



# The Communicator

[Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lake County](http://www.uuclakeco.org)

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## October Programs

### Discussion Group Sunday at 9:30 am

**October 20** QCD Financial Giving Forum (see page 4 for details)

**October 27** Open forum with the Board of Trustees

### Woerscippen at Sunday at 11:00 am

**October 6** The Non-Negotiables by Rev. Bryan G. Fulwider

**October 20:** Belonging - What does it mean to be a people who belong? To who or what do we belong? Rev. Tracie explores these questions.

**October 27:** Remembrance Service - Our annual remembrance service this year will focus on the power of memories. Please bring a photo or token of any loved ones who have passed. During this service we will remember and honor those in our congregation who have passed this year.

### UUCLC Information & Contacts

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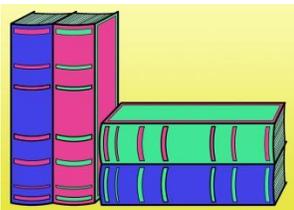
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Rev. Tracie Barrett Phone: (863) 206-9086  
To schedule an appointment with Rev. Tracie, please use <https://calendly.com/tbarrettwelser>

The Communicator is published monthly.  
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Submit articles for the November Communicator by Wednesday, October 30.



## IN THE LIBRARY

Free paperback novels and National Geographic magazines will be available for the taking for only two more weeks.

The Florida Collection is cataloged and items are ready to be checked out!

Begin learning about Florida's hurricanes, pioneers, and cow hunters.

For laughs, read some wacko South Florida murder mysteries by Carl Hiaasen, Dave Barry, et al. Details: (407) 929-9796.



## Minister's Message...

October 2019

When we look at our order of service, we can see that we have many elements that stay the same from week to week. These are part of our ritual, our liturgy, as a congregation. Every element has a meaning and a purpose and is done with intention.

Our flaming chalice is a symbol of our free faith as Unitarian Universalists. Most UU congregations light the chalice at the start of their worship services on Sunday mornings. When we light it in worship, we are signifying that our gathered community has entered into a time of sacred space. When we light our chalice, we have already done the “administrative” bits of the service (announcements, greetings, introduction of guests) and have sung a hymn to settle us.

Susan J. Ritchie says this about lighting the chalice: “As a minister, when I light the flame, I like to think of the thousand or more congregations doing so at the same time. This helps me to enter the spirit of worship, which is intended to break down apparent barriers of time and place so that we, the congregation, can establish larger connections to the sacred, and to all other people of liberal religious faith, who are gathering in the present, have gathered in the past, and will gather in the future. The rhythms and concerns of our everyday life remain, but they come to be held in a much larger context.”

It is more than just taking match to a wick. It is a symbol of our connections to other congregations. It is a symbol of how we take time out from our week to come together to hold up that which is of worth: our community, our covenants, and our beliefs (as varied as those might be). It is a time to breathe, to mark the transition into a time when we truly connect.

It is the same when we extinguish the chalice. It's not simply snuffing out the flame. Again, Ritchie says, “Many congregations extinguish their chalice at the close of worship, sometimes with a reminder that those who have gathered together now carry the warmth of human community and the light of truth with them throughout the week. The fire is not so much extinguished as borne in the heart of each person, a new expression of what Ralph Waldo Emerson called “divine spark”—the manifestation of divine possibility within each human soul.”

Next time you're in worship and we light and extinguish the chalice, I hope that you'll think about these words and the meaning behind why we do it. Also, if you'd like to be a part of this important part of our weekly ritual, there's a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

- Rev. Tracie

## Peace Prayer Service

The Interfaith Council of Lake County invites you to their Peace Prayer Service on **Wednesday, October 23** from 5:30-6:30 pm. The theme is Building Community: Strength in Unity/Strength in Diversity. Rev. Tracie will be one of the featured speakers. The Peace Prayer service will be held at St. Paul Catholic Community Church located at 1330 Sunshine Avenue in Leesburg. Rev. Tracie would like for as many people from UUCLC as possible to attend.

## President's Message...

### Greetings

Life has an interesting way of taking me on a journey of unexpected twists and turns. Last week I felt a sudden urge to purchase a new car. The kind of car that would better fit an ever-increasing list of wants and needs that I had. The car had to be very different in some ways from any other car my family had ever owned. This car had to have all the bells and whistles with new safety technology, have excellent fuel economy and have the cargo space to haul all the toys and tools that my husband and I like to carry. Did such a vehicle exist? Prior to last week I knew this car was going to be something we needed someday. Then suddenly I had a perceived need that this was much more urgent. So, I started car shopping. Going to car dealerships, talking with car sales people, going on line and doing research.



I wondered if this is the same process how some people look for a church to join! There are many similarities. I had a life event that drove me to start to question how things were going. Then I began to look on the web to see what else was out there. I went to see for myself in person and met some very likeable (and some not so likeable) people. They all were telling me their product was "the best". I was looking for something that was the right fit for me because what had worked in the past was not going to carry me into future. I feel that Unitarian Universalism is a solution for many who are looking for a faith that will take them into the future. So, I am pleased that UUCLC is doing a good job of being welcoming and we are seeing new faces returning after they give us a test drive ☺.

I am certainly looking forward to fall and cooler weather. These are coming events at UUCLC in October that you will not want to miss:

October 6<sup>th</sup>, we will have The Rev. Bryan G. Fulwider as our guest speaker.

The title of his sermon is "The NonNegotiables" - There is no singular idea around what are considered the central and non-negotiable beliefs and principles of Christianity. But there should be. We'll take up this important conversation regarding our culture. Especially as many claim loudly what these are and often do so with viciousness and cruelty. Join the discussion.

Rev. Fulwider founded and co-hosts the weekly radio show "Friends Talking Faith with The Three Wise Guys" on NPR. His show is broadcast weekly on local station WMFE 90.7 FM on Tuesdays at 6:30pm.

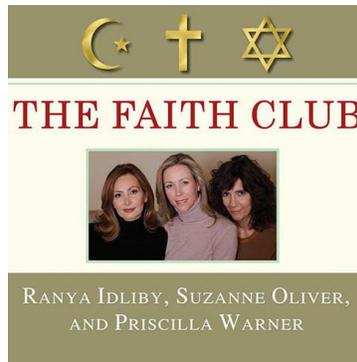
Also on October 6<sup>th</sup>, please join us after the worship service in the social hall as we wish Stu and Joan Anderson the very best on their move to North Carolina. We will certainly miss them both!

October 27<sup>th</sup> 9:30am Sunday discussion group is open forum with the Board of Trustees.

Please check our UUCLC calendar on the website for information on all the events happening this month!

Coming on the horizon will be a congregational review of the proposed by-law changes. The By-Law committee has submitted their proposed revisions to the Board of Trustees. After the Board, has completed their review and the final draft has been approved by both the By-Law committee and the Board, it will go to the congregation for input. Look for more information to come soon.

Happy Fall!  
Betty Emery



## **A Muslim, A Christian and A Jew Search for Understanding**

God. Faith. Prejudice. Death. Eternity. Who hasn't questioned their own beliefs and wondered about others? A moving presentation based on *The Faith Club*, written by Ranya Idliby, a Muslim; Suzanne Oliver, a Christian; and Priscilla Warner, a Jew, will be hosted by The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lake County on Saturday **October 26, at 4:00 pm.** Discussion and refreshments will follow the presentation.

Three local American women, a Muslim, a Christian, and a Jew, taking the roles of their faith counterparts, will present a heart- and mind-opening Readers' Theater performance. The actors will read from this true account of an intense interfaith conversation.

The Faith Club authors began as strangers, each with her own preconceived ideas about her faith and theirs. Reading selected conversations and reflections from the book, the actors will give voice and life to the written words that have moved so many toward deeper understanding since the book was published in 2006. After the reading, local faith leaders will facilitate a discussion of the issues raised.

The public is welcome to attend. Invite your friends. There is no charge for admission.

The Interfaith Council of Lake County is locally sponsoring this Faith Club Readers' Theater, a production of the United Church of Christ at The Villages.

### ***Special Presentation at 9:30 am, Sunday, October 20, 2019 Coffee & Discussion***

Are you 70 1/2 years or older & own an IRA or other qualified retirement plan? Do you wish you could afford to contribute more to UUCLC's success? There is a way...and it's entirely legal! Consider making a QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution) from your RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) out of your IRA, etc. Charitable gifts paid from your IRA, up to 100% of your RMD, can reduce your taxable IRA income and income taxes! Find out more about this important, but little known way, to make your charitable contributions to UUCLC more tax friendly! We will be having a Financial Consultant attending our coffee & discussion group at 9:30 am on Sunday, October 20th to make a presentation and answer your questions about the QCD program. Be sure to join us even if you aren't quite 70 yet!!



**UUCLC CHILDREN'S SUNDAY PROGRAM  
October, 2019**

"We believe each and every person is important." That is the children's version of the First Principle of Unitarian Universalism.

For the months of September and October, the Liberal Religious Youth (LRY) will be talking and doing activities related to the topic, "Connections". We will discuss connections in our personal lives and lead into the wider discussion of "the inherent worth and dignity of every person".

**We ask that children come immediately to the children's classrooms at 11:00 am, where the children do their own lighting of the chalice and joys and concerns with stones and sand.**

Teachers will be waiting in both the Playroom classroom and the classroom for older children (grades 4-7). Expect that two unrelated adults will be in attendance during the course of the children's service.

The younger children will remain in the classroom during the entire service. On the Sundays when Rev. Tracie is in the pulpit, the older children will join their parents or caretakers during the "Offering" in the adult service and be a part of the closing of the service. When there is a guest speaker, all the children will stay in their classrooms for the entire service.

Sylvia Wince (352) 669-2078 [sylviawince@centurylink.net](mailto:sylviawince@centurylink.net)

**CLASSES AND GROUPS**

Meditation for All group meets weekly for an hour of readings and meditation. Meditation is simply another word for concentration and is a way of getting in touch with the spiritual nature. Open to all. Mondays 6- 7 pm.

Tai Chi, a healing, slow motion martial art will meet every Tuesday from 9:00-9:45 am in the Social Hall. Now all may attend, including non-UUCLC members. All skill levels are welcome, from beginner through experienced. For information, please consult Janeane Reagan at [janeane99@gmail.com](mailto:janeane99@gmail.com).

The Science and Philosophy Group is a meeting of persons to discuss and expres their knowledge of various topics and exchange ideas and opinions. Thursdays 10:30 am open to all. For information, please consult Franklin Pennington at [fdpennington11@gmail.com](mailto:fdpennington11@gmail.com).

Dharma Book Club meets on the first and third Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7 pm. Open to all.

Graceful Aging is a thoughtful conversation conducted by and for members and friends of UUCLC. It meets the second and fourth Monday of every month from 10:30 to noon in the Social Hall. It is an open group, which means folks are free to come and go as they wish, and the drift of each meeting emerges from the concerns of those present. For information, please consult Janeane Reagan at [janeane99@gmail.com](mailto:janeane99@gmail.com).

Peacemakers Covenant Group This will be a small group, which will meet at 1:00 pm on the fourth Friday of each month, to learn compassionate communication, in which we listen deeply to the stories of others.

## Notes from the Social Justice and Environment Committee



**Hurricane Dorian Relief Collection.** We will be conducting a **special collection in support of Relief efforts in the Bahamas during the October 6 service.** Checks can be written payable to "UUCLC," and money collected will be sent to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.



**Shirt Drive for Farmworkers.** We are again collecting **long-sleeved, collared, buttoned, cotton shirts for local farmworkers.** These shirts help protect them from the sun, pests, and chemicals. Sizes small and medium are especially needed. Please check your closets and bring any shirts fitting this description that you no longer need to UUCLC. There is a collection bin in the Social Hall for this purpose.



**Interests and Concerns Survey.** Thanks to all who participated in the September 8 Discussion Group and completed our Social Justice and Environment "Interests and Concerns" survey. Many of you understandably struggled with prioritizing the issues listed on the survey, but anyway we looked at the results, "**Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resilience**" was your Number One issue. Immigration, gun violence, and health care weren't far behind. Your additional survey comments were very helpful in understanding and clarifying your concerns and interests. The biggest takeaway from the exercise, however, was the desire for guidance on **how to better interact and communicate with those not of like mind.** We are taking these findings into account as we move forward.

## The Quilt Vacation

You may have noticed that our lovely chalice quilt was missing for several weeks in July and early August. When Peg Green, the quilt artist with whom we commissioned the quilt, handed her precious creation over to us, she made us promise that we would care for it properly; kind of like adopting a puppy.

Proper care, she told us, includes taking it down for several weeks each year to let the fibers rest. While it is down, it can be gently cleaned.

At dinner one evening here in our community of Lake View Terrace, the couple we were dining with mentioned that they would be taking their little camper and heading out for a 5 week trip across the US to Glacier and Yellowstone Parks. My instant image was of a queen sized bed neatly made and unused for that time. When asked if our UU quilt could vacation at their home, they graciously said "certainly."

With Christina Wilkin's help the quilt was removed from the wall and transported to its resting place. Prior to its return on August 7 Bernie and I vacuumed it gently by taking the hand held attachment of a variable speed vacuum and placing a stocking over it as we had been instructed by Peg.

If you look closely you may notice that the quilt now appears well rested and the colors are little brighter. I think it may be smiling as well.

Janeane and Bernie

## WHITE SUPREMACY

I would strongly suggest that you read *White Fragility-Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin DiAngelo. Reading and discussing this book has really opened my eyes about the many ways our culture benefits whites and devalues people of color. I have learned that I have "blind spots and unconscious investments in racism". I use our white supremacy system to my advantage and I am responsible for interrupting my current behaviors. I need to work hard to change my role in this system, but I can't do it alone. This understanding leads me to feel gratitude when others help me by giving me feedback. Reading this book and taking it "to heart" has changed my paradigm about my interactions with people of color. I would be happy to discuss the book with others when I return to Florida in January.

Sincerely,  
Christie Cleveland



**CPR/AED/1<sup>ST</sup> AID CLASS, ON OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2019 FROM 10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM AT THE CHURCH. COST WILL BE \$45.00 CPR CERTIFIED AND \$25.00 NON-CERTIFIED. IT WILL INCLUDE 1ST AID BASICS AFTER THE CPR TRAINING THAT WILL BE FREE. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT JULIE TWIST AT [jtwist@yahoo.com](mailto:jtwist@yahoo.com).**