

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>



Side With Love

For Your Reflection

Purity Spiral

When we're caught in a **Purity Spiral**, we start competing with other members of our ideological tribe on who has the purest views of us all. The social dynamic accelerates when those committing even minor transgressions are sanctioned and those who voice extreme views are rewarded.

Purity Spirals often revolve around victimhood and moral superiority. As you'd expect, it leads to group members becoming increasingly intolerant. The term was coined by sociologists Bradley Campbell and Jason Manning. It's reminiscent of the [No True Scotsman fallacy](#).

Upcoming Services

March 3: "The You in UU"
by Charissa Thacker

March 10: TBD
By Rev. David Barnes

March 17: "The True Self and Transformation"
By Michael Lister

*This is also *Share the Plate Sunday*. All offerings collected that are not designated for pledge will be included in our Q1 donation to the Gulf Coast LGBTQ Center. Thank you for your generosity!

Announcements

Service Day is tomorrow. Please make note that after service, we ask that folks stay to help out with some work around the property... we will be sorting some of the yard sale stuff so dress appropriately.

Camp fire on Wednesday March 6th at 6:30; Mark your calendar for the celebration of the coming of spring. This month's Soul Matters theme is transformation and what is more transformative than nature's annual unfolding of spring. Come join us for another evening of fellowship and sharing under the magnolia tree. Bob Gilmore, Fire Chief

March 10th we'll be setting up tables for the yard sale after service. Any help would be appreciated.

Our annual fundraising Yard & Plant Sale is scheduled for March 15 and 16. Please keep this in mind for any donations you may be able to contribute. If you'd like to donate some plants or start clippings to sell, please consider that now as well. We will also need folks to help with set up, working the sale, and clean up. Please reach out to Janet Cross and let her know your availability. Any and all help is appreciated!
JanetCross77@gmail.com

We are looking to host a UU 101 Class in the coming weeks. If you are new to UU or our Fellowship and would like to learn more and eventually become a member of the UUFBC, please contact Charissa Thacker so we can organize a time for the class that would be convenient for everyone. Charissa.Thacker@yahoo.com

Volunteers needed for the pastoral care committee. "Pastoral care involves looking after our sick and our needy members - such as providing a ride, meals, a phone call, a get well card, yard work." Speak to Charissa or anyone on the board, if you're interested.

Many thanks to those that have kept our roadside pantry supplied for neighbors that are food insecure. Please bring food for the roadside pantry. - Canned meats, canned veggies, beans, drinks, feminine products, be creative. If you want to be a pantry caretaker, ask Bob Gilmore; it would be a big help.

This is our Soul Matters bulletin board which changes every month with our Soul Matters Themes. You can find it in our UU Sanctuary. This month the theme is "Transformation".

Thanks to Jennifer Coleman for designing it and artfully setting it up for March. She also had help this month from Kayla and Brianna.



Book Club

From Chris May: Hello friends,

Five of us met to talk about *Ace of Spades*, by Faridah Abike-Iyimide. This was a very good read. If you get the chance, and you like banned books, put this on your list.

We spoke about next reads but have not made any decisions. We thought to let you all weigh in on the selection. I have a list from Gary of books from the CBS news list of 50 most banned books. It is below. A little further on is a book Candis has proposed. It came from a newspaper review, not sure which newspaper. It is not a banned book, but surely has relevance to our current lives. We could choose two books, and line them up on the calendar.

Please respond with your thoughts, and/or choice. Thanks! Christine May chrysalis33333@gmail.com

From CBS News' list of 50 most banned books in America

"Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You," by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds

"How to Be an Antiracist," by Ibram X. Kendi

"Being Jazz: My Life as a (Transgender) Teen," by Jazz Jennings

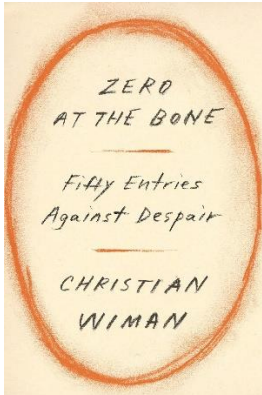
"Dear Martin," by Nic Stone

"Monday's Not Coming," by Tiffany D. Jackson

"The Handmaid's Tale," by Margaret Atwood

"Beloved," by Toni Morrison

Candis sent a recommendation for *Zero to the Bone: fifty entries against despair* by Christian Wiman.



And this is what Amazon has to say about it.

Few contemporary writers ask the questions about faith, morality, and God that Christian Wiman does, and even fewer—perhaps none—do so with his urgency and eloquence. Wiman, an award-winning poet and the author of *My Bright Abyss*, lays the motion of his mind on the page in this genre-defying work, an indivisible blend of poetry, criticism, theology, and searing memoir. As Marilynne Robinson wrote, “[Wiman’s] poetry and his scholarship have a purifying urgency that is rare in this world . . . [It] enables him to say new things in timeless language, so that the reader’s surprise and assent are one and the same.”

[Zero to the Bone-Entries-Against-Despair](#)

Joys and Concerns

Our UUA President has spoken out about the violence in Gaza. Read more in the UUA newsletter: [2.22.24 UUA Newsletter: UUA Statement Calling for Ceasefire \(sg-mktg.com\)](#)

This just in... SerenaDee Latiolais broke her foot in a few places! Ouch! Send healing thoughts!! And hey, UU's, stop breaking stuff!

As we reported last week and the week before, Barbara Seilke has had a terrible fall and is struggling with a broken clavicle. As she works through that, another important need of hers is a little yard work. She will need help maintaining her lawn for the future. To volunteer, you can text Charissa at 850.814.54365 or email Charissa.Thacker@yahoo.com. Thanks!

The local men's shelter can use donations! Please drop off new(ish), useful items to 609 Allen Ave. Between the hours of 8 am to 4 pm, Monday – Friday. Thanks!

UU Events

Florida Unitarian Universalist Women's Retreat April 5 – 7, 2024 DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center Parrish, Florida Ancient Feminine Voices. You are invited to a weekend gathering of UU women to explore the words and wisdom of our ancient female ancestors. Featuring Shelley Graff leading us in Singing in Sacred Circle Friday evening we'll gather with wine & cheese before dinner and a group activity after dinner to get to know one another and create community. Saturday during the day we'll have options for DaySpring outdoor activities and small group learning and sharing experiences. After dinner, we'll gather for Shelley Graff's presentation of Singing in Sacred Circle. Sunday after breakfast we'll have a UU-style service and closing ceremony. We'll finish our goodbyes at lunch. Please plan to join us for this joyful UU women's weekend.

To register, or for more information, contact Dayna Foster Retreat@fluuwm.

UWomenspirit Retreat Spring 2024 Gather at the Crossroads ...a confluence of intention and happenstance...
...where the ancient and the contemporary intertwine... ...and the path forward is ours to choose...

When: Weekday Institute: May 15-17 Weekend Gathering: May 17-19 Where: The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center – Highlands, NC

UWomenspirit is a semi-annual retreat where women have gathered since 1987 to explore and celebrate the Feminine Divine. Our theme for this event is Gather at the Crossroads, an ancient symbol invoking a convergence of intersecting paths, a place of contemplation and reflection, a place of choice, and a place from where the first step is taken. During our time together, we will meet Hecate, the ancient Goddess of the Crossroads. She will help us tap into our own inner wisdom and intuition, guiding us as we choose to step forward or remain in stillness. We will dance, sing, and share with our sisters. Weekday tracks, weekend workshops and daily worship services will guide our way as we explore the Crossroads in many forms. Additional activities during the event will offer opportunities for conversation, connection, laughter and quiet reflection. The brochure with additional details will be available in late February at www.uuwomenspirit.org. Registration begins in early March. To learn more about our organization and offerings, please visit our website, www.uuwomenspirit.org

Local Events

For info on the UnWined event and many other activities...



**I washed the
windows today!**

**Yes, I *do* want a
damn medal!**

Happy Spring Cleaning!

UUFBC Website <https://www.uuofbaycounty.com/>

UUFBC Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/uubaycounty>

There's also a Facebook page for the LGBTQ center. That and a lot of other info is on their website:
<https://gulfoastlgbtqcenter.org>

Newsletter Editor: Cindy Gregory – Board Members: President: Charissa Thacker; Vice president: Bob Gilmore; Secretary: Chris May; Treasurer: Janet Cross; Members At Large: Serena Dee Latiolais, Bob McNeal, Dusty Huff

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