



# The Communicator

of the [Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Lake County](http://www.uu-lakecounty.org)

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Today is the start of our Summer programs. We will have one service at 10:30 and will not have a discussion group.

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## July Programs

**July 2 – Les Rabb, “On Methodism.”** This talk is a part of our occasional series about Understanding Other Faiths.

John Wesley (1703-1790), a Church of England clergyman began a spiritual renewal movement in England in the 1730's with an emphasis on a personal response to God's love (Grace). He, his brother Charles and other clergy friends preached to the miners and lower class who felt forgotten by the elite English Church. The movement grew rapidly as large crowds heard this message of the warm heart and living faith. Methodism came to the American colonies in the mid-eighteenth century led by Frances Asbury. It was received with enthusiasm by those who wanted to form a new nation. Methodism spread rapidly in the western frontier with its circuit-riding preachers. It was a new faith for a new nation. With its emphasis on a heart-felt faith.

**July 9 – GA Presentation:** Share the excitement of General Assembly, the national meeting of UU Congregations, with Suzie and Betty. Our two delegates to GA will talk about their experiences and show some photos.

**July 16 – Time, Talent and Watermelon – Leadership Council.** The spirituality of time, talent and watermelon will be explored at our service on Sunday July 20. The intention for this service is an awareness of Time, Talent and Watermelon the end result being one of joy. A little over a year ago members of UUCLC gathered to have a ground-breaking ceremony on the property where our building now stands. The transformation of that land has created a home for UUCLC members, friends and newcomers. UUCLC members and friends have witnessed the realization of a vision in that building as well as the spiritual impact the project had on their lives. Now it is time to reflect, give thanks, and connect the dots between **Talent – Time and Watermelon**.

In a survey done over the winter a lot of members indicated that they wanted fore 'fun' things... You are invited to open your hearts, minds and spirit to this service and let the blessings of joy flow through you.

**July 23 – Moyers and Company** Video and Discussion: “**The Deep State.**” Alt right Steve Bannon and Breitbart News are not the only ones concerned about the so-called deep state. Hear what more liberal minded folks have to say about it.

**July 30 – Roger Seidner - “Atheism, Agnosticism and Universalism”**

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### From our Minister...



This month Unitarian Universalists from around the country, and even internationally, joined together in New Orleans, Louisiana, for our annual General Assembly. Even more people, your minister included, participated from home. This was a challenging time for us between resignations, calls for more inclusive and diverse hiring practices, and requests for all of us to be more aware of the systemic benefits and issues of white supremacy in our country and even in our faith movement.

The past few months, a fantastic triumvirate of three interim co-presidents has led our organization. They have worked hard to expose some hard truths within the denomination and have laid out a plan to move us forward. During General Assembly, we heard from them and our UUA Board of Trustees. I will tell you that listening to both groups strengthened my hope for our future as Unitarian Universalists, a hope that had begun to falter over this summer. If you missed it, you can go to the UUA website and watch the General Sessions. I strongly advise each of you to do so. We have a lot of work to do still, but I honestly believe we are starting to move in the right direction.

We elected our first female president in the Association. This is momentous and historic and has brought us back into the news as outlets such as Religion News Service. Good, hard work was done at GA this year, most of which lays the groundwork for us becoming more inclusive and more aware of how powerful our language is. I finished the week of live streaming General Assembly feeling hopeful and ready to do the work.

In the next month, you will hear from your GA Delegates on their experiences at General Assembly this year. I encourage you to hear them and dig in and watch all that you can from the UUA website. We are a congregational faith tradition, which means this is your church. Be aware, be educated about what is going on, and be diligent in your efforts. We have a lot of work to do, my friends, and I know that together we can do it.

...Rev Tracie

### President's Message...

We are in transition.

Of course, we are conducting services and holding meetings in our New Building. And that's wonderful!

But we only have a temporary Certificate of Occupancy, as work continues on the stove hood and the kitchen fire suppression system. The Construction Contractor continues to work on a 'punch' list of tasks. After that work is complete, we will undergo necessary inspections and only then will we be awarded an official Certificate of Occupancy.



In the meantime, we have begun to unpack the myriad of boxes that we brought from the Woman's Club, our rented Office Space, our separate Storage Unit, purchased goods and goods donated from our Congregants. We have to sort and decide how we will be using our space. How will we adorn our walls? How will we organize our space so that it can be used for meetings one day, card games the next, and religious education on Sunday? Our walls are still bare, and we dream of gardens, and a labyrinth, and...and... and we are in transition.

And that only speaks to our physical transition. We are also in an existential transition. We, that is UUCLC, had defined itself as a small, close knit Congregation that met every Sunday at the Woman's Club for years. ▶

►Of course, there had been some changes over those roughly 20 years, but nothing like this change: moving into a New Building and everything that implies. What does it imply? I think we are evolving from what some call a family size congregation to a pastoral congregation, which provides a fuller array of services to its congregants and to the wider community. Come fall, we will meet with Congregants and Committees and the Board to define our mission and goals more clearly, but for now, let's take some time to settle into our new space.

This is indeed a beautiful space and Ruth Gray our benefactor would be proud. There is a warmth in the materials used, the floors, the seats, the windows, the dimensions. So, although the furnishings and wall decorations are spare, the space is warm. Let's settle into this warmth and breathe into this new space.

Many people worked very hard for many years to bring this building project to fruition and this Congregation owes them all a debt of thanks. The work continues as we wrestle with building maintenance issues, and we are thankful for our building volunteers. In the coming months, we plan to have small and larger celebrations and welcome visitors to join us in our new home.

...Chris

### Betty & Suzie's "Excellent Adventure"— **General Assembly**



Our journey began with a bit of anxiety when we became aware of "Cindy" the tropical storm that looked as though her time of arrival in New Orleans was just about the same time as our flight arrival. We were prepared to white knuckle it on our 1 hour and 40-minute flight but to our surprise the flight was smooth and uneventful. We arrived on Wednesday afternoon the first day of GA.

After checking into our hotel, we took the short 2 block walk to the convention center to check in as your delegates. Many UUs from all over the country were beginning to pour in with all their colorful UU regalia and you could already feel the excitement growing as the time for the opening ceremony was growing close. We had a little time before the Banner Parade to wander through the exhibit hall and study the program book to choose what programs and workshops we wanted to attend. There were 30 major topics, to name a few: Activism, Racial Justice, Social Justice, Refugee Crisis, Anti-oppression, Economic Justice, Building Relationships, Decentering Whiteness, Environmental Justice and Worship. Then each major topic had at least 10 programs and workshops which meant over 170 to choose from!!! It has been written that tourists say, "What happens here, stays here". Those at GA say, "What happens here, goes home with us". We are to take the things we learn back to our congregation and use them to address the challenges, all over the nation. Then there is the General Assembly and mini-assemblies. This is the opportunity for delegates to practice the democratic process while conducting the business of the UU Association. I found this the most fascinating. I felt as though I was sitting and participating in the US Congress! On the agenda were issues to be voted on such as Proposed Bylaws Amendments and changing the language from "prophetic men and women" to "prophetic people". Also discussed was the proposed statement of conscience on "Escalating Economic Inequality." Can you imagine the pros and cons brought forward from a room of a hundred UUs?? We think we have lengthy discussions on language and policies at UUCLC... ha-ha. Like I said, it was fascinating.

Betty and I connected with some old friends, Rev Janet Onnie, Sue Michelson (President of Tri County UU in Marion County) and Marta Pearson. We also made many new and wonderful friendships on our adventure. There were many warm hugs and at times some emotional tears. **Love was abounding.** As our newly elected UUA president, Susan Frederick-Gray, said, "This is a pivotal moment. We are in a time of great change in our nation and our planet. This is also a time of opportunity. More than ever, Unitarian Universalism is called to be a bold and vital voice for love and justice." So, buckle up UUCLC, we have a lot of work to do and it could get bumpy but together, we can help make our world a better place.

Peace and Love, **Suzie Lockwood**

## From the Social Justice Committee...

During the past three months, I have been actively seeking out the ideas and gauging the level of involvement of our congregation in social justice related concerns. We have a few members that are very active in the homeless problem in our community through work at the homeless drop in center, Open Door. A few members have environmental interests. They want us to pursue solar power for our building. One member wants flowers to help the bee population grow. Some are interested in having community gardens on our property.

I have not seen too much actual willingness to get involved with state, or national issues such as minimum wage or health care. We do have one couple willing to work on child labor issues in the cocoa and coffee bean industry. We need to be involved in the state and national issues and I will be staying on top of these issues and offering any assistance I can. This week I have printed out the phone numbers and addresses of our elected officials.

The future is ours to create. I think we need to join UU Justice Florida (UUJF) to aid in our knowledge of upcoming social justice initiatives. UUJF is a state action network of Unitarian Universalists, social justice committees and congregations from among the 46 UU congregations in Florida that partners with interfaith and other public interest organizations to promote justice, equity and compassion in public policy. The Marion County and Orlando UU Churches are also avenues for ideas and knowledge.

I also think we need to get out and introduce ourselves to our community and explore the possibilities of partnering on mutual interests. These include local senior centers, head start programs, LGBTQ communities, and local churches, schools and civic groups. Some of our members are interested in having the scouts come out and create trails and walking paths on our property.

I would like to try a civic project involving the local High Schools (Eustis, Umatilla, Mount Dora, and Tavares). This project would involve UUCLC sponsoring a city High-School student junior art, and music fest in Ferran Park and the local streets. The exposure for the student artists and UUCLC would be fantastic and benefit all involved. This project would be a yearly event if successful. The planning would start with floating the idea to the city mayor and then the local school board. This is a fairly large project but I feel we could do a great job. Building our church for the future by building our local community is a win for all.

... Robert Myatt

The **Care & Connect Committee** is here for anyone within our Congregation experiencing personal challenges or crises. If you wish to make a confidential referral please contact any of our committee members in person, by email or by phone.

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Dawn Wood-Collins	Lois Sanford	Debbie Miller

**We need help for rides:** If you can provide a ride, we would appreciate letting one of us know, or sign up on our "who to call" list, always on the table in the Social Hall. It might be just for one time, once a month or weekly. As of now, we are desperately in need of knowing "who we can call" if a ride is needed (for Sunday service mostly, but perhaps for other needs, as well.) **Thank you.**

If you have any cards or notecards that you would like to get rid of, Debbie Miller is always in need. Donations mean we have little budget costs. We are so very lucky to have Debbie sending out cards and notes to our Congregants.

...Joyce Lenahan

## July Birthdays

Chris Higgins, July 14  
Peter Berryman, July 16  
Marion Strahle, July 19