



The Communicator

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

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November Programs

WRAP is particularly pleased with our November lineup of programs. We think it offers a diversity of perspectives on Unitarian Universalism as well as continues our guiding theme of the year, Building a Beloved Community. If you have suggestions for programs, please contact our committee: Russ Littlefield, Chris Higgins, Suzie Lockwood, Carl Skiles, Pat Barton, and Joyce Axelson.

Discussion Group at 9:30 am

November 6 – TED Talks: “There’s no such thing as not voting” by Eric Liu, and if time allows, “How free is our freedom of the press”, by Trevor Timm

November 13 – **The Aging Brain** – Lecture 8: “Dementia and Alzheimer’s Disease” The Great Courses, By Prof. Thad A. Polk, U of Michigan.

November 20 – “Optimizing Brain Fitness - Care and Feeding of the Brain” The Great Courses, By Prof. Richard Restak. (Dr. Franklin Pennington, Moderator)

November 27 – **Imam Abdurrahman Sykes: “Experiences as a Muslim”**
Discussion with the Imam will begin at 9:30. He will speak to us about his experiences as a Muslim and will help us understand tenets of Islam, addressing our questions about Sharia law and misconceptions about Islam. Come prepared to listen and discuss your questions about Islam.

Celebrating diversity, Imam Sykes strives to build bridges of peace, dialogue, and understanding whereby all men and women come together on common ground in pursuit of peace, freedom and justice.

Born in North Carolina, Imam Sykes was a lay speaker preparing for a life of Christian ministry, when he had his own spiritual awakening and came to embrace Islam. He brings years of experience working in various social service disciplines, as well as serving as a chaplain for the Federal Bureau of Prisons.



Worship Service at 11:00 am

November 6 – As UUCLC explores its theme of how the Beloved Community should come together, it will have as its Guest Speaker on November 6 the **Rev. Dr. Robert P. Tucker, Ph.D.**, Minister Emeritus of the U.U. Congregation of Lakeland, FL. His topic will be: “Why Are We Here?” You won't want to miss it!

November 13 – “What We Can Learn From Megachurches” With **Ron Hammerle**. Dr. Hammerle will describe the long term loss of members among mainline congregations during the rise and expansion of ▶

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▶ the megachurch movement throughout the United States. Megachurches are defined as congregations having more than 2,000 people attending weekly services. He will also give us insight into the rise of the "NONES," those who claim no religious affiliation. Citing the book, *The End of White Christian America*, Dr Hammerle notes that this is one most important and dramatic shifts in American religious history.

November 20 – Mindy Simmons. Mindy Simmons has been singing for Spiritual services and ministries for over 15 years. With her original songs and musical choices she always strives to emphasize the message of the day. Known fondly as the "Sarasota Songbird," Mindy travels throughout the state of Florida serving in musical ministry for New Thought churches, Unitarian Universalist Churches and Unity Ministries. Whenever she joins us, we always have a great time.



November 27 – Continuing the discussion with Imam Abdurrahman Sykes. In his message, the Imam will speak about Celebrating Diversity and Coming Together amid our Struggles.

Building News Brief

The construction is still on schedule despite a delay of the steel erection caused by a mislocation of the column anchor bolts in the foundations. Part of the steel structure had been erected when the error was discovered. This situation required that the erected columns be taken down and new anchor bolts be installed in the correct locations. This work has been completed and the erection of the steel is scheduled to resume on Oct. 1st.



Betty Emery, Bob Craft Gen Supt. for Keator Construction, and Carl Skiles.

The schedule delay will be made-up by using additional crews to assist with the steel replacement. Any extra costs resulting from this situation will not be the responsibility of UUCLC.

The metal roof and insulation will be installed as soon as the steel work is finished. When the roof is on, the wall and partition studs, windows, doors wiring, etc., can be installed.

Except for the anchor bolt setback, which caused a delay of about one week, the job is progressing well and completion is still projected for March, 2017

...Carl Skiles

President's Message...

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Southern Region Leader Kenn Hurto addressed the UUCLC Board of Trustees at its monthly meeting on October 13th. Although the primary topic of discussion was the UUCLC search for a part time minister, we also had interesting discussions about challenges we can anticipate as we look forward to moving into our new building in the spring.

One of those challenges is how to deal with the inevitable conflicts that will arise. Our Congregational covenant is brief. It says we will 'dwell together in peace' and 'help one another', which means to me that we must approach one another with open hearts and minds so that we can understand each other. Also, this ▶

▶ promise to respect, listen, and support one another is scattered throughout our seven UU principles. But...none the less, we will at times 'rub each other the wrong way'...or worse.

One of the tools that Kenn suggested was for us to be candid with one another and to get used to saying OUCH—loud and clear, if we are offended. And then the offender needs to consider what he/she did and apologize with: OOPS. And with that, the parties forgive each other. Maybe a bit more discussion will be needed, and maybe we need a more formalized Mediation Process, but this is certainly a good first step. So, let's try this. If I do something that strikes you wrong, please say so; say: OUCH! And I'll do my best to make amends...after I say OOPS.

And now, back to our primary topic, the part time minister.

As longer time members know, Reverend Susan Berryman was with us on a full time basis for 9 months of church year 2015 and 6 months of church year 2016. She left us to develop a family venture in Arizona in June of 2016. Before contacting the Region, members of the Board discussed the possibility of a part time minister search informally with Congregation members and more formally with the Leadership Council. Kenn counseled the Board to develop a job description and to consider specifically how we expected the prospective minister to apportion his/her time with us. We ended up saying that we anticipated that about:

47% of the time would be spent on preaching/teaching,
40% on congregational development, and
13% of time would be for pastoral care.

After further discussion and tweaking, we developed the following job description which has been posted on our website at lakecountyyuu.net.

UUCLC launches search for a Part Time Minister

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lake County (UUCLC) is a 70 member congregation located in the Golden Triangle of Central Florida (Mount Dora—Eustis--Tavares Triangle), approximately 35 miles northwest of Orlando.

We are constructing a new church/fellowship hall and are seeking a **half-time minister** for the 9 months from mid September to mid June. We are seeking a minister **with spiritual depth** and maturity who can lead us in exploration and application of our UU faith - someone who can work with our lay leaders to develop the public face and congregational heart of our church.

We hope to find someone who will be an engaging, **uplifting presence in the pulpit** once or twice a month, speaking to both the human and the holy in us.

We would like our minister to be both discerning and caring in offering support in times of need to our congregation. We hope to find someone with some availability for ministering one on one to the **pastoral needs** of our members.

We want a minister who can **link social justice** to our faith and who can help us find ways to actively manifest this in our community and world. He or she should have a deep commitment not just to social justice, but to our precious earth and to all beings.

Finally, we are also looking for someone with skill in **fostering congregational growth** as we move, after twenty one years, into our very own physical/▶

▶ spiritual home. If you are interested in this kind of challenge, we would love to talk to you.

Please contact the Southern Region of the UUA through Kenn Hurto at khurto@uua.org or UUCLC President of the Board, Chris Higgins at cphiggins14@yahoo.com or 352-483-2049 for more information or to schedule a visit.

The UUA Southern Region will be publicizing our search in its publications and directing ministers to our website. Ken is optimistic about our prospects.

You will hear more, as we get information about prospective candidates. These are exciting times! Talk to each other; talk to a Board member; let us know what you think. This is your Congregation.

...Chris Higgins

Highlights from the Leadership Council Meeting of October 27

Chris opened the meeting by leading a breathing meditation. Attendees were Chris Higgins, Carl Skiles, Robert Myatt, Russ Littlefield, Stuart Anderson, Gina Rossi, and Suzie Lockwood.

New Minister: Chris reported on meeting of Board with Kenn Hurto and progress on advertising for a new part-time Minister. The Job Description Chris wrote will be placed on our website and in the UUA Southern Region Newsletter.

Loan Application: Carl talked with a First Green Bank Rep. He is optimistic that Line of Credit will be granted soon. But, as collateral, the Bank wants the whole property. We want to include only a small part of it.

Building Fundraising: To reach members and friends, use email letter to solicit contributions. To reach others, use online fundraising websites: [GoFundMe](#), [Faithify](#) and [Chalice Lighters](#). Chris will contact Eustis City councilman Robert Morin regarding local social needs assessment. Most of the discussion concerned Social Relations and Outreach.

Grand Opening: Schedule Dedication and Open House events about April 1. Plan public relations, invitations, invitees, resources and music.

Committee Updates: Membership Committee welcomed new members. We discussed importance of religious sensitivity. At this Sunday's Open Discussion, Chris will discuss OUCH and OOPS. Chris presented draft list of Board-Committee Liaison functions. Caring, Social Justice and Fundraising Committees need new Chairs. Nominating Committee needs two new members. We scheduled Committee Fair for January 29. Robert will serve as Chalice lighter for Sunday, November 13, observance of Veterans' Day.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for Monday, December 12, at 1:00 PM.

Stu Anderson, recorder.

Book Group...

The November book selection of the UU Book Group is *Day after Night*, by Anita Diamant. This 300 page novel sketches the intertwined fates of several young women refugees at Atlit, a British-run internment camp set up in Palestine after WWII. The Book group will meet to discuss this book and select next month's at the office on November 29th at 3:00 pm.

Dear Congregation,

I have been so out of touch with everything and everybody living and working at the ranch. We do not have internet, phone service or TV. We have been working at jobs and tasks that take little or no money because the sale of our rental fell through in September and the money we were able to borrow was meager. We have tightened our belts until the closing that is set for the middle of November. In the mean time, Peter had to go to NH to have surgery for a double hernia that became threatening and couldn't wait. So, I have had to struggle along without Peter for the past month. If not for money insecurity this "off the grid" lifestyle has a certain peace to it. We live according to the weather, eat simply, and only hear the news on the truck radio when going for supplies. (At this point in the elections I'm counting this as a blessing.)

The biggest difficulty has been the need to replace all the infrastructure. We've had to abandon the water system all together and start over. That means digging trenches around the property and finding ways to get pipes either through 20 inch thick adobe walls or through the ceiling, etc. It is a challenge and a lot of physical labor. We've also had to replace the gas lines for the hot water and the kitchen. And as I mentioned in July we've had to replace the entire electrical system, every wire, every outlet, the panels, etc. Replacing all this infrastructure has been slow and frustrating process..

The good news is that we are making progress. The ranch house is now homey and livable. Every wall, ceiling and floor has been patched, plastered sanded and painted. Only the roof and some decor details are left. The dining room and most of the kitchen are finished, the Cantina and guest Casita are almost finished. That leaves the outside of the buildings and walls, the insulation and roofs to finish. Then with the funds from the sale of the rental we can start on the eight guest rooms and the landscaping.

I am proud to say that our sons have stepped up to the plate and taken on each challenge as it comes. We have done all the labor ourselves. My specialty has turned out to be floors. This includes scraping a decade of animal waste and plaster, sweeping and mopping. Then scraping old paint, mopping again, painting, and 2 days later, top coating. It has a good feeling of accomplishment as each room is finished and ready for furniture and finishing touches.

However, I must say that I do miss company, intellectual stimulation and spiritual companionship. In other words I miss you! I feel a loss not being there for the building of the new church. (It's like being pregnant and missing the birth.) You have no idea how often I think of you and of ideas for Sunday talks and classes that rattle around in my head as I work, walk the dogs or try to sleep at night. My hope is I will see you here this winter when the rooms are ready. (Make a plan.)

You remain in my heart and prayers.

Nameste

Rev. Susan

UUCLC Membership Committee News Oct. 2016

September and October have been busy months for the membership committee as we planned and implemented our new-member orientation. We are excited to announce that seven new members completed the orientation class and signed the book. Our new members are: **Lynn and Robert Myatt, Joyce Axelson-Lorch and Fed Lorch, Lois Sanford, Celia Everest, and Cindy Ross**. We also had one person who attended the morning session to learn more about UU and explore membership. In December the whole congregation will welcome these new members during a special part of a regular service.

We would also like to welcome Lynn Myatt who has agreed to serve on the membership committee. David Jantz has been working hard to update the directory which is available through e-mail or hard copy. Soon we will start to add pictures and bios of our new members to our website, so check it often for all the latest information.

Janeane Reagan, Chair

STTAL (Sharing, Time, Talents, & Love)

Being Unitarian Universalist we are individuals that see the worth of all, we speak of volunteering, getting involved. Now as a congregation we need to step up and put these Ideals to practice. We can give back and reach out at the same time. Your talents can help us grow into our future. We can place whatever **time** you have to share your **talents** with someone who can use them. We can offer tutoring in whatever your talent may be to anyone who could use it. Art, music, sports, civics' class, you could start a coupon club. Whatever it is we can offer it to someone in our new community. We have the power to be our own future.

Please let us know what your talents are:

Name	Talent	When/where Available	Email address

We can offer tutoring. Events such as movie nights, lectures, or holiday concerts could be offered at set rates, or donations. There are free services we can arrange for lectures such as Florida driving safety, or boating safety. Special events (speakers, musical groups) can be very large fund raisers.

These are just some ideas on paper; it will take physical effort for any of it to happen. Promotion needs to start now. We need to start bringing these ideas to the congregation as early as possible. Our on-line campaign needs to be up and promoting our future opening. I want to hear from you!

Robert Myatt, ram2119@msn.com

November Birthdays

John Landers, November 1
Alexander Emery, November 10
Ginny Morgan, November 12
David Jantz, November 12
Eloise Fisher, November 18
Connie Sanford, November 21