



# The Communicator

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

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## February Programs

### Discussion Group at 9:30 am

**February 5** – “Can a Divided America Heal” - Continuing a previous discussion,

**February 12** – **UU Seven Principles** – Which one is most important to you, and why?

**February 19** – **Outside the Box – Envisioning our Future, Part III.**

**February 26** – **Income Inequality and the Decline of the Middle Class.**

### Worship Service at 11:00 am

**February 5** – Rev. Herb Agee on “**Stewardship**”. Marion County Hospice Chaplain, Herb Agee, has a little different perspective on giving which he will share with us. Pastor Herb is in fellowship with our Sister congregation in Summerfield, FL.

**February 12** – Rev. Janet Onnie: “The UU Trinity of Care”. Caring for each other is the work of an entire community. This is especially true in a congregational setting, where many assume that they will be accompanied through the highs and lows of life by compassionate companions. This morning we will explore one model of providing this care.

**February 19** – Kalen Fristad. “Universalism: Past, Present and Powerful”: In addition to speaking on the long rich history of universalism, Rev. Fristad will be relating that the teaching of eternal damnation is not merely a harmless untruth that we might appropriately ignore and allow to stand, but it has serious consequences. It leads to the possibility, perhaps even the inevitability, of wars, bigotry, oppression and abuse. On the other hand, the teaching of universalism leads to equality, respect, love and dignity for all.

**February 26** – Orlando Rodriguez “**The Challenge of End of Life Ministry**”. As a chaplain for Cornerstone Hospice, Rev Orlando Rodriguez provides spiritual and emotional support and end of life counseling to patients and families from many different backgrounds and faiths (and non-faiths). Rev Rodriguez will speak about this spiritual challenge.

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## President's Message...

Thank you WRAP (Worship Research and Program) Committee for a wonderful beginning to 2017! For both our 9:30 am Discussion Group and our 11 am Celebration Service.

Our Discussion Group has been a good mixture of looking outward – “Can a Divided America Heal” – and looking inward – Envisioning UUCLC's Future and discussion of the 'Aging Brain'.

We've also had variety and inspiration from our 11 am speakers. ▶

► Sensei Morris Sekiyo Sullivan came to us from the Buddhist Fellowship of Volusia County and echoed aspects of our third principle (encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregation) when he spoke about the value of the Buddhist (Beloved) Community or Sangha. Sensei Sullivan plans to be with us again in March, May and June.

We heard a poignant story of spiritual journey from Marta Pearson, who came to us from the Tampa UU. She emerged strong, with her Great Own Determination and suggested some steps for those who needed help in moving on their path.

Rev. Roger Seidner is our Minister Emeritus. We have been fortunate to have Roger as our champion and mentor and teacher for over 20 years. He returned in January and reassured us that we could learn much from our Adversaries and Adversities. Always a model and an inspiration, we look forward to having Roger with us quarterly, as he is able.

Without a dogma to prescribe a belief system, UUs sometimes struggle with language and common definitions. Pete Kersey, who came to us from Vero Beach UU, suggested that he finds AWE in nature and in the interdependent web of existence.

Did you enjoy these speakers/discussions? Hear the same thing I did? Miss a sermon/discussion and wish you hadn't?

Your WRAP committee would like feedback. We will be resurrecting the "Feedback – Suggestion Box". Think, suggest, participate. This is your congregation.

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

### February Birthdays

Carl Scott, February 5  
Ray Cormany, February 24

### Building News Brief February. 1, 2017

The building construction is progressing on schedule. The roof is complete and the outside walls are ready for the siding and stone to be installed. The studs are up for all of the inside walls and the installation of the drywall has begun. All of the wiring has been run for the electrical system, the A/V system, and the security system, and the interior build-out has started. Most of the items for the interior furnishings, fixtures and finishes have been selected and ordered.

Some of the sidewalks have been installed, the roads are ready for pavement, and the site has been graded and is ready for the landscaping.

We are anxiously awaiting the projected completion date of March 31.

...Carl Skiles





### **Tidbits from the Board of Trustees December Meeting**

The Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lakes County (UUCLC) meets once a month at our Temporary Office in the Wells Fargo Bldg in Eustis, Florida. This meeting is open to all members of the congregation. I offer the following tidbits from the January meeting:

\*Our January meeting was opened by Chris Higgins, President with a moment of silence and Chalice Lighting on Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>.

\*We had member visitors and a winter resident member attend this Board Meeting. They came with new ideas, presentations and exciting news about the Grand Opening, Streaming Sunday Services Live, and more brainstorming events for the congregation.

\*Stu Anderson indicated that although we continue to be on target with funds we are always open to new ideas on how to raise funds. A copy of Stu's report is usually provided with the minutes of the Board of Trustees monthly meeting.

\* Betty gave a lengthy report, covering all of the work her committee has done and news about appliances, chairs, tables, building medallion and more. Thank you Betty for all the hard work.

\*Gina Rossi presented design drawings for the Chalice that is being designed and made by a local artist for our new building's Sanctuary and guarantees it will have a 'no-fail' lighting mechanism. (Smile).

\*Gina also indicated that she has formed a committee to work on the GRAND OPENING to be held on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. The committee welcomes all those members who want to help with this grand event. Thank you, Gina, for all that you so generously give to UUCLC.

\*The ministerial search committee is working hard to develop a wants and needs assessment in order to match applicants to that criteria and to then introduce us to a candidate(s) to make a decision on.

\*Carl Skiles reviewed the building progress and developed a list of volunteer staff that is needed for daily operations once the building is open. A list will be in the minutes of the Board Meeting and all members are

encouraged to review that list and indicate where they might share their expertise to keep our congregation vibrant and growing. Thank you, Carl, for the many hours you give to UUCLC.

\*Thank you Stu Anderson for creating our Amazon account and want list registry. A want list 'registry' is being worked on by Betty Emery and her committee that will soon be available for members to go on line and donate items to the church.

\*UUCLC will also get credit when anyone makes an order on Amazon and checks off UUCLC as the charity that they want to get credit for their order.

\*The Wrap Committee works diligently and meets weekly to provide meaningful discussion and service. Plans for February to be announced soon. Thank you, Russ, and your committee for the commitment of time, energy and research that helps you provide 'awesome' discussions and services.

\*Nominating Committee is creating a slate of names for members to vote on for the Board of Trustees for the upcoming election process in May. Great time for members to indicate their interest in an office. Thank you to Igor and his committee for all the time and effort spent on this project.

A big thank you to Ted Fessler for his generosity in time and energy on everything he does for UUCLC, the monthly Newsletter.

The Board will meet twice a month until further notice. I offer the following dates for your review and consideration in attending:

Next Board Meetings:

Thursday, February 9 at 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 23 at 1:00 p.m.

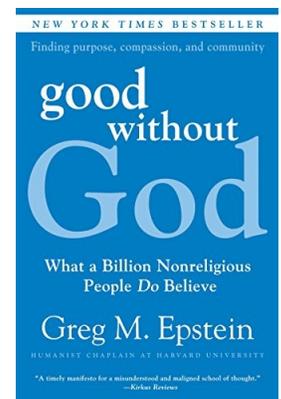
This is just a snapshot of some of the happenings on the Board and the many committees at UUCLC. Please check the website for the minutes of each meeting that is posted for your review and information.

I would also like to offer appreciation to our President, all the members of the Board, the hospitality committee, membership committee, the Leadership Committee, people providing music and for all the members.

...Joyce Axelson, Secretary

## UU Book Group...

The UU Book Groups' Selection for February is *good without God*. Here is part of what Publishers' Weekly wrote about it "The humanist chaplain at Harvard University offers an updated defense of humanism in response to the belligerent attacks on religion put forward by such new atheists as Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris and Christopher Hitchens. Epstein's approach to religion is respectful, and for the most part, friendly. He sees liberal Christians, Unitarian Universalists, Jews and spiritual self-help gurus, such as Oprah Winfrey, as natural allies of humanists—though at times he seems impatient for them to admit they no longer believe in a transcendent God. A student of Sherwin Wine, the late rabbi and founder of Humanistic Judaism, Epstein's humanism is rooted in his mentor's essentially Jewish formulations. His most impassioned argument is with megachurch pastor Rick Warren and other evangelicals who believe secularism is the enemy and a moral society impossible without a belief in God."



## Dear Congregation,

These are the times that try our souls. How to live a compassionate life, a life based on our principles in the face of bigotry and self interest is a profound question that will test our faith. We need each other more than

ever. We need to reaffirm our trust in love, kindness, and goodness. It is all too easy to feel despondent and cynical and react with hostility.

I miss you more than ever. I miss our beloved community. I miss your life affirming warmth and friendship.

We are still struggling to wrangle this ranch into submission. There has been one set back after another. The latest is a failed septic system that needs digging out by hand and replacing. We were all sick over Christmas and my son Josh has been hospitalized for high blood pressure which is still not under control. I am looking forward to turning the corner and being able to invite you to visit us.

You are in my heart and prayers.

Please keep me in yours.

Nameste

**Rev. Susan**