

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

The Light

Vol. 69 Issue July 2026



Celebrate Diversity Strive for Justice Inspire Love

From the Governing Board

President's Letter

Dear friends,



As you know, the past few months have been challenging. A lot of changes have taken place, and even a good bit of turmoil in the ranks. A few months ago, the last thing I thought I'd be doing is writing my first letter as president for the newsletter, but here I am. That said, I'm happy to be here for the congregation at this time. I think we all know that we have some work to do this year, and I'm rolling up my figurative sleeves to get ready.

First, I wanted to talk about the building itself. Our main concern is the issues with the roof. Thanks to the due diligence of our Buildings and Grounds team, we're on a good path. Nancy Hagman had reached out to a few contractors to work on the roof and HVAC system. No need to go into specifics, but these will both be costly repairs. We'll approach the congregation as more info becomes available. We all live in Florida so we know that roof and air conditioning is important, but we also know that contractors are pretty busy around this time. We may or may not have everything done before the end of hurricane season, but we're certainly trying. Big thanks to Nancy for leading this effort, as well as the whole B&G team.

Next, insurance. I don't have any big updates on this yet, but I hope to have some in the near future. When we last talked about this, we were pretty divided on what to do about this situation. Self-insure, which basically means put the incredibly high prices we'd pay for insurance into a special account to pay for whatever might come if we get a storm. The other option is to pay the incredibly high insurance rates. To be blunt, there's no easy answer, and both rely on the whims Mother Nature and Lady Luck. As Floridians, we know how both of those entities work. At any rate, we'll keep you informed.

Then there is the issue of church safety. We can look at this in many ways. Weather emergencies certainly can happen, as our recent deluge of rain shows us. Again, we're in hurricane season, so there's that. We also could do more on prep for medical emergencies. We have a defibrillator on hand, but how many of us feel comfortable using it? Maybe more importantly, especially in our troubled times, we could do more about the remote possibility of an individual with ill will who

wants to do us harm. We do have contingencies right now that we hope will help with church safety, such as the work of the greeters and having them lock the doors after the service has begun. If someone comes late, it's easy enough to hear them at the doors and have someone open them. However, there is more we can do, and I'm currently exploring more ways to reasonably make our congregation safe. Then, of course, the protection of our little ones in childcare. This has been a serious discussion in the past few months, and I hope to work on this issue most. A fellow congregant has written me recently with some common sense approaches that I hope to work on to implement when I am fully on the board.

Lastly, we certainly have work to do on the many complicated ways we deal with social issues in the nation and in our own ranks. As the federal government turns its back on the progress that we, as Unitarian Universalists, have struggled for over the years—from the civil rights movements, reproductive rights, LGBTQ+ equality, and voting rights—we must be a beacon of light in our community on these issues. As a congregation, we've worked closely with JUST Pensacola, and I couldn't be prouder of those continued efforts, as frustrating as they can be at times. After all, they don't call it a "struggle" because the work is easy. Furthermore, as individuals, so many people in our congregation are parts of nearly every social justice movement in our region. That is also something of which to take enormous pride. Our civic engagement is unmatched in our broader community. However, there are always ways we can focus that energy on our own UUCP community. While fighting for the rights of others, we can also spend some time and energy to see the ways the ills of our society—in particular, racism, homophobia, transphobia, misogyny, and other ills—can be rooted out of our own community. I know this is easier said than done, but the effort is worthwhile. The Eighth Principle, that we adopted several years ago, asks us to make the effort to stay engaged in the fight against these ills of society. The effort is also, as I've come to learn over my years in activism, an ongoing effort. That said, we have a very long history of people who stay engaged in the struggles, and we can look towards those folks—Rev. James Reeb, Viola Liuzzo, Frances E.W. Harper, Martha & Waitstill Sharp, Clara Barton, to name a few—and those courageous people within our own ranks who inspire me constantly for spiritual guidance. In short, we have a history of facing tough times and prevailing. We should learn from these histories and lean into them to learn how to face these complex issues. Facing the issues, however, may be uncomfortable and mean we make tough decisions, but we will prevail. We always have.

Our challenge is always safety in an unsafe world, while also creating a caring and loving environment. To do so, we must be able to establish trust within the congregation—in the leadership and amongst each other. I'm confident that we'll overcome our troubles and hopefully be stronger for the work.

That's my hope: that, together, we will prevail. UUCP has a long history of overcoming pain and heartache, as well as responding with fairness and kindness, but most of all love.

With that in mind, let's lean into the love this year and hold ourselves accountable to our principles.

If I haven't said it before, I really do appreciate you putting your faith in me as president this year. It means a lot to me, and I hope to live up to your expectations. If you ever need anything, feel free to reach out at any time. I'm here for you.

Sincerely,
Scott, 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: Scott Satterwhite
President-Elect: Ian Briggs
Past President: Crys Brockway
Secretary: Audrey Preston
Treasurer: Bradley Vinson
treasurer@uupensacola.org

Board Members at Large

Lynne Butcher
Michael Gaines
Nancy Hagman
Mark Swaney
Barbara Wright

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: Crys Brockway
Finance: Laurie Winterberg
Fun and Fellowship: Vacant
Leadership Development: Crys Brockway
Membership: Lauren Anzaldo
membership@uupensacola.org
Outreach: Laura Keith King
Safer Congregation:
safer@uupensacola.org
Social Justice: Paula Montgomery
Sunday Services: Joe Vinson

Community Minister
Rev. Maggie Lovins

July LUUnch BUUnch

Hugh Ed Turner



Lunch Bunch for July 8, the 2nd Wednesday -- We'll go for ...New Hong Kong House - uses bento boxes, suggesting Japanese connection, and it is in the location of the former Shark Fin, which was nicely decorated and had good food, last visited pre-pandemic. At 5912 North Davis, in the NE corner, easy to find - it's a small "mall," to the east of the new Consumer Cellular shop. Phone 850 280 8888. Easy to get into either west bound on Airport or north or south bound on Davis, but recommend right turns only for leaving.

So, we maxed out at Carrabba's's, with seven. Service was a little slow at the end, not back in the car until about 2:55 (usually 2:30 for most 1pm visits). And the food, pretty good, taste and quantity, and reasonable if you stick with the "non-entree" lunch menu, about \$15 with most of your tip (and tea ?). My soup was strongly flavored: in the Carrabba on-line nutrition menu that I mentioned last month, the sodium for my Side Caesar salad and Lentil (& sausage?) soup was 760 and 1210 mg. sodium (about the daily DA max, I think) was definitely noticeable in the soup, my first course. (If you choose the Entree menu, for an extra \$10, you can get any other entree on the menu as a carryout; sounds pretty reasonable.)

Several of us left with part of the next meal, a function of no lag in the conversation.... Let me know if you want a seat for 8 July at New Hong Kong.

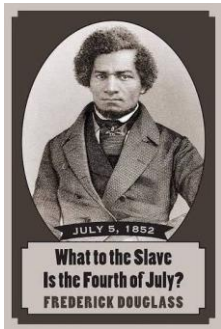
Sunday Services & Happenings in July

Saturday, July 4, 2026

Trans Support Group – 4pm

Sunday, July 5, 2026

“What to the Slave is the Fourth of July” – 10am



Presenter: UUCP
Congregants

The brilliant writer and orator Frederick Douglass escaped from slavery in 1838. In an oration he gave on July 5th, 1852 at the Corinthian Hall of Rochester, NY, he sharply criticized the attitude of religious people who kept silent about slavery, and he charged that ministers committed a "blasphemy" when they taught it as sanctioned by religion. In this long oration, he also discussed the definition of patriotism and the responsibility of citizens.

To honor Douglass' life and work, and to review what in his speech is still relevant today, several members of

Sunday Sweets

Sunday Sweets will be taking a break during the summer. It will return in the Fall. The schedule for Fall is September 13th, October 11th, November 8th and December 13th. Thank you, Michael Newcomb

UUCP will read excerpts of this fine speech.

Bring donations for Manna Food Bank (1st Sunday)

Wednesday, July 8, 2026

Lunch Bunch – 1pm

See article on page 2 for location and details.
Contact Hugh Ed Turner to RSVP.

Sunday, July 12, 2026

"Deifying the Code: The Mirage of AI Spirituality" – 10am

Presenter: Joe Vinson,
UUCP Member

From users treating chatbots as divine confidants to tech CEOs acting as apocalyptic prophets, society is rapidly building a strange new "machine theology." Joe will explore the false spirituality of the AI boom and the techno-utopian cults rising in its wake. How can we look past the

digital curtain and dispel the artificial illusions?

Second Hour: Inner Harmonies – 1130am

Saturday, July 18

Trans Support Group – 4pm

Sunday, July 19, 2026

"The Healing Power of Self-Love" – 10am

Presenter: Ross Rosenberg, Guest Speaker
Drawing on more than 30 years of experience, psychotherapist and author Ross Rosenberg explores why many caring people struggle with self-worth, repeatedly find themselves in unhealthy relationships, and place others' needs above their own. Through personal stories and practical insights, he introduces five essential building blocks of healthy love. This uplifting presentation offers hope, healing, and practical tools for anyone seeking personal growth and lasting change.

Second Hour: Earthstars – 1130am; Newcomer Orientation – 1130am

Sunday, July 26, 2026
**"Early Spanish Florida:
Unearthing the History of
the Oldest Colony" –
10am**

Presenter: Dr. Judy Bense,
Guest Speaker

Judith Bense, a lifelong
archaeologist and expert on
Spanish Florida, traces the
story from 1513 when Ponce

de León accidentally landed
on "La Florida" to 1763 when
Spain lost the land to Britain
after the Seven Years' War.
Bense explores how the first
Spanish settlers tried to
colonize Florida with aims to
take over the entire
Southeast, encountering harsh
weather, competing
colonizing nations, and Native

resistance. The story includes
the establishment of St.
Augustine in 1565, shipwrecks
of early explorers and
colonists, the building of
Catholic missions in the 1600s,
and the journeys of people of
African descent escaping
slavery on northern
plantations.

Invest in JUST Pensacola

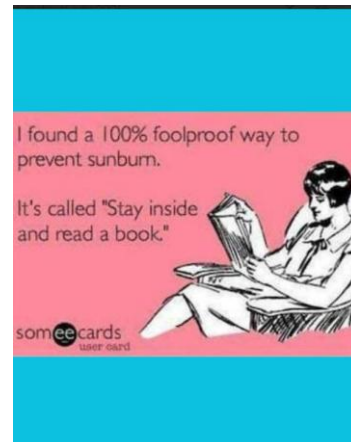


An Investment in J.U.S.T.
Pensacola is an
investment in the future of
our community. Our
annual Investment Drive is
an incredibly important part of what we do.

If we want to grow in our ability to change the
way systems operate in the greater Pensacola
area, then we have to "own" this power we
are building.

If you attended a House Meeting in Fall 2025
and committed as a Justice Network Member,
or if you are not a network member but would
still like to support the important work of
J.U.S.T. Pensacola, now is the time to give an
amount that is meaningful to you.

To contribute, visit the website at
justpensacola.org for donation options, or see
the flier posted at the church across from the
nametags.



The Reader's Group wishes to share practical
advice. But first, check out this month's
recommended reads!

- Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books - Kristen Miller
- Moonrise over New Jessup - Jamila Minniks
- The Lost Bookshop - Evie Woods
- The Unfinished Love Story - Doris Kearns Woodman
- The Lion Women of Terhan - Marjan Kamali
- Project Hail Mary - Andy Weir
- The Ten Thousand Doors of January - Alix Harrow
- How to Read a Book - Monica Wood

**The Reader's Group takes a vacation each
year during July and August and resumes
meeting in September.**

Community Announcement: Volunteer Needed! Interested in measuring rainfall at your home?

CoCoRaHS is in need of more volunteers to regularly collect and measure rainfall in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties. CoCoRaHS stands for Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network. For more information, visit cocorahs.org/.



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

or call 904.437.6077

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 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 cre@uupensacola.org.

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9888 Pensacola Boulevard
Pensacola, FL 32534

TO:



Deadline for the August
Light:

Tuesday, July 21

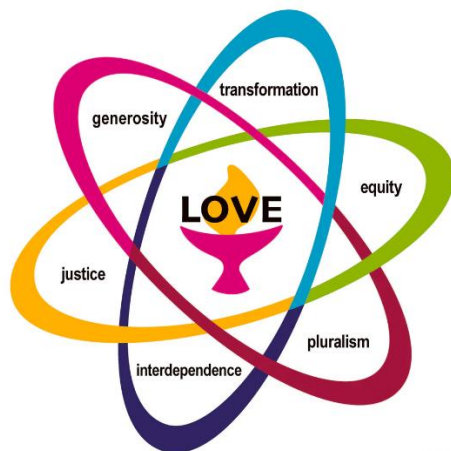


UUCP is proudly an



LGBTQ

Welcoming Congregation



Graphic by Teresa Weisner (tweisner.org)