

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

# The Light

Vol. 68 Issue 11 November 2025



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

## From the President's Desk – November 2025

### From Your Board: President's Letter

Dear Beloved UUCP Community,



As the weather begins to cool and autumn settles in, November brings a time of reflection and gratitude. The days grow shorter, the air feels crisper, and we start to slow down after the busy energy of summer and early fall. It's a season that invites us to gather close, share warmth, and take stock of the blessings—both big and small—that shape our lives. I hope you'll find moments this month to pause and appreciate the comfort of community, the beauty of change, and the spirit of thankfulness that carries us toward the year's end.

Our Sunday services this month offer a rich mix of learning, music, and shared meaning. We begin by exploring the common threads between Halloween, All Saints, and All Souls Days—a time to reflect on how different cultures honor those who have passed, and to remember our own beloved members, Marianne Kelly, Evelyn Jackson, and Mae O'Shea. We'll follow that with a joyful Musical Sunday Service,

featuring music and storytelling from several of our talented members. Then, Mark Swaney will continue his engaging look at the history of Unitarianism in America, helping us connect with our faith's deep roots.

Later in the month, we'll celebrate our annual Bread Communion, a cherished UU tradition that reminds us of our shared humanity and the many forms of nourishment that sustain us. We close November with a service on Helping People Through Life's Challenges, highlighting the important work of Lakeview Center, our Fifth Sunday "Pass the Plate" partner. Each week offers something unique—reflection, connection, learning, and giving—beautiful reminders of what it means to be part of this caring and ever-growing UUCP community.

With gratitude,

Crys Brockway

President, Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola



## DIRECTORY

See our website, [uupensacola.org](http://uupensacola.org), for updates and a complete list of teams

### Office Administrator

(850) 475-9077, [uupensacola@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:treasurer@uupensacola.org))

### Members at Large:

Ian Briggs  
 Herman "Pappy" Campbell  
 Penny Fendt  
 Claire Helton  
 Mark Swaney

### Key People & Contacts

**Adult Exploration:** Scott Satterwhite

**Buildings & Grounds:** Wayne Chardon Jr.

**Caring:** Crys Brockway

([caring@uupensacola.org](mailto:caring@uupensacola.org))

**Children's Religious Education Coordinator:**

Honor M. Bell, III ([cre@uupensacola.org](mailto:cre@uupensacola.org))

**Communications:** Joe Vinson

([communications@uupensacola.org](mailto: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](mailto:membership@uupensacola.org))

**Outreach:** Laura Keith King

**Safer Congregation:** Brett Ramsey

([safer@uupensacola.org](mailto:safer@uupensacola.org))

**Social Justice:** Paula Montgomery & Scott Satterwhite

**Sunday Services:** Nancy Hagman



OutoftheBox Story Circle Second Hour isn't scheduled for November or December. So we will take a break for the season and return in the new year!  
 Thank you all for everyone who has participated.

~ Claire Helton



### All are welcome to attend the **Celebration of Life for Mae O'Shea**

*in the church sanctuary on Sunday November 9, 2025 at 12 noon. Please RSVP to her daughter Sandy O'Shea, with a call or text to cell phone number (440) 840-0639. If this is not convenient for you, please speak to Nancy Hagman and she will let Sandy know. Should you like to share a memory of Mae during the memorial service, that would be most welcome. Our family greatly appreciates the warm fellowship Mae enjoyed with you for so many years.*



Nov 22  
 (None in December)  
 Jan 24  
 Feb 14

## Sunday Services in November



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).

### November 2, 2025

#### *Service for All Ages (SFAA)*

**"What do you think are the commonalities between Halloween, All Saints Day, and All Souls Day?"**

Presenter: Theresa Everett is a certified and licensed Lay Preacher, Worship & Eucharist Minister and Pastoral Care leader at her church at St. Augustine Episcopal Church in Navarre

Is it just for Christians? What do you think might be the cultural and spiritual significance? Do other cultures celebrate and revere the dead? Let us explore together some of these questions, and let us think about our own thoughts about what this time may mean - should we be afraid or should we celebrate?

During this service we will acknowledge and honor our members who have died in the past year: Marianne Kelly, Evelyn Jackson and Mae O'Shea.

*Children stay in the Sanctuary/Main Hall this Sunday.*

*Second Hour: Earthstars; What Do We Do Now?*

### November 9, 2025

#### **"Musical Sunday Service"**

Join us for another **Musical Sunday Service**, where the spirit

of song and storytelling takes center stage. This week, we're thrilled to feature four beloved UUCP Members & Friends—**Barbara Wright, Scott Satterwhite, Herman "Pappi" Campbell, and Ray**—as they each share a meaningful story about a song close to their hearts. Our talented musicians will then guide us in a joyful community sing-along. Come ready to listen, connect, and raise your voice in harmony! (*Service Coordinated by Marybeth Ramsey*)

*Second Hour: Celebration of Life Mae O'Shea, Noon*

### November 16, 2025

#### **"History of the Unitarian church in the USA from the Revolution through the union with the Universalists in 1961"**

Presenter: Mark Swaney, member of the UUCP since August 2023.

Mark Swaney has taken a "deep dive" into the history of the Unitarians and Universalists since beginning his tenure with our congregation. He has provided several decades of information on several Sundays and this is a follow up to his series. Mark has a beautiful way of delivering this history with clarity without overwhelming the audience. Join in learning more about the origins of our shared community of faith.

*Second Hour: Earthstars; Sunday Sweets*

### November 23, 2025

#### *Service for All Ages (SFAA)*

#### **"Bread Communion our Annual Celebration"**

Presenter: Audrey Preston and Ian Briggs, members of UUCP

Our Bread Communion is the second of our three annual celebrations. (InGathering in September, Bread Communion in November and the Flower Communion in Springtime.) Similar to our congregants, bread comes in a wide variety with various histories. Every civilization that has ever lived on the earth has made some type of bread. This communion service reminds us that we all need food to live, that we must share our one earth which feeds us all, and that part of our purpose is to share our unique gifts with one another - so all can be fed (both physically and spiritually).

*Second Hour: Thanksgiving Potluck; Put up Christmas Tree*

### November 30, 2025

#### **"Helping People Through Life's Challenges"**

Presenter: Sweneda McDonald, LMHC, MAT/STOP Director Escambia

This service will provide an overview of the services offered by our community partner, Lakeview Center and how we encourage others not to suffer in silence. This is the non-profit organization that will receive our fifth Sunday, "Pass the Plate" offering.

**Second Hour: Deck the Halls**



## Sunday Sweets

The rest of the 2025 schedule is as follows **Nov. 16th** and **Dec. 14th**.

*Thank you. - Michael Newcomb*

## Readers' Group

UUCP Readers  
recommend.....Your Public  
Library!



And- a few recommendations...

**My Friends** - *Fredrik Backman*

**A Man Called Ove** - *Fredrik Backman*

**This is Happiness** - *Niall Williams*

**A History of the World in 100 Objects** - *Neil MacGregor*

**Playground** - *Richard Powers*



*Do you want to get to know other UUs?* How about enjoying some adult conversation or a stimulating evening! Circle Dinners are your answer. Circle Dinners align with UU principles affirming human worth, dignity, compassion, and acceptance of one another. Plus, they're fun! The company's great — and so is the food! They are a wonderful opportunity to meet and get to know your fellow UUs. Circle Dinners begin with a "UUCP Circle Dinner Kickoff Party" in January followed by dinners in February, March, and April. Participants will each have an opportunity to host one month and provide a main dish. Others provide salad/vegetables or dessert/bread. The host will decide on a convenient date by conferring with those assigned. The six assigned people will provide the food, and the host may invite two new UU members or others from the church he or she would like to get to know better. This means there could be six, eight or more adults participating. If your abode can't host a dinner, No Problem! We have members that are willing to let you use their houses. Singles as well as couples are encouraged to join. Substitutes are always needed. If you are interested in participating – as a regular or a substitute – just indicate on the sign-up sheet in the foyer! We will begin signing up on November 2, 2025. You will be contacted with information concerning the "UUCP Circle Dinner Kickoff Party" and a schedule in late January. I hope to see you there! \*If you are unable to participate in the "Meet & Greet" in January, you are still invited to join our group.

*Any questions or to sign-up, call/text Linda Cobb*

## The Emperor of Gladness -

*Ocean Vuong*

and

## Rednecks - *Taylor Brown*

UUCP Members and Friends are all welcome to join the ZOOM Readers Group - which meets the **2nd Monday** of each month at **10 am**. November's meeting - **Nov 10th** A link to the ZOOM meeting will arrive in your email a few days prior.

*See you!*





## NEW UUCP MEMBER ROB TOWNSEND

**New Yorker, Active UU, Engineer,  
Musician, Outdoorsman**

*All new UUCP members are asked to request and fill out this standard questionnaire to help us get to know them.—Dolly Berthelot for the Membership Committee.*

*What are your pronouns?*

He/Him

*Where were you born and raised?*

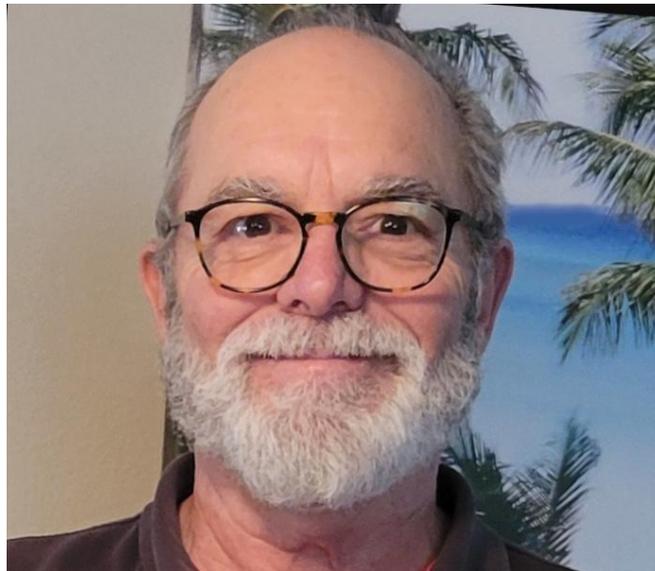
I was born in Queens, New York, outside New York City and lived in Queens, Commack, Rochester, Ontario, Williamson, and Henrietta New York. Then I moved to Orange Beach, Alabama.

*Your career:*

I started as a machinist and went on to be a part of a research and development team. Became a test and installation tech for a startup company. Went on to supervision of a small machine shop, and eventually was a manufacturing engineer for that company. I moved south and worked in hospitality. Then I got back into manufacturing by using 3D software to design sawmills and on to those boxes you see in the back of pickup trucks. I was a liaison from the engineering department here in Pensacola to manufacturing in Juarez, Mexico.

*Adventures or valued experiences the work has provided for you - and/or is still providing?*

I had to learn how to bounce back from companies being sold and laying off people. How to redefine myself and use the skills from one job to use in a completely different job. When I worked in Juarez, it was the third most dangerous city in the world because of the cartels and the war on drugs. The people I worked with were warm and friendly despite the environment and their assumptions of what I, as



an American was. So I guess all of my job experiences have helped me be open to new experiences.

*Family:*

I have four siblings, one who passed at the age of 60 from what we assume was a brain aneurysm. Both my parents are gone now too. My dad was from Arkansas and My Mom was from Queens. They met in an elevator that my dad was operating in New York City. That was in the early days when elevators were new. My Dad went on to join the Marines and was one of the 30% of survivors of the battle on Iwo Jima.

*Children:*

I have two wonderful daughters. One lives outside Denver with her partner, and the other lives in Rochester, NY with her husband and three boys under the age of 12.

*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 moved from Orange Beach 8 years ago because I wanted to live in the city. There's more of a sense of

community here.

*What do you like about the area?*

The variety of people, the beach. The mountain bike trails.

*Special interests or hobbies - now or in the past.*

I play guitar and keyboard. I skateboard, ride bicycles, do photography, take dance lessons and travel.

*Life's adventures you'd like to share.*

The most remarkable thing that ever happened to me was this. After my sister died, everyone gathered at my house in Orange Beach. A few weeks later, I picked up her ashes. My sister had loved the Gulf of Mexico, so one Mullet Toss weekend, I paddled out through Alabama Pass to scatter her ashes. Near the

breakwall, people were waving frantically—two fully clothed young young men were drowning in an eddy current. I pulled them to safety with my kayak. My sister’s final journey ended up saving two lives that day.

*What is your religious background? When did you become interested in Unitarianism, and what is there about it that appeals to you?*

Since my then wife and I had backgrounds in the Methodist and Catholic traditions, and neither of us were particularly fond of either, we shopped around to have our children get a religious education, and liked the First Unitarian Church in Rochester, New York. Richard Gilbert was the minister there. That was a little over 40 years ago. We both ended up getting an education there as well. I was vice president for two years.

*Were other family members associated with a Unitarian Church, specifically UUCP?*

No

*Were you a member previously?*

Yes, in Rochester, NY. We just had a celebration of life for my children's mother there last April.

*What do you like about our church? Change you would like to see made? Programs you'd like to see added?*

I like that it’s lay-led. I don't see any areas that need improvement.

### Report on UUCP at No Kings Protest

By Laura Keith King (Photo credit Ric Kindle of <https://sitesunlimitedphotography.com>)

All these UUCP folks turned out for the No Kings protest in Pensacola, on Saturday, October 18th. Other UUCP participants not shown are Pat Gleich, Carol Hemmye, Rob Townsend, and more. With over 3,000 people there, we had many other friends there too!

The demonstration was organized by 50501 Pensacola, a team of five concerned, local residents, including myself (Laura KK), in charge of the 20 Safety Officers and Medics, and encouraging sign-ups for future events. The group had recruited participation from dozens of other local organizations like the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL), League of Women



Voters of the Pensacola Bay Area, Escambia Democrats, Santa Rosa Democrats, Black Voters Matter, IfNot Us, Democratic Women’s Club of Santa Rosa, Emerald Coast Sweeps, Move To Amend, Movement for Change, Emerald Coast Equality, and NW Florida Coalition for Civic Engagement and of course THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF PENSACOLA! The DSA and PSL were particularly helpful when the numbers of sign-ups started to avalanche and we realized we need more volunteers, more water, more first aid kits, etc.

Contrary to uninformed statements and propaganda claims, everyone there was a volunteer. Many people brought cases of water to share, and there were thousands of funny, angry, creative signs, with many people dressed in costume. You can find lots of pictures on the Facebook page for 50501 Pensacola.

One volunteer was asked to start a count at 12:00, noon, so she walked around the entire perimeter of the rally, and in thirty minutes she counted 3,072 people. Noon was the mid-point of the event which officially ran from 11-1, but many people were there from 9:30 to about 2. Since some people came and left early while others came and left later, the total number of participants was undoubtedly higher! There were people all ages, from young children up to seniors in their nineties, some in wheelchairs or using walkers.

According to the Pensacola Police, there was another, simultaneous and spontaneous political action at the Graffiti Bridge, but attendance numbers have been unreported.

My personal take-aways were very positive. Our trained Safety Officers (especially Mimi Antonioli, Honor, and Daniel) did a GREAT job of de-escalating several “bent-on-fighting” violence instigators. And a medical emergency was handled beautifully by our new friends, Jax and Matthew. We learned that we can really count on other organizations and concerned citizens and residents to come out and fight for truth, justice, equity, the rule of law, and democracy. My faith in the people of our country is being renewed, and we will keep on fighting..

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

TO:



**LGBTQ**

*Welcoming Congregation*

Deadline for the December  
*Light*:  
Friday November 21



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