



# FUF MONTHLY NEWS

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**Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship**  
 1150 Fairhope Ave.  
 Fairhope, AL 36532  
 www.FairhopeUU.org

## A NOTE FROM THE FUF PRESIDENT

I’ve been thinking a lot about community lately. Our community, the UU Community, and other communities that are either close to the heart or significant to our lives.

As it so happens, community was the theme this past Friday of the storytelling group for the Hope Community as well. But, as they say, that’s another story!

This led me to look for the root word of “community.” It’s **communis**, from Latin, meaning “common, public, general, shared by all or many.” According to my friend, Susan Godwin, it has evolved to its current meaning of a group of people living in the same area, sharing common interest, or having a sense of belonging.

This is a reasonable definition but it doesn’t answer a pressing question: “Are we a healthy community?”

It so happens that in my stack of many non-profit or social service agency handouts, I have one that speaks to this question. It has a list of ten items that a healthy community exhibits. I will have the list available at FUF, but briefly here are the high notes:

Goal focus, communication, power equalization, human resources utilization, cohesiveness, morale, innovativeness, autonomy, adaptation, and problem-solving strategies

In all of these, I see the need for the key ingredient of **diversity**. Diversity is a strength. It demands that we listen to each other. It challenges our opinions and beliefs. That is how we grow: by learning

*(Continued on page 2)*

from each other and bringing a curiosity and the spirit of learning into our relationships.

As we work towards a common vision we achieve a healthy, vibrant community.

May it be so,

Irene

### Our FUF Vision Statement:

*Grounded in love, guided by reason, committed to spiritual growth and justice.*

## SMALL GROUP CIRCLES



On April 20 and 21, there were seven (7) participants at each of the homes of the Joffes and the McMurrays. They experienced the beginnings of a small group ministry being introduced to Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship.

The participants reviewed a Covenant of Behavior and focused on the lesson: *Our Beliefs and How We Came to Them*. Much time was spent after the lesson, conversing over treats. There is always an empty chair at each session as an invitation to join one of the groups:

- ◆ Tuesday, May 20 @ 6:30 at the McMurray's and continuing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.
- ◆ Wednesday, May 21 @ 1:30 p.m. at the Joffe's and continuing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

**Contact Mary Anderson, Maggie Joffe, Joanne Preston, or Vivian McMurray if you are interested in joining.**

(The following is a reading shared during the April Circle)

### Cherish Your Doubts

Cherish your doubts, for doubt is the servant of truth.

Question your convictions, for beliefs too tightly held strangle the mind and its natural wisdom.

Suspect all certitudes, for the world whirls on – nothing abides.

Yet in our inner rooms full of doubt, inquiry, and suspicion, let a corner be reserved for trust.

For without trust there is no space for communities to gather or for friendships to be forged.

Indeed, this is the small corner where we connect—and reconnect—with each other.

*By Michael A. Schuler*

## Refreshing the Foyer

Over the next month or so, you will be seeing some changes within the open foyer. The Board of Trustees has approved a “Foyer Refreshing Project” to update the décor of this area. The Refreshing Team includes Mary Anderson, Maggie Joffe, and Mark Preston. The team’s goals are to make the area:

- Less cluttered
- More modern looking
- More inviting and welcoming
- Multi-functional
- Aesthetically pleasing
- Conducive to sharing UU messages and art work
- Provide low maintenance and easy traffic flow



The team made a listing of all items in the foyer either to be retained, relocated, replaced, or donated. The quest begins with thrift store shopping to find comfortable seating and other items compatible with retained pieces in earth-toned colors. The team is also hoping to elicit Fellowship artists to create pieces displaying UU symbolism.

Other ideas and suggestions are welcome.

## Little Free Pantry



In his routine monitoring of the recently installed security camera footage, Phillip Herring has brought to our attention his surprising observations. He expected to maybe see 3-4 cars stopping through the week to check out the Little Free Pantry. Instead, what he is seeing are 10-12 cars pulling up DAILY to check out supplies.

One especially heartwarming example is Phillip’s description of a little guy showing great delight when his mom returned to the car and showed him their bag filled with food and supplies.

Our community neighbors depend upon our generous giving. With this volume, non-perishable items are quickly depleted. Please consider making a habit of bringing nonperishable items each week to help restock the Little Free Pantry shelves.



For some, Mother's Day is a joyful time to celebrate and honor the moms in our lives.

For others, it can be a painful reminder of what you lost or perhaps never had.

No matter what mix of emotions arise this holiday, know that your feelings are valid.

You are seen and you are loved.





## Care and Concern

If you experience a health setback and could use some assists or if you 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/text Susan Hammack @ 205-527-3328

Email the Fellowship office [office@fairhopeuu.org](mailto:office@fairhopeuu.org)

or leave a voicemail at 251-929-3207.

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

# WELCOME

## Invitation to Become a Voting Member

If you are new to or a longtime friend of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship and wish to become a voting member, we bid you welcome to complete and submit the Membership Form and sign the Membership Book. To get the form, ask Ashley Weller (Administrative Assistant) or Mary Anderson (Member Support Chair). You can also go to our website to complete and submit the form:

<https://fairhopeuu.org/join/>

New members will be welcomed at a special program on June 1 (see feature on page 8).



### 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 :-)

# May Programs

Join us for Fellowship every Sunday!

10:45am—Musical Prelude

11:00am—Program with Guest Speaker

Coffee Hour to Follow (Potluck on the last Sunday of the month)



**Dean Mosher**

## May 4

### Fighting to Protect Fairhope

Dean will tell us of his history of working with great people to effect positive change in Fairhope for nearly half a century.

**Dean Mosher** is a celebrated painter of epic historic paintings. Many hang in national museums and institutions, major universities, National Park Visitor Centers and the Fairhope Museum of History. Mosher’s work has also appeared in many books. He has been honored with many awards, including the Commander General’s medal for saving the archives of the NOUS. He lives and works in his hand-built castle & studio in Fairhope, featured on TV. His proudest achievements are winning the hand of his wife of 46 years, Pagan, and raising two great children, Megrez Ravel and Cleveland Turner.

## May 11

### Mother’s Day

We will gather in a circle to remember both our Mom and our childhood years.

This will give us all a chance to honor our Mom, remember our childhood, and tell some tales. If you can’t say something, you either can pass the mic or write it out for someone else to read.



**May 18**

## **Palm Sunday: A New Way to Read the Story**

The Palm Sunday story has been told in many ways, often weighed down with religious baggage, but what if we understood it differently? What if we read the “Triumphal Entry” as a story of a bold political resistance and protest, leading into a week of courage and transformation through overwhelming odds? This talk explores how the Palm Sunday parade invites us into courageous action, even when the path is uncertain.



**Zach Helton**

Zachary Helton (he/him) is an ordained minister, a long-time Buddhist practitioner, and a writer. He currently serves as a hospital chaplain in Pensacola, FL, has been published in Baptist News Global, and has an upcoming short story in Braided Way Magazine. You can find out more about Zach’s work at [zachhelton.com](http://zachhelton.com).

**May 25**

## **Jane Finger & Irene Wegner: Flower Communion**



This historic UU story of courage for liberty and brotherhood celebrates beauty, human uniqueness, diversity, community & the story of Norbert Capek and its influence on UU congregations around the world.

**Please bring a single flower (just one!) to the Fellowship service on Sunday**

Irene and her husband, Pete, have lived in many parts of the South, settling in Fairhope 12 years ago. A former teacher, religious education director, & social service administrator, Irene was an organizer and lobbyist for AARP. Irene’s husband Pete brought this program, popular in UU churches from Carmel, Ind.

Jane grew up a Methodist who moved toward agnosticism. She was happy to join our liberal UU community when moving to Fairhope in 2001. She adds: “It’s appropriate that I should participate in this program, because some of my most spiritual moments are those I spend in my flower garden early in the morning.”

# What's Happening at FUF

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## 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



## Honor Celebrate Welcome

Special Sunday Program, June 1, 2025

**Honor Our Elders, Celebrate Our History, Welcome New Members**

Sometime beginning in the 1920's, with the establishment of a single tax model community under development in Fairhope, a group of liberal thinkers began assembling on Sunday mornings in each other's homes. A presentation by one of the members on ethical concepts, national and local affairs and readings, was followed by "vigorous" discussion.

Over the years other sites were used for meetings. In April 1982 the congregation adopted a set of bylaws and named themselves the Fairhope Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Over the years other sites were used for meetings. A building fund was begun, and in 2003, the Fellowship Hall was completed.

On June 1 during Sunday service, we will present a special program to honor a few of these early members still with us. Celebrate the history of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship, and welcome new members.

To be featured in the Program is another important and long-lasting feature of this history, the Back Porch Folk Singers. Its members have changed over the years, but they are still regularly providing special music.

The program will include a first viewing of a new PowerPoint presentation developed for New Member Orientation that includes what UU is and gives more details of the Fellowship's history.

FUF's history is ongoing. The program will end with new member welcoming ceremony assuring our continuance into the future!





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>*All events are at FUF unless otherwise noted.</p>				<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>9:30am</b>-Non-Fiction Group  <b>11am</b> -WOW  <b>5pm</b>-Thursday Group (Tammy's Sports Bar &amp; Grill)  <b>6pm</b>-SPLC</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>1pm</b>-ESIC</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>
<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>9:45</b>-Silent Meditation  <b>10:45</b>-Musical Prelude  <b>11:00</b>-Program</p>	 <p><b>2pm</b>-Uke Open Jam</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>9am</b>-Men's Group (Kind Café)</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>3pm-4:30pm</b>-Back Porch Folk Singers</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>5pm</b>-Thursday Group (Tammy's Sports Bar &amp; Grill)</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>1pm</b>-ESIC</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>
<p><b>11</b></p> <p><i>Happy Mothers Day</i></p> <p><b>9:45</b>-Silent Meditation  <b>10:45</b>-Musical Prelude  <b>11:00</b>-Program</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>2pm</b>-Uke Open Jam</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>9am</b>-Men's Group (Kind Café)</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>3pm-4:30pm</b>-Back Porch Folk Singers</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>11am</b>-Women of Wisdom  <b>5pm</b>-Thursday Group (Tammy's Sports Bar &amp; Grill)</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>1pm</b>-ESIC</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>12:45pm-4pm</b>-Grandmother's Circle Group  <b>4pm</b> - League of Women Voters</p>
<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>9:45</b>-Silent Meditation  <b>10:45</b>-Musical Prelude  <b>11:00</b>-Program</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>2pm</b>-Uke Open Jam</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>9am</b>-Men's Group (Kind Café)  <b>6:30pm</b>- Small Group Circle @ the McMurray's home</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>1:30pm</b>- Small Group Circle @ the Joffee's home  <b>3pm-4:30pm</b>-Back Porch Folk Singers</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>5pm</b>-Thursday Group (Tammy's Sports Bar &amp; Grill)</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>12:30pm</b>-Board Meeting  <b>1pm</b>-ESIC</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>
<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>9:45</b>-Silent Meditation  <b>10:45</b>-Musical Prelude  <b>11:00</b>-Program  <b>Potluck Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>2pm</b>-Uke Open Jam</p>  <p><b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>  <small>★ REMEMBER AND HONOR ★</small></p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>9am</b>-Men's Group (Kind Café)</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>3pm-4:30pm</b>-Back Porch Folk Singers  <b>3:30pm</b>-Fiction Club</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>11am</b> -WOW Meeting  <b>5pm</b>-Thursday Group (Tammy's Sports Bar &amp; Grill)  <b>6pm</b> - Eastern Shore Democrats</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>1pm</b>-ESIC  <b>7:30pm</b> - Eastern Shore Chamber of Music</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p><b>7:30pm</b> - Eastern Shore Chamber of Music</p>

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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

### **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