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Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

1150 Fairhope Ave.
Fairhope, AL 36532
FairhopeUU.org

A NOTE FROM THE FUF PRESIDENT

Building FUF's Future

FUF's governing purpose, carried out by the 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."

Beginning in the 1920s, this Fellowship originated with a small group of 20 or so progressive, like-minded thinkers coming together in each other's homes or using rental space. After affiliating with the Unitarian Association in 1952, membership reached 60 in 1999. Members were then actively engaged in plans for their own building, which was fully erected and paid for in 2003. The Fellowship was lay-led, meaning it was an all-volunteer organization.

An organization of 30 or fewer can operate on a group-centered basis—the group discusses an issue, perhaps during coffee hour, decides what they want to do, and then they simply show up and do it. Adding more people means widening the range of opinions regarding an issue, how it can be resolved, who is going to do it, and when. To act effectively, a healthy organization moves from a group-centered organization to a leader-centered organization. A few people step up individually, sometimes with teams and sometimes as committees. They decide and do the work, or weigh the options and present their recommendations to the larger group for a decision.

To ensure inclusion, this takes expanded cooperation, collaboration, and communication. To assist in communication and direction, the first Volunteer Handbook was compiled in 1997-98 and has been regularly updated. The committee structure has also evolved into a more encompassing, cross-functional organizational structure.

(Continued on page 2)

Our current membership has grown to 93 members and 16 friends. We see new energy, talents, and passions that we want to tap into. Considering the average age of the membership, it is imperative for sustainability that we look to and develop our successors.

Because we are an all-volunteer organization, the work being done depends on the willingness and time constraints of the volunteers. It might feel easier to do it on our own. It is more difficult to get the job done when others have different ideas or ways of doing things, and collaboration takes more time. Sometimes there is criticism and disharmony because another person would have preferred it done differently or “my way.”

This is when patience, acceptance, and positive support come in. It requires leaders with energy to spend on team-building, relationship-building and connecting individuals to meaningful service. It requires folks to join or applaud efforts, not mumble or criticize—but to offer encouragement and even “forgiveness.”

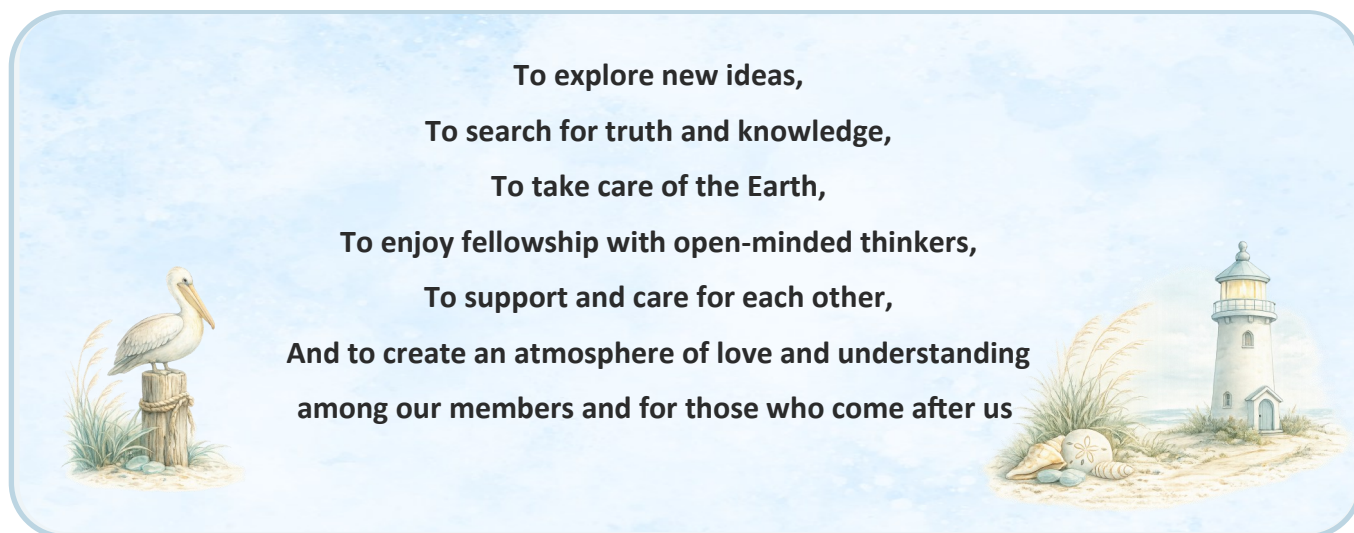
Here, we are encouraged to grow spiritually and inclusively, both within and outside our community. We wish to increase FUF’s visibility in the community and to capture and develop the passion, talents, and spirit of our members.

Toward these ends, we are expanding the Arts Committee; merging two previous committees into one—the Social and Environmental Justice Action Committee (SEJAC); reinvesting in the scholarship programs; and protecting our safety by refining the Safety Plan and designating “safety officers” to direct and assist in emergencies.

To help with communications, a new TV monitor has been installed in the foyer to display announcements. We are looking at additional exterior signage.

These are just a few efforts to grow and engage members. If you have more ideas, please let your Board members know.

We work together to fulfill the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship’s Mission, adopted in 2002 and affirmed in 2025:



In appreciation,

Mary Anderson

President, Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

JULY BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

At its July 21 meeting, the FUF Board:

- Approved applying for FUF's own IRS nonprofit determination letter, which will make it easier to verify our nonprofit status and access services and discounts available to nonprofit organizations.
- Discussed renewed interest in recording or streaming Sunday programs and will continue exploring possible options.
- Reviewed a draft emergency safety and evacuation plan. Additional planning, consultation with the city fire inspector, and member education are underway.
- Continued work on exterior signage and consistent use of an official FUF logo. A working group will present recommendations and cost estimates this fall.
- Received updates on upcoming programs and activities, including the members' art exhibit, SEJAC, scholarship programs, special events, and the growing Art Committee.

The Board will not meet in August. Its next meeting will be **Tuesday, September 29, at 4:30 p.m.**

QUARTERLY FINANCE UPDATE

The Fellowship's actual financial performance compared to our planned budget as of June 30, 2026, is shown in the chart to the right. Expenses have remained steady and are in line with our budget. Our income is approximately \$2000 below expectations, mainly due to a shortfall in contributions, which are expected to average \$800 per week.

Your contributions help sustain the life and work of FUF—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.

Members and guests can make monetary contributions in support of the Fellowship during the service, by mail, or through our online donation portal. Visit fairhopeuu.org/donate or scan the code below.

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

*Thank you for your generosity
and support of our Fellowship!*



Income	Annual Budget	Budget Jan-Jun	Actuals Jan-Jun	+/-	Notes
Contributions	45,000	22,500	19,550	(2,950)	
Special Events (Net)	5,000	250	300	50	combined yard sale
Building Usage-Rental & Misc.	3,200	1,600	2,822	1,222	combined uke club
Contributions: Memorial & Honorary	500	2,500	2,157	(343)	
	53,700	26,850	24,829	(2,021)	
Expense					
Administrative Salaries	(15,210)	(7,605)	(9,004)	(1,399)	
Utilities	(9,500)	(4,750)	(2,326)	2,424	
Janitorial Service	(5,500)	(2,750)	(2,730)	20	
Maintenance	(4,500)	(2,250)	(3,724)	(1,474)	
Program	(4,000)	(2,000)	(1,800)	200	26 wks @\$150
Grounds	(3,500)	(1,750)	(2,030)	(280)	
Insurance (annual)	(3,300)	(1,650)	(3,727)	(2,077)	
National UUA (quarterly)	(1,800)	(900)	(450)	450	
Admin/Office Supplies	(1,250)	(625)	(275)	350	
Publicity	(1,200)	(600)	(100)	500	
FSTC Lease (annual)	(960)	(480)	0	480	
Audio/Visual	(500)	(250)	(40)	210	
Other Donations	(500)	(250)	0	250	
Music	(450)	(225)	(150)	75	piano tuning
Education	(300)	(150)	0	150	ed. materials; no salary
Hospitality	(250)	(125)	(65)	60	paper, coffee, etc.
Membership	(250)	(125)	(123)	2	printing
Newsletter	(200)	(100)	0	100	
Cares and Concern	(100)	(50)	0	50	
Miscellaneous	(430)	(215)	0	215	
	(53,700)	(26,850)	(26,544)	306	

FUF SCHOLARSHIP INTEREST

The Scholarship Committee is assessing interest in scholarships from FUF's general scholarship fund.

In the past, scholarships have been awarded to Fellowship members or members of their families and paid directly to the school the recipient attends. FUF has previously awarded up to four scholarships of \$2,000 each per year.

If you or a family member may be interested, please add your name to the sign-up sheet at the back of the hall or complete the online interest form. Submitting your name only indicates interest and does not commit you to applying.



Complete the interest form online:
tinyurl.com/FUF-Scholarship-Interest



AUGUST ART EXHIBIT: MEMBERS' ART

We're having a **FUF Members' Art Exhibit**! All who are interested are invited to bring one or more favorite pieces of artwork to share.

Please bring your artwork by **Sunday, August 9**, either before or after the service. The final drop-off opportunity will be **Wednesday, August 12, from 1:30–2:30pm**.

The exhibit will remain on display for the rest of August. Artwork should be picked up on **Sunday, August 30**.

Questions? Call Mark at **417-230-3857**.

Have fun, and bring a piece of your life to share!

FICTION GROUP BOOK OF THE MONTH

***Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi**

One spring morning, a stranger arrives in the small southern city of Golden. No one knows where he has come from...or why...

His name is Theo. And he asks a lot more questions than he answers.

Theo visits the local coffeehouse, where ninety-two pencil portraits hang on the walls, portraits of the people of Golden done by a local artist. He begins purchasing them, one at a time, and putting them back in the hands of their "rightful owners." With each exchange, a story is told, a friendship is born, and a life altered.

The Fiction Book Group meets Thursday, August 27 at 4:30pm.



UNITE & RISE FOR VOTING RIGHTS



Saturday, August 8 | 9:00am–5:00pm



Join the League of Women Voters of Mobile and community partners for a nationwide day of civic action honoring the anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.



Events across the country will focus on increasing voter engagement, turnout, and education, with particular emphasis on young voters and community partnerships.

The event location will be provided after registration:

tinyurl.com/4a3vean8



EASTERN SHORE ISLAMIC CENTER GRAND OPENING

The Eastern Shore Islamic Center invite us to the grand opening of their masjid on **Saturday, August 8 at 6:00pm.**

Dinner and refreshments will be served.



27895 State Hwy. 181, Daphne



ASCC (AFFIRMING SPIRITUAL COMMUNITIES COALITION)



ASCC SOCIAL

Thursday, August 13 | 6:00pm

**Fairhope Brewing
(Mobile location)**

A casual gathering for clergy and congregational leaders. Fairhope Brewing is a taproom only, but attendees are welcome to bring food from outside locations. The Cheese Cottage is located directly next door.



Q & A AND CONVERSATION WITH DR. LUCAS WILSON

Thursday, August 27th | 6:30 pm

**Cornerstone Metropolitan
Community Church**

ASCC is hosting Dr. Lucas Wilson, author of *Shame Sex Attraction: Survivors Stories of Conversion Therapy*, for a Q&A and a much needed conversation about this topic and how it affects our community.



LITTLE FREE PANTRY

Nonperishable food items and household staples are always needed. You may bring items to the Little Free Pantry cart on Sunday mornings or whenever the Fellowship is open for a group or event. Donations may also be placed directly in the outdoor pantry at any time—items added between our regular volunteer stocking days are especially helpful in keeping the pantry supplied throughout the week.

Financial donations are also 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

We are collecting food, toiletries, household supplies, and baby essentials for local Hispanic families affected by recent ICE activity. Donations will be delivered to the Hair Do Salon in Daphne.

Most-needed items include:

- Diapers and baby-care products
- Soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, and feminine hygiene products
- Shelf-stable milk, juice, cereal, rice, beans, canned meat, and canned vegetables
- Laundry detergent, dish soap, and toilet paper

A complete list of requested items is posted on the FUF bulletin board.



**Please do not donate expired
or opened food.
Walmart gift cards are also welcome.**

SAVE THE DATES!

Mark your calendar for these special events coming to FUF this September:

September 5 — Hiroya Tsukamoto Concert

September 26 — Square Dancing



COAL ASH: LEARN MORE AND TAKE ACTION



LEARN MORE

Learn more about our local coal ash issue by joining us for the last of our summer screenings of Sallie's Ashes at **10:30am on August 29.**



TAKE ACTION

Urge state leaders to address the massive coal ash pond beside the Mobile River. Read Dr. David Brommer's message by scanning the code or visiting tinyurl.com/ykrhz3cz

www.movetheash.com/take-action

MOVE THE ASH!



Alabama Power can and must end the ongoing and future pollution of the groundwater, Delta, and Mobile River.

TAKE ACTION TODAY!

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.



AUGUST

2

Breakthroughs That Shaped Modern Medicine

Dr. Suzanne Tormoen



This talk explores key developments in infectious disease, neurology, genetics, surgery, emergency care, and modern therapeutics. Its central theme is simple: progress in medicine often comes from careful observation, the courage to challenge established ideas, and stronger evidence. Through these examples, we will see not only how treatments changed, but also how physicians learned to think differently about disease.

Dr. Suzanne Tormoen is a recently retired internal medicine physician with a master's degree in nutrition. Raised as a Unitarian, she has lived in Fairhope and Mobile for 42 years.



AUGUST

9

UU History, Part 3: Coming to Fairhope, AL

Mary Anderson and Virginia McClintock



In the utopian community of Fairhope, Alabama, a bunch of free thinkers came together and gradually formed the Fairhope Unitarian (Universalist) Fellowship now growing and thriving!

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 and she believes "it keeps you young and makes you old!"

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.



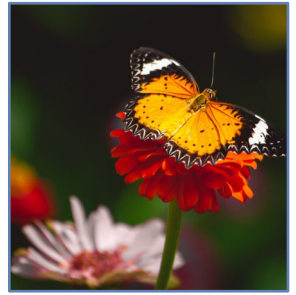
AUGUST

16

Going Native (With Plants)!

This talk explores the growing sustainability movement to convert lawns to native plants and pollinator-friendly landscapes with a wilder, more naturalistic design focus. The speaker will discuss the history of lawns and turf grasses, as well as the types of native plants best suited for pollinators in our area. This talk will also cover the initiatives the Landscape Committee has begun on the Fellowship grounds.

Growing plants and landscapes has been an interest of our speaker since the age of eight. She was a Master Gardener in Alabama and Tennessee from 2013-2019, completed her Advanced Master Gardener certification in Landscape Design in 2019, and passed the Alabama landscape design exam in 2018. She has volunteered at Cheekwood in Nashville, the Nashville Zoo, and the Gardens at South Illinois University of Edwardsville. In 2019, she also worked for three months on the 30-acre Edward Jones campus in St. Louis, Missouri.



AUGUST

23

Introduction to Alabama Arise

Bernadette Allen

Alabama Arise uses three interconnected approaches to advance public policy: policy analysis, statewide organizing, and citizen advocacy. Through Arise, groups and individuals work together to promote policies that improve the lives of Alabamians marginalized by poverty. Its membership includes faith-based, community, nonprofit, and civic groups, as well as grassroots leaders and individuals from across the state. Members select the organization's annual legislative agenda, focusing on the issues that matter most in alleviating poverty and its effects. Alabama Arise envisions a state where all people live with concern for the common good and respect for the humanity of every person. <https://alarise.org/>

Bernadette is the Southwest Organizer for Alabama Arise, where she began her second career on May 19, 2025. Before joining Arise, she worked for several federal government agencies until her retirement on May 16, 2025. Bernadette is a proud Army veteran who earned a B.A. in Behavioral Science and an M.S. in Human Services, with an emphasis on public policy and social justice.



AUGUST

30

Stand Up Mobile

Beverly Cooper

Grassroots advocacy was used to gain power for our community yesterday and it is still the energizing force that will sustain us today.

Beverly Cooper, co-founder of STAND-UP MOBILE, a community engagement organization dedicated to bringing the voice of the Black community to community needs and issues at all levels. Beverly is chairman of the CNB Bancorp Inc., holding company for the Commonwealth National Bank of Mobile.

www.standupmobile.org





FUF Groups & Gatherings

There's a place for you here.



WEEKLY

SILENT MEDITATION GROUP

Paused until Sept. 20

UKE OPEN JAM

Mondays • 2:00-4:00pm

All are invited to come jam with us

Contact: Carl Couret

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesdays • 9:00am • Kind Café in Fairhope

Contact: Don Joffe

BACK PORCH FOLK SINGERS

Wednesdays • 3:00-4:30pm

No invitation necessary

Contact: Phil Strniste

DINNER GROUP

Thursdays • 5:00pm

Check with Michael for current meeting location

Contact: Michael Patrick 251-233-3176

SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

DATE	CHALICE	READING
Aug 2	Gwen S.	Karen M.
Aug 9		Heather N.
Aug 16	Jennifer L.	
Aug 23	Maggie J.	Mark O.
Aug 30		
See Joanne Preston to sign up for open slots!		

VOLUNTEERS MAKE FUF POSSIBLE

Thank you to the many hands that help create the welcoming, vibrant community we love.

Interested in helping? We'd love to have you!

Email office@fairhopeuu.org to get connected!



BI-WEEKLY

WOMEN OF WISDOM

Thursday, 8/6 and 8/20 • 11:00am

WoW Discussion Group meets every other Thursday at 11am in the foyer. Lunch to follow at a local restaurant.

Contact: Vivian McMurphy or Jean Normand

MONTHLY

NON-FICTION BOOK GROUP

1st Thursday, 8/6 • 9:30am

Contact: Robin Fabel or Michael Patrick

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

2nd Tuesday, 8/11 • 4:00pm

Join us as we explore ways to support each other in understanding our grief.

Contact: Virginia McClintock

CHALICE CIRCLES

Wednesday, 8/19 • 1:30pm • The Joffe's Home

Thursday, 8/20 • 6:30pm • The McMurphy's Home

To join, an empty chair awaits you.

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

FICTION BOOK GROUP

4th Thursday, 8/27 • 4:30pm

August's book: *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi (see page 4 for more details)

Contact: Kathryn Firsching

GAME NIGHT

Last Saturday, 8/29 • 6:00pm

Join us for a fun evening together! Bring your favorite board or card games.

Contact: Bellamy Watson



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 10:45-Musical Prelude 11:00-Program	3 2pm- Uke Open Jam	4 9am-Men's Group (Kind Café)	5 3pm-4:30pm- Back Porch Folk Singers	6 9:30am- Non-Fiction Book Group 11am-Women of Wisdom 5pm-Thursday Dinner Group	7	8
9 10:45-Musical Prelude 11:00-Program Bring in your art!	10 2pm- Uke Open Jam	11 9am-Men's Group (Kind Café) 4pm-Grief Support Group	12 3pm-4:30pm- Back Porch Folk Singers	13 5pm-Thursday Dinner Group	14	15
16 10:45-Musical Prelude 11:00-Program	17 2pm- Uke Open Jam	18 9am-Men's Group (Kind Café)	19 1:30pm- Small Group at the Joffe's 3pm-4:30pm- Back Porch Folk Singers	20 11am-Women of Wisdom 5pm-Thursday Dinner Group 5:30-8:30pm- Hall Reserved (ESD) 6:30pm- Small Group at the McMurry's	21	22
23 10:45-Musical Prelude 11:00-Program Newsletter Deadline	24 2pm- Uke Open Jam	25 9am-Men's Group (Kind Café)	26 3pm-4:30pm- Back Porch Folk Singers	27 4:30pm-Fiction Book Group 5pm-Thursday Dinner Group	28	29 10:30am-Sallie's Ashes Screening 6pm-Game Night
30 10:45-Musical Prelude 11:00-Program Potluck	31 2pm- Uke Open Jam	 Join us for Fellowship every Sunday! 10:45am—Musical Prelude 11:00am—Program with Guest Speaker Coffee Hour follows; Potluck on August 30				



Deadlines for Publications

Weekly Bulletin and FUF Weekender

Wednesdays by 5pm

Submit to Ashley: Office@FairhopeUU.org

September Newsletter

Submit by end of day, August 23

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.*

FairhopeUU.org | Office@FairhopeUU.org | 251.929.3207
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