

QUEST



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine Newsletter
St. Augustine Beach, Florida

January 2022
2487 A1A South, St. Augustine, FL 32080
3/4 mile south of State Road 312
uufsacontact@gmail.com <http://www.uufsa.org/>

UUFSA IS NOW OPEN FOR IN-PERSON SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:00 A.M.

Services also will continue to be presented on Zoom at
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4750592013>

A Sunday children’s program also is available.

Recordings of most past presentations are available on our website.

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The *Quest* is published monthly September through July.

Materials for the February issue are due by January 21.

Don Brandes, Editor: donaldbrandes@gmail.com

Thanks to Adele DelSavio for proofreading.

From Your President



Dear Friends,

I have been reminded several times this month about love – through the sermons of Phillip Baber; the works of our Dining With Dignity and Care Connection teams; the love shown by members at the passing of our dear Palmer Short; the love shown by donations to charities and our own Fellowship; the love shown when responding to members and friends in crisis ... and the list goes on.

As Mary Kellough reminded us last week, life in general and being a Unitarian Universalist is much more than hedonism and self-gratification. When she first looked for a suitable congregation, she was drawn to the UUs because of our compassion and commitment to social justice issues and volunteerism. Ever since then she has lived the part of our Covenant that states “service is our prayer” and she consistently makes a positive difference in the lives of so many people.

I’m also in awe of other members of our Fellowship who take care of our sick and dying; fight for environmental, LGBTQ and other social justice issues; provide us with interesting and thoughtful speakers; manage and lead our congregation; keep our gardens and building looking lovely; and teach our children. They give compassionately and ask for nothing in return. I’ll leave that thought right there, and give an expert the last word:

“I believe that at every level of society – familial, tribal, national and international – the key to a happier and more successful world is the growth of compassion. We do not need to become religious, nor do we need to believe in an ideology. All that is necessary is for each of us to develop our good human qualities.” – His Holiness, the Dalai Lama.

We wish you a compassionate and loving New Year.

In Peace,

Renée Jones

UUFSA President 2021-2022

renee@scgggroup1.com

267-514-5302



Sunday services are now being presented in-person in the Fellowship. Services also will continue to be presented on Zoom. To join the Zoom meeting, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4750592013> after 9:30 a.m. on Sunday morning.

For safety's sake, we are asking that no one sing out loud during the services, except of course, our musician, and for everyone present to be vaccinated and wear a mask.

Sunday Announcements

If you have a brief, UUFSA-related announcement you would like the Service Leader to relay to the fellowship at the beginning of our Sunday services, please submit it by email to the Service Leader no later than 24 hours before the Sunday service. Please send it directly to the Service Leader for the specific date you request. Due to time constraints, and the many diverse interests of the members of this fellowship, only UUFSA events will be announced.

January 2: Michael Read, mickread@gmail.com

January 9: Gina Jonas, gina.jonas@gmail.com

January 16: Michael Read, mickread@gmail.com

January 23: Nana Royer, nanaroyer@gmail.com

January 30: Chris McDermott, mcnoodle55@gmail.com

Sunday, January 2, 10:00 a.m.

“To Dwell Together in Peace”

Pastor Phillip Baber

Service Leader: Michael Read

Music: Alex Richman

Story for All Ages

Phillip Baber continues his line-by-line discussion of our Spoken Covenant.

Phillip Baber is the pastor of The People’s Church of Jacksonville and the Regional Director of the Poor People’s Campaign of Northeast Florida. He is the former pastor of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Jacksonville and has served as co-president of I.C.A.R.E., the Jacksonville-based Interfaith Coalition for Action, Reconciliation, and Empowerment. Phillip’s ministry is dedicated to the advancement of our collective liberation, leading him to advocate in support of criminal justice reform, police accountability, racial and economic justice, justice for refugees and immigrants, and LGBTQIA+ rights.



Sunday, January 9, 10:00 a.m.
“The Case for Radical Decency”

Jeff Garson

Service Leader: Gina Jonas
Music: Taffy Rook
This I Believe: Barbara Battelle

We live in a world in which compete-to-win values are dominant. Fully accounting their corrosive impact, Jeff will introduce us to his values-based, spirit-affirming response – Radical Decency. He’ll describe how, by modeling its 7 Values in every area of life, we can create more nourishing and generative lives and, at the same time, more effectively contribute to a more humane and just world.

Jeff is the author of *Radical Decency: A Values-Based Approach to a Better Life and World*. An attorney turned psychotherapist, he works with clients who, coming to grips with the pressure-packed world in which we exist, are seeking more generative ways of living. He is also the co-founder of the Decency Foundation, dedicated to bringing Radical Decency's principles to business, the epi-center of our compete-to-win culture.



Sunday, January 16, 10:00 a.m.
“Acceptance and Appreciation”

Jeff Garson

Service Leader: Michael Read
Music: Alex Richman
Third Sunday Plate Collection: Home Again St. Johns
Third Sunday Food Collection by Children’s Religious Education

Decency’s 7 Values orient us, day by day, toward more humane frames of mind (Respect, Understanding, Empathy) and active engagement in efforts to create a more humane and decent world (Fairness and Justice). But as Jeff will explain in this talk, their fullest potential is realized with its final two values – Acceptance and Appreciation – which move us toward relationships, in every area of life, that are more intimate and loving.

Sunday, January 23

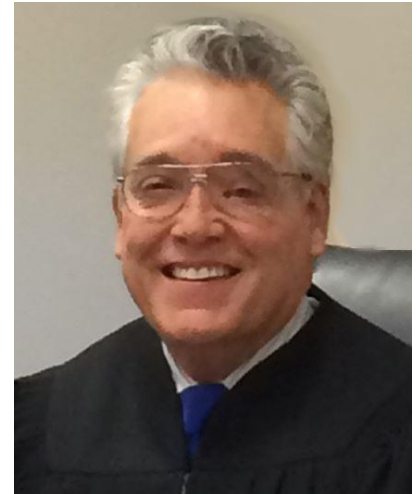
“Drug Court”

Judge Alex Christine

Service Leader: Nana Royer
Music: Taffy Rook
Green Minute

The Drug Court program takes seriously addicted, non-violent felony defendants and puts them into an intensive drug treatment and accountability program with counseling, drug testing and a number of other requirements to help them succeed.

St. Johns County Court Judge Alexander R. Christine, Jr., was appointed to the bench in 2010. Before his appointment, he was in private practice for more than 20 years and also worked for the State Attorney’s Office in the Seventh Judicial Circuit. Judge Christine earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Kentucky and a juris doctor from the University of Florida College of Law. He currently hears criminal and civil cases at the Richard O. Watson Judicial Center in St. Augustine. He also presides over St. Johns County Adult Drug Court.



Sign up to Host Sunday Coffee Hour

You’ll want to volunteer to host a post-service Sunday coffee hour in Fellowship Hall as this popular weekly get-together resumes on the first Sunday of 2022.

Coffee hosts work in pairs and have these duties:

Preparation

- Make coffee in large percolator.
- Boil water for tea.
- Bring cookies and fruit.
- Bring half and half.
- Arrange cups, snacks, etc. on tables

After coffee hour

- Wash out percolator.
- Wash dishes (dishwasher available).
- Wipe table tops.
- Lightly sweep floor.
- Take out trash and recycling and move cans into position for Monday’s pickup.
- Turn off all the lights in the building.
- Check and lock front and back doors.

To volunteer to host coffee hour, contact Rosi Angeli by calling or texting 904-315-4284.

Sunday, January 30

“Buddhism for Superheroes”

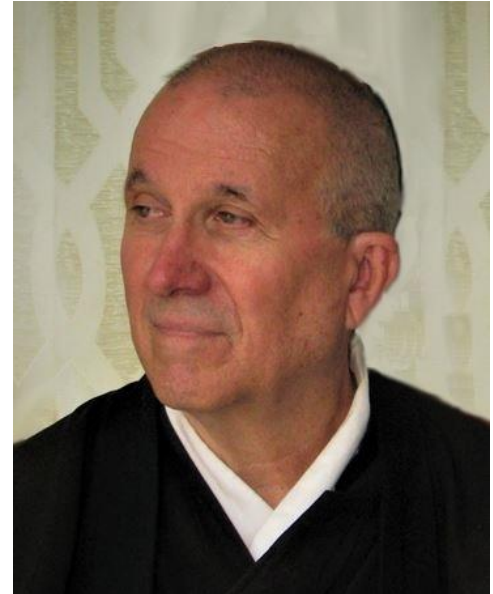
Sensei Morris Doshin Sullivan

Service Leader: Chris McDermott

Music: Taffy Rook

We are all superheroes – some of us just haven't figured that out yet. However, the Buddha laid the foundation for spiritual factors that normal humans like us can develop, and thus live truer, more authentic lives. In this talk, Sensei Morris Doshin Sullivan will share insights into how we can put the teachings of the Buddha to use in real life for our own benefit and for the world around us.

Sensei Morris Doshin Sullivan is a Zen monk ordained in the Soto school, a minister in the Jodo-Shinshu school of Japanese Pure Land Buddhism, and a recognized dharma teacher in a Vietnamese Rinzai Zen lineage. Sensei Morris is the spiritual head of Volusia Buddhist Fellowship in DeLand, a chaplain at Stetson University, and dharma teacher at White Sands Buddhist Center, a Vietnamese monastery in Florida. He also leads weekly Buddhist services at Tomoka Correctional Institution.



Sensei Morris holds a certificate in Methods of Japanese psychology, which employs practices drawn from Japanese Zen and Jodo-Shinshu Buddhism for personal and spiritual growth. He first became interested in Buddhism as a teenager, when he began reading about Zen. He ordained as a monk in a Thai Buddhist order before enrolling in a seminary program with Bright Dawn, a nonsectarian Buddhist organization rooted in Japanese Buddhism.

His book, *Wisdom; Compassion; Serenity: First Steps on the Buddhist Path*, is an introductory guide to Buddhist practice.

He lives in DeLand with his wife, Michelle, along with two dogs, Lola and Diogenes. For fun, he does tai chi and occasionally plays guitar in a garage-rock band called Smoke & Lightnin’.

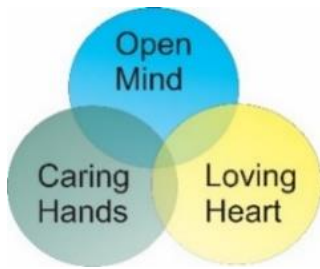


Program Team Meeting

January 3, 5:00 p.m.

Please remember that the Program Team meets on the first Monday of each month. Contact Robin Mahonen, UUFSA Program Team Chair, for more information. RRafael2@aol.com (304) 639-5538

Programs for Children and Youth



The UUFSA has been very fortunate during the past two years to have had Kelly Sommer as the Lead Teacher in our Children's Program. Kelly began teaching with us just a couple of months before we suspended in-person classes in the Spring of 2020. Without missing a beat, Kelly brought classes on-line and kept all of our children engaged, including children who were in Michigan and Inverness and Deland, FL.

During the Summer of 2020, Kelly developed the "Harry and UU, Hogwarts School for Social Action" curriculum for our students, ordered all the supplies and organized how we would get supplies to all of your children, "The Enchanting Activists," even those who were not local. During the Summer of 2021, Kelly mapped out another year of social action for our children, and she was largely responsible for designing the UUFSA's outdoor classroom so our children could meet safely for in-person classes this Fall. The UUFSA's Children's Program has been enormously successful due to Kelly's creativity, energy, dedication and love. The story of our children's successful activism, even during a pandemic, will be the subject of the "Story for All Ages" in January.

Jindy Gelow and I, coordinators of the UUFSA's Program for Children and Youth, are enormously grateful for all that Kelly has contributed to our Program, and we are deeply saddened that she has stepped back from her role as Lead Teacher at the end of December. Kelly is launching a full-time career. We wish Kelly much success as she pursues her new career, and we look forward to welcoming Kelly and her family in our Fellowship as participants and members in the coming year and beyond.



With Kelly stepping down from her role as Lead Teacher and the resumption of in-person services, we are seeking to fill two positions in our Children's program: Lead Teacher and Childcare Provider. Ads for these positions are elsewhere in the *Quest*. If you know of people who might be interested in these positions, please ask them to contact Jindy Gelow (jindyms@yahoo.com) or Barbara Battelle (Battellebarbara@gmail.com).

With the help of all in our Fellowship, Jindy and I are deeply committed to continuing the UUFSA's high-quality Program for Children and Youth. **Our children are our and the world's future!**

Barbara Battelle



Wanted

Lead Teacher Program for Children and Youth Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine

Beginning Immediately

Position: Lead Teacher in our Program for Children and Youth

Where: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine (UUFSA)
2487 A1A South, St. Augustine, Florida 32080

When: Present lessons Sundays 9:45 AM – 11:45 AM
Contract will extend through June 30, 2022

Compensation: \$70/week. Includes compensation for 2 hours of preparation time plus 2 hours of class time.

Brief Job Description: Prepare and present lessons based on Unitarian Universalist curricula for school-aged children.

Qualifications:

- **All our employees must show proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19.**
- Knowledge of (or a willingness to learn about) Unitarian Universalism and a respect for our values and traditions.
- Experience or training in early childhood development is highly desirable but not required.

To learn more about our Fellowship and our denomination check out our website (UUFSA.org) and the website of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA.org).

To apply:

For more information, call Barbara Battelle 904-540-3720.

Submit a resume describing your educational background, work experience and contacts for three professional references to Barbara Battelle (uufsa1bb@gmail.com) with “Children/Youth Teacher” in the subject line.



Wanted

Child Care Provider at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine Beginning immediately

Position: Childcare Provider
Where: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine (UUFSA)
2487 A1A South, St. Augustine, Florida 32080
When: For two hours every Sunday from 9:45 AM – 11:45 AM
Compensation: \$16/hr. or \$32/Sunday

Brief job description:

- Provide safe and nurturing care for children from infants to age 4.
- Collaborate with Lead Teacher and the Children/Youth Program Team to design and present age-appropriate engaging activities for these children.
- Assist the Lead Teacher if no preschool children are in attendance.
- Knowledge of (or a willingness to learn about) Unitarian Universalism and a respect for our values and traditions. To learn more about our Fellowship and our denomination check out our website (UUFSA.org) and the website of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA.org)
- Experience or training in early childhood development highly desirable but not required.
All our employees must show proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19

To Apply: Contact Barbara Battelle (uufsa1bb@gmail.com)





UU Adult Learning, January 2022
Cycles of American Political Thought
6:00 – 7:30 p.m. on alternate Thursdays
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81217567074>

January 6 , A Political Constitution

To understand the philosophical substance of the Constitution, we must first appreciate the political imperatives. The *Federalist Papers*, a collection of 85 articles, outline a pragmatic yet philosophically informed argument for the design of national government.

January 20, A Philosophical Constitution

A republican remedy for the diseases most incident to republican vice.

Dr. Joseph Kobyłka, Professor of Political Science at Southern Methodist University, will be our guide.

- February 3 Thoreau: Iconoclastic Individualism
- February 17 Constitutionalizing of Slavery
Lincoln's Reconstitution of America
- March 3 Equality in the Law and in Practice
Social Darwinism and Economic Laissez-Faire
- March 17 Teddy Roosevelt and Progressivism
- April 7 Supreme Court and Laissez-Faire
- April 21 Hamiltonian Means to Jeffersonian Ends
- May 5..... The Women's Movement and the 19th Amendment
- May 19..... FDR, the New Deal, and the Supreme Court
- June 2..... The Reagan Revolution
- June 16..... 20th century America: A World Power
- June 30..... 21st century America: New Challenges and Global Homeostasis

Surindar Paracer, Chair
Richard Lahey, Co-Chair

Care Connection

Our Care Connection group provides short-term, non-medical support for members of the Fellowship during times of difficulty. With the help of the UUFSA Congregation, the Care Connection:



- Makes hospital or home visits
- Provides wellness-check phone calls or calls just to converse
- Runs errands
- Provides rides to appointments and church functions
- Delivers meals during times of adversity
- Offers financial assistance to members in need (all information is confidential)

We thank everyone for their generous support with transportation to medical appointments, making meals, assistance with errands, visiting and sharing. Contact one of our members listed below if you are in need of assistance or would like to join the Care Connection Team. Phone numbers are available in the Membership Directory. We accept and appreciate donations.

Rosemary Wheeler, Co-Chair
Adele DeSavio

Cynthia McAuliffe

Maureen Herth, Co-Chair
Anne Wilke

Pat Hall

Claudia Atkins
Sharron Hines



St. Johns Food Pantry (AKA St. Johns Ecumenical Ministries Inc.)



This month our fearless food pantry leader Cherie Dolgin is stepping down from her long role as chairperson of the UU Food Pantry team and SJEM Board member. Cherie skillfully offered representation of our UU principles at the food pantry monthly board meetings. Her leadership was key in keeping the pantry open when COVID-19 presented seemingly insurmountable challenges in March 2020. Thanks, Cherie, for your years of service and for mentoring me and our team members.

To make a donation to the food pantry, please send a check to UUFSA, with the notation on the memo line: "Food Pantry." Mail your check to UUFSA, 2487 A1A South, St. Augustine, FL 32080 or go to UUFSA.org and scroll down the "HOME" page to the button labeled "Donate." To check out the Food Pantry website go to StJohnsFoodPantry.org.

If you would like to volunteer with the UU team on Friday afternoons, please contact me at 904-673-5630 or email cfosaaen@gmail.com.

Chris Fosaaen, Chair

Dining With Dignity Sunday, January 2

Dining with Dignity is our once-a-month opportunity to feed the homeless downtown. A menu is sent out two weeks in advance, listing the items we need. We set up between 5:30 and 5:45 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month and serve at 6:00 p.m. If interested in participating, please contact Mary Kellough at lkellough@comcast.net.



Great Decisions Third Mondays at 6:00 p.m.

Great Decisions is a national, grassroots foreign policy discussion program, hosted in St. Augustine by the UUFSA. All discussions are conducted on Zoom and are open to the public. To receive the Zoom link and suggested background reading, contact Yosi (jomcintire@bellsouth.net or 904-808-2717).

January Calendar



- 2 – Food drop-off for Dining with Dignity 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- 2 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 3 – Program Team 5:00 p.m.
- 6 – Adult Learning, in person and online 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- 7 – Food Pantry 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.
- 10 – Board of Trustees meeting, online 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- 14 – Food Pantry 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.
- 16 – Third Sunday pate collection – Home Again St. John's
- 16 – Third Sunday food collection during service
- 17 – Great Decisions 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 20 – Adult Learning, in person and online 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- 21 – Food Pantry 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.
- 21 – Deadline for February Quest contributions 5:00 p.m.
- 28 – Food Pantry 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.



On the Lighter Side . . .

Submit a short joke/piece of entertaining humor you'd like to share for consideration. Submit to Michael Read at mickread@gmail.com.

WORDS NOT FOUND IN WEBSTER'S:

- Quitar: The guitar at a friend's house that he only tried to play for two months.
- Ingredients: Recipe for investment bank collapse.
- Poasting: Bragging, boasting or tooting your horn on a social network.
- Relaxative: When you confused vodka for mineral oil.
- Dumbrella: The stupid, cheap umbrella you have to purchase because you have twelve at home but not one with you when it starts to rain.
- Clothestrophobia: Fear of entering one's closet, over-stuffed with way too much clothing.
- Caristhenics: Stretching exercises done by a passenger during a long drive to keep from cramping up.
- Destinesia: When one walks to another room with a purpose in mind and, upon entering the room, forgets what that purpose was.
- Barberian: The guy savages go to see when they want to get a haircut.
- Atmosphire: A fire, the purpose of which is not to heat, but to provide ambience.

Beyond our Congregation

UUMUAC Monthly "Third Wednesday" Worship Service For January and February, 2022 7:00 pm Central Time (8:00 Eastern, 6:00 Mountain, 5:00 Pacific)

The Religious Professionals Task Force of the Unitarian Universalist Multiracial Unity Action Council is sponsoring "Third Wednesday" evening worship services on the third Wednesday of each month. To get Zoom information, whether for the next Worship Service or those in subsequent months, please send your name, email address, and congregation (if any) to richard3point@gmail.com.

DATE: January 19

PREACHER: Rev. Dr. Mellen Kennedy

SERMON: "Medicine for Our Times ~ Living the Legacy of Howard Thurman"

DESCRIPTION: Howard Thurman's life and teachings are the perfect medicine for our times. Thurman was called "a saint of the Civil Rights Movement" by Rep. John Lewis. Thurman was a Universalist, a mystic, an outstanding preacher, a scholar and a professor at Howard University and also Boston University and one of the most influential African Americans of the last century. He had a profound impact on Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. You're invited to join us as we learn from and let Thurman's insights, challenges and paradoxes wash over us with hope. Our contentious world so needs his wisdom and healing words today. Thurman wrote and preached on the power of Negro Spirituals and the Springfield, VT UU Meetinghouse Choir Director, Julane Deener, and virtual choir will join us with some great music for this journey.

DATE: February 16

PREACHER: Rev. Rick Hoyt-McDaniels

SERMON: "Liberal Religion"

DESCRIPTION: Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religion, not because of our progressive politics but because of our commitment to the ideals of liberalism. Liberalism in the classic sense is not an ideology, but a method for resolving conflict, gaining knowledge, and advancing toward truth. Our liberal approach to religion and to all that concerns us as religious people is a precious inheritance. Abandoning the principles of liberalism would mean losing an essential part of who we are.