



1410 Airport Rd., Panama City, FL 32405

A Welcoming Congregation

Phone: 850.615.4127

Email: info@uuofbaycountv.com

Saturday, November 14, 2020

UUFBC E-News Edition 13, July 2020-June 2021

Greetings and Well Wishes to all of our members,

Our Fellowship's Board of Directors met on November 5th and among the topics discussed was having more interactive programming for members. "In-Person" meetings were considered, but despite the success of the in-person annual meeting, the Board felt it would be irresponsible to start socially distanced, masked, outside meetings until there is an understanding how the fall/winter Covid19 surge will effect Bay County.

The Board also discussed Zoom groups for members: There will be a Coffee and Discussion group after Sunday service each week. Charissa Thacker will set up and lead these sessions with Bob Gilmore as backup if Charissa is not available. The Board will continue to explore other groups as members come forward to lead them. In the past, members have enjoyed groups such as book discussion, men's group, and other themed small groups. The Board will meet again on December 2nd.

As is our practice, we want to highlight a special member of our Fellowship in the E-News today.

Bob McNeal was born and raised in New Albany, Indiana and graduated from New Albany High School in May 1966. He left just a few months later to go into the Air Force where he met his past wife at his first duty station. Bob's son Scott was born in Ankara, Turkey and son Dusty was born in Germany. Then divorced, Bob met his late husband Rick Mart while stationed in Cleveland. They were together for 35 years before Rick's passing. Bob spent a total of 21 years in the Air Force, including his final assignment in Washington, D.C. at the White House. He had the honor of being selected to serve as Presidential support staff.

Bob has been a member of our Fellowship for 7 years and has enjoyed volunteering in different capacities during that time. Bob has been the "face of our Fellowship", greeting everyone at the door on Sunday and welcoming all, especially visitors and guests coming to our church for the first time. Bob says "I make them feel like they are part of our family." Bob also attends our Fellowship's interfaith dinners and activities believing that regardless of the differences in types of religion, it is important that we all support each other. In addition to his work at our Fellowship, he also volunteers for Covenant Hospice and the LGBTQ Center.

Bob has 3 grandchildren: Addysun, Hannah, and Eliot. Bob and his new partner, Tom, have now been together for 2 years.

Thank you, Bob, for sharing your story. Many blessings to all,

The Board of Directors, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bay County

Bob Gilmore

John Shaffer

Lynne Siegfried

Bob Nixon

Janet Cross

Matt Raver



Sunday Worship Services: *All virtual Worship Services begin at 10:30 AM.*

November 2020 Monthly Theme, "Healing"

November 15th *Matthew Standish* *"Heroes Among Us"*

This presentation discusses how Veterans are all around us doing interesting things in our community and you'll find them in places you might never expect. Matt writes monthly articles for the [Grand Lagoon Life Magazine](#) and he will share some of his favorites with us. **Note!** *The Fellowship's "Coffee Talk" will take place immediately following the service. To join the Zoom Meeting, click this link, [Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting](#)*

November 22nd *Reverend Marti Keller* *"All Things Will Be Well"*

14th century Benedictine nun, Julian of Norwich, lived in a time of Black Death, brutal plague years, yet managed a life of creative spirituality. She was not teaching and preaching a naive toxic positivity, but rather messages of faith, hope and healing that might just speak to us in this continuing time of pandemic.

November 29th *Bob Nixon* *"First Thanksgiving Fairytale"*

The Thanksgiving story you were taught and the one I was taught are most likely the same. It's the story deeply rooted in America's culture—the one that inspires arguably the most enriching and tradition-filled holiday in today's American culture. Unfortunately, the story is not historically correct due primarily to the absence of input from the Indigenous Peoples who were involved. How can the long-term resulting wounds begin to be healed? "The antidote to feel-good history is not feel-bad history, but honest and inclusive history" James W. Loewen, *Plagues & Pilgrims: The Truth about the First Thanksgiving*.

December 6th *Reverend Tiffany Sapp* *"Waiting for the Mud to Settle"*

In a culture that demands our productivity, stillness can be revolutionary. Reverend Tiffany Sapp explores the whys and hows of stillness with the help of the Tao Te Ching and Essayist Pico Iyer's "The Art of Stillness".

Joys and Concerns:

Melissa Duke, Jan and Don Stricklan's daughter, contacted our Fellowship to let us know that Don passed away on Tuesday. She said, "2020 has been a year... my dad passed late this afternoon, rather unexpectedly in his sleep. Will be spring before we do a service, want winter and COVID well past us, if possible, as my siblings are immuno-compromised and cannot travel. ...Our consolation is knowing he and mom are together again, and doing all the things they love!"

Bob McNeal needs our care and attention. He is fighting a long battle with cancer and has taken a turn for the worse, experiencing some significant set-backs. Let's keep him in our thoughts and send him warm wishes. You can contact Bob by email at remram69@gmail.com.

Be well. Keep safe. Wear your mask when you're not at home. # # #