



A Note From the FUF President

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Note.....	1-2
Board Update	2
Join FUF	2
Fiction Book Group	4
Art Exhibits	4
Donations Needed	6
Cares & Concerns	6
Environmental.....	7
October Speakers.....	8
Special Events.....	9
FUF Schedule.....	10
Calendar	11



Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

1150 Fairhope Ave.
Fairhope, AL 36532
FairhopeUU.org

Justice, Equity, Compassion

In our study of Unitarian Universalist history, we learned that development of Christianity was under the influence of Roman and Anglican leaders that promoted intolerance for any who didn't believe as they believed. Much of Christian expansion involved domination, oppression, threats, violence, and persecution of those who did not follow their dogma. These teachings seem out of balance with the teachings of Jesus to love our neighbor. He described in the Beatitudes, the inner qualities and outward actions on how we treat others.

We do not base our beliefs on one source. Unitarian Universalists live out the UU Principles within a "living tradition" of sources as diverse as science, poetry, scripture and personal experience. (See insert). We refer to the words of our chalice lighting: "... no single belief includes us here. No disbelief excludes us."

We heard recently from our Quaker and Islam speakers that UU shares with these religions a belief in tolerance and acceptance of others. We further learned from our Muslim speaker that during the 7th century Crusades, the caliph Umar after his capture of Jerusalem, bestowed "tolerance guarantees" for protections of life, property, and religious institutions for Christians and Jews and for freedom from religious coercion.

Although unfortunately short-lived, we seek to preserve such freedoms first demonstrated by early Unitarians in Transylvania in the late 1700s and whose enlightened beliefs found their way to the newly developing experiment of democracy in America.

We share values with Eastern Religions: ethical living, interconnectedness, and inclusivity. We consider humanist values by weighing decisions with reason and science.

We look to the many beliefs from Indigenous communities wherein spiritual practices often involve stewardship of the environment and give consideration on the impacts for at least seven future generations.

(Continued on page 2)

It is interesting to note that Catholic Pope Leo XIV made headlines April 2026 declaring that the Catholic Church should prioritize issues of inequality, justice, and freedom suggesting a deepening commitment to outreach and compassion.

These contrasts draw attention to our current political environment that continues to try to build hate, fear, and divisions among us. There are eruptions of political and religious ideology insistent on defining who belongs and who doesn't, bestowing certain privileges to those belonging, and sometimes linking belonging to ethno-racial identity, gender, and economic advantages. It becomes a lengthening list that takes in anyone that differs from the power seekers.

To those groups, if such a word were still used, UU's would continue to be considered "heretics" – "those who differ in opinion from an accepted belief or doctrine."

And we continue to say, "Thank goodness! We still have freedom to differ and freedom to act for social and environmental justice with love to our neighbors, no matter who they are, what or where they are."

We acknowledge and appreciate our many FUF members currently involved in the political process. As we decide who to vote for in the upcoming mid-term elections, may we hold to our 2nd Principle: justice, equity and compassion and to our 5th Principle: the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process to vote.

Carrying forward our beliefs, may our history, our vote and our values be preserved in our democratic processes and our freedom to love and accept one another.

Proudly and humbly,

Mary Anderson

President, Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

Sources of Our Living Tradition

These are the six sources our congregations affirm and promote:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.



INTERESTED IN

*Joining
FUF?*



WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome.

- 🍃 If you're ready to join our community as a member, please complete the form at fairhopeuu.org/join or ask for the hard copy form.
- 🍃 After completing the form, simply sign the membership book to become a voting member.
- 🍃 New member orientation will be held in November 22, following Sunday treats. New members will be welcomed with a short ceremony at the Annual Meeting on December 6. At that time, you will be eligible to vote as a member of the Fellowship.



BOARD UPDATE



The Board did not meet in August or September.

Its next meeting will be **Tuesday, October 6, at 4:30 p.m.**

2026 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Chair of the Board — Nick Coulson

President — Mary Anderson

1st Vice-President — vacant (*Mary Matthews resigned*)

2nd Vice-President/Programs — Mark Preston

Recording Secretary — Jeanine Normand

Corresponding Secretary — Jeanine Herring

Member at Large (Past President) — Irene Wegner

Member at Large — Bellamy Watson



2027 BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Under the FUF Bylaws, Article VI Section 2: Board officers are elected by the membership at the Annual Business Meeting for a term of one year. The annual meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2026. The Board of Directors appointed this year's Nominating Committee to include Don Joffe, Joanne Preston, and Tom Czekanski. It is their task to identify members willing to serve on the Board of Trustees in one of the Executive positions and put forward a slate of candidates at the annual meeting. If you are interested in serving, please talk to Don, Joanne, or Tom.

The Board also appointed a Finance Committee to plan the 2027 annual budget led by now Treasurer, Maggie Joffe who

will fill out the term of Sandy Tormoen. Maggie will invite members needed for the committee. Please talk to Maggie if you are interested in serving on the Finance Committee.

FICTION GROUP

BOOK OF THE MONTH

***Silas Marner* by George Eliot**

Silas Marner is a tale of isolation, loss, and unexpected renewal set in a close-knit English village. Silas, a reclusive weaver shunned by his former community, lives a life of quiet routine and emotional withdrawal, finding comfort in his work and the gold he earns.

With rich character detail and vivid portrayal of rural life, George Eliot crafts a story about the slow reawakening of trust, the meaning of belonging, and the ways human connection can transform a life once thought to be set in stone.

(Summary modified from Goodreads)

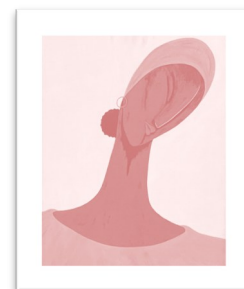
***The Fiction Book Group meets
Thursday, October 22 at
4:30pm.***



THESE ARE A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE THINGS

There was an overwhelming response from members and friends who brought in some of their favorite art pieces for display. The Hall walls now feature an eclectic mix of two dimensional and woven articles.

Please take time to view the pieces, read their descriptions, and note the contributors. Seek them out for an interesting conversation!



The Art Committee worked together to make this exhibit possible.
The show has been extended through October 16.



FUF IN PARTNERSHIP FOR COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Historically, FUF has partnered with community organizations with common missions. On September 29, the Board confirmed continued alliances with Alabama Arise, Affirming Spiritual Communities Coalition (ASCC)/PRISM United, and Gulf Coast Creation Care.

If you have been or are interested in representing FUF at meetings or events of one of these alliances, please inform Jeanine Normand, newly appointed coordinator of Social and Environmental Justice Actions (SEJA).

Many FUF members and friends are involved with other organizations and causes, some of which may be partisan or organizations that seek individual volunteers for activities and events. We encourage your participation.

However, you may also be involved with organizations that seek partnership alliances. Please let Jeanine know of those involvements so we can determine how FUF might best participate. We are hopeful of gaining volunteers willing to commit to FUF representation to an identified alliance. Representatives would be encouraged to:

- ⇒ Whenever possible attend alliance meetings and events to lend FUF's visibility and voice to support social and environmental justice actions.
- ⇒ Obtain and share information to announce to the FUF membership scheduled alliance events and actions inviting added support and participation.
- ⇒ Periodically meet as FUF representatives to exchange information and ideas on ways to best serve.

To meet our aspiration of increasing FUF visibility and community connections, the Board also acted to expand the duties of 1st VP to act as liaison to the areas under Community Connections. This area includes the Arts Committee, Social & Environment Justice Action, Fundraising/ Special Events, Interest Groups, Little Free Pantry, and Scholarship Awards. As liaison the 1st VP would help define mission goals and coordinate volunteer activities and publicity.



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.

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



You are not alone. We are in this together.

NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS

The Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship has two scholarship accounts. The Nursing Scholarship has a balance of \$2,022. The FUF Scholarship has a balance of \$35,847.

Since these accounts have not been used for a period, a committee was formed to determine how best to use the funds. Sandy Tormoen (Chairman), Maggie Joffe, and Deb Little were assigned to the committee.

Historically, the Nursing Scholarship was distributed to a deserving student enrolled in the Coastal Community College (Fairhope Campus) Nursing Program. The amount distributed was \$500 per semester. Our committee recently met at Coastal Community College with Dr. Tyler Sturdivant, Associate Dean of the Nursing Program, Morgan Watkins, Nursing and Allied Health Advisor and a nursing instructor. We agreed to provide a \$500 scholarship for the Spring semester, 2027. Dr. Sturdivant will oversee the selection

process.

The committee has plans to review the history of the FUF Scholarship and report to the FUF Board of Directors with recommendations. We were able to determine that there is interest from a few FUF members.

Unfortunately, Sandra Tormoen, our chairman, is relocating and is unable to continue with the committee. We are now interested in recruiting new committee members to continue reviewing the FUF Scholarship.

If you are interested in joining the Scholarship Committee please inform Mary Anderson, Maggie Joffe or Deb Little.

 *Thank you for caring for our community and our coast!* 

OCTOBER PROGRAMS

Sundays • 10:45 AM musical prelude • 11:00 AM program



How Politics Is Changing the Face of Addiction

Today's America has changed the profile of those struggling with addiction. Are they still considered worthy of dignity?

Edith Langford is a psychotherapist and ethnographic researcher licensed in New York and Alabama. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Virginia in Research, Statistics, and Evaluation. Her writing on the subject includes the Guardian op-ed "Keep One Eye on Grandma During the Super Bowl" and the USA Today piece, "I Have Watched Alcohol-Related Cancers Kill My Family."



Edith Langford, PhD

edithlangford.com



Introduction to Alabama Arise

Alabama Arise uses three interconnected approaches to advance public policies: policy analysis, statewide organizing, and citizen advocacy. Through Arise, groups and individuals join together to promote public policies that improve the lives of Alabamians who are marginalized by poverty. Arise's membership includes faith-based, community, nonprofit and civic groups, grassroots leaders and individuals from across the state. Members select the annual legislative agenda, focusing on the issues that matter most to alleviate poverty and its effects. Arise envisions an Alabama where all people live with concern for the common good and respect for the humanity of every person.

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



Bernadette Allen

alarise.org



League of Women Voters of Baldwin County

The League of Women Voters has worked to empower voters and defend democracy in Baldwin County for more than a century. The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization founded after women got the right to vote. Its mission is to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. Dr. Sonenstein will describe the work of the local league as they prepare for the midterm elections.

Freya Sonenstein trained as a sociologist and is a professor emerita at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her career was devoted to conducting social policy research intended to improve the welfare of families and children. After retirement, she joined the LWV of Baldwin County and has worked with many others to build the league into an organization that promotes informed participation of everyone in our government and its policymaking.



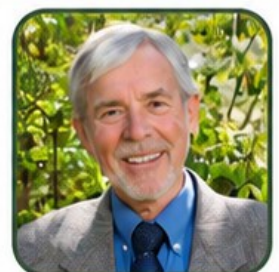
Freya Sonenstein



The History of Farming

Humans have been changing the animals and plants they live with for over 300,000 years. This presentation will briefly summarize those changes and focus on how modern agriculture has evolved over the last 200 years. From simple hoes to plows to combine harvesters, the technology of farming will be described along with how society has changed as farming has evolved. Bring your seed corn cap and bib overalls.

Dr. Joanning is a recovering Iowa farm boy turned university professor. He is an Emeritus Professor at Iowa State University, and an Adjunct Professor of Psychology at the University of South Alabama. He still has a farm in Iowa.



Dr. Harvey Joanning



Upcoming Special Events at FUF



Mark your calendar and invite a friend—there's something for everyone!



[Tickets & details](#)

STANDUP COMEDY JAM 3
★ SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 • 7:00 PM ★
Five Comedians. One Night of Laughs.

SCOTT WALKER SEAN STEELE LEROY MANERS JAY DUBZ MATT NAGIN

AGES: **13+** **\$15 ADVANCE • \$20 AT THE DOOR**

FAIRHOPE UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP
1150 FAIRHOPE AVE., FAIRHOPE, AL • FAIRHOPEUU.ORG

TICKETS:



[Tickets & details](#)

FAIRHOPE UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP PRESENTS
MUSICAL JOURNEY THROUGH Bavaria

TUESDAY, OCT. 20
7:00 PM

THE JOHNNY KOENIG BAND

ADVANCE \$20 AT THE DOOR \$25
Scan for tickets

CELEBRATE OKTOBERFEST WITH AN EVENING OF LIVE POLKA AND BAVARIAN MUSIC!



Back Roads & Back Stories

Saturday, November 7 • 7 PM

Songs and stories from the road less traveled.



BACK ROADS
& BACK STORIES



Emerging Artist Series: Jaishon Robinson

Sunday, November 15 • 2 PM

Enjoy local talent on the rise!



Miracle on 34th Street: The Radio Play

Saturday, Dec. 5 • 7 PM

Sunday, Dec. 6 • 2 PM



Riverdance

Friday, December 18 • 7 PM

High-energy Irish dance
& music!



FUF Groups & Gatherings

Weekly

SILENT MEDITATION GROUP

Sundays • 9:45am
Contact: Nick Coulson

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

BI-WEEKLY

WOMEN OF WISDOM

Thursday, 10/1, 10/15, and 10/29 • 11:00am
WoW Discussion Group meets every other Thursday at 11am in the foyer. Lunch to follow at a local restaurant.
Contact: Vivian McMurry or Jean Normand

MONTHLY

NON-FICTION BOOK GROUP

1st Thursday, 10/1 • 9:30am
Contact: Robin Fabel or Michael Patrick

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

2nd Tuesday, 10/13 • 4:00pm
Join us as we explore ways to support each other in understanding our grief.
Contact: Virginia McClintock

CHALICE CIRCLES

Wed., 10/21 • 1:30pm • The Joffe's Home
Thurs., 10/22 • 6:30pm • The McMurry's Home
To join, an empty chair awaits you.
Contact: Mary Anderson, Joanne Preston, Maggie Joffe, or Vivian McMurry

FICTION BOOK GROUP

4th Thursday, 10/22 • 4:30pm
October's book: *Silas Marner* by George Eliot
(see page 4 for more details)
Contact: Kathryn Firsching

GAME NIGHT

Last Saturday, 10/31 • 6:00pm
Join us for a fun evening together! Bring your favorite board or card games.
Contact: Bellamy Watson



Sunday Volunteer Schedule

DATE	CHALICE	READING
Oct 4	Suzanne T.	Divia A.
Oct 11	Roxann F.	Mark O.
Oct 18	Jennifer L.	Joanne P.
Oct 25		Virginia M.

See Joanne Preston to sign up for open slots and future dates!



October



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Join us for Fellowship every Sunday! 10:45am—Musical Prelude 11:00am—Program with Guest Speaker <i>Coffee Hour follows; Potluck on October 25</i>				1 9:30am- Non-Fiction Book Group 11am- Women of Wisdom 5pm- Thursday Dinner Group	2	3
4 9:45- Silent Meditation 10:45- Musical Prelude 11:00- Program	5 2pm- Uke Open Jam	6 9am- Men's Group (Kind Café) 4:30- Board Meeting	7 3pm-4:30pm- Back Porch Folk Singers 4:45-5:45pm- ES Strings Practice	8 5pm- Thursday Dinner Group	9	10
11 9:45- Silent Meditation 10:45- Musical Prelude 11:00- Program	12 Indigenous Peoples' Day 2pm- Uke Open Jam	13 9am- Men's Group (Kind Café) 4pm- Grief Support Group	14 3pm-4:30pm- Back Porch Folk Singers 4:45-5:45pm- ES Strings Practice	15 11am- Women of Wisdom 5pm- Thursday Dinner Group 6:30pm- Small Group @ McMurry's	16	17 7pm-Comedy Jam
18 9:45- Silent Meditation 10:45- Musical Prelude 11:00- Program	19 2pm- Uke Open Jam	20 9am- Men's Group (Kind Café) 7pm- Musical Journey Through Bavaria	21 1:30pm- Small Group @ Joffe's 3pm-4:30pm- Back Porch Folk Singers 4:45-5:45pm- ES Strings Practice	22 4:30pm- Fiction Book Group 5pm- Thursday Dinner Group	23 Newsletter Deadline	24
25 9:45- Silent Meditation 10:45- Musical Prelude 11:00- Program Potluck	26 2pm- Uke Open Jam	27 9am- Men's Group (Kind Café)	28 3pm-4:30pm- Back Porch Folk Singers 4:45-5:45pm- ES Strings Practice	29 11am- Women of Wisdom 5pm- Thursday Dinner Group 5:30pm- Reserved ESD	30	31 6pm- Game Night HAPPY HALLOWEEN

PUBLICATION

Deadlines

Weekly Bulletin and FUF Weekender

Wednesdays by 5pm

Submit to Ashley: Office@FairhopeUU.org



Scan to sign up
to receive
FUF newsletters!

Thank you



for reading!

October Newsletter

Submit by end of day, October 23

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

Submit to Ashley: Office@FairhopeUU.org



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.

WE WELCOME ALL

*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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