

APRIL 2025



FUF MONTHLY NEWS



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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Note.....	1-2
Small Group Update.....	2-3
Notes.....	3
April Programs.....	4-5
FUF & Local Events.....	6
Calendar.....	7

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Timothy Snyder's book "On Tyranny" notes that the first rule for resisting a slide from democracy into authoritarian rule is "do not obey in advance... Most of the power that autocrats accumulate is freely given." Ouch. Does that ring home?

If you are saying you just can't watch the news anymore or are planning to move to Canada, please don't let me know. I'm mad as hell and won't take it anymore! Neither will the UUA. They have sent out a list of things you can do to keep your mental health and to act to preserve our integrity. In a nutshell, here is my take on their advice:

Action. What does that mean? It means local, community involvement. In chaotic times we need to act locally and think globally. Be a part of your neighborhood. Join a group that interests you. Embrace FUF and all it has to offer you. Be a part of the Small Group Circles. Find (if you haven't already) a place that makes you happy. A place that washes away that chaos. Most of you know how to do this.

(Continued on page 2)

Good. You have found a way to have personal self-centering and still be vigilant about the world around you.

If social interaction isn't your thing, then consider how you benefit from working or exercising outside. Fortunately, we live in a beautiful area with many opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. I can feel the chaos leaving me when I'm out on a bike ride.

If I can find a way to make a positive difference in my community and still keep my inner peace, I'm OK. What about you?

Blessings be,

Irene



SMALL GROUP CIRCLES

As featured in last month's newsletter, the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship's Board of Trustees authorized the establishment of a small group ministry. These groups will be referred to here as "Small Group Circles." Per UUA - "A small group ministry, (aka Covenant Group, Circle Group) 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."

Ideally, a small group comprises 8-10 participants and if it reaches 12, another small group is established. Enough members and friends here at the Fellowship have indicated interest so that we can begin in April with two small groups with the potential of a third small group to begin meeting in May.

Sign up is in progress either at the Fellowship Hall or by contacting the Coordinators below.

Small Group Circles are scheduled for:

- **Wednesday, April 16 @ 1:30 p.m.** at the home of Don and Maggie Joffe in Daphne; Maggie will be facilitating.
- **Thursday, April 17 @ 6:30 p.m.** at the home of Bryce and Vivian McMurray in Fairhope; Joanne Preston will be facilitating.
- Time/date to be decided for first meeting in May at the new home of Mark & Joanne in Fairhope. Joanne will facilitate and another facilitator will be added at the home of the McMurray's.

Depending on host scheduling (some do go on vacations), host homes may change but early notice will be given to the group's participants.

The topic chosen for the April meetings is "Our Beliefs and How We Came to Them." The "small group planning the small groups" reviewed this lesson when they gathered at the home of Mary Anderson and

found it thought-provoking! Lessons will be sent out via email by the Facilitators prior to each meeting so participants will have some time to review and reflect on the subject.

At the first meetings, the groups will determine the date and time for their continued meetings. Along with the lesson, they will review their Small Group Circles' Behavioral Covenant.

Once participants have experienced the lesson format, they may want to review the topics listed at the UUA web site. There are hundreds of lessons that have been offered by UU churches around the country who have their own small group ministries. See: www.smallgroupministry.net. The Coordinators will be open to your suggestions.

At each meeting there will be an empty chair – indicating a welcome to anyone wishing to join the Circle.

To join or to learn more, please contact Coordinators:

- Mary Anderson @ 218/346-6638 or email: andersonmaryleona@gmail.com
- Maggie Joffe @ 678/910-2762 or email: mjoffe@gmail.com
- Joanne Preston @ 831/402-4997 or email: jjhpreston18@gmail.com

Or call and leave your message with the Fellowship office @ 251-929-3207 or email Office@FairhopeUU.org

Notes

From our guest speaker on March 16, Corey Harvard:

A couple of individuals asked about donating to Prism. You can donate online by going to <https://prismunited.org/donate/>

If anyone has any trouble with the donation form, they're welcome to reach out to Corey for help!

A couple individuals asked if they could volunteer for Prism Prom. They have an online form to register. You can email them at info@prismunited.org or email Ashley at office@fairhopeuu.org for the link.

From Daniela Pardo:

This summer I will be teaching music lessons from 10am and 2pm on the following days:

> June 16, 18, 23, 25

> July 14, 16, 21, 23

Any child or grandchild from a member can come to my summer classes for free :-)



Thank
you!

Thank you to everyone who helped with the March Rummage Sale!
Thanks to your hard work and generosity, it was a great success!

April Programs



April 6

Civics 101: Federal Government Fundamentals

Have you ever wondered if you could pass the Naturalization test without studying? Let's test our current knowledge and go over basic principles of our government, such as rule of law, hierarchy of laws and separation of powers. Finally, let's cover our roles as citizens: our rights and responsibilities as "We the People".

April 13

The Yellowhammer Fund

The Yellowhammer Fund provides support and funding for women seeking care at one of Alabama's three independent abortion clinics. They engage in policy advocacy, and offer help to low income families, with legal defense, and contraception by mail.

Heidi Miller, born and raised in Montgomery, Alabama now lives in Birmingham. She has a BA in English and over 12 years in the service industry. She has been a dedicated advocate for Reproductive Justice at Yellowhammer Fund since 2019 and is especially passionate about direct aid, policy advocacy, and abolition work.



Heidi Miller

April 20

A History of Trans Liberation

Hollyrose will discuss the historical context for Trans people's existence. She will describe the ways in which the colonial authority has targeted queer and transness, attempting to erase that cultural heritage and remove it from the historical record. She will tie this into current issues and offer instructions for the many ways that trans people can be supported today.



Hollyrose Baker

Hollyrose Baker is an anarchist writer, artist and activist. She helped found the Lower Alabama Native Plant society and Mobile Alabama Mutual Aid. For a decade she has worked to provide housing for homeless queer people and coordinates free food for struggling queer people and at Pride events.

April 27

Hate & Extremism in Alabama and the Nation



Maya Carey

Maya Henson Carey, senior research analyst at the Southern Poverty Law Center, is back to discuss current trends and SPLC's recent report on the Year in Hate and Extremism.

Maya Henson Carey is a research analyst with the SPLC's Intelligence Project, focusing on the anti-government and anti-student inclusion movements. She spent over 10 years in higher education. Maya has a B.S. in business, an M.A. in psychology and an M.Ed. in higher education administration. She also holds an Ed.D. focusing on diversity and equity education.

What's Happening at FUF

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 or just show up!

***April 3—Africatown tour**

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

Local Events this Month



Art WITH A PURPOSE Transforming Lives

2nd ANNUAL
SCAVENGER HUNT
SEARCH • HAVE FUN • DISCOVER

SATURDAY, APRIL 12 10:00AM-1:00PM
TEAM OR INDIVIDUAL PLAY

BAY BREEZE CAFE STARTING POINT

Are you ready for a day of excitement, mystery, and fun?

WHY JOIN?
Intriguing Clues
Hidden Treasures
Amazing Prizes
Downtown Fairhope Fun

unity on the Eastern Shore

Don't Miss Out. Sign up Today!

\$25 per person
For More Information:
CALL: 720-339-4411



NAMI National Alliance on Mental Illness

Baldwin County
4th Annual
Mental Health Fair

Fun Games
Arts
Food
Animals
Information

Saturday, April 26, 2025
10AM - 2PM
Honeybee Park -
Hwy 59 N
Robertsdale, AL

namibaldwin@gmail.com
namibaldwincounty.org
251-279-0573





April



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 9am -Men's Group (Kind Café)	2 3pm-4:30pm -Back Porch Folk Singers 4:45pm-5:45pm -Eastern Shore Strings Rehearsal	3 9:30am -Non-Fiction Group 9:30am -WOW Africatown Tour 5pm -Thursday Group (Tammy's Sports Bar & Grill)	4 1pm -ESIC	5
6 9:45 -Silent Meditation 10:45 -Musical Prelude 11:00 -Program	7 2pm -Uke Open Jam	8 9am -Men's Group (Kind Café)	9 3pm-4:30pm -Back Porch Folk Singers 4:45pm-5:45pm -Eastern Shore Strings Rehearsal	10 5pm -Thursday Group (Tammy's Sports Bar & Grill)	11 12:30pm -Board Meeting 1pm -ESIC	12 10am-1pm -Fairhope Scavenger Hunt starting at Bay Breeze Café
13 9:45 -Silent Meditation 10:45 -Musical Prelude 11:00 -Program	14 2pm -Uke Open Jam	15 Tax Day 9am -Men's Group (Kind Café)	16 1:30pm -Small Group Circle (at Joffe's home) 3pm-4:30pm -Back Porch Folk Singers 4:45pm-5:45pm -Eastern Shore Strings Rehearsal	17 11am -Women of Wisdom 5pm -Thursday Group (Tammy's Sports Bar & Grill) 6:30pm -Small Group Circle (at McMurray's home)	18 1pm -ESIC	19 12:45pm-4pm -Grandmother's Circle Group
 9:45 -Silent Meditation 10:45 -Musical Prelude 11:00 -Program	21 2pm -Uke Open Jam	22 Earth Day  9am -Men's Group (Kind Café)	23 3pm-4:30pm -Back Porch Folk Singers 3:30pm -Fiction Club 4:45pm-5:45pm -Eastern Shore Strings Rehearsal	24 5pm -Thursday Group (Tammy's Sports Bar & Grill)	25 1pm -ESIC	26 10am-2pm -NAMI Mental Health Fair @ Honeybee Park Robertsedale
27 9:45 -Silent Meditation 10:45 -Musical Prelude 11:00 -Program Potluck Sunday	28 2pm -Uke Open Jam	29 9am -Men's Group (Kind Café)	30 3pm-4:30pm -Back Porch Folk Singers 4:45pm-5:45pm -Eastern Shore Strings Rehearsal	All events are at FUF unless otherwise noted.		

Deadlines for Publications

Weekly Bulletin and FUF Weekender

Wednesdays by 5pm

Submit to Mary Matthews: 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

Thank you
for reading!



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/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

FairhopeUU.org

Office@FairhopeUU.org
