

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Fellowship of Bay County

A Welcoming Congregation
1410 Airport Road, Panama City, FL 32405

Phone: 850.615.4127

Email: info@uufbaycounty.com

Saturday, June 4, 2022

UUFBC E-News Edition 25, July 2021-June 2022



Reverend Ruth's Reflections

Hello Bay County UUs!

In my lifetime, the citizens of the United States have witnessed over 1300 school shootings. That we can still react with shock, horror, and grief is good.

There are roughly 131,000 K-12 public and private schools in this country. So fewer than 1% of our schools have been the site of a shooting.

Another way to say that is that more than 99% of U.S. schools have never had a shooting on campus. That's good, too.

So the vast majority of children in our country can expect to attend school without being shot there. That's very good. That we have to make such calculations to comfort ourselves is not good.

In 2021, 17 persons died in school shootings. Is that an acceptable number for the "right" to own guns or certain kinds of guns? Only 17 people have to die in a year so I can pose in a TikTok video with my AR-15 semi-automatic rifle to show everyone how cool I am! Or worse!

When some human lives become expendable in the pursuit of wants by others, we have all lost some of our own humanity.

Don't let anyone tell you that it's not as bad as we think. If there is an acceptable number of children lying in their own blood next to their own desk in their own classroom, then it's much worse than we have imagined.

In wisdom, grace, and heartbreak,

Rev. Ruth



Worship Services at our Fellowship

Our Soul Matters theme for June is ***“Celebrating Blessings”***. Monthly themes focus on our relationship with our times, and on the central work and spiritual practices needed during this period of radical change, challenge, crisis and opportunity.

June 5th ***Reverend Julie Conrady*** ***“Renewing Our Faith”***

Reverend Conrady serves the Unitarian Universalist congregation in Birmingham Alabama as their Settled Minister. In the course of her career, she has been a Religious Educator, a Community Minister, a Hospital Chaplain and now the Vice-President of the Southeast UU Ministers Association.

June 12th ***Bob Gilmore*** ***“Lifting Up Peace”***

We talk about yearning for peace, but how do we achieve it? What actions do we want to see from our leaders? What can we do in our daily lives to create the peace we seek?

June 19th ***Reverend Ruth Vann Lillian*** ***“When Will We Ever Learn”***

In addition to the sermon, we will celebrate with our annual Flower Ceremony to be held during this worship service.

June 26th ***Chris May*** ***“Poetry Sunday”***

Our annual Poetry Sunday is an opportunity for those attending this service to share favorite poem(s) with each other. Please bring a poem or reading that speaks to you as we celebrate the blessing that is poetry.

Zoom: You may also join us remotely this Sunday by using the Zoom link: **<https://bit.ly/3hWkhEI>**
Please tune in by 10:25 am so you will be connected when the service begins at 10:30 am.

Note: If you join us in person this Sunday, plan to remain socially distanced. Masks are optional, but must be worn when singing or participating in the responsive readings (See UUFBC Policy below). Please do not attend in person if you are not feeling well or have any COVID symptoms.

Covid Policy

The UUFBC has taken a proactive approach to the COVID 19 pandemic. The guidelines have evolved reflecting the changing nature of pandemics. We are now not requiring masking indoors. Masking is optional. We ask that you wear a mask while singing or participating in a group reading. We have a limited number of masks available at the building entrances, but prefer that you bring a mask from home. Thank you, The UUFBC Board

Have questions or need more information?

Contact the Fellowship at info@uufbaycounty.com or call us at 850-615-4127 for more information about our services or events, or with any question you may have. Reverend Ruth invites you to contact her at 205-218-1666 whenever you need a pastoral ear.

Please let us know if you have a joy or a concern that the Service Leader may share during our Sunday worship service. Also let us know if you have an article, a poem, or a picture that you would like to submit for publication in this newsletter.



UPCOMING EVENTS

UUFBC CALENDAR

June 5	Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am	UU Fellowship Hall/Zoom
June 5	Kinsey Exhibit	12:00 noon	Holley Center, FSU
June 8	Book Club	6:30 pm	Zoom
June 11	UU Table at Pride Fest	1:00 – 7:00 pm	Mc Kenzie Park
June 12	Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am	UU Fellowship Hall/Zoom I
June 17	Cultural Cooking Club	6:30 pm	UU Fellowship Hall
June 19	Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am	UU Fellowship Hall/Zoom
June 25	Freethinkers Assembly	10:00 – 4:00 pm	Chatauqua Hall DeFuniak Spgs
June 26	Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am	UU Fellowship Hall/Zoom
June 26	Book Club	12 noon	UU Fellowship Portico/Zoom

The Kinsey Exhibit – Join us tomorrow!

The nationally recognized “Treasures from the Kinsey African-American Art and History Collection” opened in an exhibit at Florida State University, Panama City. It is a great joy to have a collection of this type and magnitude exhibited here. Our Fellowship may have the opportunity for a special viewing on Sunday, June 5th after our worship service. The Holley Center, where the exhibit is housed, will be opening just for us. So we need to be certain that we have a group who will be going. We can all have lunch together following our tour. If you would like to participate, let Charissa Thacker know ASAP at Charissa.Thacker@yahoo.com

The UU Book Club

This month, the Book Club will tackle Michael Lister's book, More: Do More of What Matters Most and Discover the Life of Your Dreams. The Book Club will meet at 6:30 pm on June 8th on Zoom and again on June 29th after the service at the Fellowship. For questions, more information, and to indicate your interest, contact Chris May at chrysalis33333@gmail.com. Chris will send an email with the Zoom link to those who have indicated an interest.

The Cultural Cooking Club

The third cultural potluck dinner, featuring dishes from Spain, will be held on Friday evening June 17th. The first two dinners were so much fun, you won't want to miss this one. Contact Charissa at Charissa.Thacker@yahoo.com to let her know that you will be attending and what dish you plan to bring.

Pride Fest

Mark your calendars! Pride Fest will take place at Mc Kenzie Park in downtown Panama City on Saturday, June 11th. The event will begin at 1:00 pm and continue through 7:00 pm. UUFBC will have a table at the event and UU members are encouraged to help staff the table. Volunteers are also needed to help set-up and clean-up. Please meet Bob Gilmore there any time after 11:30 am.

Freethinkers Secular Assembly

You are invited to a Freethinkers Secular Assembly, "Building Bridges Across the Gulf Coast" presented by the Humanists of West Florida and the Humanists of Tallahassee. The event will be held on Saturday June 25th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The cost is just \$20 with morning coffee and lunch provided. Location is in the historic Chatauqua Hall of Brotherhood, 95 Circle Drive, De Funiak Springs. Online registration closes on June 20th. If available, onsite registration will cost \$25. REGISTER HERE: <https://www.humanistsofwestflorida.org/home/gulf-coast-secular-assembly-registration> Communicate with us here: <https://www.humaniststh.com/assembly>



JUJBC Grounds: Peace Garden Harvest



Chris May holds a bowl full of green beans grown in the Peace Garden

Joys and Concerns

Great Joy! Today two special people are getting married. Congratulations to Bob McNeal and Tom Wester! Best Wishes for many years of happiness together.

Concern: Susie Sizemore was hospitalized this week. Please send all your positive thoughts her way.

Concern: Cindy Gregory was in a car accident. There were no serious injuries, but she aggravated a previous neck injury and is feeling a bit "whip-lashy".

Concern: Today is the 100th day of fighting since the invasion of Ukraine by Russian soldiers. No path forward to end the war has yet been found. Ukraine's citizens have experienced great hardship and yet are still determined not to lose their country or any part of it. No giving up and no giving in. They will press on to regain their ground and defend democracy. We are still compelled to admire their strength and commitment. And to help them. But let's never stop praying for a path toward peace and let's not forget, as time goes on, that they are still suffering all of the atrocities of war every day without interruption.

Concern: Gun Violence! AK47s! Young victims, old victims, all victims and their families!

Pray for Peace



"Slava Ukraini" (Glory to Ukraine)

#