



Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

Aug 2022

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

SUNDAY PROGRAM SPEAKERS

AUG 7 FREYA SONENSTEIN, JUANIE NOLAND, SARAH BOGDANOVICH, SARAH FISCHER:

“Our Democratic Process”

The Fifth Unitarian Principle calls upon us to use and promote the democratic process in our society at large, which many of us do through active participation in the democratic process and the fight for free and fair elections. But the principle also calls upon us to use and promote the democratic process within the Fellowship itself. In service of that aim, four members will explore sections of our Bylaws, the document by which our Fellowship is governed, and reflect upon the ways those sections promote the ideals of democracy.

AUG 14 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS: “Voices of the Future”

Each year, we award scholarships to our young members in recognition of their meaningful participation in the activities of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship. This year’s scholarship recipients present this program to update us on their studies. The gift of a scholarship celebrates and supports the recipients as they transition into lives of independence and their own quests for knowledge. The gifts equally serve the Fellowship by reinforcing our collective responsibility to nurture the young adults who carry our future. Lucy Mercer is a rising Senior with a major in Psychology and minor in Writing at Springhill College. Brisa Ables is in her fourth year of study at The University of Alabama at Birmingham and is pursuing a degree in Social Work with an Honors concentration. Going into her junior year this fall with a major in Biology and a minor in Sustainability and Environmental Studies, Sophia Mercer attends Berea College in Berea, Kentucky; Linda Ables is in her second year of study at University of South Alabama and is pursuing a Bachelors degree in Criminal Justice as well as a minor in Computer Science.

AUG 21 There will be no program on the 21st (while the fellowship hall is being painted).

AUG 28 THOM BOTSFORD: “New Dogma? Four New Critical Books about the UUA.”

Botsford believes that the titles of the books he will present speak for themselves: "The Gadfly Papers: Three Inconvenient Essays by One Pesky Minister" by the Rev. Todd Eklof; "The Gadfly Affair: A 21st Century Heretic's Excommunication from America's Most Liberal Religion," also by Eklof; "A Self-Confessed White Supremacy Culture: The Emergence of an Illiberal Left in Unitarian Universalism" by Anne Larason Schneider," and "Used To Be UU: The Systemic Attack on UU Liberalism" by Frank Casper and Jay Kiskel. In his review, he hopes to capture what these books are trying to say so that members can decide whether they are worth further study. Thom Botsford is a retired department head and professor of English and journalism from Pensacola, where he worked for many years at Pensacola State College. He joined the UU Church of Pensacola in 1991, where he has served as president, Sunday service chair, and lay speaker.

SUNDAY SERVICE -- 11:00 AM (MUSIC PRELUDE BEGINS 10:45 AM)

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

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

1150 Fairhope Ave., Fairhope, AL 36532.

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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.

For more information visit uua.org

FUF MISSION STATEMENT

To explore new ideas, to search for truth and knowledge, to take care of the earth, to enjoy fellowship with open-minded thinkers, to support and care for each other, and to create an atmosphere of love and understanding among our members and for those who come after us

FELLOWSHIP BUSINESS



June Financial Summary,

	June	YTD
Support and Revenue		
Contributions	2,634	17,518
Other Revenue	29	1,086
Total Support and Revenue	2,663	18,604
Expenses		
Building	1,823	13,528
Committees	2,151	8,515
Donations	450	1,450
Total Expenses	4,424	23,493
Net Operating Increase/(Decrease)	(1,761)	(4,889)

FUF Board Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2022



Attendees: Board Members: Harvey Joanning, Carl Couret, Sarah Fischer, Maggie Joffe, Dana Roberts
Guests: Carla Couret, Rodney Hoffman, Sarah Bogdanovich, Jeanine Normand, Phil Strinste

Recording Secretary: Don Joffe

Meeting Minutes: May 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes were approved.

Don Joffe was approved as Recording Secretary, Board Member.

Harvey asked that, following the Treasurer's Report, the order of Agenda items be changed.

Treasurer's Report:

1. Treasurer's Report was handed out to Board Members.
2. FUF remains in the red. Total support and giving are below projected budget.
3. PayPal is averaging about \$380 per month.
4. Locally and nationally, other non-profits are experiencing similar downturns in funding.
5. A monthly announcement by Carl to members about the current financial situation is required.
6. Treasurer's report contained funds that are available. Maggie will suggest tactics that could be used to access these funds.
7. Treasurer was asked to look at other methods to increase contributions.

Old Business

Painting Walls and Ceiling: Phil Strinste reviewed his email of June 6, 2022 disclosing the four (4) estimates he received for painting the main hall ceiling and walls. An additional cost was included for washing the front face of the building.

1. Pickle's Painting, LLC was the recommended contractor. The Board agreed. The costs are ceiling: \$7,500, walls: \$2,000, wash: \$350.
2. Ceiling and wash will be completed by Pickle's Painting, LLC. Ceiling will be painted white. This amount (\$7,850) will need to be approved by the membership and needs to be accomplished ASAP.
3. The walls could be painted by membership. Phil will obtain price for materials only.
4. A motion was made and passed to include #2 and #3 above.
5. The wall color will be determined later, pending input from membership. Carla has volunteered to oversee painting of the walls if directed by the Board.

Handicapped Parking:

No action taken on this item until the fall due to the unavailability of contractors for small projects.

Office Security:

Office locks have been rekeyed. Keys are available to Board Members and others determined by the Board who need access to the office.

Membership Criteria Update:

1. Membership Committee Chairman, Rodney Hoffman, stated that, in his opinion, no changes to the bylaws regarding membership criteria are required.
2. Membership Committee is responsible for the membership list.
3. Carla will use the list of members as needed to complete her duties as Administrator.
4. New members are required to fill out an application and sign the membership book.
5. Rodney and the Membership Committee will recommend procedures for maintaining membership records for old and new members. The procedures will include consolidation and clarification of previous documentation of membership rules.
6. Carl spoke about potential security issues related to member information, including addresses, phone numbers, etc. The resolution of security issues will require further discussion.
7. A motion was made by Sarah to schedule public discussions and a Board work session to finalize member designations. Motion passed.

Committee Reorganization:

1. Sarah proposed a new FUF Committee flow chart. She will distribute the proposed flow chart to the Board in a format like the one published in the 2022 Volunteer Handbook for purposes of comparison.
2. There was a discussion and motion made to elevate the Fundraising Chairman position to a Board position as a Member-at-Large. The motion passed with one abstention. An additional motion was made to consider Sarah Bogdanovich, along with any other interested candidates, for this position. Motion was passed with two abstentions.
3. Harvey will receive comments from Board Members before the finalized flow chart is distributed to FUF members for their comments and revisions.

Building Usage:

Motion passed instructing Carla to give recommendations to the Board regarding a new usage category.

New Business:

Board passed a motion to allow Sarah Bogdanovich and the Native Connect Camp to use the Fellowship building as an emergency bad weather space in June. This would not interfere with current planned Fellowship events.

All handouts are attached to these meeting minutes. Copies may be obtained from the Board.

Schedule for Board Meetings:

August 8, 2022 11:00AM CST

August 12, 2022 11:00AM CST

September 9, 2022 11:00AM CST

Adjourn: 12:58PM Respectfully submitted by Don Joffe

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MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

New Members

If you've joined the Fellowship in the (unusual) last two years, we want to get to know you. Won't you please 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, jane09@gmail.com

Reminder from Co-chair, Rodney Hoffman

Any communication with the membership committee should go to Rod_me@bellsouth.net

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Little Free Pantry:

“The Food Pantry exists because FUF has a culture of generosity.”



So true. This observation was made by Don Joffe, one of the Pantry's Weekly leaders. And he's right. Because YOU have made the Pantry a weekly habit, we are able to help provide needed food items To the greater Eastern Shore community. Other weekly leaders are Sarah Bogdanovich, Sheena Patrick and Burt Sonenstein. If you would like to join the team, please contact Irene Wegner. We continue to need the basic food and personal health items you provide, but, please, no more beans!

THANK YOU!

Submitted by Irene Wegner

PANTRY ALWAYS NEEDS

- Canned meat (tuna, chicken)
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Cereal
- Pastas
 - Tomato sauce
- Hearty soups
- Healthy snacks
- Rice
- Canned fruit
- Canned Vegetables (except beans)
- Soap
- Diapers- all ages!
- Toothpaste
- Cleaning supplies

MUSIC COMMITTEE



Request for Summer Music Performers

As music coordinator I would like to thank all who participate in presenting Sunday morning music. As we roll into summer, many of us go on vacation, so there may be some Sundays with no preprogram music. For talkative UUs that should not be an issue. I am on the lookout for those who would like to perform this summer. Either new or seasoned musicians are urged to call me at 251-928-4311 to set a date for you to play.

Submitted by Gwen Snyder, Music Committee Chair

GROUP ACTIVITIES



MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Convening weekly at the local Kind Cafe –(on Section street across from the police station behind Section Street Pizza), this newly formed open discussion group meets from 9:00 – 10:00. Subjects of discussion are determined in real time by those present.

Submitted by Rodney Hoffman.

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 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. With presentations done, some members head for lunch and more talk at a local cafe.

Submitted by Robin Fabel, Moderator

2022 Officers & Executive Board

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Regularly Scheduled Events at FUF

Sundays

10:30—Children's Fellowship

10:45 -- Pre-program Music

11:00 -- Sunday Service (Except Aug. 21)

Mondays

2:00 - 4:00 Uke Club

Tuesdays

9:00 –10:00 Mens Discussion Group

(At Kind Café)

Wednesdays

3:00 – 4:30 Back Porch Folk Singers Practice

4:45 -- Eastern Shore String Rehearsal

5:00 – Weekly Bulletin Deadline

Thursdays

5:00 – 7:00 Beer Group (at Fish River Grill)

Other Events

Thu, Aug 11: Non-Fiction Bk Group, 9:30 am

Tue, Aug 23: Sept Newsltr deadline, 5 pm

(Unless otherwise noted, always 5 days before the last Sunday of the month)

Thu, Aug 25: Non-Fiction Bk Group, 9:30 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 printed copy or email,

“FUF Newsletter” Subject In, to
Janef09@gmail.com

EDITOR/PUBLISHER: JANE FINGER