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

A NOTE FROM THE FUF PRESIDENT

Aspirational Goals - June

Over the last several years, Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship has successfully completed a major transition of absorbing and assimilating many new members. We are now fortunate to have a large pool of volunteers to draw from, so we are not totally dependent upon those who have served for so long, so faithfully, but not necessarily - “so tirelessly.” They could use some help. After a bit of “who are they?” and “who am I?” we have settled into knowing who WE are – this, our beloved Community.

So, what’s next?

The stated purpose of governing by FUF’s Board of Trustees is “to preserve and maintain the Fellowship’s history, assets, and resources by adhering to the bylaws and established policies **with actions that encourage growth and continue to advance the Fellowship’s mission and vision.**”

During its first months, the 2026 Board of Trustees was focused on completing unfinished business. Once we felt we had taken the appropriate actions, we looked at setting more aspirational goals to advance the mission and vision of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship. We found that we are already doing much of what we aspire to. But we want to continue to create an atmosphere of tolerance, understanding and acceptance among ourselves and others. And we want increased community connections to let others know how and why FUF exists and to form partnerships for greater good. We don’t just want discussion, we want action.

To begin looking forward, our aspirations are to:

- ⇒ Continue to focus and engage Sunday programs/speakers that can address the priority topics *in our search for truth and justice.*
- ⇒ Expand the social/environmental justice committees to determine outside alliances that we may partner with. Make these contacts and set up “mission alliance teams” to participate in planning and project participation.

(Continued on page 2)

Formalizing these alliances gives FUF greater visibility and opportunity for meaningful volunteerism, and *together we can make a difference to take care of the Earth and to support and care for each other.*

- ⇒ Further promote the Little Free Pantry recognizing our capacity to meet the needs of our neighbors *to support and care for each other.*
- ⇒ Investigate offering a safe space for LGBTQ+ members and friends to gather socially *to support and care for each other.*
- ⇒ Resurrect the scholarship programs and use the money sitting in those accounts to *create an atmosphere of love and understanding among our members and for those who come after us.*
- ⇒ Offer classes on building acceptance and honoring faith journeys *to search for truth and knowledge and to enjoy fellowship with open-minded thinkers.*

Lo, it seems surprising simple just to tie FUF's underlying, unspoken conscience and culture in direct correlation with our mission and values (you can re-read both statements on the last page of this newsletter). And how relieved we can be to know we don't have to invent something – we already have it and can build on it. Way to go FUF!!

Proudly and humbly,

Mary Anderson

President, Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship



MAY BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The Fellowship ended April with a bank balance of \$8,066. The Board approved reinvesting \$200,000 in reserve funds into two short-term CDs to increase interest earnings while maintaining accessible funds; longer-term financial planning will continue in the months ahead.

Building and grounds projects are underway, including garden irrigation and driveway pothole repairs. The Board also began developing a more comprehensive safety plan for FUF, with attention to medical response, first aid supplies, and possible annual defibrillator training.

FUF remains active and growing, with 92 voting members and 17 friends. Upcoming events include the Irish music concert on May 30 and the New Member Welcoming on June 7.

The Board also discussed opportunities for greater community engagement, including Prism United partnerships, renewed social action and environmental justice efforts, and possible revival of FUF scholarship programs. Nick Coulson and Jeanine Normand will attend the UUA General Assembly virtually as delegates and share updates with the Fellowship.

*Be ours a religion which,
like sunshine, goes everywhere;
Its temple, all space, Its shrine,
the good heart;
Its creed, all truth;
Its ritual, works of love;
Its profession of faith, divine living.*

Theodore Parker, #683,
Singing the Living Tradition

IN MEMORY OF PETE WEGNER

On Friday May 8th, 2026 after a short battle with ALS Peter Robert Wegner, affectionately known to his grandchildren as “Bobby Pete” and “Crazy Pete” to his friends embarked on a permanent vacation from his endless fishing trips, ice cold beer and bourbon drinks.

Born on July 7, 1944, in Racine, Wisconsin, Peter grew up in Chicago and Park Ridge, Illinois. He spent his life proving that you can take the boy out of the Midwest, but you can't take the Midwest out of the boy.

Pete married Irene Runge on December 30, 1967, and together they embarked on a 58-year adventure filled with love, laughter and family.

Peter and his father Norman owned Colonial Draperies in Chicago. Their craftsmanship was so impressive that his custom window treatments even made it into the movie Home Alone.

A proud Marine Corps veteran, Pete served his country with distinction during the Vietnam War. He later moved to Highland Park, Illinois, where he continued to impress with his DIY skills at home and his ability to run marathons with his dog, Grover.

Pete's love for fishing was never ending, and he spent countless hours on the water, teaching his grandchildren the fine art of casting a line and the even finer art of making a raspberry-filled donut disappear. He also had a knack for finding the world's greatest hamburger, a quest that took him to the Charcoal Grill in Kenosha, Wisconsin where he proclaimed a winner!

In his later years, Pete and Irene traveled extensively, with New Zealand being his favorite destination. Closer to home, he was known for his signature bourbon and Diet Coke, a drink so precise that it required “two fingers of bourbon and agitation with a fork.” Teaching his grandchildren to make it was a rite of passage.

Pete's quick wit, mischievous sense of humor and slightly exaggerated stories became legendary family folklore. Family dinners were affectionately dubbed “potty time with Pete”. He was an active member of several Unitarian Universalist churches, where he was recognized for starting a program to feed the homeless and shared his love of community.

Pete is survived by his beloved wife, Irene; his children, Caroline (Brian) Cecchi and Jeremy Wegner; his grandchildren, Kacie (Tyler) DeChiara, Beau (Skylar) Cecchi, Abigail Cecchi, Sayde and Ruby Wegner; his great-granddaughters, Addison DeChiara and Scarlett Cecchi; and his cherished dog, Lulabelle. He was preceded in death by his brother, James Wegner, in 2019.

Pete will be deeply missed but his smile, generosity, humor and love for his family will live on in the stories and jokes that will be shared for generations to come. May he rest in peace, finally able to fish without interruption, enjoy his bourbon and stay warm in his favorite yellow sweater.

—Lovingly written by Pete's daughter and grandchildren.



Peter Robert Wegner

July 7, 1944 - May 8, 2026

Save the Date – Saturday, July 11

One Last Party for Pete: A celebration of both his birthday and passing. We will be celebrating a life well lived.

Waterfront Restaurant Daphne

Stop by from 2-5 pm to share a memory, have a bite to eat, and toast a drink to Pete!

RSVP to Pete's daughter Carrie at (262) 496-5415 text/call or carriecocchi@gmail.com

MAY & JUNE ART EXHIBIT

We're delighted to feature artist Dawson Morgan during May and June!



Coastal Collection Hand-built, the work of Dawson Morgan, will be exhibiting at The Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship Gallery, May-June. It showcases stoneware ceramics texture and color found on our shores, often incorporating shells as a textural feature embellished by bold glaze colors. "I relish these nuances that add depth, interest, and local shells that I remember from childhood into my work." Also included will be large acrylic abstracts on canvas stimulated by the centrifugal patterns of throwing colored clay on the wheel.

Dawson Morgan has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi, USA with a specialty in hand-built ceramics. After directing Global Galleries in New Orleans, Louisiana, her family moved to Lausanne Switzerland where she had the opportunity to work with other European ceramic artists. New collections and events are updated monthly through Dawsonmorgan.com.

Accolades include Sponsors Choice GGAF 2017, Ceramics Award at the Eastern Shore Art Center Outdoor Arts Festival 2018, as well as numerous other awards and exhibitions throughout Missouri. More recently she has shown locally in exhibitions including the Eastern Shore Art Center; Splash, a solo show and Color In Motion, and a solo exhibition at Sophiella Gallery in Mobile.



MAY UU FLOWER COMMUNION

Thank you to all who participated in the Flower Ceremony on May 24th!



LITTLE FREE PANTRY

Now that school is out, the need for our Little Free Pantry will likely increase. Kid-friendly, easy-to-prepare foods are especially appreciated, including individually packaged snacks and drinks, applesauce cups or pouches, fruit cups, granola bars, cereal, crackers, peanut butter, microwaveable pasta or noodle cups, and shelf-stable milk.

Nonperishable food items, household staples and financial donations are always welcome. Please note "Little Free Pantry" with any financial gift. Thank you for your generosity and for helping care for our neighbors—you make a meaningful difference!



SPECIAL COLLECTION

In addition to supporting the Little Free Pantry, we are collecting donations for our Hispanic neighbors who have been affected by recent ICE activity.

You'll find the list of current needs on the bulletin board.

Donated items will be delivered to the drop-off site at the Hair Do Salon in Daphne. Thank you for helping us support members of our community during this time.



Donations

PLEASE NO OPEN OR EXPIRED FOODS.

BABY TOILETRIES
(BABY WASH, SHAMPOO, LOTION, POWDER, DIAPER CREAM, BABY WIPES)
ALL SIZES OF DIAPERS (ESPECIALLY 2,3,84)

HOUSEHOLD ESSENTIALS
(TOILET PAPER, LAUNDRY DETERGENT, DISH SOAP, ETC.)

TOILETRIES
(BODY WASH, DEODORANT, TOOTHPASTE, SHAMPOO, PADS AND LINERS ONLY)

JUICE
(JUICE BOXES, CAPRI SUNS, CARTONS, ETC.)

BOTTLED WATER

CANNED/POWDERED MILK

NIDO KINDER 1+ POWDER BEVERAGE MIX
NIDO FORTIFICADA DRY WHOLE MILK

COFFEE

CANNED CHICKEN

CANNED VEGGIES: CORN, GREEN BEANS, & PEAS

TORTILLAS

CANNED BEANS/DRY BEANS

POTATOES

EGGS

SUGAR

COOKING OIL

RICE

PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY

CEREAL

OATMEAL

MESECA: CORN FLOUR
MEXCLA: FLOUR TORTILLA MIX

SNACKS & TREATS FOR KIDS

JOIN THE 2026 PRIDE CELEBRATIONS

As an affiliate of Affirming Spiritual Communities Coalition (ASCC) and PRISM United, the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowships supports our LGBTQ+ members and friends by encouraging participation in the upcoming events:

- **June 7** - Coloring Fairhope with Pride - Everyone is welcome to bring your sidewalk chalk to color the eastern shore with pride - meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Marietta Johnson Statute, Utopia Park on South Mobile Street near South Beach in Fairhope.
- **June 12** - PRIDE art walk in Mobile - If you wish to join the march, meet prior to 7 p.m. at Flip Side Bar, 54 S Conception Street, Mobile.



SALLIE'S ASHES SUMMER SCREENINGS



We will have several free screenings of *Sallie's Ashes* at the Fellowship this summer!

The Eastern Shore Democrats will host a viewing on **Wednesday, June 10 at 10:00am** followed by a community conversation.

FUF will host screenings on the **last Saturday of each month at 10:30am.**

- **June 27**
- **July 25**
- **August 29**



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.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JUNE 14 – 21, 2026

MEET THE MOMENT: TOGETHER EVERYWHERE

Nick Coulson and Jeanine Normand have been appointed as our delegates to the 2026 UUA General Assembly virtual conference being held June 14-21, Meet the Moment Together Everywhere. <https://www.uua.org/ga>

On Sunday, June 21 we will join the Sunday morning worship service. This is the heart of General Assembly, drawing our entire community together in shared spirit. Through music, preaching, and ritual, we will ground ourselves in our Unitarian Universalist faith and be renewed for the work of justice, compassion, and community in the world. They will be gathering at 11 a.m. Eastern Standard Time so that means we will meet one hour earlier 9:45 a.m.



MEANINGFUL WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Several opportunities are taking shape within our Fellowship to strengthen connections, expand community involvement, and live out our shared values. Members and friends are invited to share their interest, ideas, and energy as these efforts move forward.

- **Reinstate the Scholarship Programs** – Some years ago, FUF established two scholarship programs: a college scholarship program for children of members and a nursing scholarship to assist a student at Coastal Alabama Community College. Members interested in helping explore the renewal of one or both programs are invited to contact Sandy Tormoen, Maggie Joffe, or Deborah Little.
- **Expand Social and Environmental Justice Connections**— FUF is seeking ways to build relationships with social and environmental justice organizations, increase our visibility in the wider community, and offer meaningful opportunities for volunteer service. Those interested in helping identify and select potential partner organizations may contact Jeanine Normand, Jeanine Herring, or Riva Fralick.
- **Create an LGBTQ+ Social Gathering Space** — Plans are beginning for a welcoming, safe space for LGBTQ+ members and friends to gather socially on a regular basis. Bellamy Watson will lead this effort, with mentoring from Trudi Rogier and Ellen Shallcross. Please share your interest or ideas with them.



For other ways to become involved at FUF, please see the listing of Interest Groups and their contact persons!

FREE CONCERT EVENT AT FUF



Center Poster Art by Carolyn Van de Velde

Eastern Shore Chamber Music Festival at FUF

Sunday, June 7, at 2:30 PM | Free Admission

Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship is delighted to host the Eastern Shore Chamber Music Festival for an afternoon of beautiful chamber music. The program, "Four Eyes," will feature works by Jean-Baptiste Barrière, Germaine Tailleferre, Michael Coleman, and Dmitri Shostakovich, performed by the festival's Week Two musicians:

Violin: Wes Luke, Robin Ryan, and Sahada Buckley

Viola: Sahada Buckley and Kayla Schultz

Cello: Benjamin Whitcomb and Trace Johnson

Piano: Amalia Rinehart

This concert is free and open to the public. Visit escmf.org for additional concert dates, locations, and festival information.



NEW ONLINE GIVING OPTION AT FUF

Your contributions help sustain the life and work of Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship—from our programs, community care, and outreach efforts to maintaining our building and grounds, covering utilities and repairs, and supporting the services that keep FUF running smoothly.

FUF now uses **Givebutter**, an online giving platform that allows you to make a secure one-time or recurring contribution using a credit or debit card, PayPal, Venmo, Cash App Pay, or ACH bank transfer.

You may designate your contribution for a specific fund or program, such as the **Little Free Pantry**, by including a note with your gift.

Give online at fairhopeuu.org/donate

Or visit FUF's official Givebutter page directly at givebutter.com/fairhope-unitarian-fellowship.

Both are secure, official ways to support FUF.

Thank you for your generosity and support of our Fellowship!



The Memory Garden is *Blooming*



Thank you to the volunteers who have been giving their time and care to the Memory Garden! Their hard work is bringing fresh beauty to this special space. We invite you to take a stroll, enjoy the flowers, and spend a few quiet moments in the garden.



June Programs

Join us for Fellowship every Sunday!

9:45am—Silent Meditation 10:45am—Musical Prelude

****11:00am—Program with Guest Speaker**

Coffee Hour follows; Potluck on June 28

****Note: Program time change for June 21 (10:00am)**



Scott McNair

June 7—Indivisible Baldwin County

Indivisible Baldwin County began as a way for local residents to come together and speak out on issues impacting their community by organizing rallies and public demonstrations across the county, including the “No Kings” protests. The group felt it was important for local residents to have a dissenting voice, under the philosophy that “silence is compliance.”

Meanwhile, the immigrant community has suffered greatly amid increased ICE enforcement, and Baldwin County has been among the hardest-hit areas in the nation, with more than 3,000 individuals being detained, arrested, or deported since January of last year.

As a result, Indivisible has become increasingly focused on supporting immigrants and their families within the community. The organization monitors ICE activity in the county, collects donations for mutual aid and support to impacted families, and offers assistance to those choosing to self-deport.

Scott McNair will talk about how Indivisible supports the community and will discuss practical ways that others can get involved and help.

Scott McNair is a member of Indivisible Baldwin County, a grassroots organization dedicated to resisting authoritarianism and giving local citizens a voice. A key focus of the organization has been providing mutual aid and support to members of the immigrant community affected by increased ICE enforcement during recent years.

NEW MEMBER WELCOMING

New Member Welcoming will also be a part of the June 7 Sunday program. We have six (6) new members, so be sure to introduce yourselves to:

- Julie Brent (reinstated after some years of absence)
- Carol Collura
- Sandy Cunningham
- David and Jean Hume
- Jennifer Lyon



If you wish to become a voting member of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship, you simply fill out the New Member Form available in hard copy or at fairhopeuu.org/join and sign the Membership Book. Please see Mary Anderson (Member Support Chair) or Ashley Weller (Administrative Assistant) to complete the process.

June 14—Organic Matters: Marietta Johnson and Her School

“Organic Matters” will provide an overview of Marietta Johnson's School of Organic Education from its founding in 1907 to the reopening of Marietta Johnson Museum in the newly restored Bell Building on the Fairhope Campus of Coastal Alabama Community College.

Alan Samry, a below-the-knee amputee, is a writer, librarian, and historian. He serves as the Coordinator of Library Services and the Marietta Johnson Museum on the Fairhope Campus of Coastal Alabama Community College. Alan serves as the Place 5 Director of the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation, a Fairhope Historic Preservation Commissioner, and is a contributing writer to Mobile Bay Magazine.



Alan Samry

June 21—UUA General Assembly

Please note: due to the live broadcast schedule, this program will begin at 10:00am rather than our usual 11:00am Sunday program time.

Join us as we livestream the 2026 Unitarian Universalist General Assembly Sunday program, part of the UUA's annual gathering that brings together Unitarian Universalists from across the country.

This year's virtual “Everywhere GA” format offers an opportunity for connection, reflection, music, and inspiration as we gather together at the Fellowship to participate in the experience as a community. The 2026 Sunday program will feature Rev. Jen Youngsun Ryu.



Victoria Taylor

June 28—Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind

More information coming soon!

Open to all!

FUF Groups

Weekly

Silent Meditation Group

Sundays at 9:45am.
Contact: Nick Coulson

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 Dinner Group

Meets every Thursday 5pm
Check with Michael for current meeting location.
Contact: Michael Patrick 251-233-3176

Bi-weekly

Women of Wisdom Discussion Group

WoW meets every other Thursday at 11am in the *Louisa May Alcott* Foyer. Members select the topic.
Lunch to follow at a local restaurant.
Contact Vivian McMurry or Jean Normand

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

Meets at 4:30pm monthly on the 4th Thursday
Contact: Kathryn Firsching

Chalice Circles

Afternoon Circle meets 1:30pm on 6/17 at the Joffe's
Evening Circle meets 6:30pm on 6/18 at the McMurry's
To join, an empty chair awaits you.
Contact: Mary Anderson, Joanne Preston,
Maggie Joffe, or Vivian McMurry



See Joanne Preston to sign up!






Grief Support Group

2nd Tuesday of each month at 4:00 PM.
Next meeting Tuesday June 9th at 4:00 at the Fellowship.
We are exploring ways to support each other in understanding our grief. All are welcome.
Contact: Virginia McClintock

SUNDAY	CHALICE LIGHTING	SPECIAL READING
June 7	Jean Hume	
June 14		
June 21		
June 28		

June



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 2pm- Uke Open Jam	2 9am- Men's Group (Kind Café)	3 3pm-4:30pm- Back Porch Folk Singers	4 9:30am- Non-Fiction Book Group 5pm- Thursday Dinner Group	5 10am- Hall Reserved for Piano Tuning 1pm-ESIC	6
7 9:45- Silent Meditation 10:45- Musical Prelude 11:00- Program with New Member Welcoming 2:30pm-ESCM Summer Series	8 2pm- Uke Open Jam	9 9am- Men's Group (Kind Café) 4pm- Grief Support Group	10 10:00am- Sallie's Ashes Screening 3pm-4:30pm- Back Porch Folk Singers	11 11am- Women of Wisdom 5pm- Thursday Dinner Group	12 1pm-ESIC	13
14 9:45- Silent Meditation 10:45- Musical Prelude 11:00- Program	15 <i>Eastern Shore Summer Strings (Time TBD)</i> 2pm- Uke Open Jam	16 9am- Men's Group (Kind Café)	17 <i>Eastern Shore Summer Strings (Time TBD)</i> 1:30pm- Small Group at the Joffe's 3pm-4:30pm- Back Porch Folk Singers	18 5pm- Thursday Dinner Group 6:30pm- Small Group at the McMurry's	19 1pm-ESIC 	20
21 10:00-UUA General Assembly Live Streaming 	22 <i>Eastern Shore Summer Strings (Time TBD)</i> 2pm- Uke Open Jam	23 9am- Men's Group (Kind Café) 4:30pm Board Meeting	24 <i>Eastern Shore Summer Strings (Time TBD)</i> 3pm-4:30pm- Back Porch Folk Singers Newsletter Deadline	25 11am- Women of Wisdom 4:30pm- Fiction Book Group 5pm- Thursday Dinner Group 5:30pm-8:30pm- Hall Reserved (ESD Groups)	26 1pm-ESIC	27 10:30am-Sallie's Ashes Screening
28 9:45- Silent Med. 10:45- Music 11:00- Program Potluck	29 2pm- Uke Open Jam	30 9am- Men's Group (Kind Café)				

Deadlines for Publications

Weekly Bulletin and FUF Weekender

Wednesdays by 5pm

Submit to Ashley: Office@FairhopeUU.org

June Newsletter

Submit by end of day, June 24

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

Submit to Ashley: 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.*

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