

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

Tape Measure Factor

Operation Neptune Spear, the raid on Osama Bin Laden's compound, was meticulously planned. They knew what to do in case bin Laden wasn't there or SEAL Team 6 had to fight their way out. They had an interpreter on-site and made sure they could take not one but two different DNA samples. From the political fallout of the operation to a downed helicopter, there was a contingency plan for everything. Almost everything.

There was one thing Admiral Bill McRaven, the commander in charge, and his men forgot: a tape measure to check if the person they had just killed was as tall as bin Laden. So they had to improvise and have a SEAL lie next to the body to gauge how tall it was. This **Tape Measure Factor** shows that no matter how well you plan, there's always something you miss.

Given the overall outcome of the operation, President Obama took it lightly and gifted McRaven a golden tape measure mounted on a plaque.

Upcoming Services

May 11: It's Mother's Day Weekend and we'll take some time to honor mothers of all types.
Service Leader: Chris May

Annual Meeting: May 18th. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Thank you. It's a Sunday during our regular service. But we really need as many members as we can get on that Sunday. So, I want to put it out there as soon as possible. May 18 at 10:30. Annual meeting. We will be voting on the budget and new officers.

May 25: Make a Joyful Noise. By Gulf Tones. Service Leader, Katherine

Experience the Spirit of Life

A Second-Hour Program at UUFBC—starts now! May 11, 18, 25, June 8, 15 -- Joan McDonald

The beloved song “Spirit of Life” by Carolyn McDade is more than just music—it’s a spiritual touchstone for many Unitarian Universalists. At UUFBC, we often sing it following the sharing of joys and concerns, letting its inclusive, poetic message unite and uplift us.

Now, we invite you to take the next step—

Join UUFBC member Joan McDonald for the Spirit of Life Program

A reflective, enriching second-hour gathering based on the UUA’s Tapestry of Faith curriculum. This program draws inspiration from the song’s themes of:

Meaning; Beauty; Inclusivity; Spiritual Growth

Together, we’ll explore what it means to deepen our spiritual awareness and connections—individually and as a community. This program invites you to engage with one of the most vital aspects of religious life, as expressed by UU minister Kendyl Gibbons:

“...how we—each of us, in our uniquely constituted beings—recognize and understand and make sense of that unbidden, overwhelming awe at the wonder, magnificence, danger, demand, and delight of being alive.”

Come with an open heart.

Leave with a nourished spirit.

UUFBC Book Club

New book! *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer. She is author of *Braiding Sweetgrass*, which the UUFBC book club read a few years ago.

We will have the discussion after service on June 8th. Link to the book on Amazon: We will have Zoom up for anyone who cannot join us in person. Figure about 11:50. The link is below.

[Zoom Link - UUFBC book club](#)

More UUFBC Events

May 12: Early Voting starts for Run-Off **Elections in Lynn Haven and Panama City** - ELECTION DAY IS MAY 22

May 17: UU **Service Day** 9am-12pm - Something for everyone to help, come for as long as you can.

Campfire: Wednesday, May 21, at 6:30. The last “under the Magnolia campfire” until the fall. If you are inspired, bring a story, a poem, a song, etc. Questions- ask Bob Gilmore

Joys and Concerns

Community, please keep our new member, Erica Cummings in your heart at this time as she recently lost her grandmother. A great loss, as she was a huge part of Erica's life. Our love and strength go out to her and the family. Know we're holding you, Erica!

More UU news

Check out **Side with Love's** Action Center Weekly Update!

This week, find brief analysis, political education, resources, and immediate actions that you can take related to democracy, LGBTQ+ and gender justice, decriminalization and immigrant justice, and climate justice. Text "Action Center Updates" to 866-533-1494 to receive a text when the newest update is available!

Read the full update here: <https://bit.ly/3SngjHH>

Weekly Update, May 6, 2025. Unions, mutual aid groups, and grassroots coalitions are showing us what democracy truly looks like: collective care, shared power, and deep solidarity.

Sunshine Cluster's Climate Justice Revival



Reimagine Together From An Extractive Age To A New Era

In the midst of overlapping climate crises & mounting social injustice, we are in a time of great change and profound anxiety.

The UUA Climate Justice Revival is a time to come together and commit to a vision for a flourishing future for Planet Earth, with actions we can take to make that vision a reality!

The UUA Climate Justice Revival will equip you to enter into a new era of climate justice, faithfully dismantling silos and transforming our congregations at the intersection of climate and justice.

Together, we can move past systems and cultures of extraction to usher in a new era with love and justice at the center.

We will be celebrating all of creation and recommitting our care and protection to nurture Mother Earth.

Saturday, May 31, 2025, 1pm, Free, Zoom

To register and for information email your name and congregation to sunshinecluster2023@gmail.com



Facilitated by
Rev. Amy Carol Webb
M.Div., BCC/APC (*she/they*)
Minister
River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Also, **AARP is doing their part** for seniors. Here's an online letter you can use:
<https://action.aarp.org/secure/tell-congress-protect-and-save-our-social-security>

For other ways to voice your most pressing concerns, check out 5 calls!
<https://5calls.org/>

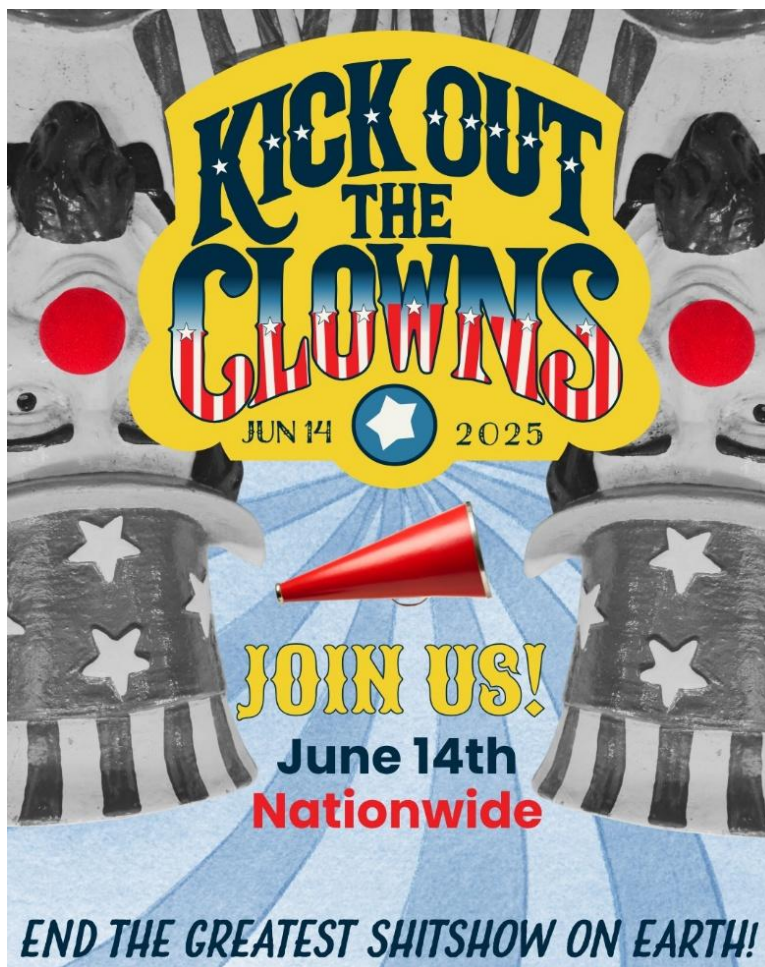
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC):

The UUSC launches the Resistance Network. Defending our democracy! [#resistance](#)

We are living in a time of escalating injustice, but also powerful resistance. Those in power seek to divide us, weaken our movements, and strip away fundamental rights—but we know that justice is only possible when we build solidarity together. Our faith in human dignity, our belief in collective liberation, and our commitment to justice call us to act.

Check out [Resistance Network](#)—a mobilization hub designed to take immediate action when civil liberties, democracy, and human rights are at risk. The threats we face are vast, but history shows us that resistance works when we act together. The Resistance Network is an opportunity to live our values as Unitarian Universalists and take collective action.

June military parade on Trump's birthday, including over 6,600 troops, 150 vehicles, 50 helicopters, seven bands, and possibly thousands of civilians. Tens of millions of taxpayer dollars down the drain.¹



Fascism smeared in orange makeup is still fascism, and we won't let it go unanswered. We are five steps ahead of them. Earlier this week, we announced that [Women's March is hosting Kick Out the Clowns—a nationwide day of action on June 14.](#)

If nothing else has become clear in the first hundred days of Trump 2.0, it's that **when you elect clowns, they don't become leaders. The country becomes a circus.** Trump's a bad joke—but on June 14, the people will have the last laugh. Let's all work to end the MAGA circus, the greatest shitshow on earth, together.



Happy
Mother's
Day!

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

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

There's also a Facebook page for the LGBTQ center. That and a lot of other info is on their website:

<https://gulfcoastlgbtqcenter.org>

Newsletter Editor: Cindy Gregory – Board Members: President: Charissa Thacker; Vice president: Bob Gilmore; Secretary: Chris May; Treasurer: Jeff Krajewski; 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@uufbaycounty.com and please cc cindykg@gmail.com