November

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

A Note From the FUF President

Giving in Gratitude

As I near the end of my first term as President of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship, I look back and forward with gratitude. Gratitude for the history of UU and this place with those who came before. Gratitude for the new members and those who come to visit for the first time or regularly. Gratitude that FUF is showing visibility in our community both as a welcoming facility and as a welcoming community. Gratitude to our paid staff and to all of you who volunteer in ways seen and unseen. Gratitude for the new friends made in this established and expanding community. Had it not been for this Fellowship, my life in Alabama would be so much less.

There is no question that FUF members and friends give generously of their time and talents. We also give of our "treasure." Each Sunday we are invited to "give in gratitude" as the collection baskets are passed. Using words like "tithing" or "pledging" often raise the hackles of what we think of as pressures in traditional churches setting unrealistic expectations on what an individual or family can afford.

The reality is that it does take money to maintain an organization and we are dependent upon the gifts of members and friends to keep open and make the offerings FUF does.

The 2026 budget for operational expenses totaled $53,270. Unfortunately, monthly contributions have not kept pace with the expenses, causing us to run a deficit of about $5400 for the year thus far. This means the balance in the checking account is dropping.

The past years, we have come out ok because of the generosity of an anonymous giver who has done a $5000 match at the end of the year. However, we don't know how long we might depend on this person's generosity considering life circumstances. So, it is really up to each of us.

There are several ways to give regularly – In addition to the baskets passed each Sunday, you may conveniently give online using credit/debit cards, PayPal, Venmo, ACH, and more (see the page 2 for the QR).

(Continued on page 2)

During this season of expressing gratitude for what we are given, please take this opportunity to reflect on the meaning of the Fellowship in your life. Please determine an amount to give regularly that fits your ability to help us meet our goals within the Fellowship and the wider community.

Thank you for who you are and for all you do!

In gratitude,

Mary Anderson

President, Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

The Abundance of Our Lives Together

We light our chalice as a symbol of gratitude
as we celebrate the abundance of our lives together.

In this sanctuary we harvest bushels of strength for one another,
and offer our crop with the hands of compassion and generosity.

In the authentic and gentle manner of our connections,
we cultivate a simple sweetness to brighten our spirits.

May we be grateful for the ways we nourish and uplift each other,
For it is the sharing of this hallowed time together that sustains us.

By Katie Sivani Gelfand

Thank you for your generosity and support of our Fellowship!

Givebutter

Interested in Joining FUF?

Wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome.

1. If you're ready to join our community as a member, complete the form at fairhopeuu.org/join or ask for a hard copy, then sign the membership book.
2. New member orientation will be held **November 22**, following Sunday treats.
3. New members will be welcomed at the Annual Meeting on **December 6**.

FUF Board Update



Here's a summary of the Board Meeting on October 20, 2026:

- **Financial:** The Board accepted the treasurer's report, showing an August ending balance of $5,197. The finance committee will meet soon to develop ideas to increase donations and bring them up for discussion at December's annual membership meeting.
- **Safety:** Work continues on emergency and medical safety plans, CPR and defibrillator training, and updates to the volunteer handbook.
- **Building and grounds:** The Board approved the purchase of four replacement solar lights for the parking-area sidewalk.
- **Signage:** A digital sign proposal is being developed for membership consideration. The FUF logo and font were confirmed for consistent use.
- **Committees:** Committee coordination and scholarship guidelines are under review.
- **Annual Meeting:** Scheduled for Sunday, December 6. Due to rising costs, a possible bylaw change proposal to increase the Board's annual spending limit from $5,000 to $10,000 is being explored.
- **Next Board meeting:** **Tuesday, November 17**, at **4:30 PM**.

Annual Meeting & 2027 Board Nominations



Please plan to attend FUF's Annual Membership Meeting on **December 6, 2026** at **11:00 AM**. Members will elect Board officers, vote on motions presented, and discuss Fellowship business. Your participation helps shape FUF's year ahead.

The Nominating Committee—**Don Joffe, Joanne Preston, and Tom Czekanski**—is seeking members interested in serving on the 2027 Board of Trustees. To learn more or express interest, please speak with a committee member.

Planning for FUF's Financial Future

Treasurer Maggie Joffe and the Finance Committee will meet November 4 to begin developing the 2027 budget and exploring ways to encourage additional contributions. Their work will help FUF plan for the year ahead and support the programs, facilities, and community we share.



Fiction Group



***The Stupidest Angel* by Christopher Moore**

Christopher Moore's *The Stupidest Angel* is subtitled 'A Heart-Warming Tale of Christmas Terror.' A Christmas whodunnit comedic novel.

In the small Californian coastal town of Pine Cove, in the week before Christmas, 40-something divorcee Lena Marquez has an argument with her Santa-suit-clad ex, Dale Pearson, that comes to blows. The domestic is broken up by local constable Theo Crowe, but an hour later Lena and Dale are at it again: still in Santa garb, he's challenging her over the theft of some of his (many) Christmas trees, which she has been selling for charity. (Adapted from Word Press review)

See you at our next meeting in your Santa hat or clip-on reindeer antlers!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3 4:30 PM
(Regular meeting date changed due to the holidays)

Community Connections

Representatives Needed

FUF is exploring community partnerships with Alabama Arise, Affirming Spiritual Communities Coalition (ASCC)/PRISM United, and Gulf Coast Creation Care.

Interested in serving as an FUF representative? Volunteers would attend meetings or events when possible, share updates with the Fellowship, and help connect members with opportunities for service, education, and nonpartisan advocacy.

Please contact **Jeanine Normand** to learn more or suggest a potential community partner.

Scholarships Update

Can You Help Fill in the History?



FUF will provide a $500 nursing scholarship for the spring 2027 semester at Coastal Community College's Fairhope campus. Dr. Tyler Sturdivant will oversee student selection.

The Scholarship Committee is also reviewing the history and intended purpose of the separate **FUF Scholarship fund** before making recommendations to the Board.

If you have records, recollections, or background information about this fund, please contact **Maggie Joffe**.

Living Our Values

From sharing our food with our neighbors to caring for one another and building community partnerships, we put our values into practice in many ways. Thank you to everyone who gives their time, resources, and care.

Little Free Pantry

Help keep the pantry filled!

A few extra items on your grocery trip can help a neighbor. Donations of nonperishable food and household staples are always welcome.

Leave items on the pantry cart when FUF is open, or stock the outdoor pantry anytime—especially between regular volunteer stocking days.



Prefer to give financially? Please designate your gift **"Little Free Pantry."**

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.

- 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

Walmart gift cards are welcome. Please do not donate opened or expired food. A complete list of requested items is posted on the FUF bulletin board.

Cares & Concerns

If you or a Fellowship friend could use support during a health or other major crisis setback, our team can help with meals, transportation, cards, or visits.

Susan Hammack: 205-527-3328

Office Email: office@fairhopeuu.org

You are not alone. We are in this together.

November Speakers

Musical Prelude at 10:45am • Sunday Program at 11:00am

NOV 1

A Republic If You Can Keep It

A Republic If You Can Keep It, co-authored with Frye Gaillard, is a slim volume of essays describing our current political moment and the dangers to our democracy. How do we move forward from here?

Cynthia Tucker is a Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist who spent much of her career as a reporter, columnist and editor at newspapers. She is currently Journalist-in Residence at the University of South Alabama.



Cynthia Tucker

NOV 8

The Hidden Narrative: Uncovering Trauma and Revelation

Drawing from her new memoir, *A Marriage in Startled Air*, Patricia Foster explores how her husband's rare cancer diagnosis transformed their marriage and brought his hidden childhood trauma and PTSD to light. As Patricia and David confront the past, they discover a new depth of intimacy. What emerges is something sweeter and deeper—a connection in which the very things that seemed to break them become a source of healing.

Patricia Foster is the author of five books and Professor Emerita in the University of Iowa's MFA Program in Nonfiction. Her honors include the 2026 Alabama Truman Capote Award, a PEN Award, a Pushcart Prize, the Hall-Waters Prize for Excellence in Southern Writing, the Clarence Cason Award, and a fellowship to Yaddo. A graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, she has taught in France, Australia, Spain, Italy, and the Czech Republic.



Patricia Foster

NOV 15

A Tale of Two Cemeteries

More than 600,000 soldiers died in the American Civil War, transforming how the military cared for its fallen and leading to the creation of two of the nation's most significant cemeteries: Arlington and Gettysburg. This presentation explores the stories behind these hallowed places.

Tom is a historian and retired curator from the National WWII Museum in New Orleans. He enjoys uncovering the stories behind historical events and sharing them with others. He has also participated in Civil War reenactments, portraying soldiers from both the North and the South.



Tom Czekanski

NOV 22

The Vinegar Tasters and the Golden Rule

The Vinegar Tasters is a famous painting reproduced in many forms. It illustrates a parable about Confucius, Buddha, and Lao Tzu and their philosophies of life. This talk will explore the parable alongside the history of religion as it relates to the Golden Rule.

A lifelong Unitarian, Suzanne has explored many religions throughout her life. She has lived in Fairhope and Mobile for over 43 years and retired from her internal medicine practice in March of 2026.



Suzanne Tormoen

NOV 29

FUF Board Candidate Panel

The Nominating Committee will have their 2027 Executive Board candidate recommendations finalized. Candidates for positions on the FUF Board will describe their plans and suitability for board positions. This will be followed by a Q & A when members can put questions to candidates.

Our Featured Artist: *Robin Fall*

Creating art that stirs the soul, rekindles inner light after trauma, and opens a path to healing.

About the Artist

For Robin Fall, art is both an act of imagination and a means of healing. A multidisciplinary artist and healing arts advocate based in Daphne, Alabama, she works in oil, acrylic, watercolor, collage, wood, and wire. Her whimsical, spirit-filled art invites viewers to pause, feel, and look inward—reconnecting with emotion, imagination, and the quiet places of the soul.

Through her *robinfallsdream* vision, "Ignite the Soul," Fall nurtures creative self-expression among abused, neglected, and at-risk children, people affected by PTSD, and those in rehabilitation centers. In partnership with community programs, shelters, institutions, and care facilities, she creates safe spaces where participants can release pain, build self-esteem, and awaken their inner spirit.

Purpose

Her enduring purpose is to ignite the soul through art—bringing light, dignity, and hope where they are needed most.

"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something;
and what I ought to do, by God's grace, I will do."
—Edward Everett Hale

Education and Artistic Highlights

- Studied at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and under renowned artist Joseph Stanke. Most recently participated in the Yo-Yo Ma Art Exhibit in Mobile, AL, and additional exhibitions in Milwaukee, WI; Hattiesburg, MS; and Chicago, IL.

Art in the Community

- **Giving through art:** Fall donates artwork to local charities. Proceeds from sold pieces are reinvested in her studio and returned to the community through her healing-arts initiatives.
- **Featured programs:** At Oakton Manor Senior Assisted Living Facility, Fall led the *robinfallsdream* program, helping residents share stories and express themselves through art. At Stillwaters Cancer Center, she led a six-week window-painting program in which women affected by cancer explored the present and envisioned the future; their work was displayed in downtown boutiques.
- **Board and community service:** Hattiesburg Arts Council; Milwaukee Public Theatre; Children's Hospital and Health System Wisconsin; New Beginnings Are Possible; The Hope in Tanzania Foundation, Inc.; Bucketworks.org; and Milwaukee County Foster Care System.
- **Affiliations:** Artists by the Bay; Mobile Arts Council; and Art with a Purpose for Those at Risk.

Connect

LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/robin57

Art with a Purpose: artwithapurpose.org

Email: toulouse_painter@yahoo.com

Phone: 601-307-2399

FUF Special Events

Go to FairhopeUU.org/Special-Events for tickets & more info!

A big thank-you to Mark Preston for his hard work bringing these wonderful events to FUF!

Members and friends, your support makes future events possible— join us when you can, or consider donating toward an event even if you can't attend!

NOV 7

BACK ROADS & BACK STORIES

Songs • Stories • Conversation



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

7:00 PM

SCAN HERE

$20 advance
$25 at the door

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

NOV 15

FLUTE & FRIENDS
Flute Ensemble Concert



NOVEMBER 15, 2026
2:00 PM
$15 TICKETS

Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship
1150 FAIRHOPE AVE, FAIRHOPE, AL 36532

Scan for tickets

DEC 5&6

Miracle on 34th Street: The Radio Play



Saturday, Dec. 5 • 7 PM
Sunday, Dec. 6 • 2 PM

DEC 18

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

Sunday Volunteer Schedule

Date	Chalice	Reading
Nov 1	Nancy O.	Melissa I.
Nov 8	Jean H.	Dave H.
Nov 15	Virginia M.	Carl C.
Nov 22	Jeanine H.	Mark P.
Nov 29	Joanne P.	Suzanne T.

See Joanne Preston to sign up for future dates!

Monthly

Grief Support Group
2nd Tuesday, 11/10 • 4:00pm
Join us as we explore ways to support each other in understanding our grief.
Contact: Virginia McClintock

Women of Wisdom
2nd & 4th Thursdays, 11/12 (no 2nd meeting this month) • 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

Chalice Circles
Wed., 11/18 • 1:30pm • The Joffe's Home
Thurs., 11/19 • 6:30pm • The McMurry's Home
To join, an empty chair awaits you.
If you're interested in forming a 3rd circle, please sign up.
Contact: Mary Anderson, Joanne Preston, Maggie Joffe, or Vivian McMurry

Fiction Book Group
Thursday, 12/03 • 4:30pm
Combined November-December meeting due to the holidays
December's book: *The Stupidest Angel* by Christopher Moore
(see page 4 for more details)
Contact: Kathryn Firsching

Game Night
Last Saturday, 11/28 • 6:00pm
Join us for a fun evening together! Bring your favorite board or card games.
Contact: Bellamy Watson

November

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 **9:45-**Silent Meditation **10:45-**Musical Prelude **11:00-**Program	**2** **2pm-** Uke Open Jam	**3** **9am-**Men's Group (Kind Café) 	**4** **3pm-4:30pm-** Back Porch Folk Singers ***4:45-5:45pm-*** *ES Strings Practice*	**5** **5pm-**Thursday Dinner Group	**6**	**7** **7:00 PM—Back Roads & Back Stories**
8 **9:45-**Silent Meditation **10:45-**Musical Prelude **11:00-**Program	**9** **2pm-** Uke Open Jam	**10** **9am-**Men's Group (Kind Café) **4pm-**Grief Support Group	**11** **3pm-4:30pm-** Back Porch Folk Singers ***4:45-5:45pm-*** *ES Strings Practice* 	**12** **11am-**Women of Wisdom **5pm-**Thursday Dinner Group	**13**	**14**
15 **9:45-**Silent Meditation **10:45-**Musical Prelude **11:00-**Program **2:00 PM Flute & Friends Concert**	**16** **2pm-** Uke Open Jam	**17** **9am-**Men's Group (Kind Café) **4:30-**Board Meeting	**18** **1:30pm–** Small Group @ Joffe's **3pm-4:30pm-** Back Porch Folk Singers ***4:45-5:45pm-*** *ES Strings Practice*	**19** **5pm-**Thursday Dinner Group **6:30pm–** Small Group @ McMurry's	**20**	**21**
22 **9:45-**Silent Meditation **10:45-**Musical Prelude **11:00-**Program	**23** **2pm-** Uke Open Jam **Newsletter Deadline**	**24** **9am-**Men's Group (Kind Café)	**25**	**26** 	**27**	**28** **6:00 PM** — Game Night
29 **9:45-**Silent Meditation **10:45-**Musical Prelude **11:00–**Program **Potluck**	**30** **2pm-** Uke Open Jam **6-9pm–** Reserved					



Join us for Fellowship every Sunday!

9:45 AM—Silent Meditation

10:45 AM—Musical Prelude

11:00 AM—Program with Guest Speaker

Coffee Hour follows; Potluck on November 29

PUBLICATION
Deadlines

Scan to sign up to receive FUF newsletters!

Weekly Bulletin and FUF Weekender
Wednesdays by 5pm

Submit to Ashley: Office@FairhopeUU.org

December Newsletter
Submit by end of day, November 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.

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.

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