



November 2020

# Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

[www/Fairhopeuu.org](http://www.Fairhopeuu.org)

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association



*Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship welcomes and embraces people of any age, race, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, ability, language, or cultural background.*

## THE NEW NORMAL

**We're back together in person! Hallelujah!**



*Carl Couret presiding Sunday, October 25, 11:00 am*



*Giogi and Helen waiting to begin outdoor meeting*

**This Sunday: November 1, 11 a.m. (Fall Back 1 hour!!!)**

**Topic: Why are we Unitarians? General Discussion**

### **Where Do We Go From Here?**

Notes from the discussion of the members at the regathering of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship on October 25, 2020 This was the first in person meeting since March because of the Covid 19 Pandemic. A Zoom meeting was available for any member who wanted to observe the discussion from home. The FUF has a policy for in person meetings—indoor or outdoor.

Meeting outside under the portico, Sarah Bogdanovich set up a mic, a Zoom meeting on the computer, the chalice for lighting, etc. Thank you, Sarah and her family: husband Jeff, William in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and Mathew in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Carl Couret, president, welcomed the members and friends.

Two new members were introduced, Lacy O'Connor and Gunnar Sherrill. Welcome!

Michael Patrick did an inspiring reading, “The Season of Ingathering,” by the president of the denomination.

Carl, president, led the group in a general discussion of plans to move forward as we continue to grapple with the virus.

William Bogdanovich thanked the members for planning something outside as he is tired of looking at a computer screen. Several members agreed in unison.

Bad weather— rain or cold—was discussed. Irene Wegner mentioned that the State guidelines are no more than 25 gathering outside and no more than 10 indoors. Carl mentioned if we are inside, all four of the doors can be opened.

Helen Garrett has visited a church and shared that they handle the social distancing by seating the congregation on every third seat.

Music was discussed. Harvey Joanning said that singing was too risky, an easy way to spread the virus. The consensus was that we could have instruments only, or recorded music.

We all agreed that we miss the Back Porch Singers. Maybe they could play something for us.

If it rains or is cold, there was consensus that we will not cancel the service. We could have an indoor and an outdoor meeting. Sarah said this was doable.

Michael brought up the subject of programs for the near future. He suggested that the members present a program about “Why I am a Unitarian.” Ray will be asked to organize those meetings.

Georgi DiLemis suggested that we have interactive programs, more time for questions and answers and fewer lecture-style talks. Ted Talks might be used.

Jeanine Normand suggested that one program might call on all those present to “check in” with each other for two minutes, talk about where they are and tell what is important to them.

Sarah Bogdanovich, publicity chair, said that we need some new members and families with children. She has designed stickers for our cars, mugs, etc. and an FUF t-shirt will be in shortly. The front of the shirt is RUAUU? On the back is our symbol and one word that identifies each of our 7 principles. She went on to say we should be ready to share what we believe when asked.

William Bogdanovich wants to have an “All Kids” program. We could have outside activities like volleyball, croquet, badminton, etc. A big “yes” came from all present.

Irene Wegner suggested that the children and young people be a part of the service frequently.

Harvey Joanning has arranged with the driveway contractor to do a “touch up” if we need it after all the Sally debris is removed. Thanks to Carl for pulling himself away from a newborn grandson in order to preside!

*Submitted by Donna Orchard*

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

The problem of having the required number of members present for a quorum at this year’s annual meeting in December will be addressed by having the meeting via email. The slate of Board candidates and the proposed budget for next year will be sent out by email or letter for those who don’t use email. Members should respond similarly with their votes.

## MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP BUSINESS

### Financial Summaries

August, 2020

	August	YTD
<b>Support and Revenue</b>		
Contributions	975	15,694
Other Revenue	326	3,791
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>1,301</b>	<b>19,485</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Building	1,652	18,684
Committees	102	3,055
Donations	200	1,550
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,954</b>	<b>23,289</b>
<b>Net Operating Increase/(Decrease)</b>	<b>(653)</b>	<b>(3,805)</b>

September

	September	YTD
<b>Support and Revenue</b>		
Contributions	690	16,384
Other Revenue	18	3,808
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>20,192</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Building	8,240	26,925
Committees	38	3,093
Donations	450	2,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>8,728</b>	<b>32,018</b>
<b>Net Operating Increase/(Decrease)</b>	<b>(8,021)</b>	<b>(11,825)</b>

***If you don't attend the in-person Sunday Re-Gathering, don't forget to mail your normal contributions as regularly as if you were dropping them in the basket each week.***

***Our expenses haven't "shutdown."***

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

(Because of the COVID-19 pandemic safety procedures--wearing masks and sitting six feet apart --were in effect at these meetings.)

### Saturday, September 12, 2020

Present: Lynne Switzky, Mary Matthews and Riva Fralick. Donna Orchard, Michael Patrick, Irene Wegner, Sarah Bogdanovich, Ray Ables (Brisa Ables via telephone?), Phil Strniste, Carl Couret, Brian Willke, Jane Finger and Bill Orchard.\

- Phil reported and explained a malfunction of one of two components of the fire alarm system, which upon inspection by a qualified technician was determined to be fully functional.
- We have three scholarship students currently.
- The FUF proposal offered to the Alabama Arise board on 8/21/20 regarding Universal Pre-K was approved by their board on 9/29/20, and was added to their permanent agenda.
- October Friday Protests will be from 4:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in front of the FUF with an emphasis on messaging voting.
- The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Alabama Coastal Cleanup will be from Sept. 19 to the 27<sup>th</sup>. More information is available online.
- Phil reported the four ionization/UV light filters ordered as a Covid precaution still haven't been received..
- Sarah's reminder of the UU mission of keeping the "doors open," and putting our principles into action, encouraged us to meet the need of being a spiritual and inspirational institution by resuming in-person programs, even if they have to be outdoors.
- Program Chair Ray expressed his discomfort in inviting outside speakers until there is a vaccine for Covid.
- Having hosted interesting discussions on the FUF Sunday Zoom meetings, Ken Hudson has stepped down because of his USA faculty workload. Lynne Switzky will take over as facilitator. Jeanine Norman will assist her in program selection.
- Members agreeing to serve on the Nominating Committee and have agreed are: Pat Cassady, Helen Garrett and Gwen Snyder.
- The current position of Vice President remains vacant.
- Giorgi DiLemis will give his presentation, "A Tour of Greece" via FUF Zoom on Sunday, 11a.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Riva Fralick*

[rivafralickoh@gmail.com](mailto:rivafralickoh@gmail.com)

### Saturday, October 17, 2020

Present: Michael Patrick, Carl Couret, Donna Orchard, Jane Finger, Mary Matthews, Phil Strniste, Irene Wegner, Sarah Bogdanovich

- Concern was expressed regarding the decrease in donations since in-person Sunday programs were suspended. The November newsletter will include a reminder to members to send in their usual amount donated before the suspension. To make donating more convenient, Sarah suggested setting up an FUF Paypal account.
- News of the passing of FUF member John Jessup prompted Michael to add that John had given considerable support to FUF, especially through programs and the building committee.
- Regarding COVID19, Donna emphasized the importance of wearing masks regularly and social distancing and reminded the group to let Pat Cassady know if you know of anyone in FUF who is affected.
- Phil described the damage done by Sally and efforts to clean up FUF grounds and introduced considerations of remaining trees on FUF property that still pose a risk to the adjacent property.
- Donna reported candidates for the 2021 FUF Board as follows:
  - President – Michael Patrick
  - Vice President – Thelma Topper
  - Chairman of the Board – Carl Couret
  - Program Chair – Freya Sonenstein
  - Treasurer – Pat Smith
  - Corresponding Secretary – Lynne Switsky
  - Recording Secretary – Sarah Bogdanovich

- Because getting the required number of members present for a quorum is a problem, the annual meeting this December will be held via email. The slate of Board candidates and the proposed budget for next year will be sent out by email or letter for those who don't use email and members will respond similarly with their votes.
- Sarah presented her original design for FUF tee shirts and stickers project for purchase by members and friends. 5" stickers for \$5 ea, 4" stickers for \$4 ea. (See below)
- Beginning Sunday, October 25, at 11:00 am weekly in-person programs will be presented under the portico(weather permitting) and on Zoom. Each program--called Re-Gathering--will be shorter than usual but will include a welcome, chalice lighting, reading, discussion, and perhaps music. "Where do we go from here" will be the topic to be discussed at the first Re-Gathering. Only members and friends will serve as Re-Gathering speakers will only

*Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Bogdanovich, in the absence of Riva Fralick, Recording Secretary*

**PUBLICITY COMMITTEE**

## Let's Let Fairhope Know We're Here

**AVAILABLE NOW - Removable Stickers**

4-inch - \$4.00    5-inch - \$5.00



Original designs by Sarah Bogdanovich  
Great Job, Sarah!



**COMING SOON - Tee Shirts**

Child's and Adult Sizes - \$20



Above will be the back. The chalice only on the front.

## BUILDING COMMITTEE

### PHI-CELLS AND THE VIRUS

by Phil Strniste, Building Committee Chair

As the pandemic has established its significance in our psyche, we have changed our behavior to minimize its presence in our lives, and in the lives we hold dear. Social isolation, wearing of masks, social distancing, and avoidance of large gatherings(especially indoors), have become the new norm. These behavioral changes are simple enough to execute, but for me only with constant vigilance.

As has been the case with all the previous pandemics in our collective history, this one will eventually pass. It is amazing how quickly we have learned about the causal agent, and how to thwart its propagation. Still, the risk quotient that we each have to determine for ourselves is very complicated. Prudence alone will dictate when it is perceived safe enough to resume regular gatherings over and above the small ‘bubbles’ we have chosen and are comfortable with.

To that end, I want to segue to an additional step FUF has taken to keep our meeting space safe. An article in Consumer Reports(JUL2020) entitled: “Can an Air Purifier Help You Stay Safe From the Coronavirus?” serves nicely as an introduction to this discussion because it details what is known about many of the variables involved in such an investigation -such as the virus’s size, aerosol dispersal of the virus, HEPA(High Efficiency Particulate Air) filter efficiency, and the importance of air flow rate(Clean Air Delivery Value). For those interested, models/brands that Consumer Reports recommend are also included in this article. Dr. Lindsey Marr, who specializes in airborne disease transmission and her perspective forms the basis of the report. I have not crunched any numbers for the FUF building with these types of air purifier, largely because of the cavern-like size of the main hall. Commercial grade air purifiers, I am sure exist, but are beyond the scope of this report.

Elsewhere I have heard about incorporating uv lighting into an ac air handler to sanitize the air moving through the system. This has largely been used to control microbial growth on the coils. Apparently its efficiency is variable and dependent upon how close the offending microbe is to the uv light.

Another way to purify the air is to follow Mother Nature’s example, that is to utilize the naturally occurring peroxides that continually bathe and protect us while outdoors. The PHI-Cell unit by RGF does just that. It is technology that utilizes phytohydroionization to create a stream of hydro-peroxides, super oxide ions(ozone) and hydroxides that get distributed throughout the building by the air coming out of an ac’s air handler. These ions are very effective at reducing micro-organisms in the air. This technology has been around for a number of years and has been clinically tested and proven to control viruses such as H1N1, the Avian Flu, the Norwalk virus, and MRSA. It has not yet been tested on the virus that causes COVID-19 however, but it has been shown to control other similar enveloped-RNA viruses. PDFs on this product can be viewed at [www.rgf.com](http://www.rgf.com).

I placed an order for 4 PHI-CELL units in early July with Ingersolls AC. Clyde Ingersoll has had one in his home for several years, and recommended them to me when I started to ask questions about the use of uv light in controlling microbes. They have yet to arrive, but once installed(& it’s an easy installation), another level of defense in our ability to hold indoor meetings will, in my opinion, be achieved.

## REMEMBERING JOHN JESSUP

FUF member John W. Jessup died early Sunday morning, October 11, in Mobile Infirmary. He was 92.

He was born and raised in Maidstone, Kent, in England. He studied at Aberdeen University and was graduated from the London School of Architecture and Planning.

John's first job after he emigrated to America was as the first ever planner in Windsor, CT, the town where his wife, Deborah, grew up. He continued his career as a planner with the National Capital Region and then with the National Park Service in a jurisdiction that covered public lands in the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Maryland. Accomplishments included the extension of the land included Manassas National Battlefield, of importance during the Civil War. He also participated in any number of land disputes between the Park and adjacent land owners.

Upon retirement, John and Deborah were snowbirds between Mawnan Smith, Cornwall, and Fairhope. His last fifteen years were spent here on the Eastern Shore. He was a member of the Retired Federal Employees Association, the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship, and of various tennis clubs.

John leaves three sons: Keith (Sandra), Philip (Annika) and Jonathan (Emilee); two step daughters, Margaret McCaffrey (F. Peter) and Jennifer Miller (Raymond), his loving wife, Deborah, and two much loved nephews in England and Spain.

There will be a musical memorial service in that welcome future without fears of Covid, when people can again travel and assemble. Please honor his life by giving to the charity of your choice.

*Submitted by Debbie Jessup upon request*



## GENERAL ELECTION ABSENTEE VOTING INFORMATION

If you have received your absentee ballot but not yet returned it, it is too late to mail it. **Rather, return it in person to the Absentee Election Manager in Bay Minette by the close of business (5:00 pm) November 2.**

## FROM THE EDITOR

### Newsletters in the Near Future

Until we resume normal meetings again, I will continue skipping a month between Newsletters unless I have an abundance of news to include. I invite everyone to submit whatever seems appropriate to you: helpful information, original (or not) poems, essays, stories, quotes, ideas, art work, photos—now's your chance. It just needs to be of a length that can be accommodated on approximately one page or less, doesn't need to be edited, and not anonymous. Be sure to email it to [jane09@gmail.com](mailto:jane09@gmail.com) with the Subject line: **FUF Newsletter**. Otherwise, I might miss it.

I hope you are all staying well and I hope to see you again soon on a Sunday morning .

*Jane Finger, Editor*

#### 2020 FUF OFFICERS

Chairman of Board – Donna Orchard  
President – Carl Couret  
Vice President –  
Vice President Programs -Ray Ables  
Treasurer – Kay Seymour  
Recording Secretary –Riva Fralick  
Correspond'g Sec. – Lynne Switzky

#### NEWSLETTER

Submit calendar events or articles specific to the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship by the date noted in the newsletter calendar section. For events, please include all pertinent information. Members and Friends are invited to submit poems, quotations or other brief words of wisdom to be published as space allows.

Provide written copy or email,

“FUF Newsletter” Subject ln, to [Janef09@gmail.com](mailto:Janef09@gmail.com))

EDITOR/PUBLISHER: JANE FINGER

### Thanks, Mary

Every morning and night as I read my emails, consisting mainly of depressing updates on the current state of the pandemic, the political “situation”, and the violence against protesters seeking equal justice. But when I spot Mary Matthews' name in the “Sender” column, I know I'm in for a little treat. Mary always sends me something that makes me laugh and lifts my spirits. Here's the most recent:



**(Not suitable for flying)**

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