

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

The Light

Vol. 69 Issue 7 August 2026



Celebrate Diversity Strive for Justice Inspire Love

From the Governing Board

President's Letter

Dear friends,



About two years ago, we had a flood at our house. While we were in Boston, something happened to our water system and quite the mess ensued. After some pretty hefty renovations to our house, we finally got it back up and running about nine months later. The last area of repair from the flood was my record collection was out of order. If I only had a few records, that wouldn't be a big deal, but I have 800 plus. I usually have a few big tasks that I strive for each summer, and alphabetizing the vinyl was my big one. Well, to make a long story short, it took me a few days, but was able to prevail. After the records were alphabetized, I decided the next big task of the summer was listen to each one in alphabetical order. It's a cool way to go through your music if you have an eclectic collection, and I do. Johnny Cash, Patsy Cline, John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Dead Milkmen, Devo, Bob Dylan, Ella Fitzgerald and some random records I forgot I had.

I mention all this because I learned something listening to the records in this way. Each one has something unique that really stands out to me. They're all very different and cool in their own way, but this forces to me to look at the diversity in just that corner of our house and opens up all sorts of worlds. Like books, a good record (or whatever format you prefer) has that potential to have us transcend where we are to find a special place. As I write this, I'm listening to Lionel Hampton on the vibraphone and I'm reminded of our very own Ms. Hollywood E. Jones and the glockenspiel.

Several years ago, we hosted a circle dinner at our house. It was way back when we lived in a much smaller place. It was great to be able to share the records with everyone there. I remember breaking out some Turkish records I found in a thrift store for Dolly Berthelot, who lived in Turkey some time ago. Now, whenever I listen to that record, I associate it with Dolly. I have a Harry Belafonte record that I associate with Rev Julie Kain because of her love of that song "Blue Boat Home." I even have an LP by none other than our own Mike Kilmer (signed!) when they were making some different kinds of music way back in the day. Of course, I can't forget the Beatles records, which I'll always associate with Jack Comstock and his karaoke tribute to mark the anniversary of the British Invasion hitting Ed Sullivan and Miami in 1964.

The records make me think of all sorts of things. Concerts I attended. Bands I love. Friends who I adore. Friends who are no longer with us. When I was reorganizing the records, I came across a Shostakovich record, "The Year 1917," that my friend Samantha gave me for my birthday one year. She died by suicide a few years later, but inside the record is a letter she wrote me. A very poignant moment. I have a few hundred 45s, but what's even cooler is that I have a few 78s that are over 100 years old. It's wild to put those on the turn table, listen to the "snap crackle pop" and hear music from people who've been gone so long there's probably no record of them—except the record. Brand new or a century old, they all tell a story.

DIRECTORY

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

9888 Pensacola Blvd., Pensacola, FL 32534
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Governing Board

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Past President: Crys Brockway
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Treasurer: Bradley Vinson
treasurer@uupensacola.org

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Nancy Hagman
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Caring: Crys Brockway
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Communications: Joe Vinson
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Children's Religious Exploration: Lauren Anzaldo
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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

All of this makes me think of our flock, and all the things that remind me of us. When Nancy Hagman found the "Mother's Day" poster recently, this was like a song from the past that we recognize now. Some people in the pictures are still here and some are not, but the memories remain. The back hallway near the kitchen— incidentally named after Mrs. Barbara Goggins—holds photos going back decades with all sorts of great people. Parties, dinners, galas, and lots of group photos. Pictures of past minsters and pictures of past homes for the congregation. Here, we see our legacy. Like the records on my shelf, some are prominent and some leave a quieter impression, but all are important. Nonetheless, they all inhabit a space, have their own unique stories, and hold a spot in our hearts. Going through all my records, from the beginning to the end, reminds me of the beautiful web we're constantly creating and continuously spinning. They all have stories to tell. We all have stories to tell.

As for the work of the president, I'm slowly setting into the position. I was describing to a friend that it feels a little like triage, and I'm trying to sort out who needs the most help right now. In triage, though, even the best providers miss symptoms sometimes and things go from bad to worse. I say that to say that I may miss some things from time to time. Feel free to reach out to me if you see something important, or if something's going on with you that needs my attention. The board is holding its annual retreat at the end of August. If there's something important you want me to add to the agenda, I'm happy to do so. As I tell my students, my door is always open.

Otherwise, I hope you're all staying hydrated. It's hot out there! It's a good day to sit around at home and listen to records. I hope you're able to carve away some time for yourself and just relax during these dog days of summer. Now, back to the records (If you're curious, the band Heart is next, which reminds me of my late Uncle Phil. Then Heaven's to Betsy, Jimi Hendrix, and more down the way). Happy Summer!

-Scott

NEW & IMPROVED Readers' Zoom Group



If you're interested in joining the ZOOM Readers' Group - let Laurie Winterberg know by email or phone/text. She'll then add your name to the Readers' Group and you'll continue to receive the ZOOM login email as you have in the past.

If you're curious about the Readers' Group - we meet monthly, on the 3rd Monday of each month via ZOOM for about 1 hour. There are no assigned books to read! Participants share their reviews and comments about what they're currently, or recently, reading.

August Lunch Bunch

Hugh Ed Turner

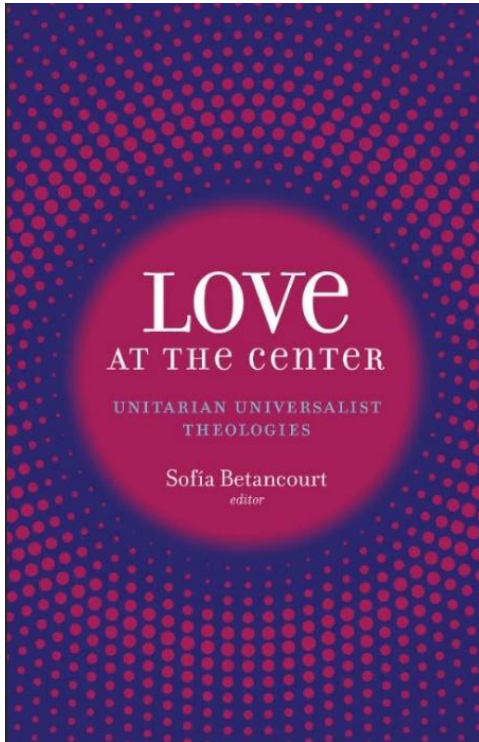


I suggest it's time to get back to some Mexican, so we'll try Cactus Cantina Mexican Grill (850 912 8565), within walking distance of our Airport, at 5121 North 12th Avenue. Either entry off 12th takes you to parking on each side, and the lot in the back, which is more easily accessed via Corporate Woods Drive (entered from either Airport Boulevard or College Blvd.). The north side parking has more shade potential, and restaurant entry is from the front porch. As usual, at 1 PM on the 2nd Wednesday, 12 August. And Hugh T. would like to

know how big the table needs to be (only you can tell me).

So, ... the food at the New Hong Kong House (5912 N. Davis Highway)? Pretty good, judging from comments and carry-homes by the eight attendees (reserved for 10). The HKH serves a lunch in metal Bento boxes with the dinner-level menu at one-third to 50% more \$\$ (and so seems the quantity). The decor is fancy enough, and we were pretty alone for our usual 1:00 in until 2:30-40 exit. ... I got the Bento Pepper Shrimp (entree), 6 of medium size, but with no knife (only fork and large spoon), ate five shrimp at home, too large for a single bite. And spring roll, tangy good, and (soup) Hot and Sour, pretty good. And (salad) Kimchee, vs. cucumber salad: the "kimchee" seemed like white cabbage dipped in sweet vinegar, nothing like spicy hot kimchee of the past. Next time I'll try the cukes. And ask for a knife.

UU Common Read: *Love at the Center*



The UU Common Read for 2026/27 is “Love at the Center: Unitarian & Universalist Theologies” by Sofia Betancourt. A Common Read is a book that lots of UUs read at once to help us build a shared understanding. This book is now available for purchase for \$18 at inSpirit, the UU online book (uuabookstore.org). **If you’d like to read and discuss this fall, see Lauren.**

“Love at the Center” description:

Unitarian Universalists as a progressive religious community hold a humbling expectation to periodically re-evaluate the freely chosen covenant that holds us together. While this work impacts the bylaws that define our governance structures, it also gives life to the values we express in common cause. We do this work to live into the Unitarian Universalism of the future.

In response to the Article II Study Commission and the final adopted language of Article II outlining our shared values, it is clear that the value [that] most describe as central to their faith, to their living, and to the mission of their congregations is love itself. We are a people guided by, and centered in, our engagement with all that love requires.

Our pressing task now is to ask ourselves and each other how this understanding calls us forward, individually and collectively. We may agree that love is central, but what does that mean to us and what does it require of us? It is in that spirit that we asked more than two dozen leaders in our movement the question of what it means to put love at the center of our faith.

In these pages, you’ll find personal testimony to love’s power, reminders of the centrality of love throughout the long histories of Universalism and Unitarianism, and theologies of love drawn from many different expressions of Unitarian Universalism—from the natural world to the justice rally, to a loved one’s deathbed, to the quiet moment before a worship service begins. May Love at the Center serve as an invitation to deepen your own understanding and practices of love.

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.

Sunday Services & Happenings in August

Saturday, August 1, 2026

**Trans Support Group –
4pm**

Sunday, August 2, 2026

**"The Universal Song" –
10am**

Presenter: Elise Boren

Rhythm is more than a pattern of beats in music—it is the pulse woven through all of life. It lives in the rise and fall of breath, the turning of the seasons, the movement of the tides, the beating of the heart, and the quiet cycles of thought and feeling.

Sunday, August 9, 2026

**"Back-To-School
Discussions " – 10am**

Presenter: UU Youth

Hear from the young people of UUCP as they discuss what the start of the school year means to them — hopes, anxieties, goals, and other reflections.

Wednesday, August 12

Lunch Bunch – 1pm

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

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

Saturday, August 15, 2026

**Trans Support Group -
4pm**

Sunday, August 16, 2026

**"O-bon in Japanese
Culture" – 10am**

**Speaker: Teruko Von
Bergen**

O-bon is an annual summer event in Japan that connects ancient beliefs and Buddhist traditions to remember and honor the spirits of deceased ancestors. This service will talk about the cultural background and different aspects of O-bon commemorations, which include the BonFest event in Pensacola on August 22.

Sunday, August 23, 2026

**"The 'In-between Time' of
August " – 10am**

**Speaker: Rev. Theresa
Everett**

We often call August the dogdays of summer and given where we live - we tend to hibernate inside. It's during this time that we are given the opportunity to take this time and view it as late summer fullness and a threshold before change.

**Saturday, August 29, 2026
Board Retreat – 10am**

Gathering of the 2026-27 UUCP Board of Directors to prepare for the coming year. The new monthly meeting date/time for Board meetings will be set during this retreat.

Sunday, August 30, 2026

**"Jayla's Voice and Purple
Pulse" – 10am**

**Speaker: Lakesha Davis or
another representative**

A representative from Jayla's Voice will talk about the tragic death of Jayla Davis from fentanyl and the organization's mission to prevent substance use disorder and provide family support, striving to create a future where every voice is heard and every life is valued. This service includes a Fifth Sunday collection for Jayla's Voice.

Welcome New Members

Jax Taylor & Matt Regynski



Preferred Names and Pronouns:

Jax (she/her) and Matt (he/him)

Where were you born and raised?

Education – High school, trade school, college, major, graduation?

Jax: Born and raised in Pensacola, currently attending college

Matt: Born and raised in Mitchell, SD and also currently attending college

Your Careers – Current or former work? Your chosen profession? What did you like about your career?

Jax: For most of my adult life, I was in the army and modeled on the side. After retiring from the army, I started a business called Rent A Ruminant and Caprine Fitness. After children, I

worked for John Deere before ultimately coming to Florida to go back to school. I like novelty and challenges.

Matt retired in 2024 after serving in the 160th [the Army's Special Operations Aviation Regiment] and helping in all my wild ideas. He is currently working on becoming a pilot.

Adventures or valued experiences the work has provided for you – and/or is still providing.

Jax: I choose careers for the adventure. The list is long.

Parents, siblings, spouse, special relatives, friends.

Matt has 3 siblings and his parents live in Arizona.

Jax: My biological family lives here but we are estranged.

Children: names, ages.

Riley is 9 and Jo Jo is 5

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'm from Pensacola, Matt is from South Dakota. We decided to move to Pensacola for the hurricanes.

What do you like about the area?

We like the beaches, the Blue Angels and the proximity to great experiences for the family.

Special interests or hobbies – now or in the past? – Sports, music, reading, art, community volunteering, advocating for a cause, other?

New experiences and immersing ourselves in new cultures. Shooting for the stars and never turning down opportunities.

Life's adventures you'd like to share. Travels, raising a family, helping in the community, being involved with organizations, starting and running a business...

Jax: I'd share anything you are interested in. There is just a lot. I've owned a business with goats, modeled, been to combat, worked on a riverboat, worked in a factory, homeschooled my kids while traveling in a motorhome, and now I've applied for Nursing School.

What is your religious background? When did you become interested in Unitarian Universalism, and what about the tradition that appeals to you? Were other family members or friends associated with a UU Church, specifically UUCP? Were you a member or involved with UUCP previously?

Matt was raised Catholic.

Jax: I was raised Southern Baptist. Somewhere along the way we came to a point [where] Christianity no longer made sense. Leaving religion left a void that atheism isn't equipped to fill. I suggested one day to try this UU church I heard about. I told them after they were in the car on the way there.

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

Jax: I love how everyone genuinely cares for one another. I feel like we can do better for the kids. We are working in a good direction, but we can do better working together.



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.

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

TO:



Deadline for the July
Light:

Friday, August 21

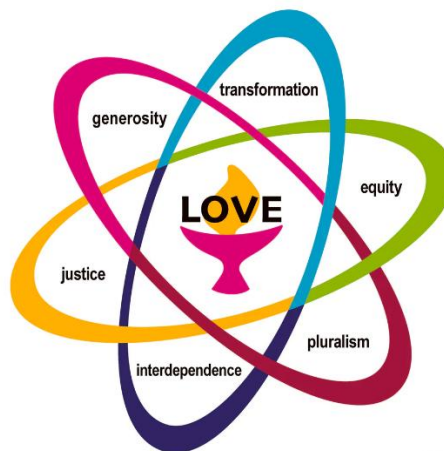


UUCP is proudly an



LGBTQ

Welcoming Congregation



Graphic by Teresa Webster (phd@redbox.org)