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

A NOTE FROM THE FUF PRESIDENT

Ah, yes, Thanksgiving! Visions of Norman Rockwell-like family harmony come to mind. Divisive opinions are set aside as we give thanks and honor the family traditions. Um...not always... This vision is a lucky reality for some of us, but not all! Some of us are fortunate to have the same political ideology around the Thanksgiving table. Same goes for religious attitudes. I grew up Episcopal (low church) with Catholic and Lutheran cousins. We were too busy making up plays for our elders and playing games to be aware of our differences. And then there is the issue of our human sexuality. There can be-and are- hurtful opinion differences of who we can be -or should be -that isolate many.

The last issue is one of the reasons we will again have the open Thanksgiving Day Dinner. Everyone is invited! It's a pitch-in event. You also may not have family here, so you are most welcome to share this day with the FUF Family. Have other plans? You can still participate by dropping off a side dish or maybe a game to play. The point is that family can be relatives but it can also be a Friends Family. Family means connections and a safe place to share our ideas and dreams. We welcome YOU to the FUF Friends Family!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL!

Irene



POP-UP ART SALE RECAP



Thank you to all who helped with Pinky's Pop-Up Art Sale last month! It was a great success!

There are still art pieces for sale on display in the Fellowship Hall. All artwork sold will go toward the FUF Fundraiser.

We are also still collecting donations toward the purchase of the beautiful Jean Lawrence painting currently in the foyer. Please see Maggie Joffe or Ashley Weller to donate.



THANKSGIVING POTLUCK

Join us 1:30pm on Thanksgiving Day for a Fellowship Potluck! This will serve as our monthly potluck for November. All are invited to come. Feel free to bring a dish to share.

Come for food, fellowship, and fun!

FUF HISTORICAL TIDBITS

Since its inception, members of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship have come together in celebration. We invite you to share your memories of special persons, events, or happenings in recognition and honor of the long-term history. For inclusion in future newsletters, please send your writing to Mary Anderson, Chair of Member Support, at andersonmaryleona@gmail.com or Ashley Weller, Administrative Assistant at office@fairhopeuu.org

I have many, many memories. Before we built the Fellowship, the old grand piano was kept in my living room. We used to have singalongs in my living room with Pinky Bass playing the piano. The Friday picnics on the beach were grand occasions, come rain or shine, with a vast majority, the emphasis on food. George Hinds would use his three fingers to predict how long it was to sundown. Those sun-downs were always spectacular. Joyce Bishop and Clair Gray would announce. "Turn over the picnic basket!" and then we would change seats to get to know all the 20-30 people enjoying the picnic.

Another tidbit is the groundbreaking for the Fellowship with gold shovels and various dignitaries there, including the then Mayor Kant. As President, I conducted the ceremony with gravity until I stepped on a fire ant hill. My gravity was lost.

Still another tidbit was the planting of the trees on the grounds. Celeste Hinds had bought mature trees from Bobby Greene Nursery. Bobby brought a boom truck to lift them into holes. Fellowship members, led by Phil Strniste, guided them into their holes, held them upright, as others shoveled dirt. Almost all lived, and are now huge.

Submitted by Miichael Patrick, FUF Member since 1995.



\$20 in advance

\$25 at the door



Tickets can be purchased in person (by cash/check) or by going online:

<https://fairhopeuu.ticketbud.com/brian-conway-concert>

Brian Conway performs with a skill, grace and force that are steeped in tradition but distinctively his own. Well known in the Irish/Celtic community, Conway has won numerous All-Ireland fiddling competitions, and has been called one of the best fiddlers of his generation. His fiddle students, including students in the Baltimore-Washington region, have won multiple local, regional, and all-Ireland championships. He is a leading exponent of the tastefully ornamented Sligo fiddling style made famous by the late Michael Coleman. The winner of two All-Ireland junior titles and the All-Ireland senior championship of 1986, Brian's early studies were with his father Jim of Plumbridge County Tyrone and with Limerick born fiddler/teacher Martin Mulvihill. However, it was the legendary fiddler and composer Martin Wynne who taught him the real secrets of the County Sligo style. Brian is currently promoting his latest CD titled "Wallace Avenue".

Don Penzien has long been a top-flight performer of Irish traditional music. He frequently is on the road playing concerts and festivals with Gailfean (Brian Conway, John Whelan, Máirtín de Cógáin), The Máirtín de Cógáin Project, and Haley Richardson, and he has served as accompanist for numerous other well-known performers (e.g., Gerry O'Connor, Randal Bays, Tim Britton, Jimmy Crowley, John Williams, Pat Broaders, Gabe Donohue, Ben Jaber, Tony DeMarco, Billy McComiskey, Sean Clohessy, Bridget Fitzgerald, Kevin Doyle). Widely recognized for his reserved backing style, Don's dexterous work on DADGAD-tuned guitar provides solid, driving rhythms to traditional tunes as well as perceptive and sensitive accompaniments to songs and airs. Don is a Michigan native with strong roots in Irish culture and an affinity for Irish traditional music. He now resides in NC where he works as Professor at the Wake Forest School of Medicine.

November Programs

Join us for Fellowship every Sunday!



10:45am—Musical Prelude

11:00am—Program with Guest Speaker

Coffee Hour to Follow



Carl Couret

November 2

“Survival of the Fittest”

This phrase was not coined by Darwin. It was from an English polymath, Herbert Spencer, who used it after reading Origin of the Species. He was well known in his time and has been credited for the basis of social Darwinism.

Carl Couret is a retired fish and wildlife field biologist, ukulele enthusiast, military veteran, and Past President of FUF. Born and raised in New Orleans, he has lived in Denver, Yokota AFB in Japan, Albuquerque, Vero Beach FL and Mobile Bay’s Eastern Shore.

November 9

Healthy Youth Education

Miranda and Christina will discuss the state of adolescent education in our region. They will look at measures to empower young people to make good decisions and at the ways in which this is being undercut by legislative action, misleading advertising and reduced funding.

BIOS: Miranda Estes (she/her) is the State Policy Action Manager at SIECUS where she has connected advocates across 30 states, helping more than 90 members strengthen their skills in advocacy, coalition-building, and strategy. Originally from Mississippi, she earned her bachelors and master’s in Social Work from the University of Southern Mississippi and began her career in community organizing.

Christina Clark Okarmus (she/her) led ACASH as its Executive Director. With over 13 years working in adolescent health, she started their first Youth Advisory Council program, developed an online foundation course, and successfully stopped repressive legislation from passing in 2024 and 2025. Christina is a member of AASECT. She has her Masters of Public Policy from the University of Northern Iowa.



Miranda Estes & Christina Okarmus



Skip Jones

November 16

Golden Years: How Americans Invented & Reinvented Old Age

Skip will review and discuss this book by James Chappel. In it Chappel examines how we Americans have viewed and responded: individually and socially-to the fact of aging.

Skip is a native of Mobile and a resident of the Eastern Shore since 1980. He is the proud father of three and grandfather of nine. He has been building and restoring homes for the past 29 years. In his spare time, he has been building and restoring boats. He currently lives in a 1925 cottage in Fairhope with his wife, Barbara, and dog, Archie.

November 23

Comprehensive Estate Planning 101

John will discuss the five essential documents in a comprehensive estate plan including their primary uses and their limitations. He will also identify the most overlooked aspects of a good estate plan.

John Brown is a qualified as a certified Financial Planner Emeritus. He is the retired owner of the financial planning firm he founded and managed for 27 years until he retired in 2010. John currently serves as a volunteer at Thomas Hospital and regularly conducts estate planning seminars at Fairhope Library.



John Brown



November 30

FUF Candidate Panel

Candidates for positions on the board will describe their plans and their suitability for board positions. Members can ask questions.

FUF Groups

All are welcome to join any group!

Weekly

Silent Meditation Group

Meets every Sunday at 9:45am

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

Back Porch Folk Singers

No invitation necessary

3-4:30pm every Wednesday

Contact: Phil Strniste

Thursday Group

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



Tai Chi

Meets every Saturday at 4:00pm. (When the Fellowship has a Saturday event, class will shift to Sunday).

Contact: Andrea Cherry

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 Vivian McMurry, Jean Normand, 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

Fiction Book Group

NEW MEETING TIME!

Meets at 4:30pm monthly on the 4th Thursday, but will meet on the 3rd Thursday in November (11/20) due to Thanksgiving.

Contact: Nick Coulson

Small Group Circles

Afternoon Circle meets 1:30pm on 11/19 at the Joffe's
Evening Circle meets 6:30pm on 11/20 at the McMurry's

To join, an empty chair awaits you.

November's topic is "Coping"

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 or leave a voicemail at 251-929-3207.

You are not alone. We are in this together.





November



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 *All events are at FUF unless otherwise noted.  Set your clocks back 1 hour!						1 4pm–Tai Chi with Andrea
2 Daylight Savings Ends 9:45–Silent Meditation 10:45–Musical Prelude 11:00–Program Potluck	3 2pm–Uke Open Jam	4 9am–Men’s Group (Kind Café)	5 3pm–4:30pm–Back Porch Folk Singers 4:45–5:45– Eastern Shore Strings	6 11am–Women of Wisdom 5pm–Thursday Group (FH Market by the Bay)	7 1pm–ESIC	8 3–7pm–Hall Reserved
9 9:45–Silent Meditation 10:45–Musical Prelude 4pm–Tai Chi with Andrea	10 2pm–Uke Open Jam	11  9am–Men’s Group (Kind Café)	12 3pm–4:30pm–Back Porch Folk Singers 4:45–5:45– Eastern Shore Strings	13 5pm–Thursday Group (FH Market by the Bay)	14 12:30pm–Board Meeting 1pm–ESIC	15 4pm–Brian Conway Concert
16 9:45–Silent Meditation 10:45–Musical Prelude 11:00–Program 12:45pm–4pm–Grandmother’s Circle Group 4pm–Tai Chi with Andrea	17 2pm–Uke Open Jam	18 9am–Men’s Group (Kind Café)	19 1:30–Small Group Circle @ Joffe’s 3pm–4:30pm–Back Porch Folk Singers 4:45–5:45– Eastern Shore Strings	20 11am–Women of Wisdom 5pm–Thursday Group (FH Market by the Bay) 6:30–Small Group Circle @ McMurry’s	21 1pm–ESIC	22 4pm–Tai Chi with Andrea
23 9:45–Med 10:45–Music 11:00–Program 9:45–Med 10:45–Music 11:00–Program	24 2pm–Uke Open Jam	25 9am–Men’s Group (Kind Café)	26 3pm–4:30pm–Back Porch Folk Singers 4:30pm–Fiction Book Group 4:45–5:45– Eastern Shore Strings	27 1:30–Thanksgiving Potluck 	28 1pm–ESIC	29 4pm–Tai Chi with Andrea

Deadlines for Publications

Weekly Bulletin and FUF Weekender

Wednesdays by 5pm

Submit to Mary Matthews: matthewsmary29@yahoo.com

November Newsletter

Submit by end of day, Sunday November 23

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

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.

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