



# Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

February 2022

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

## SUNDAY PROGRAM

### Feb 6 ALLISON PERKINS MARLOW:

#### **“Fair and Unbiased News Reporting is in Danger. This is How You Can Help”**

Even in America where freedom of the press is the right of every citizen, not only do new laws move to limit journalists' access to public records, but also journalism is increasingly becoming a dangerous job. An unprecedented 110 journalists were arrested or criminally charged in the U.S. in 2020 and about 300 were assaulted. Without an active, free press, democracy disappears. Former war correspondent for The News & Record during the Iraq War and now managing editor of Gulf Coast Media, Allison Marlow, will tell us what we can do about it.

### Feb 13 RHODA VANDERHART: **“Disconnection: The Origin of our Discontent”**

The answer to the Climate Crisis doesn't lie in more information or better science. We know what the problem is and what we need to do. The turning of humanity toward sustainability will come with restoration of our relationships. Rhoda Vanderhart, recovery room nurse, grew up on a Nebraska farm and developed a lifelong curiosity about our relationship to the natural world. A member of Open Table United Church of Christ, she trained as a Climate Reality Leader in July of 2020 and currently serves as treasurer for Gulf Coast Creation Care: a Faith-based Climate Action Alliance.

### Feb 20 THE REV. JULIE CONRADY: **“Are We Alone in the Universe?”**

As Unitarian Universalists, we integrate new discoveries in science into our perspectives on the world. Join us as we discuss the recent discovery of an interstellar object in our solar system, and what it means for us as Unitarian Universalists. The Settled Minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Birmingham, the Rev. Julie Conrady received her Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School. She frequently speaks on social justice issues, science and religion, and trauma/grief.

### Feb 27 ELIZABETH ELLIOT: **“For Not Liking Art”**

Alabama Contemporary Art Center Executive Director Elizabeth Elliott will lead an interactive discussion on the use of values for artistic and cultural production beyond decoration, and beyond what we "like". She will begin to unpack 'taste', art that is intentionally difficult, and the ways representation and meaning sometimes circumvent our need for aesthetic, compositional, and narrative closure. Elliot received her BFA from Massey University in Wellington, New Zealand and her MFA in Interdisciplinary Art from Goddard College in Port Townsend, WA. Prior to coming to Alabama Contemporary, she served five years at the Mobile Museum of Art.

## SUNDAY SERVICE 11:00 AM

(“In person” and on Zoom--check [FairhopeUU/programs.org](https://www.fairhopeuu.org/programs.org) for zoom link)

MUSIC PRELUDE BEGINS 10:45 AM

“A Chosen Faith” Book DISCUSSION GROUP 9:45 am

CHILDREN’S FELLOWSHIP 10:30 am

All visitors are warmly invited to participate as our guests.

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

[FairhopeUU.org](https://www.fairhopeuu.org)

1150 Fairhope Ave., Fairhope, AL 36532. Telephone. 251-929-3207



## Unitarian Universalist Seven Principles

Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote seven Principles, which we hold as strong values and moral guides, rather than dogma or doctrine. We live out these Principles within a “living tradition” of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from [sources](#) as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience.

1. [1st Principle](#): The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. [2nd Principle](#): Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
3. [3rd Principle](#): Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
4. [4th Principle](#): A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5. [5th Principle](#): The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
6. [6th Principle](#): The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
7. [7th Principle](#): Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

### Sources

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

The seven Principles and six [Sources](#) of the Unitarian Universalist Association grew out of the grassroots of our communities, were affirmed democratically, and are part of who we are.

## FELLOWSHIP BUSINESS



### FUF Board Meeting

January 14, 2022

#### ATTENDANCE

**Board Members:** Harvey Joanning, Liz Conway, Carl Couret, Sarah Fischer, Maggie Joffe, Michael Patrick, Dana Roberts, Thelma Topper. **Guests:** Jane Finger, Burt Sonenstein, Irene Wegner

- The meeting was called to order by Chair of the Board Harvey Joanning at 11 a.m. on January 25, 2022. Previous minutes were approved unanimously after a motion by Sarah Fischer which was seconded by Thelma Topper.
- Treasurer Maggie Joffe presented the December 2021 Statement of Financial Position. Despite challenges, 2021 ended in the black. Though income was less than projected, expenditures were judiciously reduced. The Charity Fund and Covid Grant line items were rectified for clarity. No dollars are in either fund. Michael Partick expressed a desire to make the FUF's financial statement easier to understand. A discussion ensued regarding various techniques to accomplish this including color coding and +/- signs. Maggie Joffe offered to explain any questions in detail. The discussion concluded with the Board deciding to continue the current system which is industry standard. Relating to finances, Harvey Joanning and Maggie Joffe will meet with bankers in the coming weeks to determine best practices to initiate and streamline automatic giving. Carl Couret inquired about Qualified Charitable Income Trusts which will also be addressed during the financial meetings. Burt Sonenstein inquired about donor acknowledgements. Maggie will make recommendations to the Board for making contributions easier. The financial discussion also included the possibility of replacing and combining copier and printer functions. Harvey Joanning will research options.
- The Bylaws permit adding two At-Large Board members. Any expansion will be delayed until technology and marketing needs are assessed. In the interim, Sarah Fischer will handle web needs and minimal social media.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- Roof is completed, and work is fully paid. Phil Strinste is overseeing Interior ceiling painting.
- Publicity Committee Chairmanship needs will be reviewed. Liz Conway indicated that WIX, the current web design platform, is beyond her technical capabilities. She is experienced with content management systems and recommended the UUA content management system which utilizes WordPress and already offered plug and play options specifically dedicated to UU congregations. Sarah Fischer stepped up to conduct an assessment of social media/marketing needs.
- Suzanne Tormoen will serve as Chair of the Grounds Committee.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Dana Roberts distributed current Bylaws to each Board member. She requested that members review the material and send any suggestions to her for review and future group discussion.
- With the goal of enabling a broader spectrum of FUF members to attend future Board meetings, a lengthy discussion ensued. As no consensus evolved, Sarah Fischer offered to develop a SurveyMonkey survey for emailing to FUF members regarding their preferences.
- Dana Roberts is updating the Volunteer Handbook. Board members will receive a copy for review and comment prior to the next Board meeting. Maggie Joffe suggested a Sunday dedicated to volunteer committees. Sarah Fischer suggested that one minute at the beginning of Sunday Services be dedicated to spotlighting a committee. Harvey Joanning requested that Board members send ideas to him.
- An addendum will be made to the Administrative Assistants' contract which reflects her reduced hours.
- Due to time constraints, Michael Patrick delayed his discussion on the Scholarship Fund until a future meeting. The discussion on Building cleaners was similarly tabled. Bert Sonenstein requested a point of contact (Trudi had been the contact person).
- FUF Zoom payment has been made by Carl Couret and he has been reimbursed.
- Jane Finger addressed the varying fees charged to the Eastern Shore Democrats for building usage. Projected 2022 fee is \$250, up from \$100 in December 2021. Multiple opinions were expressed. Final consensus: all groups must be charged equally. Cost reduction occurs when a FUF member is part of the group using the facility and is

responsible for opening and properly closing the building which should be left in pristine condition. Dana Roberts suggested groups be required to present a security deposit which will be refunded when the facility is vacated in proper condition. Eastern Shore Democrats will be charged \$100 (plus security deposit) in 2022.

- Kitchen condition after Coffee Hour led to the following action: Thelma Topper will develop a series of steps and expectations for those volunteering. A dry erase board may be utilized.
- Signup sheets for volunteer service will be organized and overseen by Thelma Topper. The need for additional volunteers was discussed. A one-minute committee overview was suggested for the start of morning services.
- Irene Wegner requested guidance for the Food Pantry which has been stocked and cleaned out repeatedly. Supplies are down to one can of corn. Disposition of the Food Pantry was returned to its committee which in turn determined to suspend use of the Pantry due to potential misuse.
- Sarah Fischer sought guidance on a number of issues regarding programs and speakers, Speaker selection does not require board approval; honorarium to speakers including travel reimbursement has in years past peaked at \$300. The usual fee has traditionally been \$100.00. The board chair further explained that fees for the guest speakers is up to the program chair, but to adhere to the 2022 budgeted amount for that line item and not exceed it. Michael Patrick suggested that certain FUF members might host speakers overnight. Purchase of an easel to display Principles poster was approved.

The meeting ended at approximately 12:30 p.m. The next FUF Board meeting will be February 25, 2022 at 11 a.m.  
*Respectfully submitted, Liz Conway*



## Financial Summary

### December



	December	YTD
<b>Support and Revenue</b>		
Contributions	11,556	40,544
Other Revenue	1,231	3,604
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	12,787	44,148
<b>Expenses</b>		
Building	2,070	24,596
Committees	2,246	17,108
Donations	0	1,450
<b>Total Expenses</b>	4,316	43,154
<b>Net Operating Increase/(Decrease)</b>	8,471	994

**2022 Officers & Executive Board**

President: Carl Couret  
 Vice President: Thelma Topper  
 Chairman of the Board: Harvey Joanning  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres/Programs: Sarah Fischer  
 Treasurer: Maggie Joffe  
 Recording Secretary: Liz Conway  
 Corresponding Secretary: Dana Roberts

## New Members



If you've joined the Fellowship in the (unusual) last year-and-a-half, we want to get to know you. Won't you please and tell us anything you'd like us to know about yourself to publish in a future Newsletter--include a picture if you'd like to. Send to Newsletter editor, [janef09@gmail.com](mailto:janef09@gmail.com).

## COMMITTEE CHAIR PERSONS

As Listed in FUF Handbook for 2022

Revised January 17, 2022

Art Mark Oehler	Caring and Concerns Anne Armstrong
Music Gwen Snyder	Helping Hands
Game Night Trudi Rogier	Membership Rodney Hoffman
Building Maintenance Phil Strinste	Education No chair, but members are Sarah Fischer, Michael Patrick & Simone Normand
Building Usage	Youth Education Linda Ables
Building Grounds Suzanne Tormoen	Teen Education Linda Ables
Living Memory Garden Phil Strinste	Student Scholarship Donna Orchard
Finance Maggie Joffe	Social and Environmental Action Riva Fralick
Fundraising (Music) Jeannine Normand	Chalice Lighters Thelma Topper
Fundraising (Other Than Music)	Readers (Sundays) Michael Patrick
Newsletter Jane Finger	Hospitality(kitchen)
Sunday Bulletin Mary Matthews	TED Talks Andrea Cherry
Information Technology	
Library Anne Armstrong	
Publicity Liz Conway	<b>Committees with no chair persons:</b>
Publications Manager Carla Couret	Building Usage (non-member usage, rentals)
Historical Records Michael Patrick	Fundraising (other than music)
FUF Facebook Michael Patrick	Special Events (other than music)
Sound Manager Phil Strinste	Helping Hands (for members in need)
Memory/Honor Book Robin Fabel	Education but there are members
Bulletin Board Carla Couret	Hospitality (Kitchen)

### FROM A MEMBER

Last Friday (1/14/2022) during the CBS Evening News segment, "On the Road," I burst out crying. A white woman reunited 50 years later with her first love, a black man who was living in a nursing home. She brought him to her home to take care of him. She spoke of forbidden love and a lifetime of regret and it broke my heart and healed it at the same time. Then there was the news story on NPR that I am forwarding about what's happening to our climate-- getting worse faster! And today, on the NBC Nightly News, another sad, heartbreaking story of the massive starvation of manatees because their grass diet is endangered by man-made agricultural chemicals and sewage runoff causing huge algal blooms which block the sunlight needed for the grass to grow.

Today, Martin Luther King Jr's. birthday, and we still can't pass a national Voting Rights Bill as some states dismantle democracy. Our country can't come together to stop a pandemic: a public health emergency. I am just connecting the dots. We cannot close our eyes, or turn our heads, or ignore science, facts or the truth. The truth is that the rich and powerful have a vested interest in dividing us and creating havoc, fear and paralysis. They want to continue "business as

usual." Ten people I know have died this year--some of old age and/or health issues, but most of Covid. I will not let politics rip me from the relationships with my brother or my best friend, who may not agree with me, but who know I love them.

So you say, "What can I do?" or "There's nothing I can do." Yes, there is something you can do. Call the U.S. Senate at 833-345-2551 and tell them to vote for the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. Let's work on fixing and keeping our democracy. What happened January 6, 2021, should make you angry and get you to stand up for our country.

Do just one thing. Start out easy. It has been suggested to me to watch the Netflix movie, "Don't Look Up." Then do another. Hug your grandkids and other young family members (safely) and tell them your mission is to Save Their Future. Read a book, "Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World," by Katharine Hayhoe. Then start chatting up your friends and neighbors to do the same. If you are religious or spiritual, start or join a Green Team at your church. Join a conservation and/or climate organization. Let us do one thing: think about someone we love and not wait fifty years to make it right.

*Submitted by Riva Fralick*  
*Chair, FUF Social and Environmental Action Committee*

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**Hopefully we'll be back to this soon!**

**GROUP ACTIVITIES**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**



**“A CHOSEN FAITH” BOOK DISCUSSION**

Beginning the first week of February two newly-formed groups will meet at the Fellowship every Sunday at 9:45 and every Friday at 10:00. Both groups will discuss one(the same) chapter each week of this new edition of the classic introductory text on Unitarian Universalism, which, according to the most influential 20<sup>th</sup> century UU theologian James Luther Adams, “will be a gift for everyone...engaging, seductive, infectious.” While the groups are intended to remain eight or less members, anyone interested is welcome to join. Another small group will be formed if needed. We would like to offer an evening group on Tuesday or Wednesday evening. Please let Jane Finger know if you would like more information or would like to join—or just show up at one of the meetings.

**DONNA ORCHARD’S ESILL CLASS**

FYI: Donna will be facilitating a new class, “Narrative Nonfiction”, Tuesdays at 10, starting on March 15th. More information to come.

**A POEM BY JULE MOON**

In March, 2020, long-time-FUF member wrote the poem that follows on the back page of this Newsletter. I published it then but I like it so much I decided that, since we are *still* in the pandemic, it’s worth seeing it again. I hope you enjoy reading it again as much as I did.

Thank you, Jule.  
*Jane Finger, editor*

Regularly Scheduled Events at FUF  
(Masks required)

**Sundays**

- 9:45 – 10:45 *Chosen Faith* Discussion Group
- 10:30—Children’s Fellowship
- 10:45 -- Pre-program Music
- 11:00 -- Sunday Service

**Mondays**

- 2:00 - 4:00 Uke Club

**Wednesdays**

- 3:00 – 4:30 Back Porch Folk Singers Practice
- 4:45 -- Eastern Shore String Rehearsal
- 5:00 – Weekly Bulletin Deadline

**Fridays**

- 10:00 -- *Chosen Faith* Discussion Group

**Other Events**

- Thu, Feb 10:** Non-Fiction Bk Group, 9:30 am
- Sun, Feb 20:** Envir’l/Soc’l Act’n Com,12:20
- Mon, Feb 21:** Mar Newsletter deadline, 5 pm
- Thu, Feb 24:** Non-Fiction Bk Group, 9:30 am
- Fri, Feb 25:** FUF Board meeting, 11:00 am



**SUNDAY BULLETIN DEADLINE**  
Wednesday at 5:00 pm is the deadline for information to be included in the weekly bulletin. Submit to Mary Matthews.

**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 In, to [Janef09@gmail.com](mailto:Janef09@gmail.com)  
EDITOR/PUBLISHER: JANE FINGER

# *I'm Riding Out the Virus*

*By Jule Moon, March, 2020*

*I'm Riding Out the Virus with my Dog  
My lone companion, giving joy and comfort.  
This reminds me of the ride of the Depression, WWII,  
9/11, and the hurricanes.*

*I'm getting out my mending  
Long neglected,  
And gluing in the rhinestone  
Fallen out in 2018.  
That stack of books set out  
on the dining table  
Will rest at last on the bookshelf  
As is proper.  
And everyday, I'll have  
My caregiver take  
My guardian angel, Buddy,  
For his walk.*

*I'll cut two inches off  
My vintage nightgowns  
Which are long because  
I've shrunk two inches.  
How innumerable are the  
Opportunities of quarantine!*

*I know that someday when  
All this is over,  
And I'll survive to be a hundred and one\*  
I'll be accomplished, neat and organized.*

*The remaining challenge  
I can't conquer  
Is you, Dear Friend,  
Whose presence I'll await.*

\*Jule has survived to be 102.

## 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 In, to [Janef09@gmail.com](mailto:Janef09@gmail.com)

