

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

# The Light

Vol. 69 Issue 2 February 2026



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

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## From the President – February Reflections

### From Your Board: President's Letter

Beloved Community,



February arrives with a gentle mix of moods—cool mornings that remind us winter hasn't quite let go, warmer afternoons hinting at spring, and longer days slowly returning light to our evenings. Here in Pensacola, we're gifted with that familiar back-and-forth of weather that invites us to stay flexible, attentive, and grateful for each small shift. February is a month that asks us to notice—changes in the air, changes in ourselves, and changes in how we show up for one another.

This month is also rich with themes of love, care, and connection. As Valentine's Day and other moments of reflection remind us, love is not only romantic—it is communal. It is found in shared meals, shared music, shared laughter, and shared responsibility for nurturing our spiritual home.

I am especially excited about our Sunday services in February, which will include a Celebrate Our Home Brunch and Musical Service. This gathering will be a joyful opportunity to celebrate the many ways our congregation creates and sustains a welcoming, vibrant UUCP. Through food, music, and fellowship, we'll honor not just our building, but the people and relationships that truly make it a home. I hope you'll join us—bring your appetite, your voice, and your presence.

As we move through this shorter month, I invite you to lean into community where you can, to check in on one another, and to make space for both rest and joy. Even in quieter seasons, our shared covenant continues to guide us toward compassion, justice, and love.

Thank you for all the ways you contribute to this congregation—seen and unseen. I am deeply grateful to walk this path with you.

In faith and fellowship,

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



*A note from Claire Helton:*  
Due to personal circumstances, Claire is unable to continue hosting OutoftheBox story circles this semester. If you're interested in learning to host the circle yourself please reach out to Claire for more info!

*OutoftheBox Story Circle Second Hour **will NOT return in the new year.**  
Thank you all for everyone who has participated last year!*



UUCP  
11:30am – 12:30pm  
Feb 14 | Mar 22

## GIVE TOGETHER, GROW TOGETHER

# COMING SOON

Our annual pledge drive is almost here! Stay tuned for more details on how to pledge and affirm your membership. UUCP receives no outside funding so every contribution, big or small, helps us invest in the future of our beloved community.

### YOUR CONTRIBUTION DIRECTLY SUPPORTS:

- ▶ Vibrant Sunday Services
- ▶ Religious Education for All Ages
- ▶ Social Justice Initiatives
- ▶ Fun & Fellowship
- ▶ Facility Maintenance

 **UU Church of Pensacola**  
**2026-2027 Budget Drive**



**Welcome Home**  
Give Together, Grow together

**FEBRUARY 8TH - 22ND**

Give together and grow together because this is more than a church. This is home.

### CONTACT

Laurie Winterberg & Brett Ramsey, Finance Team Co-Chairs, or Bradley Vinson, Treasurer, for further information

## Sunday Services in February



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).

### February 1, 2026

*Service for All Ages (SFAA)*

**"The Big Adventure, this thing we call...LIFE!"**

Presenter: Ric Kindle, friend of UUCP

Join us for a talk with Ric Kindle about his travels around the country with his dog, Hazel Nuts. He will share lessons learned from traveling and lessons 'relearned' about this life!

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

*Second Hour: Bookmarks for Banned Books; Earthstars*

### February 8, 2026

**"You Can Kill Somebody...and Get Away With It"**

Presenter: Nancy Ziccardi, Selma musician and longtime friend of UUCP

A discussion will be led by Nancy Ziccardi on the 1965 murder of Unitarian minister James Reeb in Selma, AL, in the midst of the civil rights struggles of the time. Nancy recently participated in Alabama Public Radio's StoryCorps program entitled "You Can Kill Somebody or Be Involved in the Murder of Somebody and Get Away with it." The StoryCorps episode that Nancy appears in is accessible at the link provided:

<https://www.apr.org/tags/reverend-james-reeb>

*Second Hour: Sunday Sweets; Long Term Planning Committee Listening Session*

### February 15, 2026

**"Celebrate our Home with Brunch"**

Presenter: Finance Team Extraordinaire

"Celebrate our Home" This Brunch honors "You", the members and friends that attend and participate in financing to secure the future and legacy of our UUCP Congregation. Come enjoy a wonderful array of brunch treats and conversation with one another.

*Second Hour: Earthstars; Long Term Planning Committee Listening Session; Budget Drive Event; JUST Pensacola Ministry Team Mtg*

### February 22, 2026

**"Aligning Beliefs and Faith with Music"**

Presenter: Love Brynnevere, Guest Musician

Love Brynnevere, whose beautiful energy and presence has graced stages all over America, will be joining us in song and performance. She is a multidisciplinary artist dedicated to, and passionate about bringing high vibrational music and healing

experiences to listeners and fans everywhere, one song, one show at a time.

**New Member Welcome Ceremony** included in the service

*Second Hour: Budget Drive Activity; Long Term Planning Committee Listening Session; Midyear Congregational Meeting*

**We have begun the process of crafting our church's next long term plan.**

This plan is meant to set out the goals and priorities of our church. We will be hosting two listening sessions per month directly following our Sunday service in the library.

We want to make sure everyone has an opportunity to participate and weigh in on what you would like to see from our church over the next several years. Here are the scheduled dates for the sessions.

***Please mark your calendar, and plan to attend at least one.***  
***2/8, 2/22, 3/1, 3/22, 4/12, and 4/19.***

*Contact Brett Ramsey for questions & details.*  
*Thank you.*



## Sunday Sweets

### 2026 Schedule

Winter 2026:

Feb 8<sup>th</sup>; March 8<sup>th</sup>;  
April 12<sup>th</sup>; May 10<sup>th</sup>

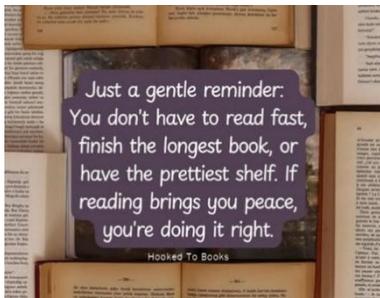
Summer Break

Fall 2026:

Sept 13<sup>th</sup>; Oct 11<sup>th</sup>;  
Nov 8<sup>th</sup>; Dec 13<sup>th</sup>

Thank you. - Michael Newcomb

## Readers' Group



UUCP Readers Recommend....

**Fever Beach** - Carl Hiassen

**The Burning Room** - Michael Connelly

**Miracles and Wonder** - Elaine Pagels

**The Ministry of Time** - Kailane Bradley

**The Time of the Child** - Niall Williams

**Twice** - Mitch Albom

**Middlemarch** - George Elliot

The Readers' Group - on ZOOM - takes a break for January and February. Will resume in March of 2026. The second Monday of each month at 10 am.



**\*\*IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT CIRCLE DINNERS\*\***

The Circle Dinner program for this year **has not yet begun**.  
If you'd like to join one or learn more reach out to Laura KK!



*It is time to begin looking forward to our **Nehemiah Action** on the topic of Mental Health. That is when we ask our elected officials to commit to make the changes in policy and program to bend toward Justice. Last year's Action was attended by more than 700 Escambia County citizens.*

**The Action will be held Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at First Baptist Church of Warrington.**

*All of us in our congregation are urged to attend and bring friends, family, neighbors, anyone else who would like to see more Justice in Pensacola and Escambia County.*

*April may seem like a long time in the future. It is not too early to mark the date and place on your calendar and begin thinking about whom you will invite. To get ready we will have a Congregational Network Meeting after church in the sanctuary on February 15th.*

*Please put that on your calendar as well. J.U.S.T. Pensacola Organizer, Tricia Wessel is planning to attend.*

*If you attended a House Meeting and signed up to be a Network Member, you are counted on to attend. However, if you have not signed up, it is not too late to make the commitment to attend the Network Meeting as well as the Rally and the Nehemiah Action.*

*For questions ask Paula Montgomery, Penny Featherstone, Lauren Anzaldo or Barbara Wright.*



## February LUNCH BUNCH



Already February? (Scanned a UU World piece and the author wrote "can't tell if this year's timing is off: has two weeks passed, or two months?"). But February is next, and we'll go for the 2nd Wed., the 11th, at .. Jordan Valley Restaurant, 1400 Barancas, phone 850-292-2157. It's been a while since Middle Eastern Cuisine, so time to remember.

And was Waco a success. Well, for the seven of us, yes, I think so. I must admit to not calling ahead, to reserve a table for seven; I often do, and being on the list, we are usually seated fairly quickly. This time, I thought that Waco would be emptying by 1 PM. Not so, with incoming traffic continuing past 2PM. So when I asked for a table for seven, at about 12:50,

she said stand here and wait. So Michael and I did so, joined by Kinney and Judith for more standing, somewhat in the way of server flow. I picked a nearby table for six, hoping to move deeper inside, but the fairly quick waitress showed up soon enough, moving a short table into the aisle, soon ready for Julie, Bill and Paula.

So the six ordered from the front side of the menu, the Bento Boxes (fried rice \$2 extra, but a lot) or the Lunch Hibachi..., and the food came fairly soon. The noise wasn't too bad so we could hear each other. My foods came early as I ordered off the "All You Can Eat" back side of the menu. On the back I noted several interesting unknowns, so decided this was a reasonable opportunity to jump into the deep end, the base price being only \$2-3 over the front menu's set prices of \$17 - 18. I started with "old tofu" and edamame and miso soup. The soup failed for the taste buds, and the edamame required shelling about 30 pea pods, salted on the outside, to get to the 60-70 steamed soy beans on the inside. Then sushi of several types, at least four, and maybe a few others, and something that was described as ground shrimp cooked as a dumpling (I think). But I had also paid attention to the last item in the bottom right corner, the ice cream choices. I then slowly enjoyed the red bean and strawberry, one scoop of each, perhaps a little more sherbet-like than cream-like, but very nice taste and texture, a good ending for now my well-filled stomach. (Would I do it again? Maybe, but more attention to minimizing the sticky rice.) - Hugh Ed T.

### Anonymous Trust Donor Recognizes UUCP Members

The following members have recently been recognized by a donor to the Charitable Trust who wishes to remain anonymous. They are:

*In Memory of: Mae O'Shea and Maryanne Kelly*

Honoring: Flo Fulwiler, Hannelore Musial, Margaret McLarin, Nadine Hubble, Hugh Turner, Georgieanna Bryant, Laurie Winterberg, Nancy Hagman, Michael Newcomb, Jack Comstock and Paula Montgomery.

The Trustees of our Charitable Trust wish to thank this and all other donors to the Trust. You are appreciated.

**Find out more at:** <https://uupensacola.org/about-us/uucp-charitable-trust/>



**PFLAG Pensacola is official and nationally recognized!**

**We are working on a date to "open the doors," and if you'd like to stay updated on**

**the events and support group meetings for PFLAG, please reach out to Brian Lee Poteat.**

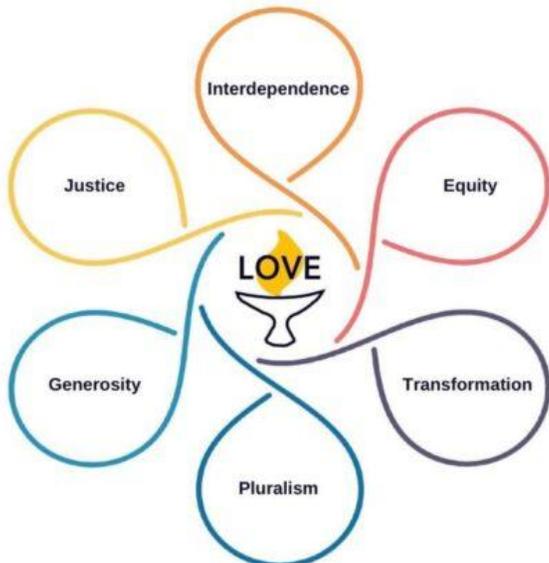
**What is PFLAG:** (originally Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) is the first and largest organization for LGBTQ+ people, their parents, families, and allies, focused on creating supportive, inclusive communities and advocating for equality through peer support, education, and advocacy. They provide resources, host meetings (in-person & virtual), and work to ensure LGBTQ+ individuals are safe, celebrated, and empowered by supporting families through the coming-out process and educating the public.

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

**TO:**



Deadline for the March *Light*:  
Saturday February 21



**LGBTQ**  
*Welcoming Congregation*