

QUEST



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

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

Sunday services are presented in-person and online at 10:00 a.m.

Click <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4750592013> after 9:30 a.m.

A Sunday children’s program also is available.

Recordings of most past presentations are available on our website.

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Don Brandes, Editor: donaldbrandes@gmail.com
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From Your President



Dear Members and Friends,

Even as our Summer Break approaches, I can't help anticipating August 21st when we'll be together again. I've learned it's in community that we find the special magic that encourages us to become our unique human selves: the love and learning we find within our Sanctuary. Together, we kindle the spirit of love and inclusion, and acknowledge our interdependence. Within our Sanctuary, we live true to this spirit by our care and respect for each other, and beyond it, through our social justice actions.

To help us grow our ability to live the love that sustains community and seeks justice, our Program Team will add a Special Message (like "This I Believe" and the "Green Minute") to our Sunday Service: "Listen & Talk with Heart!" This new message will present skills and concepts to help us gain greater awareness and grow in the art of caring communication. The monthly messages will be supported by reading and suggestions for practice.

A little background. Last year the Board revised our member relations policies in support of our chosen theme, "Side with Love." We did this to help better live the words of our Spoken Covenant, "Love is the doctrine of this congregation," and of our Principles, including, "Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations." We believe that caring relationships are the heart of community, and that the quality of conversation sustains or undermines it. Thus, we decided to use our Leadership Training budget to support a Fellowship-wide training in conversation skills.

To implement this, we've purchased a wonderful communication training manual – *Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When Stakes Are High* (Third Edition) – and will integrate it with our new Special Message. The messages will follow the manual's step-by-step approach; each message will include page numbers from the book that correspond to it. Books will be available at the August 21st service!

Having read the book twice, and attended an online version, it is with boundless enthusiasm that I invite you to continue this journey of learning and growth with me.

In the warmth of fellowship,

Gina Jonas
UUFSA President
904-679-4610
gina.jonas@gmail.com



We are on summer break through June and early August. Sunday services will resume on August 21.

Sunday services are presented in-person in the Fellowship and online.

To join online, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4750592013> after 9:30 a.m.

For safety's sake, we are asking 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.

August 21: Chris McDermott, mcnoodle55@gmail.com

August 28: Michael Read, mickread@gmail.com

Sunday, August 21, 10:00 a.m. "UUFSA Water Communion"

Service Leader: Chris McDermott, Robin Mahonen,
and members of our UUFSA Program Team

Music: Alex Richman

Third Sunday Food Collection

Cash Plate Donation to: Home Again St. Johns

Listen and Talk with Heart: Gina Jonas

The UU Water Communion is one of two traditional Unitarian Universalist services of the worship year, celebrated by Unitarian Universalist congregations both within the United States and abroad. It is one of two spiritually bookended services: The Flower Communion, celebrated at the end of the worship year, and The Water Communion, celebrated as we return from our summer journeys. While the Flower Communion bids us to seek the beauty in the diversity of the flowers which make up a lovely bouquet, the Water Communion reminds us that, despite all the different places we come from, we are one: Unitarian Universalists.



As we share our Water and pour it into our Common Bowl, it brings us closer together. This shared water is kept and stored until the next Water Communion, or any special events, such as weddings and other joinings, or baby blessings, where we use our shared water to remind us of our connections to and with each other as a spiritual family.

Reminder to Collect and Bring Water from Your Summer for Our Water Communion on Sunday, August 21.

On the first day of our 2022-2023 Worship Year, we will be celebrating our traditional UU Water Communion, which we have sorely missed due to the pandemic. Please remember to bring a container of water with you to the sanctuary to add to our Common Bowl.

This may be from a summer trip you take, a natural water source which carries significance to you, the ocean, a river, a pond or lake, your backyard pool, a puddle, or even your home tap water, with its special message and meaning to you.

Remember, the percentage of water in our bodies is close to the percentage of water on our Earth, as Nature mimics micro and macro in our Universe.

Sunday, August 28, 10:00 a.m. “Survival and Adaptation: The Future of Faith” Pastor Phillip Baber

Service Leader: Michael Read
Music: Barbara Joy Mullen
Green Minute

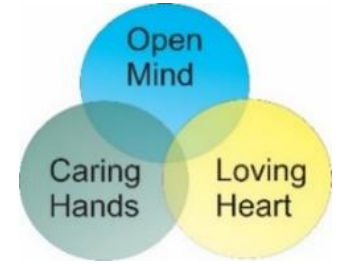
In this sermon, Phillip will share thoughts on the pitfalls facing churches seeking to remain culturally relevant.

Phillip Baber speaks twice a month at UUFSA. 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.



Programs for Children and Youth

Classes. The Children’s formal classes ended at the end of May with a final focus on animals. The social action that was the capstone of this unit was a pet food drive, which was very successful. Many bags and cans of pet food were collected along with \$484 for the Humane Society! Their last class was a “Harry Potter Party” arranged and led by Kelly Sommer. Although formal classes ended in May, our childcare provider Hannah Dompe was on site each Sunday through the end of June to care for any children who attended.



Plans for the coming congregational year. We are delighted that Kelly Sommer has agreed to return as our Lead Teacher for three Sundays each month. We are currently working with Kelly and parents to select UU curricula that will best serve our diverse children’s needs. For the fourth Sunday of each month the current plan is for the children to design their own class with the help of an adult facilitator. Member volunteers will be called upon to teach when there is a fifth Sunday. We are deeply grateful to all those who volunteered to teach classes this past congregational year, and we look forward to an exciting year to come.

Check out the UUFSA.org website later in the summer for more information about our plans for the coming year.

Jindy Gelow and Barbara Battelle

Barbara Joy Plattner

Our New Pianist

Barbara Joy Plattner, originally from Brooklyn, NY, attended Berklee College of Music in Boston and also the University of Massachusetts /Boston, from which she holds her Bachelor of Arts degree. She has been performing in bands as a vocalist and multi-instrumentalist since her teen years, but spiritual music is her passion.

Barbara was raised in the Jewish tradition, but believes "All rivers lead to the same Ocean" and has performed the music of many diverse spiritual traditions, for example, she has sung in a choir for Peace with 1,000 women Buddhists in Hawaii; she has twice played keyboards for Sathya Sai Baba with her pilgrimage group to India for an audience of 15,000 devotees; she was keyboardist for the Sufi Dances of Universal Peace in Flagler Beach. She also sang with a Baptist Gospel choir, a Presbyterian Church Choir and a heavy metal/hard rock Christian band, for which she wrote most of the music.



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



The Saint Johns Food Pantry serves families Monday to Friday from 1:00 to 4:00. Volunteers pack and give out over 100 bags per day to people in our community needing food assistance. UUFSA is among the many generous donors providing the food and volunteer labor which enable the success of the pantry. Thank you for all your help.

To make a donation to the food pantry, please send a check to UUFSA, with 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.

Volunteers are needed to work with the UU team on Friday afternoons or with other teams on Tuesday or Thursday from 12:30 to 4:30. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Chris Fosaaen at 904-673-5630 or email cfosaaen@gmail.com.

Chris Fosaaen, Chair

UUFSA Adult Learning 2022-23

The universality and evolution of myths in the history of the human race and place of myths in modern society will be the primary focus of our attention.

Some examples of myth-making in our times:

Racial myths of fascism

Enemy of the people

The Lost Cause: Monuments to Confederacy

Myths of totalitarian communism

The myth of the welfare mother who drives a Cadillac to pick up her check

Joseph Campbell blends accounts of his own upbringing and experience with stories from many cultures and civilizations to present us with his most compelling thesis that modern society is going through a transition from old mythologies and traditions to a new way of thinking where a global mythology will emerge.

Part 1: Joseph Campbell and Power of Myth

September 22	The Hero's Adventure
October 6	The Message of the Myth
October 20	The First Storytellers
November 3	Sacrifice and Bliss
November 17	Love and the Goddess
December 8	Masks of Eternity



Part 2

January 5	Myth and Meaning The Continuing Importance of Myth
January 19	Emergence and World – Parent Creation Myths Cosmic Egg and Ex Nihilo Creation Myths
February 2	Female Heroes – Demeter and Hester Prynne Female Heroes – Psyche and Beauty
February 16	Creation Myths Hebrew Creation Myths
March 2	Greek and Norse Pantheons
March 16	The Goddess – Inanna and Dumuzi The Goddess – Isis and Osiris
April 6	The Tricksters in Mythology Tricksters from around the world
April 20	Shamans and Vegetation Gods Sky Gods and Earth Goddesses
May 4	The Places of Myths – Rocks and Lakes The Places of Myths – Mountains The Places of Myths – Sacred Trees
May 18	The Myths of Cosmic Destruction
June 1	Mesopotamian and Hebrew Flood Myths Other Flood Myths

Jocelyn Breakwell, Series Coordinator
Richard Lahey and Surindar Paracer

Dining With Dignity

Sunday, July 3 and August 7

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.



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 Maureen Herth, Co-Chair
Claudia Atkins Adele DelSavio Cynthia McAuliffe
Anne Wilke Pat Hall





July

- 3 – Food drop-off for Dining with Dignity 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- 3 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 4 – Program Team 5:00 p.m.
- 7 – Motion is Lotion, light exercise 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- 8 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 11 – Board of Trustees meeting, online 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- 14 – Motion is Lotion, light exercise 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- 15 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 21 – Motion is Lotion, light exercise 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- 22 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 28 – Motion is Lotion, light exercise 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- 29 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

August

- 1 – Program Team 5:00 p.m.
- 5 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 7 – Food drop-off for Dining with Dignity 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- 7 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 8 – Board of Trustees meeting, online 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- 12 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 19 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 19 – Deadline for September Quest contributions 5:00 p.m.
- 21 – Third Sunday food collection during service
- 26 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Great Decisions

Great Decisions is on summer break and will recommence in September.

For more information or to be added to the Great Decisions electronic mailing list, contact Yosi, jomcintire@bellsouth.net or 904-808-2717.



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.

"Theoretically speaking, I think there are people conspiring to spy on us." "No, really? What drew you to that conclusion?" "My art teacher."

Examples of Southern dialect:-

He could eat corn through a picket fence. (Has very large teeth.)

You make a better door than you do a window. (You should move.)

I like your shit kickers. (I like your boots.)

He doesn't know whether to wind his butt or scratch his watch. (He's confused.)

That dog will hunt. (That's a good idea.)

So if a cow doesn't produce milk, is it a milk dud or an udder failure?

I might wake up early and go running. I also might win the lottery. The odds are about the same.

As Farmer Brown approached his neighbor's barn, he saw Farmer Jones serenading a tractor with songs and compliments. "What are you doing?" Farmer Brown demanded. Farmer Jones replied, "My wife and I have been having problems, and the marriage counselor said I needed to do something sexy to a tractor."

What do you call a belt made entirely of watches? A waist of time.

Just say NO to drugs! Mind you, if you're talking to drugs you probably already said yes.

Oh God, I'm sweating constantly, I've got a sore throat, I feel weak, and it's hard to breathe! I call out to my wife: "Gina! Help me!" Gina runs to me and asks: "What is it? What's the matter?" I cry out: "I can't stop sweating! I must have a fever! I can't breathe! I think I've got Covid! Should we call 911?" Gina replies: "No, turn on the air conditioning."