

QUEST



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

February 2024
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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Materials for the March issue are due by February 19.

Don Brandes, Editor: donaldbrandes@gmail.com

Thanks to Mick Read for proofreading.



From Your President



Our covenant states, “Love is the doctrine of this congregation.” February is known for its holiday of love celebrated on the fourteenth, Valentine’s Day. In this column I will discuss the origin of the holiday, four classical types of love, and how love can be expressed in our fellowship.

Preceding Valentine’s Day was the Roman festival of Lupercalia in mid-February celebrating the arrival of Spring, fertility rites, and the pairing of women and men by lottery. A Christian minister named Valentine was martyred in 269 for performing weddings for Christian soldiers who were forbidden to marry in the Roman Empire. Allegedly he restored vision for his jailer’s blind daughter. In 496, Pope Gelasius 1 added Saint Valentine to the calendar of saints. Famous references to Saint Valentine’s Day include the first line of Geoffrey

Chaucer’s Parliament of Fowls in 1382 honoring the first anniversary of the engagement of the fifteen-year-olds King Richard II of England and Anne of Bohemia, “For this was on Saint Valentine’s Day.”

The four types of love refer to the Greek: storge-affection; philia-friendship; eros-passion; and agape-charity exemplified in religious terms as unconditional God’s love. These four types are not exclusive; overlap commonly occurs among friends, family, spouses, and intimate partners. In my view, agape encompasses compassion for strangers.

How is love the doctrine of this congregation? Certainly affection, friendship and charity comprise different ways love is expressed among our members and friends. Allowing love to flourish requires our collective efforts by volunteering to participate on our committees and teams and pledging financial support that enables us to provide the services and activities which we value.

At our potluck after service on February 11th, we begin our annual pledge drive. Our pledges, which are written intentions to donate money in support of our fellowship year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, are our main source of income and determine our budget for the upcoming year. Pledges received by April first will be used by our finance committee to develop a budget. Our board will then approve a budget, which will be presented to our members for discussion and vote at the annual meeting on June 9th. Please join us for a successful pledge drive.

**In fellowship,
Fred Dolgin**

904-687-4018
fdolgin@bellsouth.net

Sunday Programs

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, we are asking everyone present in person at the live service to be vaccinated. Wearing a mask is optional.

The front doors of our sanctuary are locked at 10:10 a.m. on Sunday mornings to promote the safety and security of service attendees.

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.

February 4: Margaret Nicholson, send2me@bellsouth.net

February 11: Margaret Nicholson, send2me@bellsouth.net

February 18: Gina Jonas, gina.jonas@gmail.com

February 25: Mary Kellough, lkellough@comcast.net

A Little Help from Your Friends

For any reason, if you need help getting from the parking lot to the Sanctuary and back again, we now have a wheelchair on hand to assist you. Just ask anyone in the parking lot to let the Greeters know that you need assistance, and someone will come to your car with the wheelchair. Please try to arrive 15 minutes early so we have time to get you situated. Note that you must be able to transfer into and out of the wheelchair on your own. We hope this service furthers our aim to be an inclusive, welcoming community.



Sunday, February 4, 10:00 a.m.
“Prayer, Protest, and Violence:
The Role of Prayer in the Civil Rights Movement”
Tobin Miller Shearer, PhD

Service Leader: Margaret Nicholson
Music: Barbara Joy Plattner
Story for All Ages

Participants in the civil rights movement phase of the long black freedom struggle frequently relied on religious resources to amplify their protest. In particular, activists from Fannie Lou Hamer to Martin Luther King, Jr., prayed in public. The introduction of this embodied piety into public space frequently prompted a violent response. This talk explores the reasons for that response and the broader role of prayer in that struggle.

Dr. Tobin Miller Shearer is the Chair of the History Department and Director of the African-American Studies Program at the University of Montana. He is the author of five books and more than one hundred articles. His work has appeared in The Chicago Tribune, PBS News Hour, CNN, NPR, Christian Science Monitor, USA Today, and The Washington Post.



Dr. Tobin blogs at Truth and Grace. He is also the co-founder with Cheryl Miller Shearer of the anti-racism consulting group, Widerstand Consulting (www.widerstandconsulting.org) and with Regina Shands Stoltzfus of the anti-racism training nonprofit, Roots of Justice.



Sunday, February 11, 10:00 a.m.
**“Final Exit Network:
Your Life, Your Death, Your Choice”**
Kevin Bradley

Service Leader: Margaret Nicholson

Music: Alex Richman

This I Believe: Ayler Sostrum



Medical technology can keep your body functioning longer than ever, sometimes against your will. Who really decides, and why? Final Exit Network provides educational resources and support for any mentally competent person who is facing an unacceptable quality of life due to physical illness and wants to end life on their own terms. Kevin will also be talking about end-of-life planning, such as advance care directives and power of attorney.

After 26 years in corporate America, Kevin Bradley enrolled in graduate school of theology with plans to become a Unity minister. He completed a Master of Divinity program and became a full time hospital chaplain specializing in mental health before working as a home hospice chaplain. Ordained in the United Church of Christ, Rev. Bradley testified in the Minnesota Senate in support of medical aid in dying and co-founded Interfaith Clergy for End-of-Life Options as a chapter of Compassion & Choices. He has been with Final Exit Network since 2016, serving on a volunteer basis as an exit guide, board member, speaker, spiritual counselor, and editor of The Good Death Society Blog.



Sunday, February 18, 10:00 a.m.

“Purpose Driven Living”

Angelique Reed

Service Leader: Gina Jonas

Music: Barbara Joy Plattner

Third Sunday cash plate donation: Wildflower Clinic

Food collection by youth



Diversity, Equity & Inclusion are relevant and still needed. As DEI Associate for EPIC Behavioral Health, Angelique is in the position to explain why and what practitioners do.

Angelique Reed holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in History with a minor in Education and a Master's of Science degree in Community Psychology from Florida A&M University. She is a Diversity, Equity & Inclusion specialist, entrepreneur, international speaker, and author. She has had more than ten years' experience in health and wellness, has been an advocate for social justice and putting systems in place that will lead to a more equitable world.

Sunday, February 25, 10:00 a.m.

“Keeping Families Together: Homeless Coalition of St. John’s County”

Deborah Redding

Service Leader: Mary Kellough

Music: Alex Richman

Fourth Sunday: Green Minute

Family Chalice Lighting

Most homeless families are the working poor facing a critical shortage of low-income housing. A significant step in alleviating homelessness is understanding the daily struggles of cost-burdened families and developing individualized housing stabilization plans that focus on building economic mobility and resiliency. Learn about the work of the Homeless Coalition: who is served, the supportive services offered, the process and the results. Wonder how you can help? Hear about the Growth Plan.

Deborah (Debi) Redding, is the Executive Director of Emergency Services & Homeless Coalition of St. Johns County. Debi was taught at a young age about the Spirit of Service, always helping and volunteering in high school and college. After twenty-four years in the corporate world, Debi retired and knew her purpose was to serve others. She began working with the Homeless Coalition fourteen years ago. "Once you figure out your purpose, you will never 'work' another day in your life."



Sunday Service Speakers

Robin Mahonen

Greetings Everyone!

As Chair of the Sunday Service Team, I first want to thank everyone involved in planning and presenting services to our fellowship. If I could, and I have, hugged you, with your permission, I shall! As a lay led fellowship made up of volunteers, we have a wonderful spiritual family who have provided what we feel to be insightful and inspiring programs every Sunday morning. These include those who have found or recommended speakers, acted as service leaders or greeters, and operated our audio visual aids in the sanctuary and now on Zoom. The coordination of all these elements is challenging, and we greatly appreciate all those who have given our fellowship their time and services with love.

In that vein, I would like to invite any of our very talented members to participate by sharing themselves with us. When we have outside Speakers, we honor them for their time and efforts with an appropriate honorarium which is part of our budget. In keeping with a long standing informal arrangement, those who are members of our fellowship are not reimbursed monetarily when they act as Speakers. Their participation is considered a service to our fellowship. This has now been formalized as a written policy by our Board of Trustees. This means that our fellowship budget remains unaffected when our members act as speakers. Your participation also gives us another opportunity to get to know each other better. If you have considered sharing your thoughts, feelings and insights with us on Sunday morning, now and always, is the time to speak with me about this.



On another note, members will sometimes share with me their thoughts and feelings about programming and speakers. I can think of nothing better than when people are impacted by and thinking about the words of a speaker in the middle of the week. It is always a joy to me when I hear about the respectful insights of our membership, be they positive or negative. Our goal is to get people actively involved with the various and diverse opinions among our group. As such, please feel free to contact me, whether in person, by email or text, or by phone call.

My contact information is:
RRafael2@aol.com (304) 639-5538



**PLEASE
ATTEND OUR
PLEDGE DRIVE KICKOFF
POTLUCK**



2/11/24

Who: All UUFSA Members and Friends

What: Potluck Lunch

When: Sunday, February 11 after Service

Where: Downstairs at the UU

Why: To kick off our Annual Pledge Drive

Bring a dish to share

Any questions contact Rosi Angeli or Maureen Herth

Whiteness as Culture & Racism as Cultural Prejudice

- 4 Saturdays, 10:30-noon
- Bring a lunch
(Let's talk about the session!)
- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
2487 A1A South, 32080

"This workshop, Pastor Phillip Baber notes: is not "Anti-Racism 101" with a simple list of "do's and don'ts" for avoiding racist behavior.

Instead, it provides a larger theoretical framework for understanding racism, and how white Americans can develop a healthy racial identity and culture with an anti-racist orientation. All are welcome."

4 Sessions:

January 20: Race and Racism covers very basic (but complex) questions, e.g., "What is race?" and "What is racism?"

February 3: Race and Culture defines the relationship of race to "culture" via three approaches; their related perspectives in the hard sciences (Newtonian, Einsteinian, and quantum); contrasts monoculturalism/multiculturalism to understand objections to pluralism and the consequent attempt to recreate a monocultural society.

February 17: Milton Bennet's Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity applied to understanding how different people relate to "race" in a multicultural world.

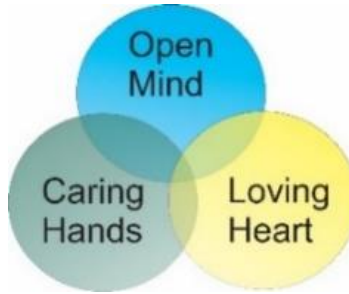
March 2: Janet Helms's White Identity Model defines "White American Culture" and considers what a healthy white American culture might look like.

Plus –

Follow up: After the workshop, let's meet to discuss ways to ally ourselves for effective action!

Waking up
from the
American
Nightmare
Racism

Programs for Children and Youth



The Children/Youth Program is gathering steam again after many were away doing other things during the holiday season.

Look for the resumption of the “Story for All Ages” and Family Chalice lightings. Ramona is busy planning interesting activities around topics such as UU in Action and Ethics Plays.

Ramona, Ayler, Jindy and Barbara

For more information email: BattelleBarbara@gmail.com

Care Connection

The Care Connection Team provides short-term, non-medical support for Members and Friends 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.

Rosemary Wheeler, Co-Chair,
Pat Hall,

Maureen Herth, Co-Chair,
Marsha Williams, Trudy Byerly

Anne Wilke,

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



We still have plenty of volunteer opportunities at the pantry and would appreciate your participation. Volunteering allows you to share our work, know our team members, and get to know our clients who are most grateful for our assistance. For more information, contact Mary Kellough at 904-217-9837 or lkellough@comcast.net.

To make a cash donation to the food pantry, please bring or mail your check to UUFSA, 2487 A1A South, St. Augustine, FL 32080, or go to our website at: [Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine \(square site\)](http://Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine (square site))



Dining With Dignity

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.



Island Players

A play reading group of mostly UUFSA members meets downstairs at the UU on the second Sunday of each month, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. If you are interested in the play-reading group, we'd love you to join us and participate fully. For more information call Cal Marshall at 505-879-1869 or e-mail at calmarshall@hotmail.com. Please, no texts.



Motion is Lotion

Motion is Lotion will continue with the full 60 minutes of Strength and Stretch and Qigong warm-up. Cost is \$10 per class or 4 classes for \$32. Call for questions and permission to add to reminder text list.

Priscilla
904-347-7497

UUFSA February Calendar



- 2 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 4 – Food drop-off for Dining with Dignity 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- 4 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 6 – Motion is Lotion
- 9 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 11 – Island Players (play reading group) 5:00 – 8:00
- 12 – Board of Trustees meeting, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- 16 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 13 – Motion is Lotion
- 16 – Deadline for March *Quest* contributions 5:00 p.m.
- 18 – Third Sunday food collection at start of service
- 23 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 20 – Motion is Lotion
- 27 – Motion is Lotion

Online UUFSA Events Calendar

It is now possible to view the online Google calendar of UUFSA events and building usage from the UUFSA website by clicking on a link on the home page at uufsa.org.



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.

A Joke from the Past: The Leadership IQ Test

While visiting England, George Bush is invited to tea with the Queen. He asks her what her leadership philosophy is. She says that if you're no genius yourself, you can still be an effective head of state if you surround yourself with intelligent people. He asks how she knows if they're intelligent.

"I do so by asking them the right questions," says the Queen. "Allow me to demonstrate."

The Queen phones Tony Blair: "Mr. Prime Minister, please answer this question. Your mother has a child and your father has a child, and this child is neither your brother nor your sister. Who is it?"

Tony Blair responds: "It's me, Your Majesty."

"Correct. Thank you and good day, sir," says the Queen.

Turning to George Bush, she asks: "Did you see how it's done, Mr. Bush?"

"Yes ma'am. Thanks a lot. I'll definitely be using that!"

Upon returning to Washington, Bush decides he'd better put the second-in-command to the test. He summons Vice President Dick Cheney to the White House and says:

"Dick, I'd like you to answer this question for me. Your mother has a child and your father has a child, and this child is neither your brother nor your sister. Who is it?"

Cheney hems and haws and finally asks: "Can I take a rain check on that and get right back to you?"

Bush consents, and Cheney leaves.

Cheney immediately calls a meeting of all White House staff, and they puzzle over the question for several hours, but no one can come up with an answer. Finally, in desperation, Cheney calls Colin Powell at the State Department and explains his problem.

"Your mother has a child and your father has a child, and this child is neither your brother nor your sister. Who is it?"

Powell answers immediately: "It's me, of course, you dumb cracker."

Much relieved, Cheney rushes back to the White House and exclaims: "I know the answer, Mr. President! I know who it is! It's Colin Powell!"

Bush replies in disgust: "Wrong. It's Tony Blair."

Beyond our Congregation



The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center

Join us at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, a Magical UU Place and experience near Highlands, NC

Join a passionate Mountain team and be part of making a difference for individuals and our wider world! See Available positions and application at <https://www.themountainrlc.org/jobs> competitive compensation, including medical insurance and retirement.

Register today for Spring Youth CONferences. Gather with youth from around the southeast. <https://www.themountainrlc.org/cons>

Summer Camps for kids and adults, Music Week, Volunteer Work Weekend, etc. Now is the time to lock in your spot for meaningful 2024 programming at The Mountain! <https://www.themountainrlc.org/upcoming-events>

We look forward to seeing you at The Mountain soon! [themountainrlc.org](https://www.themountainrlc.org) or 828.526.5838

