



# FUF MONTHLY NEWS

# August 2025



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**Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship**  
 1150 Fairhope Ave.  
 Fairhope, AL 36532  
[www.FairhopeUU.org](http://www.FairhopeUU.org)

## A NOTE FROM THE FUF PRESIDENT

I'm used to school starting after Labor Day. And Halloween thoughts filling my head in October. Yet, here it is July 23rd and school begins here in August and the stores and catalogs are already full of tantalizing Halloween items. Planning ahead is always a good practice, so I guess FUF should also be considering how we will make this fall productive and memorable. So...Some plans have been made and there are fundraisers in the works. Interested? Please contact Mark Preston. Should be fun!

Keeping our grounds attractive and welcoming is a BIG job! Suzanne Tormoen would love to have you join her in the Weed Fight and Flower Victory going on outside. Inside we have the kitchen crew that brings us themed gatherings once a month but also makes sure we have nibbles and drinks every Sunday. Ever hear the song "Coffee, Coffee, Coffee"? It was written for those folks. Your donations are always appreciated.

The Cares and Concerns Committee does a fantastic job of keeping in touch with folks. It can always-and does need new members. You can visit someone, call, text or bring them a meal. Please check with Susan Hammock. She'll add your name to the list!

Perhaps the most wonderful thing you can do on Sunday morning-or any time you come to FUF- is to remember to bring something for the Food Pantry. Cuts to school programs will be hitting us this fall and we can help with families with children. Our neighborhood is surrounded by senior housing and the Pantry is used by them as well. Our new

*(Continued on page 2)*

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security system has shown that there are far more visits to the Pantry than food available. Don Joffe can use more weekly volunteers and substitutes.

Hmmm...that should keep you busy this fall. Oh! And there's bringing flowers on Sunday morning and clearing off the driveway and disability parking spots and greeters and...the list goes on. Be sure there's something here for you to do to contribute to the community!

May it be so.

Irene

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## **UU NAME SELECTION FOR FUF ROOM NAMING**

***Results are in!***

Here's the list:

- Susan B. Anthony—Sanctuary
- Louisa May Alcott—Foyer
- Fannie Farmer—Kitchen
- Henry Thoreau—Adult Classroom
- Dorothea Dix—Office
- Clara Barton—Children's Classroom

**Q:** What's this all about?

**A:** Increase awareness of who we are as UUs and educate members and visitors about our rich heritage. Many of you researched the list provided for your choices (which consisted of well-known UUs—15 male and 15 female).



**Match the UU with why they are important:**

Susan B. Anthony	Jo, Amy, Meg, & Beth March
Louisa May Alcott	Mental Health Reformer
Fannie Farmer	Walden Pond
Dorothea Dix	Founder of Red Cross
Henry Thoreau	Cook Book Fame
Clara Barton	Suffragist, Human Rights Activist

*Come August 3 for the answers!*

## **SMALL GROUP CIRCLES**

The evening Small Group Circle will meet at Suzanne Tormoen's home on **Tuesday, August 19 at 6:30pm.**

The afternoon Circle will meet at the Joffe's in Daphne on **Wednesday, August 20 at 1:30pm.**

The topic for July is "How does a good person help others?"

To join, an empty chair awaits you.



**For more information, contact:**

⇒ **Mary Anderson—251.346.6638**

⇒ **Maggie Joffe—678.910.2762**

⇒ **Joanne Preston — 831.402.4997**

⇒ **Vivian McMurray 251.232.2841**



Now that schools are out for the summer, we will likely have a greater need for our pantry. Please consider donating nonperishable, kid-friendly snacks and drinks. **Single-serve** snacks and items that kids can prepare on their own are especially helpful. Some suggestions include:

- Apple sauce cups and squeeze packs
- Breakfast/granola bars
- Trail mix
- Goldfish packs
- Veggie Straws
- Cracker packs
- Sports drinks
- Juice packs
- Chef Boyardee and similar meals (the ones in the plastic bowls are ideal for kids)
- Cereal

## **UPCOMING FUF EVENTS**

**Saturday, September 20** — Standup Comedy Night

**Saturday, October 4** — Pop-Up Art Event featuring Pinky Bass and other artists



## FOYER REFRESHED

The team of Mary Anderson, Maggie Joffe, and Mark Preston are declaring the Foyer Refresh Project complete. It came out seriously under budget with expenditures totaling a little over \$300, much less than the \$1000 that was Board-authorized.

The brochure rack has been moved next to the bulletin board to provide easier access to information.

Art pieces were contributed by Mark Oehler with two paintings of 'Welcome' and 'Interconnections.' Maggie Joffe designed and created the quilt hanging featuring the symbolic chalice. Please thank them for their contributions.

Also featured is a painting by the late Jean Lawrence that will be offered for bid at the October Fundraiser: Arts Extravaganza Pop-Up Sale and hopefully, to be donated to the Fellowship, as it is such a serene and calming addition to the foyer. There is an art piece by Pinky Bass and there is still wall space for other artists to "advertise" their pieces should they wish to contribute to the Pop-Up Sale. We are looking for contributions of works by members, as well as art you are interested in passing along. Detailed information will appear in the September Newsletter. Please contact Pinky at [moosepinkie@earthlink.net](mailto:moosepinkie@earthlink.net) about your contributions and for more information.



## POP-UP ART EVENT

On **Saturday October 4, 2025**, FUF will host an Arts Fundraiser. Plan to contribute paintings, sculptures, and art works of various media, as well as art supplies and pieces you have that are ready to be recycled. More info to follow.

Pinky Bass ([moosepinkie@earthlink.net](mailto:moosepinkie@earthlink.net))



## NEW MEMBERS

Since June 1, eleven (11) former "friends" and newcomers have filled out the membership form and signed the Membership book so they are now officially voting members. New Member Welcoming will be held in December with a new member orientation date to be announced before that.

If you wish to become a member of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship, please contact Mary Anderson (Member Support Chair) or Ashley Weller (Office Administrator) to receive the form and complete the process.

## July & August Artist Spotlight

**Richard Radcliff**



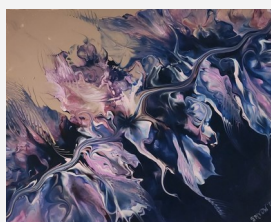
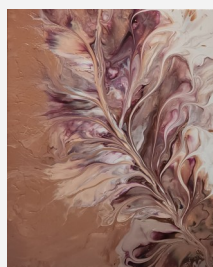
**Shawn VanDeWater**

### **Richard (Dick) Radcliff:**

My God-given talent was first evident in grade school, however, I did not pursue a career in art. The balance of my years in school were devoted preparing for a career in engineering. After graduating from college, my time was spent raising a family and practicing civil-structural engineering. My artwork was limited to wall murals at home for our children's bedrooms and later murals for grandchildren and for our home decor.

The last few years of my career I started painting with oil pastels. After retirement, time was available to pursue charcoal drawings, oil pastels, and, ultimately, wood carving and acrylic painting on wood and canvas.

Most of my artistic efforts have been to support church programs, i.e. vacation Bible Schools, visual aids for Bible studies, etc. In the past few years, I have carved wood and painted with acrylics when commissioned and for our home decor.



### **Shawn VanDeWater:**

I have always been able to "color in the lines" as a younger person. I dabbled in ceramics for a time, had a small business in South Dakota doing arrangements and wedding flowers in silks. So I have always been able to put some colors together.

After retiring and moving to Alabama with my husband and my father, I decided to try my flare at painting with dad and found that I really enjoy it and have a bit of talent. Though our art is very different, we love the time and collective process together now as we work independently in our craft room.



# August Programs

Join us for Fellowship every Sunday!

10:45am—Musical Prelude

11:00am—Program with Guest Speaker

Coffee Hour to Follow (Potluck on August 31)



**Luke Kiszla**

## August 3

### **Environmental Stewardship: A Foundation of Faith**

Luke will offer an overview of his personal motivations for environmental stewardship and a review of the current work of Mobile Baykeeper.

Luke is Current Affairs Director for Mobile Baykeeper, working in policy and regulations. An Attorney by training, Luke arrived at Baykeeper in 2024 following a decade of work as a political staffer in various roles. He enjoys applying his experience toward the mission of providing cleaner water.

## August 10

### **Contemporary Recycled Artwork**

Bruce Larsen is a sculptor and special-effects artist known internationally. He repurposes discarded and found objects into sculptures that typically depict animals in action poses and humans playing sports. He uses his artwork to bring new meaning to the objects while still allowing them to show their history. Larsen has won several awards for his artwork and is also known for his work in movies. He was inducted into the Alabama Art Hall of Fame in 2016. He lives and works in Fairhope.

You can see his work locally at the U.S. Sports Academy in Daphne, Arts Alley in Fairhope and many other locations.



**Bruce Larsen**

## **August 17**

### **Everyday Law**

Do you really need a Last Will and Testament? This program will answer several legal questions like that one -- questions people ask frequently. It will be a potpourri of business-related legal concerns people encounter in everyday life.

Bill Meck is a business lawyer. He graduated from The Citadel with a degree in English and he holds a law degree from Wake Forest University. His office is in Fairhope. He is a sole practitioner whose clients are individuals and businesses who are planning and implementing transactions involving Probate, Commercial, Real Estate, and Corporate Law.



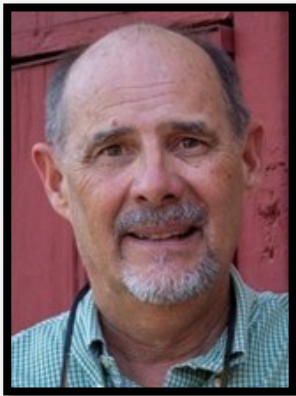
**Bill Meck**

## **August 24**

### **Mobile and Havana: Two Sisters Across the Gulf**

John Sledge is one of the authors of the recent book "Mobile and Havana: sisters across the Gulf." He will provide an overview of the long linkage between two most exotic cities. They share stories of European conquest, trade, high-society connections, knowledge and culture. It should be a rich visual, immersive experience into both the history and the architectural heritage of these two places.

John is currently Maritime historian-in-residence at the National Maritime Museum of the Gulf. He retired as a senior architectural historian with the Mobile Historic Development Commission in 2024. He was a newspaper Book Page editor for the *Mobile Press-Register* and is a National Book Critics Circle member. He has published many books about the Gulf Coast region and its history.



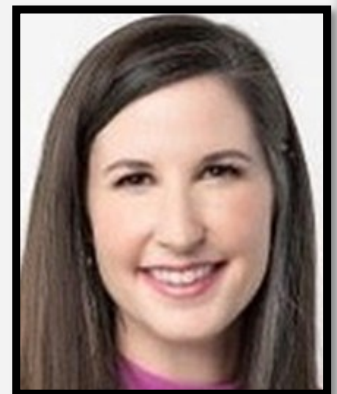
**John Sledge**

## **August 31**

### **Impact 100 and Baldwin County**

Kelsey will discuss how Impact 100 works in the Baldwin County Community. Kelsey will share the process for application and award of grants and also discuss support that the organization gives throughout the county. She will highlight the most recent grants, how to join and how to support in other ways.

Kelsey Lovett is a Certified Financial Planner and Investment Wealth Manager with Ameriprise Financial. Her passion is helping people learn how to invest and save their money so that they can be more generous with their wealth. She has 17 years of experience working with and serving clients.



**Kelsey Lovett**

# FUF Groups

All are welcome to join any group!

## Weekly

### Silent Meditation Group

(There will be no Silent Meditation Group meetings this month. The group will resume September 7.)

### Uke Open Jam

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

Contact: Carl Couret

### Men's Discussion Group

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

### Thursday Group

Meets every Thursday 5pm at the Market by the Bay on Church Street. Contact: Michael Patrick



## Bi-weekly

### 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 janef09@gmail.com or just show up!

## Monthly

### Non-Fiction Book Group

Meets at 9:30am on the 1st Thursday of the month.  
Contact: Robin Fabel or Michael Patrick

### Small Group Circles

Evening Circle meets 6:30pm on 8/19  
at Suzanne Tormoen's home  
Afternoon Circle meets 1:30pm on 8/20  
at the Joffe's home

### Fiction Book Group

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



## CARES AND CONCERNS

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.**





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
*All events are at FUF unless otherwise noted.					1  1pm-ESIC	2
3 11:00-Program	4  2pm-Uke Open Jam	5  9am-Men's Group (Kind Café)	6  3pm-4:30pm-Back Porch Folk Singers	7 9:30am-Non- Fiction Group 11am-Women of Wisdom 5pm-Thursday Group (FH Market by the Bay)	8  12:30pm-Board Meeting  1pm-ESIC	9
10 11:00-Program	11  2pm-Uke Open Jam	12  9am-Men's Group (Kind Café)	13  3pm-4:30pm-Back Porch Folk Singers	14  5pm-Thursday Group (FH Market by the Bay)	15  1pm-ESIC	16  12:45pm-4pm- Grandmother's Circle Group
17 11:00-Program	18  2pm-Uke Open Jam	19 9am-Men's Group (Kind Café)  6:30pm- Small Group Circle @ the Suzanne Tormoen's home	20 1:30pm- Small Group Circle @ the Joffee's home  3pm-4:30pm-Back Porch Folk Singers	21 11am-Women of Wisdom  5pm-Thursday Group (FH Market by the Bay)	22  1pm-ESIC	23
24 11:00-Program  31 11:00-Program Potluck Sunday	25  2pm-Uke Open Jam	26  9am-Men's Group (Kind Café)	27 3pm-4:30pm-Back Porch Folk Singers  3:30pm-Fiction Book Group	28  5pm-Thursday Group (FH Market by the Bay)	29  1pm-ESIC	30

## Deadlines for Publications

### Weekly Bulletin and FUF Weekender

**Wednesdays by 5pm**

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

### September Newsletter

**Submit by August 27**

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

### **Mission Statement:**

To explore new ideas,  
To search for truth and knowledge,  
To take care of the Earth,  
To enjoy fellowship with open-minded thinkers,  
To support and care for each other,  
And to create an atmosphere of love and  
understanding among our members and for those  
who come after us.

### **Vision Statement:**

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

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