



The Communicator

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

Like us on Facebook! [facebook.com/UUlakeco](https://www.facebook.com/UUlakeco)



March Programs

Discussion Group Sunday at 9:30 am

March 1 Cassandra Brown, President of the Central FL Chapter of the ACLU, will share her chapter's current effort to assure voting rights and provide voter education. This is part of our current UU The Vote initiative.

March 8 Open Discussion

March 15 Discuss the U.U. 2nd Principle- "Justice, equity and compassion in human relations" in small groups.

Woerscippen Sunday at 11:00 am

March 1 Kristen Hughes - "Vulnerable Humanism of the Heart"

March 8 Peter Pitzele will offer a Purim Spiel. A Purim Spiel or Purim Play is an ensemble of festive practices for Purim. It is usually a comic dramatization of the book of Esther describing what happened on Purim and why it is celebrated as an important Jewish holiday.

March 15 Jubilee Sunday - Come and join us for a celebration on all that we've accomplished over our time as UUCLC and look forward to our coming year.

March 22 Planting for the Future - As the wheel of the year turns and we celebrate spring equinox, it's a time to look at what you want to plant for the future. Join Rev. Tracie as she leads us in a time to plant for the future.

UUCLC Information & Contacts

Address: 1235 Mt. Homer Rd., Eustis, FL
Mail address: PO Box 1761, Eustis, FL 32727
Office Phone: (352) 805-8451
Email contact: lakecountyuu@gmail.com
Website: lakecountyuu.net

Officers

Betty Emery, President
Pete Conde, Vice President
Julie Champion, Secretary
Chris Higgins, Treasurer
Kristen Hughes, Assistant Treasurer

Trustees

Suzie Lockwood
Janeane Reagan
Lois Sanford

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

The Communicator is published monthly.
Editor: Christy Millat Phone: 248-921-0541
Email: UUCLCCommunicator@yahoo.com
Submit articles for the April Communicator by Tuesday, March 24



March 22—Potluck 4th Sunday of every month



Minister's Message...

As many of you know now, after much thought and discernment, I have decided to complete my ministry here at the end of this contract year. I have been so impressed and awed by the work we have completed in the past three years together. I have every faith that you will continue to grow and thrive in your future.

I know this time ahead can seem scary. Please know that the Board of Trustees and the Committee on Shared Ministry are already working on the next steps with the Southern Region of the UUA. There is a process that will be followed in conjunction with the best practices of the UUA. The Committee on Shared Ministry will be having multiple conversations with the congregation as a whole as the process moves forward.

If you have any questions about the process as we go, please contact any member on the Committee: Egor Emery, Chris Higgins, and Carl Skiles. My door is also open if you want to talk about this transition.

I know the goodbye process is hard. I know this will be a long goodbye. However, until the end of June I am still here for you as your minister. I will still preach twice a month and will still be in the office and available for appointments on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

~ Rev. Tracie

2020 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The UUCLC 2020 Nominating Committee for the Board of Trustee officers is Bernie Greenberg, Barbara Hill and Carl Skiles. In April we will be holding the election for the following officers: President, Treasurer and Secretary. These are all two-year terms. If you are interested in the leadership of this congregation, please reach out to any member of the nominating committee before March 29.



UUCLC wishes to thank Lois Sanford for the donation of this beautiful bench. UUCLC also wishes to thank Christina Wilkins for the installation.

President's Message:

The news of Rev. Tracie's departure in June is starting to sink in. We certainly wish Rev. Tracie well as her life moves in a new direction. I have been contacted by UUA and have a phone call scheduled with the Transitions Program Manager on Tuesday March 3rd. We will discuss what options are available to UUCLC and the process by which these options could be implemented. I will have much more information to share after the phone call. However, UUCLC is fortunate that we will have several more months with Rev. Tracie. We will be busy during these next months and I plan to make the most of them. There is a lot on the schedule and we have some exciting events to look forward to.



All of this comes at a very interesting time. We had been working with UUA Southern Region to schedule a workshop to begin the process of drafting new vision and mission statements. Staff from the Southern Region indicated they were available in May and we are waiting to hear the exact date they will come. The workshop will be open to the entire congregation. We will let everyone know the date as soon as details are finalized.

Another item we have been working on is the solar energy cooperative. We are officially now a partner with Solar United Neighbors of Florida! Starting in either May or June UUCLC will host a series of community meetings to share information about solar power. There will be opportunity for those who want to have solar panels installed on their home to utilize the buying power of a "Co-Op". We will keep UUCLC members and friends posted with more information as it gets closer to May. Prior to the community meetings, we will have the opportunity to participate in "a mini info session so that the UU's can become solar evangelists in the community." I am very excited about this partnership and think it will be good exposure for UUCLC in our community.

Special dates to mark on your calendar:

March 21st at 1pm: Blessing of animals

March 28th at 3pm: Bing Futch concert follow by a Chili dinner

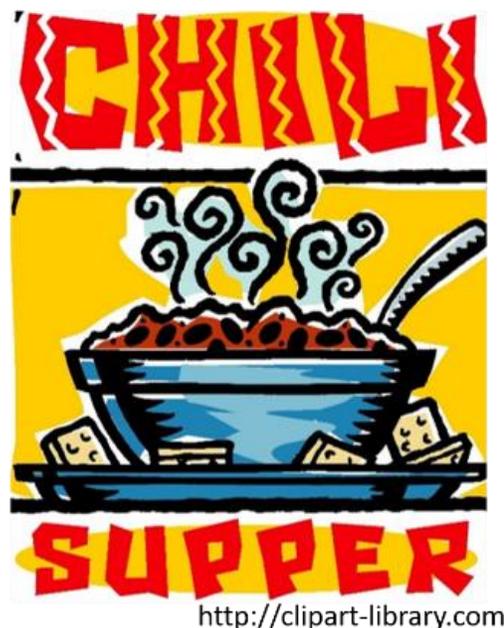
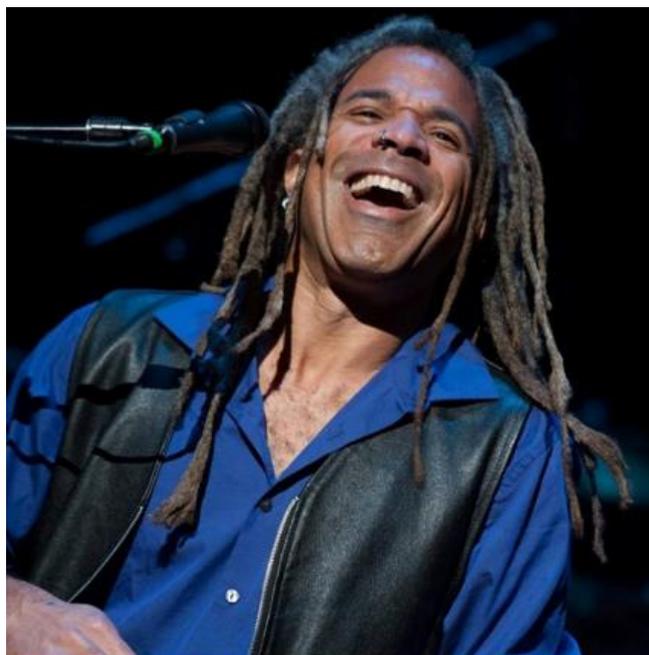
April 26th at 12 noon: Annual Meeting

I want to close by sharing some thoughts about Spring.

March is one of my favorite months of the year. As a child growing up in Virginia, I fondly remember the coming of spring with anticipation and amazement. March is when the daffodils and crocus would peek up out of the hard-frozen ground. When I was a child, I questioned religion and the existence of a god. I grew up as a Unitarian so not believing in the existence of a god was OK, if not normal. However, I clearly remember sensing a divine spirit in the little garden in front of my house. In the month of March, there was a god and it was all the glory, wonder and beauty of nature! I vividly remember the brave flowers working their way through the thin crust of snow. That was when it came to me. It was then that I formed my own personal understanding of what god was to mean to me then and now. In the delicate purple crocus and stately yellow daffodils, I could see the divine. As it is still for me to this day, I am filled with wonder and awe with the beauty of nature. I hope the arrival of March and the coming of Spring will bring each of us a sense of renewed joy and wonder. I wish each of us well on our journey to discover the divine where ever it may be.

Betty Emery

BING FUTCH CONCERT AND CHILI SUPPER



Saturday, March 28, 2020

Bing: 3:00 PM

Chili: 5:00 PM

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lake County
1235 Mount Homer Road
Eustis, FL 32726

He's back! Enjoy an early Spring afternoon with **BING FUTCH**, a musician as unique and fun as his name implies. Using Appalachian mountain dulcimer, Native American flute, ukulele, drums and electronic effects, Bing deftly navigates the varied waters of traditional and modern Americana with passion, wit and a genuinely huge heart for sharing music with a crowd. He switches the channels on style with every new song. His casual way with an audience, coupled with a fierce originality on the lesser known mountain dulcimer makes each show a one-of-a-kind and good-time romp.

A **CHILI SUPPER** will follow Bing's performance. Meat and vegetarian options will be available.

Tickets are \$10.00 for each event and can be purchased separately in the Narthex Sunday mornings after service or online at <https://bingandchili.eventbrite.com>. Tickets will be on sale at the door, as available. Cash or check only.

Please share this event with family and friends via email, social media, and any other means available to you. We hope to see you there!

P.S. **Volunteers needed!** Sign up on the volunteer sheet in the narthex.



UUCLC CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Parents of children who attend UUCLC will meet on Sunday, March 22 during the Pot Luck time. The purpose is for the parents to become acquainted with each other and to have a discussion about the Children's program at UUCLC hearing suggestions from the parents about the program.

We will need two volunteers to watch children at about 12:30 pm. The parents will discuss until 1:00 pm, so child care needs to be provided for that half hour after the children have eaten. Will you please let me know if you are available to do that for that half hour?

Sylvia Wince sylviawince@centurylink.net or 352-669-2078

Pet Blessing SERVICE



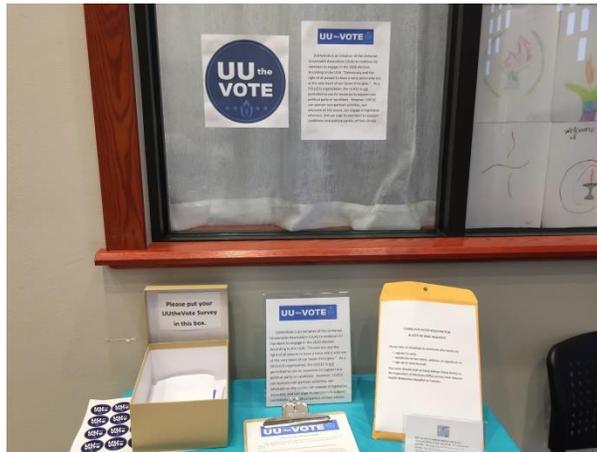
Animal Blessing Service, **March 21st, 2pm**, here at UUCLC outside of the social hall. All well behaved and leashed animals welcome for this special service. If your precious pet cannot make it, you can bring a photo or token of your pet. Please plan to join us for this event and feel free to invite friends.



AMVETS is no longer collecting bottle caps, but they do collect prescription bottles. For more information contact Julie Twist at jltwist@yahoo.com



UUtheVote is an initiative of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) to mobilize UU members to engage in the 2020 election. According to the UUA, “Democracy and the right of all people to have a voice and a vote are at the very heart of our Seven Principles.” As a 501(c)(3) organization, the UUCLC is not permitted to use its resources to support any political party or candidate. However, UUCLC can sponsor non-partisan activities, can advocate on the issues, can engage in legislative advocacy, and can urge its members to support candidates and political parties of their choice. Please visit the UUtheVote table in the narthex to learn more about this important effort.



Circle Dinners are potluck meals at UU members' homes where you can get to know a small group of UUs in a deeper way. If you are interested in hosting a UU dinner in your home, please contact Diana Reed at DiReed@aol.com or phone 352-735-1520.



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. 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. All may attend, including non-UUCLC members. All skill levels are welcome, from beginner through experienced. For information, please consult Chris Cleveland (chriscleveland1951@gmail.com).

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

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.

The Science and Philosophy Group is a meeting of persons to discuss and express their knowledge of various topics and exchange ideas and opinions. Thursdays 10:30 am. For information, please consult Franklin Pennington at fdpennington11@gmail.com. Here are S&P discussion topics for February 2020 -- always Thursdays at 10:30 in the UU social room.

March 05 Ahhh, the BIG choices we make for our Little ones HOW to educate: Public or private schools, even home schools? Behind the choices, what are the VALUE systems driving our choices and in your personal observations, how about OUTCOMES? Also who makes the choices and who gets the money in ANY society? "Educated - A Memoir" by Tara Westover, tells us of ONE unusual outcome and raises the gorilla in the room question: Just WHO should the decider be anyway?

March 12 Myths from around the world have tales of problems solved by THE HERO (or Heroine) but just HOW does this happen ? Media for children is SATURATED by winners with assorted Super Powers but as the ADULTS in the room, how is this supposed to WORK? When Captain Marvel's SHAZAM (magic word) and the Hulk's anger fail to provide invincible powers, WHICH fable can guide us ? Drakestail or the Little Red Hen ? On the personal side, WHO did you identify with? Anyone for Tarzan? Suggested reading: Joseph Campbell's "Hero of a Thousand Faces"

March 19 "Death is the big downer, Baby!" Frank Sinatra supposedly said. Marcus Aurelius said that it was worthless to WORRY over inevitable things, such as death. Ram Dass wrote "Be Here Now" and later after a stroke, "Still Here: Embracing Aging, Changing and Dying". The EU is divided on the question of assisted suicide. Okay, so how do you see this issue and does your family agree with your views? Finally, have you Vets filed your "Advance Directive" with the V. A.?

March 26 ALL cultures ponder what to do about recreational DRUG use and what laws, if any, to impose. You can be whipped in public for alcohol use in Saudi Arabia, and we experimented with prohibition in the U.S. --how did that work out? Portugal enforces NO LAWS against users of recreational drugs -- could that work here? And consider the horrors of the opioid crisis, but at the same time consider that NOBODY would be selling drugs if there were not BUYERS! Drug seizures by the DEA probably just drives up the PRICES for users! OKAY, today decide "Who is winning the war on drugs?" See any glimmer of hope in any political platform?

Adult Class Proposals Requested

Do you have a class that you would like to teach or facilitate for adults in our congregation? The Lifespan Faith Development (education) committee is looking for class proposals to be taught anytime between June 2020 and May 2021. The classes we provide need to be somehow related to U.U. values or principles so that they are different from a class you might take at a community college, for example. There are many free curricula available on the UUA.org website; see Tapestry of Faith. Or you can just make up your own lessons. Classes can be ongoing, like tai chi, or finite like Hindsight, Humor and Hope. What skills, knowledge or passions do you have, that you would like to share with others? If you are interested in teaching or facilitating a class, please complete a Class Proposal Form found on the www.lakecountyyuu.net website or in the office rack, just right of the door. Check the website calendar to make sure the times you request are available. Give the proposal form to Christie Cleveland (chriscleland1951@gmail.com) by April 15th.

NEW TUESDAY COVENANT CIRCLE HAS OPENINGS FIRST MEETING MARCH 3rd AT 1:30

A Covenant Circle is a small group that meets every two weeks for a couple hours to deeply discuss agreed upon topics, such as gratitude or living authentically. UUCLC is starting a new group, which has **four openings**. The Tuesday Covenant Circle is meeting the **first and third Tuesdays from 1:30-3:30 pm**. The first meetings are **March 3 and 17**. If you are interested in joining, please contact Chris Cleveland 989-627-1234 or Celia Everist 352-207-5264 as soon as possible.

HAPPY SPRING!