

**MARCH 2025**



# FUF MONTHLY NEWS



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Grounded in love,  
Guided by wisdom,  
Committed to spiritual  
growth and justice.

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## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

I was asked to go through a list of members and friends to determine your status with FUF. Are you active? Have you moved? Whatever. I was amazed at how many people I couldn't put name and face together! Of course, the answer is that we should all wear our name tags (and not leave them at home, eh?). The problem with hanging name tags is that your face is up in your line of vision and the name is down on your chest. Awkward. We are discussing getting new name tags. Please feel free to give Mary Anderson your opinion.

I would be remiss if I didn't plug PiDay and the Rummage Sale. PiDay, of course, is 3.14 (March 14), 3-6 pm (We're soooo clever). Please consider bringing a friend, your neighbor, member of your bridge club, and more to have a piece of pie and drink for \$3.00... Such a deal! This is also a community outreach event. And, I might add, a responsibility. This is a fundraiser and, as members and friends, it needs YOUR support. See YOU there!

*(Continued on page 2)*

The same goes for the Rummage Sale, the following week, Saturday March 22nd. "One man's junk is another man's treasure." Please contribute and also sign up to work the event. There are all sorts of jobs to make this run smoothly. Sign-up sheets are out in Coffee Hour.

It turns out that we are doing some Spring Housekeeping here at FUF. There are two sub-committees looking at the office and the lobby for review. Sadly, Allyson and Boogie Russell and family are no longer with FUF, thus leaving a big hole in the religious education (RE) program. We need volunteers to provide RE to our youngest visitors. Please see me if interested. We also will also take this opportunity to review the RE room.

So, three different groups considering updates for three of our areas. Yup, Spring housekeeping for sure!

My best to all of you as we move forward with YOUR participation in the many things happening at FUF. Just wait until you can sign up for Small Group Circles! But that's another story here in the newsletter...

Blessings be,

*Irene*

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# Establishment of Small Group Circles



The Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship's Board of Directors has approved the establishment of Small Group Circles to be offered to members and friends of the Fellowship. Mary Anderson, Maggie Joffe, and Joanne Prescott have been appointed co-coordinators.

## What are "Small Group Circles?"

Although names may differ, according to the Unitarian Universalist Association, "A small group ministry is intentional, lay-led small groups that deepen and expand the ministry of a congregation. Small groups help build community, deepen relationships and provide the opportunity for deeper spiritual exploration and search for meaning." These may also be called covenant groups, because the members in a group make an intentional commitment to one another. Here at the Fellowship, they will be called "Small Group Circles."

## How do Small Group Circles work?

1. The topic is determined for each of the groups' meetings that month. Each group of 5-10 people then gather in a host home at the date and time they agree upon for monthly meetings. An empty chair is reserved as an open invitation for anyone to join the group until the group reaches 12 when another small group may be formed to accommodate the numbers.
2. One or more facilitators guide the group through the format, beginning with the chalice lighting and check in.
3. Each attendee receives a handout of the topic with quotes and questions that they go through either

prior to the gathering or during a designated quiet time during the gathering. These are not discussion groups or dialogue groups. Individuals draw on their own experiences, learnings, philosophies in reflection, and contemplation and are free to share their observations – or pass. Other group members LISTEN.

4. Members may give appreciation or acknowledgement of what someone said that resonated with them.
5. The session ends by extinguishing the candle and offering any recognition of the time spent together.

### **How do I sign up?**

The announcement and invitation to join will be issued at upcoming Sunday services. Sign-up sheets will be posted so just enter your name, telephone number, and email address. You may also contact one of the coordinators. If you wish to host or facilitate, please indicate that also on the sign-up sheets. Once we know how many are interested, there will be a second posting with the address of the host home and named facilitators so you can select a group. You can choose your small group based on your familiarity with other members, wish to get to know other members, convenient host location, convenient scheduling, or another reason.

### **Who and What is needed to start FUF's Small Group Circles**

- **Small Group Coordinators**, Mary Anderson, Maggie Joffe, and Joanne Preston will provide the Facilitators:
  - ◇ Selected monthly lessons and printed handouts
  - ◇ Facilitator Coaching
  - ◇ Trouble-shooting
  - ◇ Announcements/publicity
- **Hosts** will provide:
  - ◇ The comfort of their home with sufficient seating for 8-10 with a few designated quiet areas
  - ◇ Chalice candle and small candles
  - ◇ Some hard writing surfaces
  - ◇ Pens/pencils
- One or two **facilitators** for each group will provide:
  - ◇ Sufficient copies of the lesson
  - ◇ Lesson guidance and direction
  - ◇ Adherence to covenant
  - ◇ Timekeeping
- Small group **members** who want to listen and share.

Former participants of small groups comment that they like the comfort of meeting in a home with the opportunities to create connections, build relationships, take time for reflection/ introspection, and give support to one another.

**If you wish to know more, talk with Mary Anderson, Maggie Joffe, or Joanne Prescott.**

**We welcome your participation!**

# March Programs

Join us each Sunday for a guest speaker during our Fellowship program!

10:45am — Musical prelude

11am — Sunday Fellowship

Coffee Hour to follow



**Dev Wakely**

## March 2

### **Building an Alabama for All of Us**

Dev will cover developments in public policy in this new era through at the State House. This may also include some advocacy opportunities. he'll cover some networking and other opportunities broader than those at the State House as well.

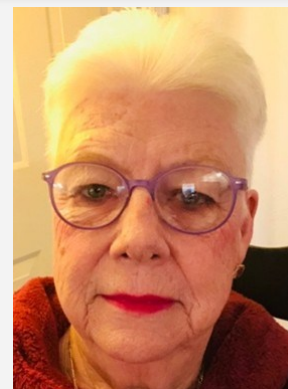
Dev Wakeley is Alabama Arise's worker policy advocate. His work covers criminal justice, the death penalty, predatory lending and voting rights. He currently covers workers' rights policy and equitable economic development, housing and transit.

## March 9

### **National Alliance on Mental Illness: Mental Health for All**

Pat will introduce us to NAMI which provides services to those with mental illness and their families. She will provide a brief history of NAMI Baldwin branch and describe the programs and work that they run. She will invite us to join at the bargain rate of \$5.

Pat Siano worked as an organiser for the Communications Workers of America Union, and retired as a math teacher at Foley High School. She volunteers with many community organisations and is a lifetime member of Wolf Bay Watershed watch.



**Pat Siano**

**March 16**  
**We Danced at Night**

LGBTQ+ history offers a story of resilience in the challenging times. Prism United is looking to queer ancestry to make a path forward in the current cultural climate. We believe it's a wisdom we can all learn from.

Corey Harvard is a poet and singer-songwriter from Grand Bay, Alabama. He is a two-time Pushcart Prize nominee and a regular coach for Poetry Out Loud. In 2018, he co-founded Prism United to respond to the needs of LGBTQ+ youth in S.W. Alabama.



**Corey Harvard**



**Christian Wagley**

**March 23**  
**A Natural History of the Gulf of Mexico**

The Gulf of Mexico is rich in biodiversity. From Native American communities to today's industrialized Gulf rich in fossil energy resources, we'll explore the region's natural history and current status. Rice's whale, a species found in the Gulf of Mexico and nowhere else in the world, illustrates our journey of exploration.

Christian Wagley is coastal organizer for Healthy Gulf, working on water quality, energy, endangered species and climate issues along the coast of NW Florida and South Alabama. He previously worked on green building and development issues.

**March 30**  
**Big Brothers Big Sisters**

BBBS provides mentors for young people, creating a network of support and growth. It helps them make better choices and develop essential life skills. Mentoring helps young people navigate challenges and reach their potential. It allows the mentor to connect with young people and to challenge themselves and develop new skills. The positive impact mentors make on young people's lives can bring pride and fulfillment.

Kelly Qualls, Vice President of Programs, has been with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Central Gulf Coast since 2013. Born and raised in the Mobile area, Kelly knows well the positive effects of mentoring.



**Kelly Qualls**



# What's Happening at FUF

## REGULAR EVENTS

### Silent Meditation Group

The TED Talk room will be open for silent meditation beginning at 9:45am on Sundays. It will not be guided or linked to any method or religion. All are welcome and may come and go at will provided they respect silence.

Contact: Nick Coulson

### Non-Fiction Book Group

Meets at 9:30am on the 1st Thursday of the month.

Contact: Robin Fabel or Michael Patrick

### Fiction Book Group

Meets at 3:30pm monthly on the 4th Wednesday.

Contact: Nick Coulson

### Women of Wisdom Discussion Group

WoW meets every other Thursday at 11am in the TED Talk room. Members select the topic. Lunch to follow at a local restaurant. For more info contact Jane Finger [jane09@gmail.com](mailto:jane09@gmail.com) or just show up!

### Men's Discussion Group

Join us every Tuesday at 9am at the Kind Café in Fairhope. Contact: Don Joffe

### Uke Open Jam

Meets every Monday from 2-4pm. All are invited to come jam with us.

Contact: Carl Couret



## Care and Concerns

If you experience a health setback and could use some assists or know of a Fellowship friend or member who is experiencing such setback, the Care and Concerns Team is here to help. Team members and friends can provide meals, transportation, cards of support, and/or visits while you are on the mend. Call or text Susan Hammack @ 205/ 527-3328 or contact the Fellowship office at 251-929-3207 or email [office@fairhopeuu.org](mailto:office@fairhopeuu.org).

*You are not alone. We are in this together.*

## Refresh Project

A small team has been established to “refresh” the lobby area. This project is in the very beginning stage so it is yet to be determined the full extent of furnishings, books, and other items that can be repurposed from the lobby and other spaces and which may be replaced. However, we have the opportunity to rid ourselves of some obvious extras by taking advantage of the upcoming rummage sale. We want to give you first dibs to either reclaim the item or have your permission to re-donate the item to the sale or a charity.

Please alert Maggie Joffe, Mark Preston, or Mary Anderson as to your donated item so we consider your preferences. Or call the office at 251-929-3207 or email [office@fairhopeuu.org](mailto:office@fairhopeuu.org). In your message, give your name, the item you donated, and state whether you wish to reclaim the item or if you wish to re-donate it. During the course of the project, we will give every consideration to track down who donated an item so they are ok with its disposal.

# March

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>*All events are at FUF unless otherwise noted.</i>						1
2 9:45-Silent Meditation 10:45-Musical Prelude 11:00-Program	3 2pm-Uke Open Jam	4 9am-Men's Group (Kind Café)  <i>Fat Tuesday</i>	5 3pm-4:30pm-Back Porch Folk Singers 4:45pm-5:45pm-Eastern Shore Strings Rehearsal	6 9amHeather&Gwen 9:30am-Non-Fiction Group 11am-WoW 12:30pm-Board Meeting 5pm-Thursday Group (Tammy's Sports Bar & Grill)	7 1pm-ESIC	8 2-5pm- League of Women Voters of Baldwin County 
9 9:45-Silent Meditation 10:45-Musical Prelude 11:00-Program	10 2pm-Uke Open Jam	11 9am-Men's Group (Kind Café) 5:30-Sierra Club Pollinators Presentation (@Five Rivers Delta)	12 3pm-4:30pm-Back Porch Folk Singers 4:45pm-7pm-Eastern Shore Strings Rehearsal	13 9am-Heather & Gwen 5pm-Thursday Group (Tammy's Sports Bar & Grill)	14 1pm-ESIC 3-6pm <b>Pi Day!</b>  Fairhope Arts & Crafts Festival →	15 12:45pm-4pm-Grandmother's Circle Group
16 9:45-Silent Meditation 10:45-Musical Prelude 11:00-Program FH Arts & Crafts →	17  2pm-Uke Open Jam	18 9am-Men's Group (Kind Café)	19 3pm-4:30pm-Back Porch Folk Singers 4:45pm-5:45pm-Eastern Shore Strings Rehearsal	20  9am-Heather & Gwen 11am-Women of Wisdom 5pm-Thursday Group (Tammy's Sports Bar & Grill)	21 Rummage sale setup	22 9am-3pm Rummage Sale 
23 9:45-Silent Meditation 10:45-Musical Prelude 11:00-Program	24 2pm-Uke Open Jam	25 9am-Men's Group (Kind Café)	26 3pm-4:30pm-Back Porch Folk Singers 3:30pm-Fiction Club 4:45pm-5:45pm-Eastern Shore Strings Rehearsal	27 4:30pm Eastern Shore Democrats 5pm-Thursday Group (Tammy's Sports Bar & Grill)	28 1pm-ESIC	29
30 9:45-Silent Meditation 10:45-Musical Prelude 11:00-Program <b>Potluck Sunday</b>	31 2pm-Uke Open Jam	<p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <b>Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 9.</b>            Remember to set your clocks ahead before you go to bed Saturday, March 8!         </p>				

# FUF & Friends Events



## Pollinators: Not Just Bees

The **Mobile Bay Group of the Alabama Sierra Club** invites you to attend a presentation by **Veronica Culberson** (Mobile Botanical Garden's beekeeper) and her entomologist professor father, **Dr. Don Culberson**, to discuss the broad array of pollinators, how pollination works, to discuss pollinators' role in essential ecological survival, the hurdles they face, and the steps we can manage in our own yards to help support pollinators.

Across the globe, insects are disappearing at an alarming rate, by as much as 70% in the last 3/4 of a century. This loss is also reflected in birds and small animals that rely on insects for food, reflecting a decline by approximately 30% in the last 30 years. These collapses in the food web call for attention and intervention.

**When:** Tuesday, March 11th at 5:30 pm; 6:00 pm refreshments.

**Where:** Five Rivers Delta Resource Center, Tensaw Theatre,  
30945 Five Rivers Boulevard, Spanish Fort, AL 36527

**Free admission.**

**Open to the public.**

Join us as we learn ways to contribute to the health and population of pollinators.

Dear FUF Members and Friends,

It has come to my attention twice today that there are families in the Baldwin County area who, because of ICE raids, are without needed food and supplies. The breadwinner of the family is taken away and the family is left with few resources.

FUF can be true to its Mission and help those in need. In addition to the Pantry items you will be bringing on Sunday, please consider bringing one of the following:

- Laundry detergent
- Juice boxes
- Powdered milk for toddlers
- Carnation milk
- Small size sugar
- Diapers, size 2 & 3

Please bring any of these items you can on Sunday. The location of those needing these goods and the people involved in delivery are confidential.

Thank you for your caring.

Best,

Irene



## FUF RUMMAGE SALE

9am- 3pm

March 22

We will have a Rummage Sale on Saturday, March 22.

If you have items to donate, please contact Elaine Snyder-Conn.

We also need volunteers to help set up on Friday, during the sale Saturday, and for breakdown. Let Elaine know if you can help!





# Pi Day is coming!



Bring your appetite (and wear your loose-fitting pants!) to our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Pi Day on Friday, March 14, 2025 from 3-6pm. For all you non-math geeks, Pi Day celebrates the mathematical constant  $\pi$ , whose first three numbers are “3.14”. But don’t worry, the only math involved is simple. For \$3, you’ll get a slice of pie and a coffee!

With the purchase of a slice of pie, you are also automatically entered into the raffle. Raffle winners each receive a specialty pie from Fairhope Chocolate Shop, the Warehouse, or another establishment. Raffle winners will be announced at 5:15pm. You must be present to win. All proceeds serve as a fundraiser and benefit the members of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship and its community.

Member-donated pies include, but are not limited to, apple pie, pecan pie, pizza pie, and cheesecake... which is not technically a pie, but who doesn’t like cheesecake?! And for \$3 a slice, it makes for a great Friday evening where adults can mix and mingle while children can play the various games available onsite. Whole pies will also be available for purchase.

Whether you’re interested in dinner or dessert, there is a pie for you. This event is for anyone who enjoys good food and engaging company.

**\$3 SLICE OF PIE & COFFEE**

**RAFFLE AT 5:15**

**Pi DAY**

**March 14**

**FRIDAY 3.14**  
**3-6 PM**

PIZZA || PECAN || APPLE || CHEESECAKE  
BRING A FRIEND AND YOUR APPETITE!

Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship  
1150 Fairhope Ave. FairhopeUU.org

**Interested in volunteering or donating a delicious pie?**  
Contact Irene Wegner, Maggie Joffe, or Mark Preston!



Thanks to Nick Coulson and Phillip Herring, our Pi Day sign is up on our property!

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# Deadlines for Publications

Weekly Bulletin and FUF Weekender

**Wednesdays by 5pm**

Submit to Mary Matthews: [matthewsmary29@yahoo.com](mailto:matthewsmary29@yahoo.com)

Monthly Newsletter

**23rd of each month by 5pm**

Email your UU-relevant articles, bits of wisdom, scheduled events, quotes, poems, or images!

Submit to Ashley Weller: [Office@FairhopeUU.org](mailto:Office@FairhopeUU.org)

*Thank you*  
for reading!

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## Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

### Sunday Schedule

Silent Meditation - 9:45 am  
Musical Prelude - 10:45 am  
Sunday Service - 11:00 am

*All visitors are warmly invited to participate as our guests!*

*Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship welcomes and embraces people of any age, race, gender identity, or expression, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, ability, language, or cultural background.*

### 2025 Officers, Executive Board, & Staff

Board Chair - *Open*  
President - Irene Wegner  
1st VP/Corresponding Secretary - Mary Matthews  
2nd VP/Programs - Nick Coulson  
Treasurer - Maggie Joffe  
Recording Secretary - Jeanine Normand  
Member at Large - Carl Couret  
Member at Large - Phillip Herring  
Office Admin - Ashley Weller

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**FairhopeUU.org**

**Office@FairhopeUU.org**

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