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Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

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A NOTE FROM THE FUF PRESIDENT

This year marks the 250th celebration of the United States of America since the Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776. This milestone celebrates the founding of the United States, the achievements of its citizens, and the enduring principles of freedom and democracy. Tom Czekanski will be speaking July 5 to share the Declaration of Independence, a document we may have only read once, and briefly.

History will continue with our other July programming as we uncover the history of Unitarian Universalism. Virginia McClintock and I will be doing a 3-part series: July 12 – Early UU History, July 19 – UU Coming to America, and August 9 – UU Coming to Fairhope, Alabama.

My takeaway in researching UU history is that, continuing to this day, Unitarian Universalists over the ages have been radicals living in small minorities oftentimes in defiance of conventional religion and politics. UU has a rich and varied history, not only managing to survive but thrive by continually evolving and expanding its scope and its message.

It has had individuals and congregants who stood for believing for themselves and not being told what they were supposed to believe. They relished independence without the “canon of laws” or being limited to Biblical teachings as the only authority. They disclaimed oppression by the powerful on the masses. They were courageous, free thinkers willing to stand against authority and stand for others. Sometimes as “heretics,” they were killed.

It was especially welcoming to attend the Unitarian Universalist Association's Sunday service ending the week of the General Assembly on June 21. It is reassuring to realize that our small Fellowship in Fairhope, Alabama is one of the 930 UU churches in America.

It was revitalizing to listen to Rev. Jen Youngsun Ryu's sermon focusing on Love – not the romantic notion, but the caring, compassionate support we give to and receive from each other. This gives us greater appreciation for our own beloved

(Continued on page 2)

community that provides us with friendship, refuge, belonging, and fortitude to do the work of justice, compassion, and equity.

It is with gratefulness that we honor America's founding fathers influenced by Unitarian principles, our founding Unitarian and Universalist leaders, and the founders, maintainers, and sustainers of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship. Thanks be given.

Proudly and humbly,

Mary Anderson

President, Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship



Democracy's Benediction

we are democracy—unruly, unfinished, unrelenting
people of rebellious joy taking to the streets
underground resilience resisting complaisance
the pleasure of activism organizing into simple hope

we are democracy,
people of principles taking on principalities
witnessing the worth of those called unworthy
justice just now gaining ground
integrity of interdependent existence extending
living democracy in heads hands hearts

we know that democracy can die, ossify
brittle byproducts of bygone idealists
plotting politicians pirating votes
corporations cannibalizing our care for the world
look: it can wither, distend, come to an end

democracy, today we will love you alive
make you ours, make you thrive
and vote as though our hope is on the line

*By Lucas Hergert
from the uua.org website*



JUNE BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

At the June board meeting, the Board accepted the Treasurer's report, noting an end-of-May bank balance of \$6,505. The Board also approved the purchase of a small TV monitor and mount for the lobby to share announcements and upcoming events.

Other updates included:

- **Scholarships:** Sandy Tormoen is continuing work to gather the history of FUF's scholarship programs and develop a plan for moving forward.
- **Safety:** Work continues on updating FUF's safety plan, including the formation of a safety committee.
- **Programs and events:** FUF will continue monthly screenings of *Sallie's Ashes* through August, and special events may expand to include more music and comedy.
- **Community connections:** Jeanine Normand and Jeanine Herring are working to rebuild the Social Justice Activist Committee and strengthen alliances with organizations aligned with FUF's values.
- **Classes and groups:** Upcoming possibilities include an LGBTQ+ game night, a reading group focused on tolerance, and a class on faith journeys that led to Unitarian Universalism.

The Board also summarized FUF's current aspirations: promoting democracy and participatory citizenship; encouraging membership growth and personal and collective growth; building tolerance, understanding, and acceptance; strengthening internal and external connections; and supporting marginalized communities while promoting racial equity.

2026 UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUSINESS REPORT

Jeanine Normand and Nick Coulson were privileged to attend the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly this year as Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship's delegates. It was a profound experience to encounter the tolerance, passion, and commitment of delegates and the assembly as a whole. It makes us proud to be Unitarian Universalists.

The measures taken to facilitate involvement of marginalized people—LGBTQ+, Black, Indian, Latino, hearing and visually impaired—and the transparency of proceedings were stunning.

There was a single candidate for all the positions on the Board of Trustees except one where there were 2 candidates. We voted for the one we felt best qualified: Denise Rimes. She lost by 1%. There were 3 minor positions with 3, 4, and 5 candidates respectively. Unbelievably, the votes for all were within 0.2% of each other in the 3 separate elections.

There were 2 motions of Actions of Immediate Witness (AIW):

1. The first addressed the actions of ICE. As with all AIW's a majority of 2/3 is required for a motion to pass:

Action of Immediate Witness

"We, the delegates of the 2026 UUA General Assembly, call on Unitarian Universalists to consider the following actions to support those held captive, especially in light of the current hunger and labor strikes inside detention centers including Delaney Hall. We also stand in solidarity with the families and protesters who are already supporting the people in detention."

We listened to both sides, and heard the pleas from the people who are actually on the ground there, and who asked us **not** to vote in favor of this AIW. People recognized and applauded that the *intention* was good, but the plan was too hastily put together. Despite that, some voted in favor on the basis of principle.

This AIW would have caused problems for the UU organizers and participants on the ground there. The explanation of this was complex, but real. We respected that by voting no, though the UU commitment to immigrant justice remains unwaveringly firm.

2. The second AIW addressed the rollback of environmental protections and the assault on public lands with a number of specific commitments:

Action of Immediate Witness

"As Unitarian Universalists we covenant to protect Earth and all beings from exploitation, to create and nurture sustainable relationships of care and respect, mutuality and justice and to work to repair harm and damaged relationships through our Seven Principles and our newly adopted Shared Values. We have, over nearly seven decades, proven to be champions of the Earth, as a collective, beginning with the 1966 Natural Resources General Resolution which called on us 'to preserve our forests and wilderness areas and curb pollution and spoilage of air, water and land by urban growth and industrialization.'"

As your delegates, we voted in favor.

We debated and passed 4 Responsive resolutions:

1. "[Where are the youth?](#)", calling on the Association to provide resources to recruit, train, and cultivate youth leadership and attendance.
2. "[Gratitude for UUA Support of Youth and Emerging Adults](#)," thanking the UUA for its commitment to youth and emerging adults and calling for their full inclusion at all levels of leadership.
3. "[Reaffirming Our Commitment to Immigrant Justice and Relationally Grounded Organizing](#)," reaffirming the Association's commitment to relationally grounded organizing and solidarity work.
4. "[Include Concerns about Southwest Asia and North Africa \(SWANA\) Crisis in Commission on Appraisal Renewed Outreach](#)," asking the Commission on Appraisal to include engagement with how the UUA can better include and respond to UUs affected by crises in the Southwest Asia and North Africa region.

You can access the resolutions and AIWs by clicking on the blue links.

ONE LAST PARTY FOR PETE

2-5pm Saturday, July 11

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

Stop by the Waterfront Restaurant in Daphne 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



Pete Wegner

July 7, 1944 - May 8, 2026



MAY-JULY ART EXHIBIT

Dawson Morgan's exhibit is extended through July. Don't miss it!



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.

LITTLE FREE PANTRY

With school 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.

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.



Baby Essentials -

- Diapers (all sizes)
- Baby wipes
- Baby wash, shampoos, lotions, and diaper cream

Toiletry Essentials

- Body wash/soap
- Women's deodorant
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Toothbrushes & toothpaste
- Feminine pads and liners

Kid Food Essentials

- Nido 1+ powder
- Nido Fortifica dry whole milk
- 100% Juice boxes or large bottles
- Snacks & treats

Household Essentials

- Toilet paper
- Laundry detergent
- Dish soap

Pantry Essentials

- Canned chicken
- Canned tuna
- Canned vegetables (corn, tomatoes, green beans, peas)
- Canned or dry beans
- Rice
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Tortillas
- Maseca (corn masa flour)
- Mexcla (flour tortilla mix)
- Canned/Powdered milk
- Coffee
- Small bags of sugar
- Vegetable cooking oil
- Cereal, oatmeal, toaster pastries
- Pasta, canned pasta sauce
- Saltines
- Potatoes
- Eggs

Please no expired or open food.

Walmart Gift cards are also welcome.

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!



Givebutter



SALLIE'S ASHES SUMMER SCREENINGS



Join us for free summer screenings of Sallie's Ashes at 10:30am on the last Saturday of each month at the Fellowship:

- 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@fairhopeuu.org, or leave a voicemail at 251-929-3207.

You are not alone. We are in this together.

July Programs

July 5 — Tom Czekanski, “The 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence”

I believe we have all heard of the Declaration of Independence, but how many of us know what it says? Mr. Czekanski will read the Declaration. You may be surprised by what you hear.

A retired museum curator Mr. Czekanski is enjoying his retirement in Silverhill, AL and sharing his interest in history.



July 12 — Mary Anderson & Virginia McClintock, “UU History, Part 1: The Early Years”



Over the centuries, historical events suppressed and inspired religious thinking that led to Unitarian Universalism concepts. Unitarian Universalists over the ages have been radicals living in small minorities, often prolific writers and/or orators, who have brought us to who we are today. It began with Origen and Arius of Alexandria in the 3rd and 4th centuries proposing one God (Unity) rather than the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). This idea was suppressed under the Nicene Creed, the Crusades, European Wars of Religion, re-emerging through Reformation, Calvin’s TULIP, the Renaissance, the Enlightenment, and Transylvania!

Mary Anderson moved to Daphne, Alabama in 2024 and is a 20-year Unitarian Universalist currently serving as President of FUF. Her other title is “Grandma” to a bunch of grands and greats—“It keeps you young and makes you old!”

July 19 — Mary Anderson & Virginia McClintock, “UU History, Part 2: Coming to America”

Unitarianism came to America via the Puritans; Unitarianism and Deism influenced our Founding Fathers; Unitarianism emerged over the centuries; and Unitarians and Universalism merged as one faith in 1961 providing us with our Living Traditions, Principles, and Values.

Virginia McClintock chose Fairhope in September 2025 in large part due to the UU Fellowship and a hunch that she could meet quirky, interesting folks in Fairhope. She was an active member of First Unitarian Church in San Diego in the 1990’s.



July 26 — Bellamy Watson, “The Wheel of the Year: The Pagan Sabbats”



A brief overview of the Celtic holidays that many modern pagans celebrate, and a deeper look at the next one, with some rituals you can do to honor it.

Bellamy Watson (He/They) has been a practicing pagan for around ten years. He mostly works with Demeter, though he calls upon gods from many pantheons when he needs their particular expertise.

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.

July's Book: *Sewing Machine* by Natalie Fergie

Contact: Kathryn Firsching

Chalice Circles

Afternoon Circle meets 1:30pm on 7/15 at the Joffe's
Evening Circle meets 6:30pm on 7/16 at the McMurry's

To join, an empty chair awaits you.

Contact: Mary Anderson, Joanne Preston,
Maggie Joffe, or Vivian McMurry

Grief Support Group

2nd Tuesday of each month at 4:00 PM.

Next meeting Tuesday July 7th at 4:00 at the Fellowship.

We are exploring ways to support each other in
understanding our grief. All are welcome.

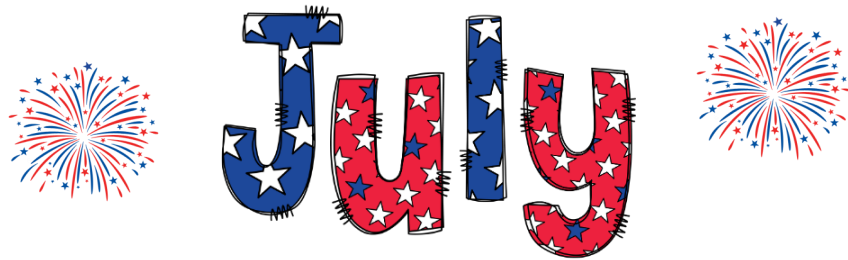
Contact: Virginia McClintock



See Joanne Preston to sign up!

SUNDAY	CHALICE LIGHTING	SPECIAL READING
July 5	Mia Manifold	Juanie Noland
July 12		
July 19		
July 26		





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Join us for Fellowship every Sunday! 9:45am—Silent Meditation 10:45am—Musical Prelude 11:00am—Program with Guest Speaker <i>Coffee Hour follows; Potluck on July 26</i>			1 3pm-4:30pm -Back Porch Folk Singers	2 9:30am - Non- Fiction Book Group 5pm -Thursday Dinner Group	3 <i>Independence Day Observed</i>	4  <i>Independence Day</i>
5 9:45 -Silent Meditation 10:45 -Musical Prelude 11:00 -Program	6 2pm - Uke Open Jam	7 9am -Men's Group (Kind Café) 4pm -Grief Support Group	8 3pm-4:30pm -Back Porch Folk Singers	9 11am -Women of Wisdom 5pm -Thursday	10	11 2-5pm Pete Wegner Memorial at Waterfront Restaurant in Daphne
12 9:45 -Silent Meditation 10:45 -Musical Prelude 11:00 -Program	13 <i>12-2pm—Eastern Shore Summer Strings</i> 2pm - Uke Open Jam	14 9am -Men's Group (Kind Café)	15 <i>12-2pm—Eastern Shore Summer Strings</i> 1:30pm — Small Group at the Joffe's 3pm-4:30pm -Back Porch Folk Singers	16 5pm -Thursday Dinner Group 5:30-8:30pm — Hall Reserved (ESD) 6:30pm — Small Group at the McMurry's	17	18
19 9:45 -Silent Meditation 10:45 -Musical Prelude 11:00 -Program	20 <i>12-2pm—Eastern Shore Summer Strings</i> 2pm - Uke Open Jam	21 9am -Men's Group (Kind Café) 4:30pm Board Meeting	22 <i>12-2pm—Eastern Shore Summer Strings</i> 3pm-4:30pm -Back Porch Folk Singers Newsletter Deadline	23 11am -Women of Wisdom 4:30pm -Fiction Book Group 5pm -Thursday Dinner Group	24	25 10:30am -Sallie's Ashes Screening 6pm -Game Night
26 9:45 -Silent Med. 10:45 -Musical Prelude 11:00 —Program Potluck	27 2pm - Uke Open Jam	28 9am -Men's Group (Kind Café)	29 3pm-4:30pm -Back Porch Folk Singers	30 4:30-8:00 -Hall Reserved (ESD) 5pm -Thursday Dinner Group		



Sign up to receive
FUF newsletters!

Deadlines for Publications

Weekly Bulletin and FUF Weekender

Wednesdays by 5pm

Submit to Ashley: Office@FairhopeUU.org

August Newsletter

Submit by end of day, July 22

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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