



1410 Airport Rd., Panama City, FL 32405

Sunday Service @10:30 AM on YouTube

A Welcoming Congregation

Phone: 850.615.4127

Email: info@uuofbaycounty.com

Saturday, July 18, 2020 **UUFBC E-News** **Issue 1, July 2020-June 2021**

A Message from the UUFBC Board of Directors:

Greetings and Well Wishes to all of our members and friends,

We hope that you are finding ways to make this challenging time in our world history a little less difficult and a little more enjoyable. Please know that we are here and we are taking care of our Fellowship. Sometime soon we will be together again to worship in our spiritual home. If you miss our beautiful surroundings, please visit the Fellowship grounds at any time. Sit by the pond, go for a walk, watch the birds and otherwise take in the scenery with which we are so blessed.

Every July we begin a new UUFBC year, as we have now done again this year. Our fiscal year runs from July through June and our planning processes follow accordingly. This new year before us may prove to be one of the more challenging years that this Fellowship has had in a while. After experiencing a Category 5 hurricane and a COVID-19 Pandemic, that is saying something! We know our members struggle individually and to be sure, our collective organization struggles as a whole. We recognize that we have fewer members, less funding, and greatly curtailed opportunities for worshipping, socializing, fundraising and the many other desirable activities, than we have had at any time in recent history. And yet, we believe it is worth pressing forward, knowing that good comes to many within our Fellowship by our continuing to do what we can. So we will persevere and do everything we can do to preserve our Fellowship. We trust that you will join us in every way that you can and we will rebuild our Fellowship as we have done with our homes and our community.

New years bring change and this new year is no different. It brings substantial change to our Fellowship both because of the long-term closure of Fellowship Hall and the extension of our annual Pledge Drive and budgeting process. We, as a Board of Directors, have postponed the Fellowship's annual meeting usually held in May, and with it the election of Board and Leadership Development team members. Some Board members have decided to stay under the extended terms of their positions, while others have decided to leave Board service. On behalf of our UU Fellowship, we want to thank Heather Ogilvie, Jane Nichols and Bob Kuchta for their Board service as they leave the Board of Directors. This past year was not an easy one and this past year's Board worked hard to not only "keep the lights on", but to make improvements in our Fellowship. We also want to thank Nicole Putnam for her contributions to our Fellowship, as she has resigned from her position as Interim Fellowship Administrator.

So our plan is to continue to "keep the lights on" virtually and to discover some new ways to create joy and cause for celebration within our Fellowship and our world as we find it. Your thoughts are always welcome. Many blessings,

The Board of Directors, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bay County

Lynne Siegfried, Vice President

Bob Nixon, Treasurer

Janet Cross, Member at Large

Bob Gilmore, Member at Large

John Shaffer, Member at Large



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Quick Reference: If you are in need of assistance of any kind, call the UUFBC phone message line 850-615-4127 and/or email to info@uuofbaycounty.com and you will get a response.

Communication: Members of the Board of Directors are also available to you if you have questions or concerns regarding Fellowship administration, daily operations, Sunday services or other matters. Contact:

Lynne Siegfried
Bob Gilmore

lsiegfried40@yahoo.com
gilzach@yahoo.com

Continuation: Look for the E-News weekly for the remainder of the summer. It will be our main communication channel and you will receive updates and new information this way. If there is something that you would like to have published in the E-News, submit it to info@uuofbaycounty.com each week by the end of the day on Wednesday for publication the same week. Mark it clearly "For the E-News".

Clarification: There will be no new (live) Sunday services until they resume in September. As our Unitarian Universalist Association has suggested to its member churches, it is important to take time to "pause, rest and reenergize. We want to be ready for what's next." Board members have agreed it is best to follow the UUA's guidance through August. However, you are invited to watch your favorite services again, as they are always available on our facebook page or UTube.

COVID-19 It remains of the utmost importance that we all continue with safety measures that protect us from falling victim to the spread of COVID-19. While this is a major concern across the country, it is of even greater concern here in Florida where we are experiencing an explosion with the virus spiking daily (135 new cases yesterday in our community). PLEASE stay home as much as possible.

Community Spotlight NAACP and Upcoming Elections

The NAACP is actively generating initiatives designed to engage volunteers and voters in Voter Registration and Get Out the Vote activities for the upcoming primary and general elections In August and November. During the next month, there will be:

- A Candidates Forum at Gulf Coast State College, to be held on August 3rd and again on the 6th at 6 PM, available for both virtual and limited on-site participation;
- A virtual Tea Party where participants will join wearing their best hats and discuss the various ways to cast a vote and how to help others do so;
- A recruitment effort for churches who will participate in the Souls to Polls events;
- A series of phone banks; and,
- Special activities sponsored by the NAACP Youth Group to include a night with musical entertainment and more.

Dates for these activities will be available soon. Watch your ENews and Email for updates and additional information.



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In January, our Fellowship became a Life Member of the NAACP, so let's support the NAACP's initiatives and help the organization take a strong leadership role in our community.

Due to the corona virus, most registration and informational activities are being conducted over the phone and internet. It is extremely important to conduct voter participation activities, even with the challenges that the virus brings. In the 2016 national election, as many registered voters failed to vote, as voted for either presidential candidate.

If you wish to volunteer to work on voter registration or voter participation events, please contact Jo Shaffer at jnshaffer@aol.com.

The Primary election will be held on August 18th and the deadline to register to vote in the Primary is July 20th. The following offices will be filled in the Primary:

Office: School Superintendent
Office: County Commission, District 3
Office: Bay County Judge, Group 1
Office: School Board, District 1
Office: School Board, District 2
Office: School Board, District 4
States Attorney

The General election will be held on November 3, 2020 and the deadline to register to vote in the General Election is October 5th.

Closing: Look for the next issue of the UUFBC ENews on Saturday, July 25th. To borrow words from our member Chris May that she often uses for her closing, we are "Wishing you well".

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