

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

The Light

Vol. 69 Issue 4 May 2026



Celebrate Diversity Strive for Justice Inspire Love

From the Governing Board

President's Letter

Hello Beloved Congregation,

As we welcome the month of May, we find ourselves surrounded by the gentle but unmistakable shift of the seasons. The days grow longer, the sunlight lingers just a little later, and the warmth in the air reminds us of renewal, growth, and possibility. Spring is in full bloom—flowers are opening, trees are lush with new leaves, and there's a sense of energy that invites us to step forward with hope and intention.



May is often a time of transition. School years begin to wind down, summer plans start to take shape, and many of us feel both the pull of reflection and the excitement of what lies ahead. It is a fitting time for us, as a congregation, to gather in community and look both backward with gratitude and forward with purpose.

This month, we will hold our **Annual Congregational Meeting** on **May 17th**, following the Sunday Service. This meeting is an important opportunity for all of us to come together, share in the life of the church, and take part in the decisions that guide our shared future. Your presence and participation truly matter, and I encourage everyone to attend.

Serving as your President has been a deeply meaningful experience for me. It has been a privilege to witness the care, resilience, and dedication that each of you brings to our community. Through times of both ease and challenge, this congregation continues to show up with compassion, thoughtful engagement, and a commitment to our shared values. I am truly grateful for the trust you've placed in me and for the opportunity to serve alongside such a remarkable group of people.

As we move through this vibrant season, I hope you find moments to enjoy the beauty around you, reconnect with what grounds you, and continue nurturing the connections that make this community so special.

With appreciation and warmth,
Crys Brockway, UUCP Board President

DIRECTORY

See our website at uupensacola.org for updates and a complete list of teams and members.

9888 Pensacola Blvd., Pensacola, FL 32534
(850) 475-9077, uupensacola@gmail.com

Governing Board

President: Crys Brockway
President-Elect: Brett Ramsey
Past President: Joe Vinson
Secretary: Marybeth Ramsey
Treasurer: Bradley Vinson
treasurer@uupensacola.org

Board Members at Large

Ian Briggs
Herman "Pappy" Campbell
Claire Helton
Mark Swaney

MINISTRY TEAMS

Adult Exploration: Scott Satterwhite
Buildings & Grounds: Nancy Hagman
Caring: Crys Brockway
caring@uupensacola.org
Communications: Joe Vinson
communications@uupensacola.org
Children's Religious Exploration: Lauren Anzaldo
cre@uupensacola.org
Denominational Affairs: Joe Vinson
Finance: Laurie Winterberg & Brett Ramsey
Fun and Fellowship: Marybeth Ramsey
Leadership Development: Joe Vinson
Membership: Lauren Anzaldo
membership@uupensacola.org
Outreach: Laura Keith King
Safer Congregation:
safer@uupensacola.org
Social Justice: Paula Montgomery
Sunday Services: Nancy Hagman

Community Minister
Rev. Maggie Lovins

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, May 17, 2026

The Church will hold its Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 17 after the Sunday Service that day.

Lunch will be provided. This is an important opportunity for Members to shape the direction of our Church community with your vote. **In accordance with our bylaws, your Membership allows you to vote on the budget and the board and leadership positions for the 2026-27 year.** See the proposed slate provided below for review. We will also vote on our 5-Year Plan, which was emailed out to Members and Friends for review on May 3. Please make every effort to attend this meeting, as our bylaws require a quorum to conduct business.

Proposed Governing Board Slate

President (1-year term): Brett Ramsey
President Elect (1-year term): Ian Briggs**
Past President (1-year term): Crys Brockway
Treasurer (Year 1 of 2-year term – 3rd term):
Bradley Vinson**
Secretary (Year 2 of 2-year term – 1st term):
Marybeth Ramsey

Board Members at Large

Through June 2027: Audrey Preston**
Nancy Hagman**
Mark Swaney
Through June 2028: Michael Gaines**
Lynne Butcher**

Proposed Leadership Development Team

Crys Brockway, Past President (Pro Tem position)
Lauren Anzaldo, Membership (Pro Tem position)
Margaret McLarin** (1-year term)
Joe Vinson** (1-year term)

**** Denote nominees requiring vote
by Members of the Congregation**

Major Roof Damage to Our Building

Nancy Hagman, Team Leader, Building & Grounds

If you are not aware, our roof is leaking in every room on the north and south sides of the building. You are invited to walk around and "look up" in the rooms. In the office, there is an area where the rafters are exposed.

In March, I offered to "lead the charge" to find out how to fix the roof. Our roof was replaced in 2014 with a warranty for 10 years. Therefore, we are exploring the next steps for repairs.

On May 3, 2026, during the 2nd Hour, 13 Members and Friends met with me to listen to the four proposals that I've gathered as well as the proposal from October 2025. It was decided to obtain proposals for a partial or total roof replacement for comparison rather than different suggestions in "how to repair it" since each proposal initially offered different solutions.

On May 5, Jay Butcher, Jack Comstock and I met with BE-CI representative Derek Lewis to have an initial assessment (like a medical MRI, so to speak) to determine how and where the water intrusion is occurring. The building has a history of continually being repaired for water leaks and damage for over 20 years as stated by long term members.

We will continue to keep you informed in this process.

Nancy and the B&G Team



May LUUnch BUUnch

Hugh Ed Turner

For **May 13** (2nd Wednesday), faster than a speeding cyclist, too soon here and NOW), we visit **End of the Line Cafe**. EOTL's raison d'être - vegetarian and more (vegan) - was well described in the *Pensacola News Journal* about 6-8 weeks ago, and discussed at the 2nd Wednesday group of five at Ruby Jin's. At **610 Wright St.**

between Alcaniz and 9th Ave., EOTL is easy to find if you don't drive too fast. Their website has attractive, almost delicious pictures of some of the menu items. 1 PM as usual, and let me know so we can reserve a chair. (And maybe a reminder in May.)

And Ruby Jin's, Filipino cuisine: Well, as I mentioned in April's writeup, my six weeks there in the '60s didn't leave any remembered foods impression, and I think the dish I had at RJ's answered Why: no particular taste characteristics. The broth with the vegetables was tasty, and when spooned onto the white rice, satisfied, but the veggies carried no "back for more" flavor. I looked around ours/the other tables, saw no pepper shaker, or hot sauce, which would've helped. And no, didn't ask; I like to get the full initial impression before asking (complaining lightly) if I'm missing a condiment or two. My four peers were more enthusiastic, and meats usually cover the flavor requirements. Judith probably scored best with the first menu item, with its close relation to bacon.

...Hungry? Join us 13/5/26 (May 13).

Sunday Services & Happenings in May

Saturday, May 2, 2026

Dress Your Truth Gender-Affirming Clothing Giveaway - 10am-2pm

Trans Support Group - 4pm

Sunday, May 3, 2026

“The Queer Spirituality of Leonard Bernstein” – 10am

Presenter: Jimmy Poteat, UUCP Member

Jimmy Poteat will share a message about the life and work of American musician Leonard Bernstein. We will explore Bernstein's approach to spirituality, politics, and even Unitarian Universalist thought.

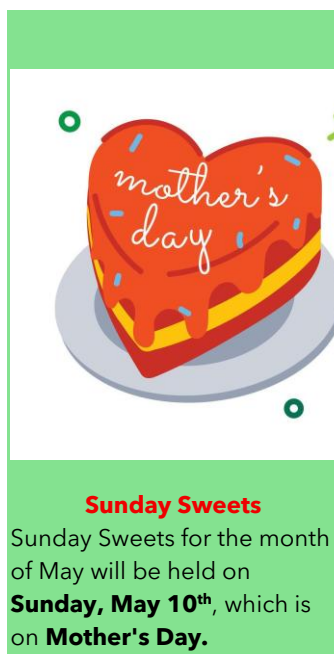
Second Hour: Roof Discussion

Sunday, May 10, 2026

“Mother’s Day Service with Your UUCP Family” – 10am

In this service, we will hear about a variety of mothers from different people in our congregation. It will be sweet, followed by **“Sunday Sweets.”**

Second Hour: Inner Harmonies



Monday, May 11, 2026

Readers Group – 10am

Time for a good recommendation for your next read? The UUCP Readers always have something to offer. An email with the ZOOM link will be sent out to Members and Friends the Sunday prior to the meeting.

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Lunch Bunch – 1pm

See article on page 3 for location and details. Contact Hugh Ed Turner to RSVP.

Saturday, May 16, 2026



FemFest Song Circle – 1130am-1230pm

We're gathering again for joy and connection — just because it's good for the soul. Join us for the next FemFest Song Circle — a space for feminist voices to rise together in song, to embrace rest, and to cultivate resilience. Hosted in collaboration with @FemFestPensacola.

Other upcoming dates: June 13, July 11

Trans Support Group - 4pm

Sunday, May 17, 2026

“Exploring Mature Spirituality” – 10am

Presenter: Julie Patton, Friend of UUCP, retired LCSW, and Community Activist

This talk is a reflection on mutability, our present societal impasse, and the future of religions. The presenter will offer an

updated image of the nature of Being and will suggest that Unitarian Universalism is uniquely poised to assume a central role in the direction of emerging spiritual practice. To do so, it must tap into the world's wisdom traditions to balance its exclusive focus on mental activity with an integral view of reality that acknowledges the importance of intuition and metaphor as ways of knowing Truth.

Second Hour: Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 24, 2026

“Remembering Our Dead: Lt Col Jim Barrett” – 10am

Presenter: Scott Satterwhite, UUCP Member

In this service, Scott Satterwhite will discuss a Pensacola UU martyr for reproductive rights, Lt Col Jim Barrett. Murdered for protecting a doctor performing legal abortions in 1994. WW2 veteran Jim Barrett was a member of our beloved congregation at UUCP and is honored this Memorial Day.

Saturday, May 30, 2026

Outdoor Cleanup Workday – 9am-2pm

This event was rescheduled from May 9.

Come help spruce up our outdoor areas at the

church. Bring yard tools if you have them. Lunch will be provided! Contact Laura Keith King for details.


Sunday, May 31, 2026

“PFLAG Pensacola: Leading with Love” – 10am

Presenter: Lee Poteat, PFLAG Chapter President


For over 50 years, PFLAG has been where LGBTQ+ people, families, and allies have come together in pursuit of justice and affirmation—and always leading with love. What began as a letter led to a march, which launched a meeting and birthed a movement of millions.

This service includes a 5th Sunday Collection benefiting PFLAG.




SUNSHINE CLUSTER

And the



Southern Region

Faced with immense political polarization, and grounded in our Values, how can we take courageous actions that



MEET THE MOMENT

Are you alarmed about the rise of Totalitarianism?

Meet the Moment is a UU framework of shared practices. Together, we will discern and explore how we can take bold, courageous action; grounded in our shared values and centered in Love.

Facilitated by
Cameron Young, Lead, Southern Region, and
Rev Samatha Powers, Southern Region Field Staff

Saturday, May 16, 2026, 1pm, Zoom, Free

To register and receive the Zoom Link, send your name and congregation to sunshinecluster2023@gmail.com



Mothering the Movement

Join us in honoring the many ways we mother and are mothering

Thursday, May 21st, 6:30 pm CST

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO ALL GENDERS, AND WE WELCOME MEMBERS, ALLIES, AND FRIENDS ALIKE

UU Women's Federation (UU Women) is changing the narrative and talking about all the ways we mother and hold space for what's important in our lives. Whether it's children, community building, local actions, or movement spaces, our labor changes all that we touch.

Welcome A New Member

Jimmy Poteat



What are your pronouns? he/him

Where were you born and raised? Education –High school, college, major, graduation? I was born in Illinois (just east of St. Louis) but only lived there a few months before my family moved to Georgia. I grew up in Kennesaw, GA, northwest of Atlanta and lived in that area for nearly 40 years. In 2023, I moved to Rome, GA where I met my husband, and last year we decided to move to Pensacola.

I went to Harrison High School (Kennesaw) where I was a member of the marching band. I earned a bachelor's degree in music theory from Kennesaw State University.

Current or former work? Your chosen profession? What do you like about your career? For the most part I have made a living as a musician. Though most of my work has been in music education, I am currently the Community Engagement Administrator for the Pensacola Symphony Orchestra.

Adventures or valued experiences the work has provided for you – and/or is still providing. Working for the PSO has been challenging and rewarding. I've met some amazing people, including the guest artists who have come to Pensacola to perform with the orchestra.

Family: Parents, siblings, spouse, special relatives, friends. My parents are divorced and have remarried. My mother lives in Alabama and my father in Georgia. I am the oldest of four children. All of my siblings are married, and two of them have children, so I have five nieces and nephews.

Children or grandchildren. Lee & I don't have any human children, but we do have five dogs! I'm always happy to share pictures.

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? In June 2026, Lee & I decided to do new things with new people in a new place. I was looking at cities on the Gulf Coast when I noticed Pensacola. The more research I did, the more excited I got. For me, it was the arts scene that drew me here. I applied for my job with the PSO and interviewed before even visiting the city.

What do you like about the area? We love the people, the natural beauty, the arts scene, and all of the other things that make Pensacola special. There is always something interesting to do.

Special interests or hobbies – now or in the past? -- Sports, music, reading, art, community volunteering, lobbying for a cause, other? My abiding interests are music and dogs. I am also a student of history and languages.

Life's adventures you'd like to share. Travels, raising a family, helping in the community, getting involved with organizations, starting and running a business, etc. I definitely want to travel more. I am fortunate to work for an organization that prioritizes serving the community, and it's my privilege to organize and oversee that work.

What is your religious background? When did you become interested in Unitarianism, and what is there about it that appeals to you? Were other family members associated with a Unitarian Church, specifically UUCP? I grew up in a non-denominational Protestant church and was very involved, especially from the age of 12 when I started playing music there. To make a very long story short, I came out as gay in my early 20's and was expelled from two churches. I spent 14 years away from churches, but in 2019 I heeded the inner call to seek out a faith community I could call my own. That's when I found and became a member of the Emerson Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Marietta, GA. I was unfamiliar with Unitarian Universalism before this; I had only met one person familiar with it before then. I loved that I could come as I was - agnostic, gay, etc.

What do you like about our church? Changes you would like to see made? Programs you'd like to see added? I love that Lee & I were able to join this program already in progress (so to speak) with no effort at all, making new friends and finding ways to contribute to the life of the church.

I would love to see more of a focus on the spiritual side of human existence - teachings and practices that provide deep grounding for people. This could take many forms. I think it would be wonderful to hear from UUCP members about their own spiritual practices.

Next month: Jimmy's husband, Lee Poteat!

Sign Up for announcements from UU Justice Florida

The Florida Legislature held a Special Session on April 28 and voted on redistricting for the state. They have more problematic actions planned this summer. The Legislature will reconvene on May 12 for three days and then return after Memorial Day to complete the Budget. And a Property Tax Special Session is being considered. As our Unitarian Universalist values call us to act, the group UU Justice Florida tries to keep you informed. To stay informed, [sign up for the UUJF Newsletter](#).



HIRING



Childcare Providers

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF PENSACOLA

9888 Pensacola Boulevard
Pensacola, FL 32532



Unitarian Universalism encompasses many faith traditions. Unlike most religions, it is not centered on specific theological beliefs. Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religious movement characterized by a "free and responsible search for truth and meaning". Individually and in community with others we seek to make a difference in our world through active, tangible expressions of love, justice, and peace.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

This position is responsible for supervising, nurturing, and caring for children, typically between the ages of 8 weeks to 5 years of age on Sunday mornings at our campus.

Primary responsibilities: Arrive by 9:30am, welcome children and families, and ensure all feel comfortable and seen.

Additional responsibilities: preparing rooms for planned activities, ensuring sign-in and sign-out sheets are completed, referring visitors to CRE Coordinator, engaging in play as appropriate, assisting with snacks, and straightening/lightly cleaning. In the event no nursery-age children are in attendance, you may be asked to assist with another children's class (ages 6-13).

Hours: Sundays from 9:30am – 11:30am (two hours minimum guaranteed) or later dependent on other scheduled events. Exact work hours will be determined prior to service each week.

Frequency: Prefer weekly on a regular basis but will consider once or twice monthly.

Starting Pay: \$15.00 hourly

For more information or to apply, submit resume or letter of interest to uucpre@gmail.com

WE'RE HIRING

Children's Religious Education (CRE) Coordinator

Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola
9888 Pensacola Blvd, Pensacola, FL 32534

About Us: The mission of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola (UUCP) is to “Celebrate Diversity, Strive for Justice, and Inspire Love.” We believe that families come in many forms, and all are welcome in our church. We are designated as a Welcoming Congregation, which means we strive to create space that honors every part of our identities, backgrounds, and experiences.

This position pays \$175 per week, working approximately 7-10 hours per week.

Requirements:

- Training and experience as an educator
- Love for children & understanding of the principles of child development
- Ability to maintain a patient and friendly demeanor at all times
- Physical fitness and ability to care for children's basic needs
- Knowledge of what to do in an emergency situation
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Knowledge of (or willingness to learn) UU principles & sensitivity to the diverse viewpoints of UU congregations
- Knowledge of (or willingness to become familiar with) UU religious educational curricula
- Expertise in online sharing platforms, Microsoft Word, and Excel spreadsheets
- Clean criminal records check

Responsibilities:

- Serve as the CRE contact person, serve as the lead teacher, and work with the volunteer teachers and advisory team to communicate with families and the congregation.
- Work with the CRE ministry team to maintain the CRE budget; purchase and maintain supplies and equipment as needed and keep records current. Arrange and send reminders for CRE Team meetings.
- Communicate program needs to the Team Leader(s) of the CRE ministry team, to the Board Liaison, and/or the President of the Board, as needed.
- Work with Teachers to assess the status of children, family needs and interests.
- Work with the CRE Team to recruit and recognize teachers. Work with the team to ensure that teachers and childcare providers receive adequate training. Ensure the CRE program is filled and publicized.
- Maintain records of CRE program documents such as:
 - CRE program schedules
 - Criminal records checks for CRE personnel and volunteers
 - Family and Volunteer Registration forms
 - Program Roster, Attendance sheets and family contact info
 - Write monthly CRE newsletter column



To apply, submit resume to membership@uupensacola.org.

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

TO:



Deadline for the June
Light:

Thursday, May 21

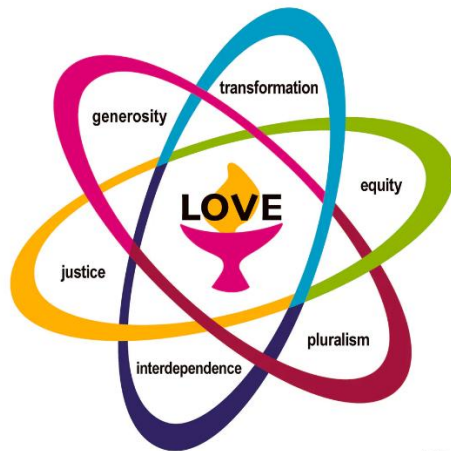


UUCP is proudly an



LGBTQ

Welcoming Congregation



Graphic by Teresa Webster (twebster@uucp.org)