
Welcome to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bay County!

Welcoming Everyone • Growing in Mind & Spirit • Empowering People • Leading in Social Justice

We are an open-minded, open-hearted spiritual community

The UUFBC is meeting in person for our Sunday Services at this time

Sunday Fellowship Services; 10:30 in person and on YouTube. Address: 1410 Airport Rd, Panama City, FL

*Note! No longer on zoom! YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/@UUofBayCounty/streams>

***Summer vacation!**

We are having a couple gatherings in July. BUT not regular services. In August we will resume regular services. The Sunday Service Planning Committee meets **May 19th at 2:00.**

Reverend Ruth's Reflections

Well, Friends,

It's time to say "Goodbye."

I have been your part-time minister for almost two years, and this Sunday is my last service with you. In June I'll be available remotely to conclude administrative matters, and I'll be happy to offer pastoral support on the phone to any in need. Then July is my study and vacation time.

I am deeply grateful for all you have taught me, and I hope I am leaving UUFBC with some useful resources for your future. I leave with many warm memories, and I will continue to hold all of you in my heart, offering broad-spectrum UU prayers and energy for the path ahead.

Blessings on the journey, Fellow Pilgrims!

Gratefully,
Rev. Ruth

[And on that note, I (your newsletter editor Cindy) have been looking into items I might use for future reflections. I will begin sharing some lesser-known fables in this spot next week. If people like those, I'll keep doing it. Sounds like the moral of a story right there!]

Upcoming Worship Services

May 21st: Reverend Ruth is going to be back with us. Remember that she will no longer be with us in person come June. After almost two years journeying together as congregation and minister, we have reached a fork in the metaphorical road. Let's celebrate our learning and growth and prepare to bid a fond farewell to Rev. Ruth. POTLUCK SUNDAY!

Our Annual Meeting will also be held on this Sunday. All are welcome. We will review the year and its accomplishments, elect new members to the Board of Directors, and share our budget for the coming year. All are welcome, but members are asked to be present. We will also offer this service on Zoom – NOT YouTube – this Sunday only. If you have questions about the service, please contact BOD President, Bob Gilmore at info@uuofbaycounty.com

May 28th: Honoring Sacrifice by Steven Bornhoft

We are beholden to many, to the revolutionary visionaries who birthed our nation, to all who have sacrificed themselves in its defense, and to the nurturing presences who welcomed us into the world and helped us take our places in it. Before there were “influencers,” there were first-order influences — parents, teachers, other counselors and Mother Nature, herself — who shaped our lives and taught us enduring lessons. We will do well not to let contemporary distractions cause us to lose sight of them.

About the speaker...

Steve Bornhoft has made his living putting words together — as a writer, editor, marketer, and professor of communication. He was for many years the editor of the Panama City News Herald back when newspapers were a thing. For a combined 20-plus years, he taught classes at Gulf Coast State College, the Chautauqua Learn and Serve Charter School, Florida State University and Flagler College. Today, he is the executive editor at Rowland Publishing whose titles include *Emerald Coast* magazine and *850 Business Magazine*. He has been an occasional speaker at the UU Fellowship of Bay County dating to the days when it met at Oakland Terrace Park.”

June 4th: Reverend Ruth recorded. May Day

As the Earth travels around the sun in its seasonal dance, we arrive at the fullness of spring around the beginning of May. Let's explore one of the sources of Unitarian Universalist living tradition: Pagan and Earth centered spiritual practices.

Opportunities to Learn

From Our Partner, Side With Love: Skill Up, What Do Impacted Communities Need? How Would I Know!?



Sunday, May 21st

1pm PT/ 2pm MT/ 3pm CT/ 4 pm ET

As local governments are wielding extreme power over weak and vulnerable people, we need to be efficient and precise in our efforts to fight back and protect at-risk communities. Oftentimes, those who are in a position to support those who are at risk are not directly impacted by the harms that put them at risk. This can result in wasted energy, time, and resources.

In this Skill Up, we will explore how we might ensure that our organizing/strategy efforts are rightly aligned so that impacted communities get what they need and that our energy, time, and resources are most effective. This session is led by Rev. Michael Crumpler.

[Register for this Skill Up Session](#)

Another opportunity to learn. What UUs are doing for the environment:

[Monthly Musings - New Initiative as of Fall 2022 | Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth \(uumfe.org\)](#)



Announcements

LGBT Support Group: The *last* Saturday of the month at 9am there is an LGBTQ ally support group at the Center on Baker Street. Bob Gilmore will be going if you want more details.

Book Club:

Next quarter we will read a banned book. There are two choices.

[The Hate You Give](#) Angie Thomas

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.

Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what *really* went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr.

But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.

AND/OR [Melissa](#), Alex Gino (previously published as George)

BE WHO YOU ARE.

When people look at Melissa, they think they see a boy named George. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl.

Melissa thinks she'll have to keep this a secret forever. Then her teacher announces that their class play is going to be Charlotte's Web. Melissa really, really, REALLY wants to play Charlotte. But the teacher says she can't even try out for the part... because she's a boy.

With the help of her best friend, Kelly, Melissa comes up with a plan. Not just so she can be Charlotte -- but so everyone can know who she is, once and for all.

We will meet on June 4th as a group to talk about them, and about linked oppressions perhaps. We will be in person and on Zoom after the service, about 11:45am.

[UUFBC Book Group Zoom Link](#)

May is Creativity Month!

Creativity Matters: <https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/creativity-matters-subscription.html>

UU Writers: <https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/uu-writers-subscription.html>

Social Media Toolbox: <https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/social-media-toolbox.html>

Recent UUFBC Events

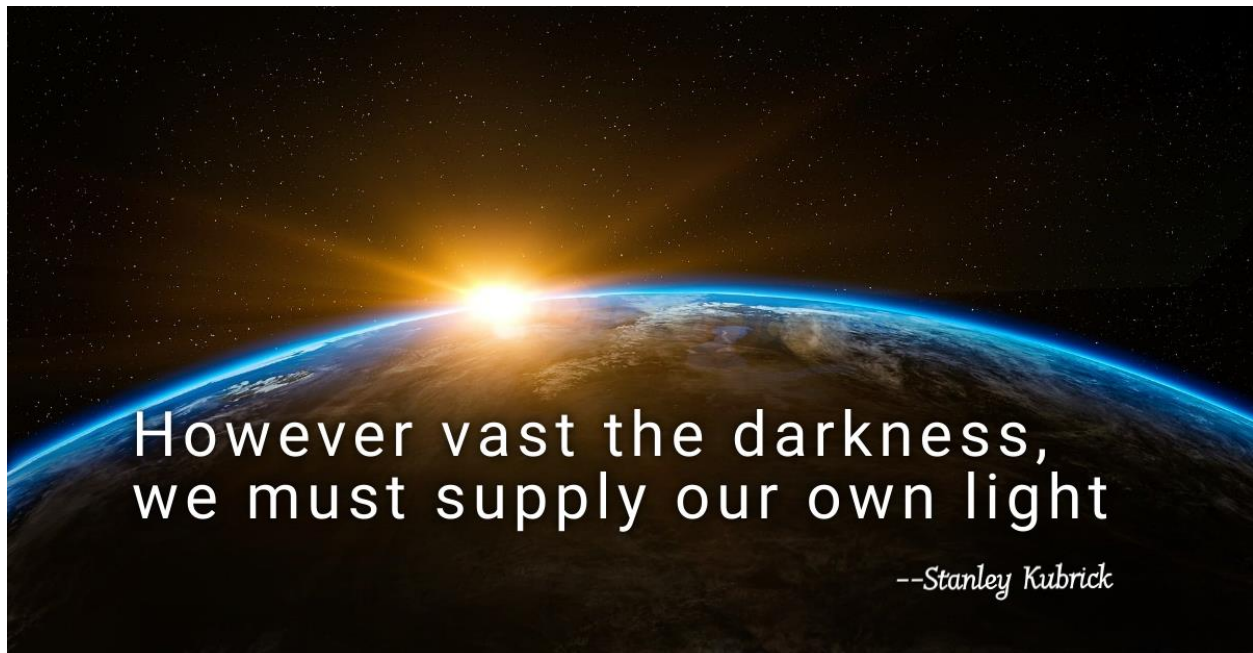
Emerald Coast Pagan Community hosted the Interfaith Dinner at our UUFBC home.



Upcoming Community Events

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must [certify](#) annually to have voting delegates.

Join us June 21 - 25, 2023 online or in-person in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Most GA events will take place at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, 1000 Fort Duquesne Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA. [Google map](#) [More about traveling to Pittsburgh](#) [Registration](#) is open. Register early to secure the lowest rates. [Volunteer opportunities](#) and [financial support](#) are available.



Did you know we have a Facebook page? If not, you should check it out and click the Like button here: <https://www.facebook.com/uubaycounty>
UUFBC Website <https://www.uuofbaycounty.com/>

Newsletter Editor: Cindy Gregory -- Board Members: President: Bob Gilmore; Vice president: Matt Raver; Secretary: Charissa Thacker; Treasurer: Janet Cross Member At Large: Chris May

Contact info: 850- 615-4127 *Office Hours are Tuesday 10 a.m. – noon (leave a message, please)

To submit information for the biweekly e-newsletter, send to info@uuofbaycounty.com and please cc cindykg@gmail.com