

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Fellowship of Bay County



1410 Airport Rd., Panama City, FL 32405
A Welcoming Congregation
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Saturday, March 6, 2021 **UUFBC E-News** Edition 21, July 2020-June 2021

Greetings and good wishes to all of our members,

We hope this finds you well and enjoying the early spring weather. Our message today is an expression of faith in our future. Together, in continuing fellowship, we have found our way through an entire year of isolation and lethal pandemic. We are pleased to say that we are surviving and most of our members and friends have received vaccinations. We want to be helpful to anyone who needs vaccination, so please contact us (contact info on next page) and we will help. Please note: The vaccination rules have changed and more people are eligible now. The current eligibility list includes: Ages 65+, Healthcare Workers with Direct Patient Contact, K-12 School Employees age 50+, Sworn Law Enforcement Officers Age 50+, Firefighters Age 50+

COVID 19 vaccination opportunity TOMORROW:

TIME: Sunday, March 7, 2021 at 9:00 AM

PLACE: 905 Pennsylvania Avenue, Lynn Haven, FL

TO REGISTER CALL 850-624-3713 (Advance registration required)

HOSTED BY: RAC-Bay County

We thank everyone for their care and concern throughout this long and difficult time. We encourage all to diligently continue to do those things we would like to cast aside. Social distancing, mask wearing and avoiding large gatherings are still necessary. Yet with vaccination and continuing care, we know it won't be much longer before we can worship together again. We look forward to it!



For now, let's enjoy the beautiful outdoors as the azaleas bloom and recognize that nature's interdependent web of all existence holds the promise for a better tomorrow. Many blessings,

Board of Directors, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bay County

Bob Gilmore

John Shaffer

Lynne Siegfried

Bob Nixon

Janet Cross

Matt Raver



Sunday Worship Services: Our virtual worship service begins at 10:30 AM. We invite you to join us on Zoom by clicking the link below. Please join in by 10:25 AM, so you don't miss the beginning of the service. We will also stream the service LIVE on Facebook and have it posted to our YouTube channel shortly after the service is over. In whatever way you choose to join us, thanks for being with us!

Hold the control (ctrl) button on your device and click on this Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/3hWkhEI>

"Coffee Talk" will take place immediately following the service on Zoom, so stay connected to enjoy another half hour of fellowship. If you're watching on Facebook, you're welcome to join us for Coffee Talk by clicking the link above after the service has ended.

March 2021 Monthly Theme "Commitment"

The practice of being loyal to something larger than yourself.

The practice of loving even when it is hard.

The practice of making, breaking and re-making our promises.

March 7th Reverend Tiffany Sapp "Committing to Having Better Arguments"

While it's natural to want to avoid conflict, strong relationships are often built upon the ability to argue well. This Sunday we will learn about what makes an argument a good one.

March 14th Mike and Maggie McKinney "Promises"

Mike & Maggie are Lucky Mud and they know it. Really lucky people. They've been married 49 years in June. They have played music together, raised their daughter, lived through hard times and good times and weathered the storms of life. Having spent 7 years in Nashville and disliking the profit margin driven music scene, they began an independent music career where the music was uncompromising. They also produce shows with like-minded artists from all around the country at their home, Maggie's Musical Farm.

March 21st Serena Dee Latiolais "But I have promises to keep and miles to go before I sleep"

Serena Dee, a long-time member of UUFBC, will explore thoughts on the nature, power, and value of commitment.

March 28th Reverend Hurto "Is There Still a Commonweal?"

The nation is described as bitterly divided, the culture wars have escalated with nearly everyone feeling their point of view is "cancelled" or vilified. As a people of faith, do we really believe the "beloved community" is a viable and valid notion? How are we caught up in the zeitgeist of "you're on my side or you're my enemy."

Need Information?

Contact the Fellowship at info@uufbaycounty.com or call us at 850-615-4127 for more information about our services or with any question you may have. Please let us know if you have a joy or a concern that the Service Leader may share during our worship service. Also let us know if you have an idea or an article you would like to submit for publication in the E-News.



Announcements: Pledges and Donations

During this pandemic, expenses continue for our Fellowship, so we are asking for your help. We want to take care of our responsibilities by maintaining quality Sunday services, paying for insurance, utilities, and the upkeep of our grounds and buildings. We are dependent upon the understanding and generosity of members and friends who support our Fellowship and want to maintain it for the future. Your offerings and pledges sustain this sacred place that is so important to us. It is our home, a place of community and hope.

Please send your pledges and donations to:
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bay County (UUFBC)
1410 Airport Road
Panama City, FL 32405

Social Justice: Florida Legislation

The Florida State Legislature is now in session. Things are different this year due to the pandemic. Our Fellowship has actively participated in "Lobby Days" in past years and so our members have been able to advocate for and against proposed legislation in person during on-site meetings with our legislators.

This year, contact with our legislators will be by phone or email. But it should happen! Perhaps our voices need to be heard now more than ever. After the violence our country has experienced at the national level, we must respond to attempts to increase the use of firearms. Our Fellowship has always stood strong against gun violence and it is time to continue our work.



Senate Bill 498 / House Bill 259 would make dangerous changes to the state of Florida's gun laws, such as:

Teachers and staff with minimal training would be permitted to carry guns in schools, despite research that shows the presence of a gun increases the risks posed to children.

People with concealed weapon licenses would be allowed to carry guns on any property owned or controlled by a religious institution, including K-12 schools and colleges with no safeguards to prevent firearms from being carried around students.

Parishioners would be allowed to carry firearms at public schools while a religious institution uses the property to conduct services—even if classes or extracurricular activities are taking place.

Contact Senator George Gainer, gainer.george.web@flsenate.gov or 850-487-5002 and Representative Jay Trumbull, jtrumbull@myfloridahouse.gov or 850-914-6300, to oppose this legislation.



Blessings on Those Staying Home

By Linda Barnes



*We're staying home. Love has never asked this of us before.
We're staying home, this is our gift to humanity.
Let us wish each other well.*

For those staying home alone, I offer you this blessing. May you grow a deeper understanding of your own worth. Dear one, leaven the aloneness with gentle care, for this too shall pass. May you be blessed with a peace and serenity; may you find the courage to reach out to hear another's voice and to remember others need you too. May you be well.

For those staying home together. I offer you this blessing. May you find moments of patience and grace in your relations. May you offer each other enough time apart, reassurance and space enough to cry, to safely rage, for this too shall pass. Then, let peace come again into your home. May you see one another's whole self as a gift. May you be well.

For those working from home, I offer you this blessing. May you remember to take breaks. May you find the means to relish your imperfection and the imperfection of others as evidence of our shared humanity. You are enough even when there isn't enough. Make order in your days and then let it go. May you be well.

For those staying home with children, I offer you this blessing. May you find humor and compassion in your days. There will be learning of a different kind, deeper no doubt, unexpected for sure. May there be patience and forgiveness, again, and again, and again. For this too shall pass. May you all remember the deep love that brought your family into being. May there be peace and understanding in your home.

May you be well. May we be well. May it be so.

Please continue to wear your mask, stay safe and be well.

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