



The Communicator

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

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11 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE PROGRAMS – FEBRUARY THEME: COMPASSION

February 7 – Series on Principles #1 and 2 (*Dignity, Compassion and Justice*), with Rev. Susan Berryman. We will begin our month dedicated to compassion by watching Karen Armstrong’s Ted talk on “A Charter for Compassion” to help us realize how widespread and global is the effort to bring compassion to all parts of the world as an answer to violence, discrimination and corruption. We will look at how our first two principles form a foundation for bringing compassion deeply into our minds and hearts, our words and actions.

February 14 – “By Way of Compassion”. with **Eli & Bill Perras.** This will be a musical sermon consisting of four original songs with the stories behind each song. The sermon aligns with the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 6th, and 7th UU Principles. We will lead the congregation in “*Enter, Rejoice, and Come In*” as the prelude, an original song titled “*Peace Keeper*”. During the offering we will do an old standard titled “*Glory of Love*”.

February 21 – “A Compassionate Life” with **Rev. Susan Berryman.** To become a compassionate human being is a lifelong project. With commitment and practice compassion is an ideal that is within our grasp. We too can become a force for good in the world, a refuge from a fearful, angry, distrusting world. We will explore methods and ways to become ever more compassionate.

February 28 – “Self Denial, Self Giving, Self Serving”, with **Rev. Roger Seidner.** In some Christian circles during the time of lent they call on us to give up some personal pleasure or benefit. We may reject that call, but then miss out on the inner change and spiritual growth that accompanies self denial. We will explore how this practice relates to our free faith UU life.

9:45 A.M. DISCUSSION GROUP PROGRAMS

February 7 – TED Talks by Karen Armstrong; “The Charter for Compassion” and “Lets Review the Golden Rule”

February 14 – A Documentary Film by Vincent Mondillo and Richard Master: “**FIX IT – Healthcare At The Tipping Point**”

February 21 – To Be Determined.

February 28 – Open Forum

UUWomenspirit Spring Retreat - May 11-15, 2016

UUWomenspirit is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization that has hosted all-women retreats since 1987. Our retreats emphasize and celebrate the Divine Feminine in her many forms. Our next retreat will be held on May 11-15, 2016 at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center in Highlands, NC.

Our theme for this event is *We Walk With HER as One*, and will emphasize our connection to Mother Earth.

For more information about UUWomenspirit, please visit www.uuwomenspirit.org.

Dear Congregation:

This is the month that we focus on Compassion. Compassion is how we learn to love unselfishly; how we learn to give freely for the good of others; how we learn to value a fair, calm, serene, accepting and openhearted way of being.

Our covenant says "Love is the spirit of this church and service is its law". This is a powerful and meaningful statement that is worth meditating on and taking it into our hearts and minds.

This is the time of year when most of our snowbirds have come home and we can operate with our full potential. I encourage each of you to find a way to participate and to become more involved in building our compassionate community.

I invite you to participate in our Monday evening Meditation, Wednesday morning discussion groups, Wednesday evening UU Singers, Thursday morning Tai Chi , Monthly Book Club, and the Social Justice, Membership and Caring committees that need your help. Also if possible, reach out to the community and find ways to offer your time and love to heal the wounds of poverty and injustice.

Wish you a happy and loving February.

Rev. Susan

VISION – January 20, 2013

Within the next 5 years, the UUCLC will be located in our Congregational home, where our mission and growth in membership can be accomplished.

As our Building Committee Chair and Co-chair advised the Congregation last month, we have received construction company bids and will soon be awarding a contract to begin work on our new building. Of course, the actual construction phase will take many months, but now I'm thinking about how having our own building will support more activities and programs for a multi-generational congregation--one where almost everyone has peers and role models.

I have been attending the small group discussions that Reverend Susan facilitates on Wednesday mornings. One of the others who attend referred to him/herself by way of decade, that is, the individual is in her/his 50's or 80's, and so on. It resonated with me.

We have many members who are in their 60's, many in their 70's, many in their 80's, some in their 90's.

One of the things I've always valued about a UU congregation is role models. I have found that many UU elders have lived rich and interesting lives and have much wisdom to impart either in their words or in their actions or spirits or all three. Our UUCLC is no exception. If you ever feel discouraged, take a few minutes to ask a UUCLC elder how they overcame a hardship or what they think about 'x'--pick a topic you enjoy. I bet you'll both feel better before long.

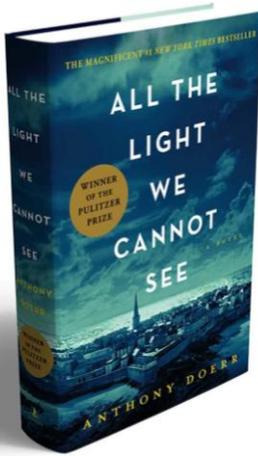
Now is the time to build our middle ranks. I have observed that recently, we have had members invite friends to our services or other activities. And I'm happy to say that several of those visitors look like they will become members! While it's important to have role models and for elders to be able to mentor, it's also important for us to have peers and friends. So, think about a UUCLC activity or upcoming service that you enjoy and invite a friend. What better way to help our congregation to grow?

We do not currently have families with children. Our rented facilities do not provide suitable classroom space and we have not reached a 'critical mass' of children/young families at one time. We have conceded that this will have to wait until we have the right facilities. But once we are in our new building and have a classroom(s?!), then we can plan community events and programs to invite and engage young families and young adults.

That's my vision. What's yours? Let's brainstorm together, so that we can articulate our vision and build the future of our Congregation and our community.

...Chris Higgins

Book Club



The UU Book Group's Choice for February is *All the Light We Cannot See*, a novel by Anthony Doerr.

An Amazon Best Book of the Month, May 2014: Does the world need yet another novel about WWII? It does when the novel is as inventive and beautiful as this one by Anthony Doerr. In fact, *All the Light We Cannot See*--while set mostly in Germany and France before and during the war--is not really a "war novel". Yes, there is fear and fighting and disappearance and death, but the author's focus is on the interior lives of his two characters. Marie Laure is a blind 14-year-old French girl who flees to the countryside when her father disappears from Nazi-occupied Paris. Werner is a gadget-obsessed German orphan whose skills admit him to a brutal branch of Hitler Youth. Never mind that their paths don't cross until very late in the novel, this

is not a book you read for plot (although there is a wonderful, mysterious subplot about a stolen gem).

This is a book you read for the beauty of Doerr's writing -- "Abyss in her gut, desert in her throat, Marie-Laure takes one of the cans of food..." -- and for the way he understands and cherishes the magical obsessions of childhood. Marie Laure and Werner are never quaint or twee. Instead they are powerful examples of the way average people in trying times must decide daily between morality and survival. -- Sara Nelson

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE -- Available as an e book. Also try your library and bookstores.

The Book Group will meet February 23rd at 3 PM in the Grove Street office.

...Russ Littlefield

February Birthdays

Carl Scott, February 5
Karen Woolhouse, February 19
Ray Cormany, February 24