



# The Communicator

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

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## 11 A.M WORSHIP SERVICE PROGRAMS: DECEMBER THEME: JOY, CELEBRATION

**December 6** – Pete Kersey: **"The Spirituality of Genealogy."** In this month of family and celebration, Pete comes to us with a sermon that talks about how searching through the past and finding your ancestors and their stories can bring a rush of spiritual feeling. ➡



**December 13** – Marta Pearson: **"Now - the Time for Joy and Celebration."** Too often we fail to notice moments that could recreate that emotion and also fail to provide opportunities for joy to come into our lives. People often feel that taking a backward step is an indication of failure. Not so. Let's take a step back and look at how simply joy can be created and experienced. Let's explore the childhoods we had or the ones we wish we had. Now is always the time for Joy and Celebration.

**December 20** – Rev Susan Berryman: In keeping with the theme for December of "Celebrating Joy" we will look at how important it is to tend to our selves in ways that allow us to achieve our personal spiritual destiny of a joyful and satisfying life, while reaching out compassionately and responsibly in ways that enrich and dignify the lives of others and of all creation.



We will practice the joy of the season by singing Christmas carols at the end of the service.

**December 27** – Rev Roger: **"Nativity and Recognition"** The impact of the Nativity story has shaped world culture. When the scriptural sources are examined critically, we see contradiction and problems. This



does not denigrate the reality of some event in history. In our liberal UU tradition, we need to look at the data, absorb it and then let the impact shape our own concept of faith.

**DON'T FORGET, DECEMBER 27 IS POT LUCK SUNDAY**

### President's Message...

Hello Congregation,

Last month I highlighted the work of the WRAP Committee and thanked them for their work arranging the services that we enjoy every Sunday. But we know that many others work to make our Sunday services possible. Because we rent the Woman's Club space that we use, all of our equipment is stored in a closet. Every Sunday, volunteer UUCLC members cart the coffee urns and supplies, name tags, signs, chalice, hymnals and many other items, too numerous to list, from the closet to sanctuary or kitchen. They arrange

our space, prepare the coffee and snacks, etc....and then when the service is over, they pack everything up and cart it back to the closet! So, as I write this on the day after Thanksgiving, I want to thank these dedicated volunteers.

I will continue to highlight other committee work in future Communicator articles. One, because without their effort, our congregational life would suffer. And two, because committees can always use more help. If you read about a committee or function that sounds interesting or relates to your talents, talk to a board member or one of the people involved with the committee and offer to get involved.

As I've said before, I firmly believe, what we get from our congregation is proportional to what we give, be that our time, energy, talent, treasure or all of the above. UUCLC is a wonderful congregation. Get involved and receive its riches.

The theme for our December services is Joy and Celebration. I am indeed joyful that Susan Berryman will be with us in December, after her unexpected absence. We will have Reverend Roger Seidner with us again on the last Sunday of December. Truly cause for joy and celebration!

...Chris Higgins

### **Dear Congregation,**

Today is Thanksgiving and I am thinking of all that I am grateful for. The more I think the more gratitude that fills me. I am grateful for my family and friends and for you, my community. It is people who fill my heart with memories, joy and meaning. I am also grateful for good health and good spirits and for healthy and happy children and grandchildren (and dog). It is true that without friends, family, community and good health life would become very difficult.

I am grateful for security and peace. This is especially true when I watch the news and witness the suffering of so many fellow humans who live in war torn regions of the world or who live under tyranny. I feel the desperation of the refugees who are fleeing across borders and across the water to find peace and I am reminded of how very fortunate I am to live in this country.

I am grateful for my faith, capacity and perspective. I feel enriched by our UU principles and by our accepting, open, progressive and inclusive way of being. I believe that our message is healing and holds the hope and promise for the salvation of this polarized and fractured world.

I am looking forward to being with you to celebrate the holidays with joy and song and food.

With Love and Peace, **Rev. Susan**

### **BOT Meeting Highlights, by Kit Tatum**

The Board of Trustees held the November meeting on the 19th at 2:00 p.m. The first order of business was a report by the Treasurer, Stu Anderson. Prior to the meeting Stu had sent copies of the Financial Report of income and expenses through October 30, to all of the members of the BOT. He also noted the Finance Committee had met on November 18, 2015.

Carl Hommel attended the meeting to call attention to the UUA affirmation of the Black Lives Movement and ask if we would consider placing additional signs on our property stating "Black Lives Matter". The Board decided to discuss the matter at a later time.

The Committee Reports included the Social Justice committee. They collected \$281 on November 15, to be given to the Apopka Migrant Farm Workers Thanksgiving Food Drive for the purchase of turkeys.

The Membership records have been transferred to Dave Jantz.

The wrAP group has filled in a list of speakers through May 2016. Chris suggested we could use some of the future Discussion Group time to discuss our Covenant and Carl Skiles noted a good group time for the Principles would be well spent.

Carl Skiles, Chairman of the Building Committee, noted a bid package for our new building had been sent to five contractors. The deadline for their bids has been set for November 30, 2015. However, this deadline was reset one week later, due to holidays. There is a copy of the Bid Package in the office if you wish to review it.

Betty Emery said we will select the colors for the exterior of the building and the decoration of the rest rooms in the near future.

The Board members decided Approved Minutes will appear on the website after the next meeting of the BOT. The Budget will not be placed on the website, but can be supplied to members.

Chris Higgins and Suzie Lockwood had a conference call with Maggie Lovins concerning practices, a transitioning congregation, and our covenant. Ms. Lovins recommended two books that will be helpful "Growing the Beloved Community" and "Safe Congregations Handbook".

The next meeting of the BOT will be on December 17, at 1:00 p.m.

### Book Club

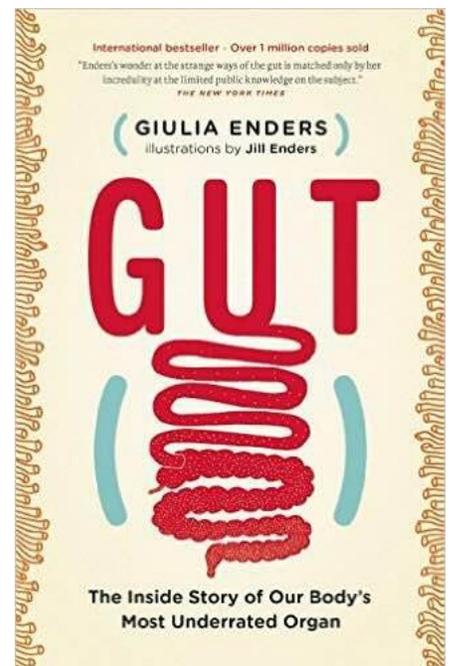
The next meeting of this adventurous reading group will be December 22nd at 3 in the Grove St Office. The book is ***GUT: The Inside Story of Our Body's Most Underrated Organ***, by Giulia Enders (Author), Jill Enders (Illustrator), David Shaw (Translator). It is available as an E book and from Amazon and may well be found in one of our libraries.

This book is perhaps not for the fastidious, but will appeal to all who are interested in the "guts" of life. It brings to us a very hot topic in biomedical research right now - the connection of our gut bacteria to such things as autoimmune diseases and even our behavior. Get ready to shed your inhibitions and learn and laugh. A fascinating read.

**Russ Littlefield**

"Ender's wonder at the strange ways of the gut is matched by her incredulity at the limited public knowledge on the subject." The New York Times

"This primer is everything you ever wanted to know about the gut (and then some), chattily and accessibly written in a uniquely Millennial and matter of fact way. An unexpected page turner...". Self Magazine



### December Birthdays

Kit Tatum, December 4  
Jane O'Connor, December 5  
Carl Skiles, December 26