



The Communicator

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

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December Programs

Discussion Group at 9:30 am

December 4 – The Aging Brain: Lecture 8: “**Dementia and Alzheimer’s Disease**” by The Great Courses, by Prof. Thad A. Polk, U. of Michigan.

December 11 – TED Talks: “An Interview with the founders of Black Lives Matter” and “A prosecutor’s vision for a better justice system”, by Adam Foss.

December 18 – Open Forum. Please bring your topics.

December 25 – Christmas Day – There will be no Discussion Group this day.

Worship Service at 11:00 am

December 4 – In this season of celebration, Jim Scott will bring his music and words to a celebration of "Gaia, Mother Earth, and the Oneness of Everything". We will celebrate the earth with Jim's original songs and readings along with his personal reflections on the idea of Mother Earth or "Gaia" being one living organism. Our "spiritual response" in word and action is so timely now, as "the spirit of life on earth is in crisis." Jim's uplifting songs provide the balance to the wake up call, leaving us a vision and inspiration to take the healing into our own hands.

December 11 – A Time of Sharing and Commitment as we celebrate two special Services, the Induction of New Members and the Water Ceremony. While we welcome seven new members into a special relationship to our UU Community, we also invite all our members and friends to renew their ties to one another in the Water Ceremony.

In the water ceremony, members and friends bring to service a small amount of water or use water provided. It may be that the water is special because it was brought from a place visited during the preceding year, or it may not be connected to a special place at all, but represent some highlight or memory from the year that the participant wants to share.



By adding water to the communal bowl, each participant affirms his or her oneness with the UU Community as well as with the wider human community. In fact, this is a good time to reflect on our Sixth Principle: The goal of world community. The combined water is symbolic of shared faith coming from many different sources.

UUCLC Information & Contacts

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Stu Anderson, Treasurer	

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December 18 – A special presentation of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" with many famous UUs becoming citizens of Whoville to teach the mean-spirited Grinch what Christmas is really about.

December 25 – Christmas. As the Woman's Club is closed on Christmas day, we will not have a service. MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Building News Brief

The problems with the anchor bolt locations in the foundations have been resolved and construction has resumed.

The anchor bolts for the building columns were installed with the concrete foundations but due to some measurement errors, they were not in the locations required for the erection of the prefabricated steel columns. This required that part of the foundations be removed and reconstructed with the anchor bolts in the correct locations. This work caused a delay of about three weeks in the construction schedule. All of the steel columns and roof beams have been installed and the roof insulation and metal roof panels are now being placed. Much of the road grading and base was completed during the delay.



The contractor intends to complete the project within the originally scheduled time by using extra crews for the walls and interior works. We hope to occupy the building by about the end of March.

...Carl Skiles

Coming Together

Since June of this year, members of UUCLC and I have been meeting with members of the Interfaith Council of Lake County at various locations – at 2 different Mosques, a Panera Bread Restaurant, the Holocaust Museum, the Lakeside Inn, a Methodist Church. You get the picture: it's an eclectic bunch.

And over time, we've gotten to know each other and we've agreed that one of our objectives is to educate one another and the community about various faith traditions. We've already conducted/attended several Interfaith gatherings. So, when our discussion speaker, the Imam Sykes, was delayed on Sunday morning November 27 (because his GPS misdirected him and sent him to Ormand Beach), I was momentarily panicked. But then I confided in Betty Gurany, the Buddhist member of our Interfaith Education subcommittee, and asked her if she would help out. And with little additional effort, we had convened an interfaith panel. In addition to Betty, we had Perry Berkowitz (Jewish), Sandy Conn Arnold (Unity), Sam Shahwan (Muslim), and Dennis Wick (Lutheran).

Except for the dodgy sound system, I think the discussion went well, and people probably learned from one another. ▶



► Following the discussion, Imam Sykes spoke to us during our 11 am service about “Universal Truths of Affirmation and Acceptance”. I heard many comments from our congregants and visitors about how much they enjoyed both programs. There was much conversation afterward and many stayed and shared a pot luck lunch. That means they were engaged and felt welcome; that’s another comment that I’ve heard recurrently, that our UUCLC members are friendly and welcoming. Good!

The general theme for this church year has been “Growing a Beloved Community”. To paraphrase Tom Owen-Towle, author and co-minister of First UU of San Diego, the Beloved Community extends beyond any congregation, society or nation and extends to very edges of the world. Our WRAP (Worship Research and Program) Committee is working hard to provide Sunday Services which help build on this theme.

We will have more opportunity for interfaith exploration in the months ahead when Morris Sekiyo Sullivan comes to us from the Volusia Buddhist Fellowship in Deland in January, March, May and June. In addition, you can participate in Interfaith Council of Lake County activities; listen for announcements.

Of course, a Beloved Community derives from actions other than Interfaith activities. There’s Social Action, Pastoral Care, Education, to name a few. Hey, they remind of some of our UUCLC committees. Come talk to me or another Board member or Committee chair about your interests and how you can use your talents and get to know fellow UUs better by working on a committee. Or just sit in on a Board or Leadership Council or Committee meeting. Go to Lakecountyuu.net and click on calendar to see when meetings are being held.

By working together, we can make UUCLC the kernel of a Beloved Community that can grow without boundaries. Imagine!

...Chris Higgins

Tidbits from the Board of Trustees November Meeting

The Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lakes County (UUCLC) meets once a month at our Office in the Wells Fargo Bldg in Eustis, Florida. This meeting is open to all members of the congregation.

Presently we are on target with the budget for this fiscal year. However, annual fund raising is needed to support the congregation’s operating expenses, and the new building. ►

▶ We will have a Committee Fair in January which will provide an opportunity for everyone to become familiar with the Active Committees we offer within the Congregation.

Grand Opening and Dedication of our new building discussions have begun. Planning is in process. Volunteers are invited to join the discussion and planning.

Part Time Minister Search continues. The Position is being advertised on UUA Website and other electronic sites.

A **Nominating Committee** is being formed to develop a slate of Officers to vote on in 2017.

The next **Leadership Council Meeting** is December 12th at 1:00 p.m. at our Office at the Wells Fargo Building in Eustis.

Building and Design Committees News. These Committees have been spending a great deal of time in assuring that the building will be completed at agreed upon schedule. Our building is still scheduled to be completed on time.

The Design Committee has submitted their proposal for chairs for the Sanctuary Seating for the new building. These chairs are currently in the process of being ordered. Additional seating is being ordered for Congregation Social Hall and the Educational Classrooms.

A proposal for the front door has been submitted and approved by the Board and is in process of being purchased/ordered.

In addition to the above work the Design Committee visited the storage unit and assessed the condition of the furniture donations we have available for use in the new building. It has been suggested that some furniture may need refinishing.

Carl Skiles provided the Board with an update on the construction of the building. I offer the following points and you can read the entire list in the Minutes of the BOT meeting that are posted on our Website.

Currently roads and driveway are being constructed.

We have received a bid on signage

Construction has resumed following some revisions that needed to be addressed.

Social Justice Committee - Volunteers continue to work at Open Door on Fridays. Chris Higgins is an active member of the Local Interfaith Council

WRAP Committee - Meet once a week to review, plan, develop Discussion Groups and Service.

Board Meetings are scheduled for Thursday, December 15th at 1:00 pm and Thursday, January 19th at 1:00 pm.

This is just a snapshot of some of the happenings on the Board. Please check the website for the minutes of each meeting that are posted for your review and information. I offer this snapshot of the meeting for your information and to spark an interest in attending one of these meetings.

...Joyce Axelson, Secretary

December Birthdays

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

UU Book Group...

The book group will not meet in December, but will resume in January with "Thieves of State: Why Corruption Threatens Global Security, by Sarah Chayes.

Here is a comment from the New York Times review of February, 2015: Chayes's "Thieves of State" makes a strong case that acute corruption causes not only social breakdown but also violent extremism. She calls this a "basic fact," showing that where there is poor governance — specifically, no appeal to the rule of law and no protected right of property — people begin a search for spiritual purity that puts them on a path to radicalization.

At the Wells Fargo Office (no, not for a protest, but for a book discussion) on Jan 24 at 3:00. Non-readers always invited.

