



# The Communicator

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

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## August Programs

**August 6 – “A Celebration of Florida’s Land, Water, Native Plants, and Natural Areas. And What You Can Do to Help Care for It.”** Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson, Organizing Representative, Sierra Club.

**August 13 –** We continue our series on exploring Christian denominations with Unity Minister, Eleanor Bentley, whose topic is "Seeds of Change." She was ordained in 1995 at the Unity Institute in Kansas City, MO. Eleanor has served Churches in Missouri and Florida for over 20 years.

**August 20 –** We do some exploration of the latest UUA Statement of Conscience topic, **Income Inequality**, with a video called “What the 1% don’t Want You to Know.” Discussion after.

**August 27 – CELEBRATION** of the anniversary of the first year of service of the Interfaith Council of Lake County and the new UUCLC facility -- Learn about the activities of the Council over the past year and their upcoming plans, the story of how the UUCLC building came to be, and the **sanctuary** that we can create together for our community.

### UUCLC Information & Contacts

Mail address: PO Box 1761, Eustis, FL 32727  
Office Phone: (352) 805-8451  
Email contact: lakecountyuu@gmail.com  
Website: lakecountyuu.net

Officers	Trustees
Chris Higgins, President	Betty Emery
Suzie Lockwood, Vice Pres.	Carl Skiles
Donald Stearns, Secretary	Joyce Axelson
Stu Anderson, Treasurer	

Minister  
Rev. Tracie Barrett-Welser  
Phone: (863) 206-9086

The Communicator is published monthly.  
Editor: Ted Fessler Phone: (352) 735-7405  
[tedandeleonor@gmail.com](mailto:tedandeleonor@gmail.com)

The **WRaP committee** will hold a **worship leader training workshop** on August 16th at 1:30 in the sanctuary. Several people have expressed interest in being involved in parts of the service including service-leading. This class is aimed at introducing people to what is involved in being service leader and at giving some opportunity to practice.

### Minister’s Musings...



As many of you know, I recently graduated from seminary. The program was three years of intensive work with very few breaks. My normal routine for that time involved constantly reading, constantly writing, and constantly studying. Suddenly, that changed. This summer has been so different for me. Other than my prep work and planning for coming to UUCLC, I’ve had the summer off for the first time in three years. The shift from going non-stop to suddenly being able to slow down and enjoy time with family, friends, and myself was difficult. Which really surprised me.

I anticipated and planned for what I was going to do during that coveted down time. For the last few months of school I made all these grandiose plans of how I was going to enjoy having very little responsibility. When that time came, however, I acted on ▶

▶ very few of those plans. I had all this time and space and yet I had a tough time adjusting. I spent a lot of time wandering around my house, feeling like there was all this stuff I needed to do. Self-care looked a lot different than I expected it to when I planned. Self-care became reminding myself to stop, to breathe, to look around, and to relax. My new normal now has time for taking care of myself, my family, and my home. It involves time to enjoy my hobbies and to read and sleep. With all that, though, is a sense of grief.

Change, even a good change, is hard. It takes time to settle in to the new normal. We should take time to recognize there is grief for what once was our normal routine. There are things I will miss about that chaotic time in school. There are things I'm looking forward to that will fill that space and time in my life. Right now, however, is that liminal space between what once was and what will be. So now, the work is to breathe, to look around, and to relax. And, ultimately, to prepare internally for the work ahead.

This work of being in our world and living our values is difficult. We must take the time for self-care in order to be able to do the work. May the rest of your summer find you taking the time to stop and breathe and simply be. I look forward to seeing you all in September and getting settled into our new normal together.

...Rev Tracie

### UUCLC Membership Committee News...

The membership committee has been very busy even though it is summer and many of our folks are vacationing and snow-birding. We held our first midsummer UU Orientation Class with 8 new visitors attending. It was also our first time with Rev. Tracie presenting a "quick history of UU". Most of the attendees have expressed intent to follow up with the membership class which will be scheduled this fall. We already have 4 visitors signed up for the next orientation class. Adding all these diverse and interesting people enriches our congregational family and is so exciting.



We have started to implement the "volunteer greeter program". Pat Barton is in charge and she is recruiting volunteers to serve for a Sunday. Two volunteers will be located near the table in the foyer. One will orient visitors to the sign-in sheet and name tags while the second will usher them into the sanctuary. Introducing first time visitors to someone they could sit with will help to make them feel welcomed. There is a sign-up sheet on the table and we encourage members and friends to get involved. This is an important role in facilitating the comfort level of both new people and those who are returning. It is also a great way to serve the congregation and get to know names and faces. Don't be surprised if Pat taps you on the shoulder with a recruiting request but it is even more helpful if you offer to volunteer. If you have questions please contact Pat Barton at 973-7058 or email at [beb1940@peoplepc.com](mailto:beb1940@peoplepc.com).

We now have color coding for our stick-on name tags. Visitors are encouraged to use the red ones and members and friends who may have forgotten their tags can use a blue one. If you see someone with a red tag please introduce yourself and strike up a conversation.

**Janeane Reagan, Membership committee chair**

### Building Report



The construction phase of the of the building project has been completed and the final Certificate of Occupancy issued by the City of Eustis. All the work in the construction contract, including the kitchen, is complete and we are now in full possession of the building. The final payment will be made to the contractor when we receive the final releases of lien from all subcontractors.

All responsibilities for the operations and maintenance of the building now rest with the congregation. Committees have been formed to carry out the responsibilities and they are working diligently to maintain the grounds, keep the building clean, operate the A/C systems efficiently, control the access and security systems, control the lights and operate the audio / visual systems.

We thank all the people who contributed to making the building project a complete success.

...Carl Skiles

## The Leadership Council...

The Leadership Council, comprised of members of the Board of Trustees and Committee Chairs meets once a month. The mission of the Leadership Council is to support the committee chairs as they plan and establish programs that promote the Vision and Mission of UUCLC and enrich the members and the community.

The following highlights work done over the past month by the Leadership Council:

- Sponsored 'Time, Talent and Watermelon' a Sunday worship service that incorporated a fact-finding exercise to celebrate member's and friend's talents and to give all an opportunity to use those talents at UUCLC. Thank you to everyone who participated.
- Over forty members completed a form which reinforced the amount of talent we have available at UUCLC.
- Protocols are being developed for submitting proposals for activities and programs at UUCLC.
- Committees are developing Vision, Mission and Covenant statements.
- Watch for two fund raiser concerts in the near future.
- Watch for opportunities to volunteer and work on some of the upcoming programs planned for Fall and Winter.

The Leadership Council is an integral part of UUCLC and we are all excited about the work we are doing to provide innovative support to each other and to UUCLC members and friends.

...Joyce Axelson

The **Care & Connect Committee** is here for anyone within our Congregation experiencing personal challenges or crises. If you wish to make a confidential referral please contact any of our committee members in person, by email or by phone.

Joyce Lenahan, chair	352-602-4934	<a href="mailto:jjlen53@gmail.com">jjlen53@gmail.com</a>
Stephanie McCants, co-chair	352-602-8581	<a href="mailto:sm3522@hotmail.com">sm3522@hotmail.com</a>
Dawn Wood-Collins	Lois Sanford	Debbie Miller

**We need help for rides:** If you can provide a ride, we would appreciate letting one of us know, or sign up on our "who to call" list, always on the table in the Social Hall. It might be just for one time, once a month or weekly. As of now, we are desperately in need of knowing "who we can call" if a ride is needed (for Sunday service mostly, but perhaps for other needs, as well.) **Thank you.**

If you have any cards or notecards that you would like to get rid of, Debbie Miller is always in need. Donations mean we have little budget costs. We are so very lucky to have Debbie sending out cards and notes to our Congregants.

...Joyce Lenahan

## August Birthdays

Russ Littlefield, August 1  
Wayne Linfield, August 13  
Alicia Sparks, August 18  
Suzie Lockwood, August 21  
Sue Jantz, August 24

## UUCLC Safe Congregation Committee News

The **Safe Congregation Committee** has been newly created and is off and running. Safe Congregation is a committee which most UU churches have in place. It is an umbrella committee whose purpose is to develop policies and procedures related to both the emotional and physical safety of our congregation. This committee works closely with other committees such as education, building maintenance, and social justice. A taskforce within the Safe Congregation is the Right Relations Team (RRT) which educates and guides the congregation toward more effective ways of relating to each other through conscious covenantal living.

In the first meeting of the Safe Congregation Committee 3 safety items were identified as priorities to address right away:

1. Door bells that would make it possible to keep doors locked when individuals or small groups are in the building. These bells have been installed.
2. A land line that would identify the address in case of 911 calls. A phone is in the office.
3. **A portable defibrillator (AED)** - An AED has been purchased and will be installed in the foyer once we have enough members who have been trained in CPR/AED. The training will be provided by the Eustis Fire Department. If you are interested in the training please contact Suzie Lockwood.
4. **A fourth item, making the parking stops more visible, is being addressed by the building and grounds committee.**

The Safe Congregation Committee has also submitted and the board has accepted a written policy for handling disruptive behavior during church services and in meetings. We look forward to scheduling a discussion time during which we can present this topic later in the fall.

**Janeane Reagan, Chair**

### Leaks from Leadership Council

The Leadership Council, comprised of members of the Board of Trustees and Committee Chairs meets once a month. The mission of the Leadership Council is to support the committee chairs as they plan and establish programs that promote the Vision and Mission of UUCLC to enrich the members and the community.

Highlights from our recent July meeting:

- **Safe Congregation** --- AED Equipment purchased and soon there will be a training on the Equipment. We need people who have a current CPR certification to volunteer for training and to be a volunteer in the congregation should a need arise.
  - Disruptive Behavior Protocol approved.
  - Watch for training by local Deputy on Building Safety.
- **WRAP** – In December watch for Buddhist Retreat.
- **PR** -- On November 4<sup>th</sup> watch for news about formal opening celebration with Lake County Band performing.
  - New Business Cards are completed
- **Care and Connect** is actively reaching out to members with needs and continues to be a thriving Committee.
- **Membership** – is already planning their next Orientation for new comers.

In the works:

- A protocol for scheduling events
- Worship Service Leader Training in August
- Watch for upcoming concerts, Peace Awareness Events, Solstice event and more.

...Joyce Axelson