



The Communicator

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

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March Programs

Discussion Group at 9:30 am

April 2 – A Ted talk by Kaitlyn Dowdy – **“A Burial Practice that Nourishes the earth”**.

April 9 – Open Forum.

More April Programs will be announced in the Sunday Bulletins.

Celebration of life Service at 11:00 am



April 2 – “Climate Change—Where do we stand?” David Crump, a resident of Mt Dora and Reformed Church in America minister invites us to explore what we can do when leaders are denying climate science and issuing orders to dismantle critical environmental protections.

April 9 - Elaine Silver (Rev “Fairie” Elaine) "Spirituality & the Beatles" Our Sunday Celebration of Life Service will be given over to Rev. Elaine Silver in a concert program exploring the spirituality of the Beatles’ music. The concert will be followed by our annual meeting at which we elect members to our board and introduce a budget for our next fiscal year. Also on this Sunday, following the Annual Meeting, we will have a catered luncheon with information on pledging for our first year in our new home.



April 16 – Christine Dance, a Candidate for the UU Ministry in her second year at Iliff School of Theology and 17-year member of the First Unitarian Church of Orlando, asks: **"God has many Names-What do we Call the Divine?"**

As Unitarian Universalists, we don’t have a creed or statement of belief, but many of us still have relationships with the Divine. With such a wide diversity of beliefs, we have the ability to use our creativity to name what we call this Spirit of Love. Join us as we explore the many ways that different UUs invoke the Divine for ourselves.

April 23 – Marta Pearson: “The Bitter and the Sweet of Celebrations.” In most Unitarian Universalist services, there is a time of sharing Joys and Sorrows. I relish each shared, both the sweet joys and the bitter sorrows. One sorrow that I’ve never heard expressed and that I believe most people are unaware of is the experience of sorrow that is associated with Celebrations. Awareness is the start. Learn how to be aware that all Celebrations aren’t celebrations to all and how to be a welcoming community by providing understanding and opportunities for joy to come to their lives. If you normally avoid celebrations come and find comfort. You are not alone.

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Russ Littlefield, Vice Pres.	Carl Skiles
Joyce Axelson, Secretary	Suzie Lockwood
Stu Anderson, Treasurer	

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April 30 – Tracie Barrett-Welser “The Joy is in the beginning”. As we all are embarking on brand new territory, Rev Tracie Barrett-Welser explores both the joy in beginning as well as the other emotions that come up: Grief, fear, excitement and joy. Change and new beginnings can be both scary and exhilarating and both are correct and expected. No matter what emotions we are dealing within this new change, we are all in this together.



President’s Message...



We're on the Brink. By this time next month, we:

- should be in our new Building, AND, we
- will have met our new part time minister and heard her first sermon, AND we
- should have lots of new ideas for programs we will be able to develop and enjoy.

As we announced on March 19, the UUCLC Board is in process of negotiating an agreement with the Reverend Tracie Barrett-Welser to be our part time minister. She is currently serving as the Student Minister at the UU Fellowship of Marion County, FL, where she works with Reverend Janet Onnie. Reverend Tracie will be ordained to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry on April 23 at UUFMC and then a week later April 30, she will be in our pulpit for Sunday service. Reverend Tracie comes very highly recommended and we are very fortunate to bring such a fine candidate to UUCLC. You will be able read more about Reverend Tracie in next month's edition of the Communicator.

One more thing, Congregation members have been working diligently on myriad details involved in constructing our new building and planning for our transition. In addition, Committee Chairs and members have been working to maintain operations, i.e., provide services every Sunday and during the week. It's been a bit like juggling, when you also add in planning for the new fiscal year. But, I'm pleased to tell you that our Congregation members are wonderful people to work with: open and generous and talented. We see evidence of that every day.

There are many opportunities to participate in the life of the Congregation. A major opportunity is to attend the Annual Meeting, which will be held on April 9, immediately following the service. At the Annual Meeting, Congregation Members will vote to elect Officers and/or Trustees to vacant positions on the UUCLC Board. This is also, where the Finance Committee will present a draft budget for the upcoming fiscal year to the Congregation for discussion. Congregation members will have an opportunity to identify their priorities and after discussion, appropriate adjustments to the Budget will be made.

Think about what you want and need from and for our congregation. And then speak up and join in. We welcome and need your involvement. This is your congregation.

...Chris Higgins, President of the Board of Trustees

Building Report...

**Completion is near – The end is in sight.
Promised completion date is April 14th. But????**

All site grading, paving, lighting, sidewalks and utilities are complete. Ninety percent of the landscaping has been installed, only the seeding remains to be done. All of the building structure has been completed, including walls, roof, windows, doors and interior walls, which have been painted. Work is progressing rapidly on the interior flooring, ceilings, plumbing fixtures, lighting and the A/V systems. The kitchen appliances have been ordered and will be installed next week. If all parts of the building are complete and the City of Eustis issues the “Certificate of Occupancy” on April 14th, as hoped, we can have our first service in the building on Sunday April 16th. However, things don’t always go as planned, so be prepared for a later opening.



...Carl Skiles



Leadership Council Meeting - March 20, 2017...

Attending: Chris Higgins, Russ Littlefield, Stuart Anderson, Carl Skiles, Janeane Reagan, Suzie Lockwood, Julie Champion, Christie Cleveland, Peter Pitzele, Donald Stearns, Joyce Lenahan

Updates

Don Stearns is on the slate of **Board Officers, as Secretary** to be voted on at our Annual Meeting.

Joyce Lenahan has volunteered to chair **Care & Connect Committee**. **Christie Cleveland** volunteered to chair **Religious Education**. Both these positions need to be confirmed by the Board on 3/30

Chris Higgins indicates that our **new minister** has child education experience and this will be helpful. Discussion of renaming RE to Life Span Development. Further work needs to reach out to others who might be able to help launch this committee which will address, UU, spirituality and "other religions".

BUILDING UPDATE: Carl Skiles met with Jim Lenahan who will **Chair Operations and Maintenance**. Responsibilities and tasks need to be determined before deciding if volunteers or hires are needed. Back up plans, protocols need to be developed. Manuals will be provided. Bahia grass, low maintenance is being used. With the sale of the 3 acres, no budget deficit is expected. ▶

► **Community Reception:** Will be moved to the Fall, likely **11/4** as the Lake County Concert Band will be available. Gina is Chair of this. **Invitation ONLY**, including gov't officials, police, fire as the occupancy limit is about 230.

New building dedication: WRAP is attending to this.

All Committees duties include: convening a monthly meeting, generating reports to other committees and Board, projecting & submitting budgets, coordination with Board liaisons. Discussion of recruiting more folks for various committees as we grow, perhaps have a table set up with each committee, its mission/members. Discussion about finding talents within our congregation to direct toward complimenting committees. Membership is working on this. Discussion ensued re: transitioning Leadership Council and committee chairs who are year-round to take ownership of the Leadership Council; It was decided that a chairperson will be chosen at the next meeting. Tenure length to be determined.

Hospitality Committee needs more defining with our growth. Special Events, was decided to be a subgroup of Hospitality. Other tasks involve circle dinners, 3rd Tues Lunch "out" and pot luck. Discussion about renting out our facility to Boy Scouts/others and would this come under Hospitality Committee.

Membership is busy and active, updating DOBs, passions for "Talent Bank". Newest members are up to date, but need to survey all our congregation. Dave Jantz is very aware of the work ahead.

PR: tabled as Gina not present.

Committees to be established: Safe Congregation, which will likely include Janeane, Suzie and our new minister, Tracie. Social Justice: Robert Myatt might be interested.

Communication: Carl indicated concern about not having a channel of communications amongst each other. More on this later.

Longer Term Items:

Choose a Chair Person for Leadership Council Meeting

Community Fair, perhaps in the Fall

Leadership Development

Pledge Drive

More work on the functions of the Hospitality Committee

Discussion about future development of a summer camp

Establishing an Elders Council to help this congregation and regionally. Russ spoke of The Orlando Platform for governance. Peter had discussed inviting some "seasoned" elders to occasional committee and/or Leadership meetings to help with problem solving and resolution of conflict and acknowledged the wealth of wisdom we have within our congregation.

The **next Leadership Council Meeting** is scheduled for April 17 at noon, immediately following the Membership Committee Meeting. Chris Cleveland volunteered to draft the agenda for the meeting.

...Joyce Lenahan

Tidbits from the Board of Trustees March...

The Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lake County (UUCLC) meets once a month at our Temporary Office in the Wells Fargo Building in Eustis, Florida. This meeting is open to all members of the congregation. Due to the many projects with our new Building, planning for opening celebration, Annual Meeting, New Part Time Minister Search and more, the Board voted to meet twice in February and March. I offer the following tidbits from the March Meeting:

Peter Pitzele, winter resident member introduced Mac Griffith, of the Central Florida Council of Boy Scouts of America (BSA). The Board listened to a presentation on BSA that included interesting proposals on how ►

► UUCLC and BSA could partner in sharing services. Look for more information as we prepare to move into our new building.

Finance – Stuart Anderson keeps the Board up to date on all fiscal matters and currently is reviewing income to develop budgets for 2017-2018. Watch for ways you can help fund your UUCLC community and programs.

Nominating Committee members, John Landers, Joanne Reilly and Gina Rossi were diligent in their task of creating a slate of officers to vote on to replace outgoing Board Members, Russ Littlefield, Vice President, Joyce Axelson-Lorch, Secretary, Suzanne Lockwood, Trustee. Slate was announced at the March 12th Service. Please remember to attend upcoming Annual Meeting and vote.

Annual Meeting - Watch for more information on the Annual Meeting that will take place on April 9th. Great plans for this day, you will want to be there for all the fun and activities planned for that day.

Part-Time Minister Search Committee - The work of this committee is complete and their findings have been given to the BOT to vote on and approve the candidate to be our next Part Time Minister. President Chris Higgins made an announcement at a recent service and soon the contract will be signed and it will be official.

Building Completion Celebration is being planned by a committee that was formed by Gina Rossi. That celebration will be sometime in the Fall and will include an afternoon performance by Lake County Concert Band under the direction of John Landers followed by a reception with light refreshments. The date had to be postponed due to a delay in the Certificate of Occupancy for the New Building.

Building - Carl Skiles brought the BOT up to date on completion date of the new building, closing on the sale of 3.3 acres of the land owned by UUCLC. If you haven't seen the new building it is worth taking a ride by...you will be pleasantly surprised when you see the progress.

Betty Emery also provided a lengthy report on the work of her committee. Work on design of the stained-glass windows for the new building is a project that is in the works. Determining needs for the Kitchen and creating a registry on Amazon.com is also in the works.

Membership Committee - A service to welcome new members took place at a recent service. All members were welcomed and some members shared their experience of finding UUCLC with the congregation.

Adult Education - Christie Cleveland has been generously providing TAI CHI for members of the congregation. While TAI CHI began indoors it has moved to outdoors in the park on Lake Eustis. A great way to begin your day. All members are welcome to join this group.

This is just a snapshot of some of the happenings on the Board and the many committees at UUCLC. Please check the website for the minutes of each meeting that are posted for your review and information.

...Joyce Axelson, Secretary

UUCLC Membership Committee Minutes - March. 2017

Present: Russ Littlefield, June Sweeten, Bill Hermann, Suzie Lockwood, Kitt Tatum, Chris Higgins, Dave Jantz, Joyce Lenahan, Janeane Reagan. Absent: Pat Barton, Susan Collignon

Review of service **welcoming new members**: Overall impression was very positive particularly the presentations by new members. The arrangement of committee members and Chris as they handed out certificates and gifts needs to be better coordinated so it will go more smoothly. At times speakers, particularly Janeane could not be heard. We are hoping the system at the new church will be better. There was too much activity in the background.

Review of **participant feedback** from membership orientation: A suggestion from both the survey and a committee member that we hold the information class on a regular basis and have it open to anyone who wants to know more about UU including UUA and UUCLC. UUA has books and DVDs that could be the focus of these classes. The class for becoming a member could be held whenever we have 3 or more who wish to become members. We could test this approach this summer to see how it would work.

Report on tri-fold information pamphlet for visitors - Suzie reported that Cindy Ross has her computer fixed and is waiting to see what can be retrieved. We should have a more definite sample for our next meeting. ►

▶ David Janz is **updating the directory** and will announce at each service the need to have everyone check the information in the directory. We need a more consistent method of getting contact info for each individual member/friend.

Talent Bank project - Categories for the data bank need to be identified by various committees. Chris suggested we have a discussion time on a Sunday devoted to identifying the needs for talent at the new building augmented by e-mails to all members/friends.

Joyce Lenahan has volunteered to chair the **Care Committee** which will be a subcommittee of Membership. She will have her own committee and has joined the membership committee. Suzie will be the liaison to help inform Joyce of members/friends needing support or help. The question of who will help to arrange for transportation when someone needs it is still undecided.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 17 at 10:30. Location to be determined.



...Janeane Reagan

New Lifespan Development (Education) Committee Seeks Members

As we anticipate our congregation growing, new committees are forming. The Lifespan Development Committee's purpose is to expand our educational class offerings for congregants and possibly for the greater community. It will coordinate educational offerings for both adults and children, beyond the Sunday celebration-of-life services and the Discussion Group. This committee will survey the needs and wants of the congregation, recruit facilitators, provide a venue for classes, publicize classes, and support facilitators with training and supplies, if needed.

If you are interested in exploring this committee, please contact Chris Cleveland at

chriscleveland1951@gmail.com or 989-627-1234.

We especially are looking for a year-round resident to keep this committee active during the summer, too.



Help Us Help the Homeless

For those of you who haven't heard, "The Open Door" is a daytime drop-in center for individuals and families in Lake County who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. It provides a safe compassionate and supportive environment for those experiencing homelessness, where they can access services and resources. Some services offered include showers and laundry, snacks and beverages, most days a hot meal, mailing address, phone access, assistance applying for benefits, computer access, on-site support services and even haircuts. Caring compassionate people provide lunch; sometimes in a crock pot, casserole or even sandwiches.



Our congregation has been volunteering once a week since its opening over a year ago. As UUs, we believe in "deeds not creeds" and it's a way to reach out and help the less fortunate. There are over 3,000 Lake County students homeless and over 400 chronically homeless in our care area. Hard to believe!

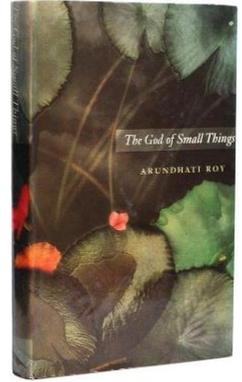
Our congregation is always looking for volunteers to help on Fridays from 11:00 until 2:00. They are also in need of volunteers at other times during the week and always in need of prepared lunches. If you would like to volunteer a few hours here or there, or supply a meal, please contact me. "Nurture Your Spirit, Help Heal Our World"

Peace, Suzie Lockwood

UU Book Group...

The UU Book Group will meet on April 25 at 3:00 in our new facility. The discussion will be on *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy.

The God of Small Things (1997) is the debut novel of Indian writer Arundhati Roy. It is a story about the childhood experiences of fraternal twins whose lives are destroyed by the "Love Laws" that lay down "who should be loved, and how. And how much." The book explores how the small things affect people's behavior and their lives. It won the prestigious Booker Prize in 1997.



Making a gift to the congregation with a contribution for the new building



We will be moving into our building soon and there are many items we will need. If you have a desire to contribute, there are several ways you can help us furnish our new home with much needed supplies. I am sure we will discover many more items we will need after we move in. In the meantime, several of us have identified things we know we need now – to get us up and running when we open our doors. We have also identified items that we wish we could have but are not critical for the day to day operations of the building. We welcome any contribution - big or small. You can find that we have items that will fit just about any one's budget! And to make it all as easy as possible, we have some ideas to help you if you wish to give towards our new building...

For those of you who are computer savvy and enjoy shopping on Amazon, our congregation has a wish list with items already selected that you can purchase. To view the list:

<https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/?ie=UTF8&cid=A3KBLI2GVNUKBW>

Please do not have anything shipped directly to our new building at this time. If you order something, have it shipped to your home. There are some exceptions which are noted on the list on Amazon. We will be adding more items soon so keep checking back on the wish list site often!

If the Amazon Wish List does not suit your fancy, then you are very welcome to contribute towards the **Beautification Fund**. We have been graciously given money to use towards making our new building beautiful. Some of the money in the fund has been earmarked for special pieces of art. Some of the money is un-designated and will be used where it is needed for beautification projects. The money in this fund will not be used for purchasing equipment and supplies. These funds are strictly for beautification. We have several projects on the "books". For example, one project is stained glass windows for which we already have a generous donation but some additional funds will be needed. We are also hoping for a memorial garden with benches and possibly some works of art to enhance the area. I would also love to see us have a playground for children. We are only limited by our imaginations! If you wish to contribute to the **Beautification Fund**, please let me know how you would like to help. You can designate how you want any contribution spent or leave it un-designated to be used where needed. Any amount, large or small would be greatly appreciated.

If you want to contribute towards something significant, very needed and very practical, we have opportunity to contribute towards the purchase of office equipment. We will be needing a new printer/fax machine, a copier, and possibly even a new computer or two. These items can be relatively expensive. We would like to start off with new, modern equipment for the office in our building. If this sounds more like what you have an interest in – then please let me know. We can take a contribution of funds for office equipment and put it to very good use!

If you want to contribute to **any** aspect of the building project or have a specific item you would like to contribute towards, your generous gift - large or small - will be gratefully received. You can contact me by email: bemery@mpinet.net. ►

► Additionally, I personally wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to the many who have already contributed so generously. Thank you for your vision and dreams for our new home!

Betty Emery

“Linda Bystrak is Moving” Party

Sunday, April 23rd @ 1 pm
Trout Lake Nature Center

Linda Bystrak will be moving to Maryland soon to be closer to her son. She hopes to get an RV and visit Florida for a few months each winter. We will certainly miss Linda. Please consider coming to the party to honor our kayaking, water activist, environmental educator and wonderful friend.

If coming, please bring a dish to share or help with setup and cleanup. UUCLC members are also providing beverages. If you want to help bring beverages, call Chris Cleveland (989) 627-1234 to coordinate.

In lieu of gifts, consider a donation to a nature or environmental group of your choice.

The Serpent's Gift

The truest thing the serpent said
to the woman by the tree
had nothing to do with living or dead
or Divinity's decree.

The truest thing the serpent said
was the tree would make one wise:
"You think you see, but no, my dear,
the fruit will ope' your eyes."

And so she ate and so did he,
and they left that Paradise
for a world of time, but in it lived
with marveling open eyes.

And I today, as the sun slants down,
and another Sunday dies,
I sit in the light of an afternoon
with gratefully open eyes.

There's a beauty born of transience;
it's death that makes us wise.
The gift we bear in this wondrous world
is living with open eyes.

(poem by Peter Pitzele)

April Birthdays

Frank Bishop, April 2
Roger Seidner, April 18
Debbie Miller, April 19
Bernie Greenberg, April 25
Ernie Rossi, April 26