



The Communicator

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

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11 A.M WORSHIP SERVICE PROGRAMS MAY THEME: WORSHIP MONTH

May 1 – “What me worship?”, with **Rev. Susan Berryman**. We will explore if worship is obsolete or necessary in the modern world and what we mean by worship and its role, if any, as part of being a Unitarian Universalist.

May 8 – Mother’s Day Celebration, with **Rev. Susan Berryman**. This Sunday we’ll have a celebration of mothers and an exploration of what it means to be a mother with members of our congregation including Gina Rossi, Christie Cleveland and Eloise Fisher.

May 15 – “Concept of God and the Worship of Deities within the Hindu Religious Tradition”, with **Professor Krishna Kumaran**.

Professor Kumaran studied at Madras University (India) and obtained a Ph.D degree in the field of biology with a research specialty in molecular biology of development. He taught at Marquette University, Milwaukee for 28 years and retired as Wehr Professor of Biology. His exposure to Hindu religion and its traditions began in childhood. Later He developed interest in learning the basics of world religions with special interest in Hindu religious philosophy and the basis for the rituals. He is a winter resident of the Tavares Shantineketan community.

May 22 – UU Memorial Service, with **Rev. Susan Berryman**. This is our time to honor the members of our beloved community who died during the past year and remember those whom we love who are no longer with us. It’s a time to consider mortality, immortality and life after life.

May 29 – Memorial Day Service, with **Rev. Roger Seidner**. Our Minister Emeritus will lift concerns from the WWII experience. Terrible devastation and death reminds us of the responsibility of the living.

UUCLC Information & Contacts

Mail address: PO Box 1761, Eustis, FL 32727
Office Phone: (352) 728-1631
Email contact: lakecountyuu@gmail.com
Website: lakecountyuu.net

Officers

Chris Higgins, President
Russ Littlefield, Vice Pres.
Stu Anderson, Treasurer
Pam Ward, Secretary

Trustees

Betty Emery
Carl Skiles
Suzie Lockwood

Rev. Susan Berryman, Developmental Minister.
Phone: (386) 956-6110

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Editor: Ted Fessler Phone: (352) 735-7405

Dear Congregation:

“It’s May, it’s May, the lusty month of May, when everyone goes blissfully astray”. Well, as the song goes, maybe not astray, but many of us do go away. May is a beautiful time of year, but it is also the time when we start losing members of our beloved community as our snowbirds start heading north for the summer. It is hard to say good-bye to so many. It makes me feel nostalgic because I am one of the snow birds and even though I like leaving the heat and the humidity I feel sad and conflicted at leaving so many friends and my spiritual home. ▶

► It is difficult to have built up momentum and the congregation to see it now to wind down. The exodus leaves our core members to fill all the jobs and responsibilities necessary to run this church, build a new building and keep up the energy all summer. This is an especially heavy load for those who have taken on the most responsibility including our over worked and dear President Chris Higgins, our Vice President and WRAP Chair Russ Littlefield, our Treasurer Stu Anderson and our Building and Discussion Chair Carl Skiles. We appreciate them and the Board of Directors and the Leadership Council and we owe them our debt of gratitude.

With this in mind I would like to suggest that if you love this congregation and feel a part of this community that you find some small way to offer your time and talent to ease the burden of our leadership.

May is worship month, so I'd like to add this thought for you to ponder; "You manifest what you worship". If you worship peace you will manifest a peaceful life; if you worship money you will manifest wealth; if you worship friendship you will manifest friends; if you worship reason you will manifest a reasonable life; if you worship cynicism you will manifest a cynical life, if you worship love you will manifest a loving life and if you worship nothing, it's not good. The old adage, "Be careful what you ask for" is literal and should not be taken lightly. So this is a good month to review your life, your thoughts and your heart, and to think about what you think about and what you ask for to be sure it is really what you want.

I am wishing all of you a lusty month of May, a May of sunshine and beauty and love.

Nameste,

Rev. Susan

President's Message...

Hello UU Congregation of Lake County — I've been thinking about how we are, and will be, changing over the past and coming months. Members and friends are heading north for cooler weather and others will be away for short or longer periods. Our challenge will be to stay connected.

Our website - lakecountyuu.net - and our facebook page and the Communicator are several ways to share 'news'. Phone calls and email messages and snail mail work, too. That takes a bit of effort, but it is worth it. Let's each of us take time at least once a month to reach out to a congregation member or friend who has been absent. After all, many of us have said: 'we're a family' and we need to check-in with one another.

And to continue the metaphor, we are part of an extended family. The UUCLC is one of the 1092 Unitarian Universalist congregations that are part of the **Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)**, which was formed by the consolidation in 1961 of the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America.

For UUs, the congregations exercise authority over the larger body, through the annual General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association. General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our UUA. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process.

As our VP Russ Littlefield has often counseled, we can take inspiration and support from the broader denomination, whether at the regional level or at the national/global level. I've excerpted some information from UUA.org about this year's GA which will be held June 22-26, 2016 in **Columbus, Ohio**.

The theme for GA 2016 will be [Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect](#). ►

► The faith world is increasingly multifaith. People are crossing borders of religion and spiritual practice to create wholeness in their lives individually and collectively. The labels—Christian, Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, theist and non-theist—no longer define who or what we love, or how spirit moves in our lives.

General Assembly 2016 in Columbus Ohio will assemble leaders and communities of many faiths to worship together, learn from one another, and create a new vision of faith that no longer divides us, but connects us to an interdependent future that works for all.

These themes resonate with me and seem like echos of discussions many of us have had. But, at this point, we have not made plans to send UUCLC delegates to GA 2016. We may, however, be able to participate via “Off-site Participation in General Assembly”. If anyone has an interest in helping us explore this opportunity, please let me know and we'll work on it together.

That being said, it's not too early to plan for GA attendance in future years, whether in person or virtually. Here are the dates and locations.

- June 21-25: **2017 New Orleans, LA**
- June 20-24: **2018 Kansas City, MO**
- June 19-23: **2019 Spokane, WA**

So...how else can we connect with our extended family of UUs? We can visit other UU congregations in our travels and share ideas and come back to UUCLC with suggestions about how to incorporate some of what you liked into our congregation.

I've heard people talk about the Church of the Larger Fellowship, so I went searching online and liked what I found at clf.uua.org. First off, I found a beautiful video version of the Peter Mayer song “(Every Thing is) Holy Now” with captions. I printed off an excerpt below, as it might speak to you also.

We are a community of thousands of people from around the world, with a variety of life situations and circumstances. We come here because we value companionship on our journey which is non-judgmental, curious, respectful, engaged.

We come here speaking and seeking many languages of meaning—Christian and atheist, Buddhist and Jewish, Muslim and Hindu and agnostic. We are spiritual but not religious. We come here as faithful members of religious congregations, and people who only cross those thresholds for weddings and funerals.

We come here with diverse identities—from many cultures, genders, races, sexual orientations, nationalities, faith perspectives, political parties, ages and abilities.

We come here with shared values—values of love, acceptance, diversity, justice, spiritual growth, the worth and dignity of all. We come to experience our interdependence, to touch strength together that we cannot find alone.

Whoever you are, whatever your story, we bid you welcome. We hope that this online spiritual community will be a home for you in the tough moments of your life, times when you want to celebrate life's blessings, and when it's just another Tuesday afternoon crawling by. Welcome.

As I learn more about our denomination, I develop a more expansive perspective. I see opportunities and recognize interdependencies. It's a family that I want to be part of and I'm glad I found UU (you).

...Chris Higgins

News from the UUCLC Finance Committee...

The Pledge Drive for the next Fiscal Year, FY 2017, which we began in April, will end in May – Sunday, May 15, to be precise. As of April 17, Pledge Cards had been submitted by 26 Pledgers (individuals or families) for a total pledged amount of about \$45,000. That is a very good start, but we still have a way to go. We would like to see “Every Member a Pledger,” even if your pledged amount is modest. And we would like to see the total pledged amount reach (or even exceed) the amount of the proposed FY 2017 Budget, which was presented at the April 3 Annual meeting, about \$70,000.

If you have not already pledged, it is important for you to pledge soon, before the Sunday, May 15 deadline. Why? Because the Board must approve a final FY 2017 Budget at its next meeting, just a few days after that date. And because the Board cannot approve a final Budget amount that exceeds the total Pledged amount by too much, it is important for you to pledge as much as you can reasonably afford. So please, everyone, complete and hand in your Pledge Cards this Sunday or next Sunday, on or before Sunday, May 15.

Two notes. Note that we will continue to accept pledges after the end of the Pledge Drive. Late pledges are welcome, of course, but do not help us with budgeting and planning for our Congregation. Also, note that if you are not (yet) an official Member of the Congregation, but if you attend our meetings, you are a Friend of the Congregation, and Friends are welcome to pledge too.

Finally, let us mention that Pledgers for FY 2016 (the current FY) will receive a statement about your pledge payments from the Treasurer in the month of May. That statement will help you to complete payment of your pledge before the end of FY 2016 on June 30.

Thank you, Stu Anderson

UUCLC Service Project: The Open Door...

We now have a hands-on and gratifying opportunity to help homeless Individuals in our own community! *The Open Door* drop-in center in downtown Eustis offers them showers, laundry services, food, computer and phone access, haircuts, referrals to Social and medical services, day lockers, clothes, and assistance in applying for benefits. Located at 115 Citrus Avenue just one block south of Orange Avenue between Bay and Grove Streets, the center's hours of operation are 9:00-4:00 Monday-Friday.

As a service project, the UUCLC Social Justice committee has committed to send two volunteers from our congregation each Friday from 2:00-4:00. If you are interested, you can sign up on the calendar which will be on the side table each Sunday. In addition, here are other ways we can help:

- Volunteers are needed Mondays 11:00-2:00 and Wednesdays and Thursdays 2:00-4:00. Duty is light--hospitality, overseeing clients' use of laundry, showers, kitchen, sorting of donations, etc.
- Food needs: individually packaged chips, crackers, or granola bars; lunch meat, cheese, coffee creamer, small paper plates.
- Personal care needs: razors, sun block, bug repellent, deodorant (small sizes), socks (adult).
- Bottled water: 50 cases of 24 bottles each are needed over the next 6 months.
- Make breakfast or lunch in their fully equipped kitchen or bring sandwiches or a pot of something from home. Exception: Friday lunch is provided by the nearby Presbyterian Church.

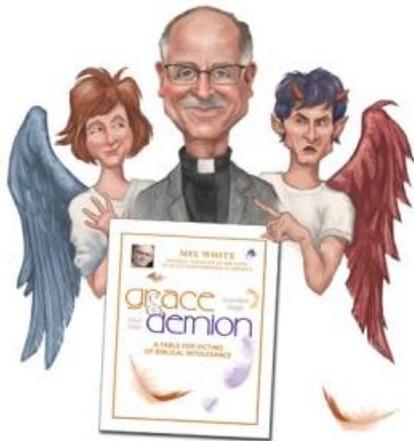
- Amazon.com has a gift registry set up and will deliver directly to *The Open Door*.

Donations: *The Open Door*,
 c/o Lifestream Foundation
 PO Box 491000
 Leesburg, FL 34749-1000

Those of us who have walked through *The Open Door* are glad we did. You will be too. For more info call Katie or Diane at (352) 357-9082.

...Laini Panuska

Book Club



May's selections for the UU Book Group are both short reads and studies in contrast. The first is *Grace & Demion* by Mel White (98 pages). The book is subtitled "A Fable for Victims of Biblical Intolerance". The intolerance talked about is intolerance based on religion toward lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transexuals. It is described by one reader as a "delightful, whimsical fable. If understood to be a metaphor for the spiritual realities it portrays, it can have the uplifting, encouraging effect that other fables have had down the ages." - Jack Rogers, Th.D, professor of theology emeritus, San Francisco Theological Seminary.

The second selection is 88 pages long with a typical time to read of about an hour or two. It is *Seven Brief Lessons on Physics* by Carlo Rovelli. I love what the New York Times writes about it, "Short and resonant.... The essays in *Seven Brief Lessons on Physics* arrive like shots of espresso. Written for those who know little or nothing about modern physics, if you are alive and present in our modern world, you will find this book fascinating.



These books are available as either an ebook or in hard/paper editions from Amazon and Barnes and Noble. The Book Group meets on May 17 at 3 in the Grove Street Office. All are welcome.

...Russ

Notes from the Design sub-committee:

The design sub-committee has taken a break while the architectural drawings were being re-drawn and the construction company revises their bid. We expect that the revisions will bring our construction costs much more in line with our budget. Scherer Construction Company will have the new figures for our congregation in several weeks. In the meantime, we will be gearing up for some fast decision making as the time for determining some finishes is quickly approaching. I wish to personally thank the entire congregation and those who are serving on the design sub-committee who have given their expertise and time toward gathering the best ideas for our new building. I want to make sure that those who are willing continue to stand ready to answer the call when some quick and final decisions need to be made. So, in the spirit of a sailor setting about a new adventure, "all hands on deck"! We need to be ready to hoist the sails.

I also wish to thank Susan Mulholland who has generously agreed to take the position of fundraising chair for the beautification of our new building. Karen Woolhouse, who previously had this position, will be greatly missed. We wish Karen and David the very best as they return to their home in Canada. Susan and the ►

▶ fundraising committee will begin their fundraising efforts in July. To avoid confusion, this is a separate fundraising effort from the current pledge drive which is being used for the operating expenses for the congregation. The design committee is extremely grateful for the contributions received so far and for the pledged donations for the beautification of our building. If you have pledged a donation, we will be contacting you for details when your contribution will need to be fulfilled. If you need to make preparations to fulfill your contribution, please consider doing so as soon as possible. If your situation has changed, please let Susan know. We look forward making our new spiritual home a beautiful building that we can all enjoy and be proud of.

Thank you

Betty Emery

May Birthdays

Marge Hommel, May 10
Paulette Stewart-Johnson, May 13
Esther Smith, May 14
Hinda Ramsay, May 15
Joanne Reilly, May 16
Jean Burda, May 20
Susan Mulholland, May 20