



1410 Airport Rd., Panama City, FL 32405

Sunday Service @10:30 AM on UTube

A Welcoming Congregation

Phone: 850.615.4127

Email: [info@uufbaycounty.com](mailto:info@uufbaycounty.com)

Saturday, July 25, 2020 **UUFBC E-News** Issue 2, 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 this has been a good week for you and that you continue to be safe and well. Remember that even during these challenging times and most especially during any anxious or fearful days you may have, our Fellowship is here to wrap you in our spiritual arms and surround you with warm and caring thoughts. We are here to offer you pleasant memories of better times, as we also offer the expectation of more happiness to come. Even though we can't meet together, we still have a living bond of empathy and compassion, and confidence in ourselves and each other, that continues undaunted. Our bond will steady us and sustain us. It will carry us into the new day ahead.*

*Many blessings,*

*The Board of Directors*

*Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bay County*

#### **UUFBC Information:**

**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@uufbaycounty.com](mailto:info@uufbaycounty.com).

If there is something that you would like to have published in the E-News, submit it to [info@uufbaycounty.com](mailto:info@uufbaycounty.com) each week by the end of the day on Wednesday for publication the same week. Mark it clearly "For the E-News". The E-News will be published on Saturday of each week. Your thoughts are always welcome.

**Sunday Service:** There will be no new (live) Sunday services until the new services resume in September. However, you are invited to watch your favorite services again, as they are always available on our facebook page or UTube.

**COVID-19** We are continuing to experience an explosion of the COVID virus in Bay County, with 753 new cases this week as of yesterday (Friday). We must flatten the curve, so please stay home if you can and if you go out, wear your gear.

**Sharing the Faith:** There are several members of our Fellowship who are contending with health issues and would likely appreciate your warm thoughts and well wishes. Please make Bob McNeal, Serena Dee Latiolais and Susie Sizemore the focus of your positive contemplation, prayer or meditation.



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### Black Lives Matter: A tribute to John Lewis, 1940 - 2020

Anything I write will be redundant. Congressman John Lewis has received much praise in the past few days since his death. It is all well deserved. And it is still necessary for us to offer a tribute of our own. John Lewis embodied the best qualities of a social justice champion and so it bears repeating. John Lewis had courage, humility and persistence. He was one of the most remarkable statesmen to grace our country's history.

As it happens, John Lewis was born not much more than a hundred miles from here, just outside Troy Alabama, the son of sharecroppers. He grew up to be an icon of the civil rights movement. As a leader of the Selma marches, an original freedom rider, and the youngest speaker at the March on Washington, John Lewis dedicated his life to making the world a better place.

John fought his whole career to protect and expand the right to vote. He was instrumental in securing the Voting Rights Act of 1965, landmark legislation that prohibited voting discrimination based on race. However, a crucial provision of the Voting Rights Act was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2013. Since then, voting discrimination has spiked across the country with a rise in restrictive voter ID laws and purges of voter rolls.

But John Lewis never gave up. Last year, he helped pass the Voting Rights Advancement Act, legislation to restore the integrity of the original Voting Rights Act, in the House of Representatives. During his final trip to the Edmund Pettis Bridge in Selma, he gave a speech that centered on the right to vote and he left us with an impassioned plea... that voting in the upcoming election is the most important thing you can ever do.

Thank you John Lewis for your tenacity, you have earned your rest. Social justice advocates are compelled to carry on and now more than ever, push hard, as hard as John Lewis has, to gain true equality for all. We will do so in his honor.

### Community Spotlight NAACP Civic Engagement

The NAACP is actively generating initiatives and collaborating with other organizations to engage volunteers and voters in Voter Registration and Get Out the Vote activities for the upcoming primary and general elections. Let's engage virtually and fully. Please share this information with others.

- 1) **TODAY Candidates Forum** sponsored by the NAACP Youth Group:

Please join the NAACP Youth Group and the LEAD COALITION for a forum with the candidates for Bay District Schools Superintendent. The candidates will present their views and time will also be reserved for questions from the audience. **The forum is on Saturday, July 25 at 1 PM.**




Zoom link [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)

Meeting ID 5536371339

Password 118072

2) **Hats and Wraps**      **Thursday, July 30**      **5:30 PM**

The NAACP is sponsoring a hat competition for fun while discussing the serious business of getting out the vote in Bay County. Join in with or without a hat!



*Join us for Hats and Wraps to the Polls!  
for style, fun, & review of all voting methods!*

**Host: BAY CO. NAACP Civic Engagement  
(850) 763-5381**

**Please invite your friends, It's "FREE, It's VIRTUAL"!**

Thursday, July 30, 2020  
5:30pm to 7:00pm

Register at: <http://evite.me/YGsXCyWQR5>

*After you register, you will be sent a zoom link several days before the "Hats & Wraps to the Polls."*

3) **Candidates Forum**      **August 3<sup>rd</sup>**      **6:00 PM**

Join the NAACP and the League of Women Voters as they present a forum featuring the City Commission and School Board candidates. This forum will be held virtually and also in person at Gulf Coast State College. Seating is limited to 50. If you wish to attend in person, contact the League. Information on virtual attendance will be published in the next E-News.

4) **Phone Banking**      **Ongoing**

Our Bay County Branch of the NAACP has been asked by the national NAACP to recruit 10 SUPER volunteers who can commit to making 20 calls a day, five days a week. Training and ongoing support will be provided. You will do this at home (in your pjs if you like).

Our Unitarian Universalist Association is also recruiting volunteers for less strenuous phone banking to **UU the Vote**. If you would like to volunteer to work on phone banking or other voter registration/voter participation events, please contact Jo Shaffer at [jnshaffer@aol.com](mailto:jnshaffer@aol.com).