors, our hearts, and our minds to all who come seeking a place of belonging. Whether someone is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist or walking through our doors for the very first time, may they feel the warmth of acceptance and the affirmation that they are enough, just as they are.

I encourage you to join us each Sunday as we deepen these conversations together. Let us take this September as an opportunity not only to notice the changes in the world around us, but to nurture the changes we hope to see within ourselves and our wider community.

With gratitude and hope,

Crys Brockway

President, Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola



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: Crys Brockway

President Elect: Brett Ramsey

Past President: Joe Vinson

Secretary: Marybeth Ramsey

Treasurer: Bradley Vinson

(treasurer@uupensacola.org)

Members at Large:

Ian Briggs

Herman "Pappy" Campbell

Penny Fendt

Claire Helton

Mark Swaney

MINISTRY TEAMS

Adult Exploration: Scott Satterwhite

Buildings & Grounds: Wayne Chardon Jr.

Caring: 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: Joe Vinson

Finance: Laurie Winterberg

Fun and Fellowship: Marybeth Ramsey

Leadership Development: Scott Satterwhite

Membership: Lauren Anzaldo

(membership@uupensacola.org)

Outreach: Laura Keith King

Safer Congregation: Brett Ramsey

(safer@uupensacola.org)

Social Justice: Paula Montgomery & Scott Satterwhite

Sunday Services: Nancy Hagman

Newcomer Orientation

Newcomer Orientation

Sunday, Aug 31, after Sunday Service (11:30am)

Recent UUCP Members and Friends as well as prospective Members/Friends are invited to join us for Newcomer Orientation at UUCP. This interactive orientation will take place in the sanctuary following Sunday Service that day. Childcare is available during this orientation.

The orientation will provide useful information about our church while allowing you to meet and interact with other newcomers to UUCP. Topics covered include how to get involved in the activities of UUCP, the rights and responsibilities of membership, Fun & Fellowship activities, our budget and pledging, our Children's Religious Education program, our communication systems, and more! Orientation is presented by the Membership Team with support from other Ministry Teams and the UUCP Board.



*Aug 30 | Sept 13 | Oct 11 | Nov 22
(None in December)*

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).

August 31, 2025

Impact UUCP is making with the Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA), "Actions of Immediate Witness"

Presenter: Nancy Hagman, member of UUCP

The UUA assists in providing a guiding light for UU congregations. Together, we are a powerful force. This service will highlight how we are providing 1) Faithful Defiance of Authoritarianism, 2) Funding Global LGBTQ freedom and 3) Reaffirmation that All People Have Inherent Worth and Inalienable Rights, the "Actions of Immediate Witness" that were voted in by more than 98% of the delegates at the UUA general assembly in June.

Pass the Plate donations will support the JUST Pensacola initiative

Second Hour: *Newcomer Orientation; "What Do We Do Now?" Part Two - 11:30 AM*

In these troubled and distressing times, many people and organizations have come up with practical ways to counter what is being called a rise of fascism, along with a breakdown of law and common decency. This Second Hour, we will share and discuss

options and ways that people can engage to make a difference.

September 7, 2025

Service for All Ages (SFAA)

Ingathering & Water Communion

Presenters: Penny Featherstone and Audrey Preston, UUCP members

Annually we mark the significance of our community coming back together as a congregation after the summer months. All are invited to bring a stone or token or 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 are.

Second Hour: *Earth Stars; JUST Pensacola Meeting*

September 14, 2025

Pensacola Tunnels, Conspiracies, and the Performance of Belief

Newcomer Welcome Ceremony included in this service.

Presenter: Joe Vinson, UUCP member

Is there a network of tunnels, perhaps built by an ancient but technologically advanced civilization, hiding beneath our feet? The answer may SHOCK

you! "No." But what do such conspiracy theories, and other identity markers of our beliefs/credences, say about ourselves?

Second Hour: *OutoftheBox Story Circle*

September 21, 2025

The Art of Radical Welcome

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.

We talk a lot about being a "welcoming community"—welcoming the outsider, the stranger, even those we struggle to understand. But what if the first step toward that kind of welcome isn't external? What if it starts with how we meet every part of ourselves? This talk will explore what happens when we stop pushing away the parts of life—and of ourselves—that make us uncomfortable, defensive, or angry, and instead begin to meet them with curiosity. The more we practice welcome within, the more prepared we are to offer it out to the world.

Second Hour: *Earth Stars*

September 28, 2025

Our Local Immigrant Community Crisis

Presenter: Grace Resendez McCaffery, founder of Latino Media Gulf Coast and the Hispanic Resource Center of NWFL, editor of La Costa Latina News

We are especially pleased to welcome Grace Resendez McCaffery to speak with us today. Our current crisis has cause her to be in high demand. She will be sharing information about:

- What local Latinos and Latino immigrants are facing today
- Immigrants rights and how we are preparing families
- How you can help

Second Hour: "What Do We Do Now?" Part Three



Sunday Sweets

Summer break for Sunday Sweets has ended and will resume on **Sunday September 14th**. The rest of the Fall schedule is as follows **Oct. 12th, Nov. 12th and Dec. 14th**.

Thank you. - Michael Newcomb

Readers' Group

New Season begins Monday, **September 8th - 10 am**

In its 7th year - The Readers' Group Fall schedule is here:

Second Monday of each month - 10 am - via ZOOM.

September 8, October 13, November 10, and December 8

NO required or suggested reading - enjoy the pleasure of the company of others who enjoy a good read!

ZOOM login info will be emailed to you a few days prior to each meeting.

See you!

Our oldest reader, Flo Fulwiler, has a few reading recommendations. Yes, at 103 years of age, Flo continues to enjoy a good read - nowadays it is an audio book.

A Respectable Trade -
Phillipa Gregory

The Things We Cannot Say -
Kelly Rimmer

The Orphan Collector -
Ellen Marie Wiseman

By Any other Name -
Jodi Picoult

The Nickle Boys -
Colson Whitehead

The Other Einstein
Marie Benedict



a compassionate space

Grief touches each of us, but we often struggle to find space to explore it with honesty and care. Mindful Grief is a supportive group space that offers a gentle, creative approach to engaging grief through the OutoftheBox method. It's a safe and spacious environment for honoring grief without judgment, fixing, or rushing.

Come to listen, feel, and be present—with yourself, with others, and with the story you are still living.



fall 2025

Mondays 5:30-7:30pm

September 15

September 29

October 6

October 20

November 3

November 17

Register online:



tinyurl.com/MindfulGrief



Questions?



claire@outofthebox.org



SEPTEMBER LUNCH BUNCH

So, Tuesday, 9 Sept.: What are you doing? Well, the lunch bunch will venture back to 5 Sisters at 421 W. Belmont (850-912-4856), not visited in over five years I'm thinking. Just please let me know on Sunday 7 Sept.. We will meet around 1 PM as usual.

Well, at Karen's , with nine us seated at a round table just the right size for nine, we enjoyed the foods of Karen's, and the two, friendly waitresses. The variety of our ordered food/dish choices was wide, from all veggie (four) to double porkchops, and several salads. As was suggested in my first suggestion of Lunch Bunch (LB) at Karen's,

everyone in the place, except us, was noticeably moving toward the door at 1400, and I guess they (waitresses) could tell we were newbies (except for DB) - and besides several of us were ordering desserts (pie and cake) around 2 PM, so we didn't exit initially until 2:15 (vs. our usual exit times of 2:20/:30 on most Lnch Bnch events). (See how Lunch Bunch is not complete without U and U.)

The talk was mostly about where else to do the LB thing, and we're always open to suggestions. It seems we might be moving in a SW/Barrancas direction, except not in September. Cheers.

-Hugh Ed T.



THE PRICE IS RIGHT

.The recent 'sale' event in early August was well attended and there was a wide variety of 'inventory'...Something for everybody!
AND...

At least \$610 was raised.

THANKS Brett for taking care of the \$\$

The clever name was easy for people to remember - and aroused curiosity.

THANKS, Barbara, for the inspired name.

The table set-up worked well and allowed shoppers to comfortably browse and shop.

THANKS, Michael.

The room had just the right amount of inventory.. nice selection!

THANKS - Kristi and Marybeth for coordinating the donors.

People who came to a Sunday Service in the weeks prior..... knew about the event.

THANKS - Nancy and Sunday Service Leaders for promoting the sale.

Post-sale disposition of remaining items was done and the room returned to it's original set-up.

THANKS - Linda and Michael (and Linda's friend Steve).

Those who wished to pay with the non-money options - TIME and/or TALENT - a list of options will be published in the LIGHT.

"Many hands make light work."

Laurie Winterberg -

for the Finance Team

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

TO:



LGBTQ

Welcoming Congregation

Deadline for the October
Light:
Sunday, September 21

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