



November 2021

Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

www/fairhopeuu.org

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

SUNDAY PROGRAM

Nov 7 GARDEN PARTY:

Weather permitting, we will host a garden party where members according to their abilities and skills will do a general sprucing up of our grounds. Please come with your gardening tools (best marked with your names), lawn chairs, and gardening attire. If you have plants to donate bring them too. We will make sure there are plenty of refreshments to keep our energy up. Our program principle will be #7— Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Nov 14 ABBY PRUETT: “The Power of Pets”

Abby Pruett, executive director of the Baldwin Humane Society will discuss the profound relationships so many of us have with our pets and the joy that can be found in those relationships. She will also touch on her experiences working in animal welfare and rescue. Abby Pruett moved to Baldwin County in 2012 and began working for the Baldwin Humane Society in 2013. In 2017, she took the position of Executive Director. She graduated for the University of South Alabama in 2012 with a major in English and minor in Biology. Throughout her youth and adult life, she has always had a passion for improving the lives of the wonderful creatures we cherish as pets.

Nov 21 SARAH BOGDANOVICH “Worms will Change your Life.”

Reducing waste at the local level is more important now than ever before. Managing household waste at home is easy and only takes a few simple steps. Learn the basics of composting using various techniques including worms. Plus learn other ways to reduce the waste you’re sending to our overflowing landfills. Sarah Bogdanovich is a social worker with a passion for composting and reducing waste. She has practiced vermicomposting for over 15 years.

Nov 28 THANKSGIVING FELLOWSHIP DAY: TBA

SUNDAY SERVICE 11:00 AM

(“In person”and on Zoom--check FairhopeUU/programs.org for zoom link)

MUSIC PRELUDE BEGINS 10:45 AM

TED DISCUSSION GROUP 9:30 am

CHILDRENS FELLOWSHIP 11:00 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

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

MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP BUSINESS



Financial Summary

	September	YTD
Support and Revenue		
Contributions	2,046	22,606
Other Revenue	116	1,145
Total Support and Revenue	2,162	23,751
Expenses		
Building	884	18,766
Committees	1,545	7,602
Donations	0	1,000
Total Expenses	2,429	27,368
Net Operating Increase/(Decrease)	-267	-3,617

**Budget Committee Status Report on 2022 Budget
October 15, 2021**

Background:

- Pandemic has caused major decrease in FUF meeting attendance and level of engagement.
- Contributions \$25,000 below budget in 2021 and attendance down 50%.
- Fellowship has filled administrator & child teacher positions to provide support and continuity to members.
- Major building/roof repairs are needed.
- In 2022 fellowship will have to rebuild membership, engagement, volunteer participation and fund-raising to pre-pandemic levels.
- At full (100) membership, contributions need to average \$50/month per member (\$600/year/member).

▪ ***Zoomers and others who choose to wait a little longer to attend Sunday programs in person, don't forget to mail your normal contributions as regularly as if you were there in person.***



OCTOBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 15, 2021

Board members attending: Carl Couret, Michael Patrick, Thelma Topper, Pat Smith, Freya Sonenstein, Mary Mathews, Jane Finger and Lynne Switzky (via Zoom). Also in attendance: Irene Wegner, Donna Orchard, Sarah and Jeff Bogdanovich, Burt Sonenstein, Anne Armstrong, Dana Roberts, Harvey Joanning and Carla Couret Lambert.

1. Approved September Board meeting minutes with corrections.
2. Received Treasurer's Report (September 2021 report hand-out). Costs continue to be more than revenue (net deficit~\$3617.00).
3. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Nominating Committee comprised of Pat Smith, Mike Darby, Anne Armstrong and Robin Fabel proposed slate for 2022 - all those proposed have agreed to serve if confirmed by membership:

President - Carl Couret	Recording Secretary - Liz Conway
Vice President - Thelma Topper	Program Co-Chairs - Sarah Fischer, Gunnar Sherrill
Board Chair- Harvey Joanning	Education and Membership Chairs - Donna Orchard
Treasurer - Maggie Joffe	Corresponding Secretary - to be announced
	Two At-Large positions TBD by 2022 Board

Motion by Michael Patrick to accept the proposed Nominees as presented; seconded by Jane Finger and unanimously approved by Board.
 - B. Motion by Pat Smith to create another Board position entitled "Fund Raising and Development" with a modest budget (later determined by the Board). Motion was seconded by Mary Matthews and unanimously approved by Board. Sarah Bogdanovic was approached for this position.
 - C. FUF donation to North Shore UU for hurricane assistance check for \$1,450.00 sent (\$1,000.00 FUF funds + \$450.00 contributions).
 - D. UU Programs - Irene Wegner reported these programs will be presented at first four Sunday meetings in January, 2022.
 - E. Outdoor Improvements - Burt Sonenstein has received estimates for two fencing (poly-coated aluminum) alternatives enclosing: (1) grounds east of building to Memorial Garden @ \$13,000.00 and (2) all grounds east of building @ \$16,000 - \$17,000. Sonenstein furtherproposed that, before a decision is made to proceed, at least half the cost needs to be raised through Fellowship contributions. Because of the time lag between placing an order and actual work to be carried out, Irene Wegner proposed a heads up about this impending fund drive be placed in the November Newsletter. Michael Patrick confirmed from our insurance agent that the Fellowship would not be liable for any accident by persons entering the space without FUF approval. FUF has \$1,000,000.00 coverage, which the agent deemed adequate.
 - F. Roof Maintenance - Michael Patrick reported for Phil Strniste that bids were received to replace the 18 y/o building roof: Shingles ~ \$38,000.00; Metal ~ \$45,000.00. After viewing the roof, Harvey Joanning confirmed replacement would be necessary in the near future.
 - G. Memorial Tree - Michael Patrick reported the original marker for the Lil Totten tree has been found and will be placed in front of a suitable tree shortly.
 - H. FUF Membership - Donna Orchard will chair this committee and develop suggestions to the Board for modifying FUF by-laws for recognizing new members.
 - I. Budget Committee interim report for 2022: Because of 2022 budget complexity and pandemic effects on FUF income, a motion was made by Carl Couret to defer discussion of the 2022 budget to a separate Board meeting later this month. This motion was seconded by Thelma Topper and approved unanimously. A separate Board meeting will be held on Friday October 29th at 11:00 AM. Burt Sonenstein gave a brief report outlining the issues to be discussed. A motion was proposed by Michael Patrick that a copy of this brief report be circulated in the newsletter to acquaint the congregation with the budget issues. Seconded by Freya Sonenstein. The motion was passed with one dissenting Board vote. An announcement will be made at this Sunday's Meeting to

encourage the congregation to consider trying to make up this year's budget shortfall by increasing contributions to meet next year's needs.

- J. Grounds Coordinator - Harvey Joanning reported that the driveway is in good shape and can be attended to as needed by the contractor. With regard to the general upkeep of the grounds, no response has been obtained from either Michael Patrick's or Pat Smith's inquires for this task. Sarah Bogdanovic suggested that we take a Sunday morning gathering for a Fellowship grounds work day for those physically capable of this task. Other members less able to attend the grounds are encouraged to attend and perhaps provide refreshments and other encouragements. With Board support, early Sunday November 7 was designated for Fellowship Grounds Clean-Up Party.
- K. Education Committee Report by Donna Orchard Chair: A motion was proposed by Donna Orchard to appoint Linda Ables as the new Youth Coordinator. Seconded by Pat Smith and approved unanimously by Board.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Lions Gate Motion Pictures - Carla reported our Fellowship has been approached by this company as a possible location for an upcoming film. Carla will obtain more information when, if selected, we can make an informed decision.
- B. FUF facility cleaning: Carla reported housekeeping problems and will contact the current housekeeper regarding these issues and how to resolve them.
- C. Formal recognition of Sarah Bogdanovic for her efforts in organizing a very successful Blakeley Park Campout, boat tour and Sunday meeting. A report was provided by Sarah.(see page 7)
- D. Sunday Greeters - Michael Patrick proposed that Greeters be informed of FUF activities and distribute UU pamphlets and FUF Newsletter to guests. Donna Orchard, Chair of the Membership Committee, will arrange this.
- E. Greeters and Kitchen Krewe - volunteers needed.
- F. Food Pantry: Donna Orchard reported pantry is now open 24/7 and contributions from non-members are being received. \$400.00 are in reserve for pantry replenishments.

Respectfully submitted by Thelma Topper and Carl Couret.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Sunday Program Greeters

Thank you to all who have volunteered to be greeters. Some of our newcomers have even volunteered. Anyone who would like to volunteer for this important part of our Sunday service but is hesitant because of not knowing regular-attendees' names should rest assured that we are kind and will not be offended if you ask a member if they are visiting. I have been a member for several years and still don't know everyone..

- Wear the greeters' name tag (found in the desk drawer).
- Give each person a program for the day.
- Invite visitors to sign the book with their name, city, and email address. Have they visited before?
- Ask visitor to print their name on the green sticker and wear it so we can welcome them at coffee hour.
- Give each visitor an FUF pamphlet, the current newsletter and ask if they would like more information about Unitarian/Universalists.
- Go to the podium during the service and welcome the visitors.

Submitted by Donna Orchard,

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.



ART COMMITTEE

It's that time again to take down the current (wonderful) art exhibit and replace it with a new one, which again will be comprised of works owned by members, but this time limited to art with a Christmas theme. Anyone who contributed to the current exhibit should pick their piece(s) up by the first Sunday in November.

Those who would like to provide art for the upcoming exhibit should bring it to the Fellowship on Wednesday, November 10, at 1:00 pm.

Thanks, Committee Chair, Marc Oehler, and all who assisted in hanging a very impressive exhibit.

Submitted by Anne Armstrong

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Meet our newest staff member, Linda Ables. She will coordinate our Youth Services. Linda is a freshman at the University of South Alabama majoring in computer programming. She is also an FUF Student Scholarship recipient. Already a server at a local restaurant she now has two jobs--while going to school! Linda said in her interview that growing up she was taught to use the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism. She has participated in many plays and programs at the Fellowship with the youth class over her twelve years here. Turning older, she helped teach the class while in high school. Linda will be greeting our youngest members and visitors from 10:30-12:30 on Sundays. We are delighted to have someone who has been with her father learning and teaching at FUF over the years. Please welcome Linda Ables.

Submitted by Donna Orchard,

SOCIAL ACTION/ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Little Free Pantry

"Give What You Can, Take What You Need"

Thank you, FUF, for supporting the Little Free Pantry. We are now packed with canned goods, peanut butter/jelly and all sorts of nutritious foods. We can always use more dishwashing liquid, clothes washing detergent, hand sanitizer, diapers and bandaids. By the way, have you seen how much diapers cost young mothers these days? Thank you again for your heartfelt contributions!

Submitted by Donna Orchard

The Bystander Effect

I saw a recent interview on CNN with Dominic Packer, author of "The Power of Us," regarding a woman who was raped on a train near Philadelphia and none of the bystanders came to her assistance. There was a report of bystanders possibly videotaping the incident. Mr. Packer explained the "Bystander Effect:" the more people around, the less likely someone will step in to help. They assume someone else will do it. It's called "diffusion of responsibility."

I also recently watched part of the documentary, "Four Hours," about the Insurrection on Capitol Hill on January 6, 2021. The mob accosted D.C. Metro Police Officer Fanone and nearly killed him. He pleaded for his life by saying, "I have kids!," and someone or several of the protesters helped him back to safety. His body camera recorded the entire incident, supplemented by additional video.

I know I still feel guilty for not doing anything, many years ago to help a woman who was "passed out" in the passenger seat of a car with her legs outside of the open car door in the parking lot of the Hard Rock Casino in Hollywood, Florida. I rationalized it by thinking they have security cameras and periodic security patrols and I will call the authorities when I get home, etc. She seemed o.k., but maybe she wasn't. Maybe she had overdosed. Maybe

she had been drugged and raped. Maybe she had a medical condition. What if that had been me? If that had been me, I hope someone would have stopped to help me or at least made sure help was on the way if they didn't want to get involved.

So what does all this have to do with the Social and Environmental Action Committee of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship? With Gulf Coast Creation Care? With Citizens' Climate Lobby? With Climate Reality Leadership? With the Sierra Club? With Mobile Baykeepers? With Creation Justice Ministries? With the Unitarian Universalists Ministry for the Earth? With Interfaith Power and Light? With Elders Climate Action? Alot!! Because it appears to me that many of us have "The Bystander Effect." We are looking at a terrible crime being perpetrated on humanity by humans (and corporations and governments) and we see it for the foreseeable and preventable tragedy that it is, but we are not TAKING ACTION. I can talk about the undisputed science of the Climate Crisis. I can appeal to your moral and spiritual sense of duty to your fellow human beings, planet and future generations. I know how easy it is to say, "Yes, there is a problem, but someone else (who knows more, cares more, has more time, power, money, etc.) will address it." Or worse, says, "There's nothing I can do: that's our government's or other countries' responsibility," or "It's too late, we can't change the trajectory in time to make a difference."

All of these excuses may be partly true, but right now: 1. Climate change is in front of our eyes (heatwaves, drought, wildfires, extreme rain events, flooding, deforestation, crop failures, famine, climate refugee migration, rapid melting of polar regions and glaciers, etc.) 2. Just looking at it will not change anything nor will looking away and ignoring it either. 3. We won't admit our responsibility as individual human beings and citizens to do something about it. We are the cause and the solution. 4. There is still time to do something about it. So how do we change from being a "Bystander" (observer) to a "Responder?" By deciding to TAKE ACTION: - Politically, by participating in and protecting our democracy (vote and let your representatives at every level of government know where you and your values stand). - Flex your political muscles to build the political will for a liveable world. Call your representative (Rep. Jerry Carl here in Baldwin County) and your senators (Sen. Shelby and Sen. Tuberville in Alabama) and tell them to support President Biden's "Build Back Better" Plan because it contains critical climate legislation to meet carbon reduction goals.

We must wean ourselves off fossil fuels and change to a "clean energy" economy. - Socially, by joining and supporting environmental organizations and causes and letting your voice and position be heard: start ringing the alarm bell among your family, friends, neighbors, schoolmates, coworkers, fellow church-goers and retirees. It's going to take everyone doing their part! - Personally, find out what your carbon footprint is and make more sustainable choices. Do it for your kids and their kids. Do it for all children. What will their world look like when they are our age if we don't DO IT NOW!?!

Submitted by Riva Fralick, Social and Environmental Action Committee, Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

FELLOWSHIP DAY

The October campout at Blakely State Park was designated our very first "Fellowship Day." The following pictures show just part of the fun and fellowship had by all.

The second Fellowship Day will be the "Garden Party" scheduled for Sunday, November 7. This will be the equivalent of our previous fall Saturday grounds workday, aptly renamed by Pat Cassady. If you don't feel like working, please come anyway. The workers will need encouragement and, as the name suggests, we will be socializing too with coffee and plenty of good food.





Thank you, Sarah Bogdanovich, for originating the idea of this event and planning and organizing it *and* doing so much of the legwork.

Great Job!



A	B	C	D
FUF CAMPOUT 2021 REPORT			
	ADULTS	CHILDREN	TOTAL
Camping Attendees	14	14	28
Boat Attendees	20	14	34
Program Attendees	29	15	44
	EXPENSES	REVENUE	TOTAL
Camping	400	290	-110
Boat Ride	850	850	0
Program Entrance Fees	25	37	12
TOTAL COST TO FUF			-98
WHAT WENT WELL?			
Attendance of campers of all ages			
Attendance of campers and non-campers at boat ride and program			
Attendance by 9 from Mobile Fellowship			
Professional photography provided by member Simone Normand			
Boat ride was easy to organize, smooth on the morning of			
Coffee & snacks at the Program (Thanks to Carla & Fam!)			
Speaker was great, subject appropriate to location			
AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT			
Cost for camping should have been slightly higher to cover costs			
Boat ride could have been more engaging			

Waldo

By FUF member, Robin Fabel

Ralph Waldo Emerson, who needs him, who reads him?
 His prose, God knows, demands our persistence,
 his transcendental purview seems to scream for assistance,
 Yet the dogged reader in this suicidal century
 who'll buy more than science can yet explain,
 and discovers 'oversoul' in his Oxford dictionary,
 may find solace and hope in Emerson's terrain.
 To site himself in harmony Waldo framed a simile:
 Far from home and family, he would think himself on high,
 a bodily eyeball, drone-like in the sky.
 alone with the stars, on a peak or on a river
 he'd gaze at beauty all around, inwardly absorb
 until he felt 'I'm of it, it of me forever.

Why does a painting make us gasp?
 Why a painting catch our breath?
 or a Mozart aria bring up tears?
 For Reason it's a mystery, but the Quakers in their history
 have an answer dating back four hundred years:
 Each human bears an inner light, a piece of God a sliver.
 Waldo's vision's broader, a universal quiver.
 My vision's tiny, yet real enough for me:
 When two cardinals build a nest in my thorn tree
 or a mother goose herds goslings not her own
 on Mobile Bay beneath the southern sun.
 When magnolias bud like banners unfurled
 And birds call 'T-shirt' to each other hopefully
 I rejoice in the wonder of this world
 And its all-embracing dependency.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



SUNDAY TED DISCUSSION

The "TED Talk Discussion Group" meets every Sunday morning at 9:30 sharp in the room to the right of the children's room. Led by Andrea Cherry, the group chooses a video from suggested TED Talks and other short videos on a wide variety of topics. After the group watches the video, an interesting discussion often follows. All ideas are welcome.

NON-FICTION BOOK GROUP

From its start individualism and consensus dominated the practice of our non-fiction group. Unlike most such groups, its members do not all read the same book or author. Instead each reads and reports on whatever he or she is reading at the time. It may be a book or, equally well, an article or pamphlet. Participants summarize their reading in ten minutes or so, before general discussion and questions. History, biography, science, and current politics are favorite topics. Only fiction is unacceptable.

The group meets at 9:30 every other Thursday morning in the FUF lobby, unless public holidays clash. In pre-Covid days, with presentations done, some members would head for lunch and more talk at a local cafe. When healthier times return we shall resume that habit. May it be soon!

Submitted by Robin Fabel, Moderator

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

GROUP ACTIVITIES

Regularly Scheduled Events

Sundays

9:30–10:45 TED Discussion Group (Pls be on time and wear masks)

10:45 Pre-program Music

11:00 Sunday Service (Pls wear masks)

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

Other Events

Thu, Nov 4: Non-Fiction Bk Group, 9:30 am

Fri, Nov 12: FUF Board meeting, 11:00 am

Mon, Nov 15: Dec Newsletter deadline, 5 pm

Thu, Nov 18: Non-Fiction Bk Group, 9:30 am

Sun, Nov 21: Envir'l/Soc'l Act'n Com, 12:20

IMPORTANT REMINDER

It is the responsibility of anyone who uses the kitchen to make sure that all dishes & utensils are washed and put away and trash is disposed of before leaving the building..Please consider the next ones who will be using the kitchen.

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

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