



The Communicator

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

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May Programs

Discussion Group at 9:30 am

During May, discussions will be Open Forum unless otherwise announced.

Woerscippen at 11:00 am

(Ancient English root of Worship, meaning considering things of worth)

May 7 – Flower Ceremony. Since Czech UU, Norbert Capek created the flower ceremony (he called it the flower communion) in June of 1923, more and more UU Communities have made it a part of their ritual. It is one of our most significant ceremonies. In its essence, it involves bringing a flower and taking a flower in recognition of our togetherness. Please remember to bring your flower for this celebration of our togetherness both in this UU Community and in the wider world.

May 14 – Sensei Sullivan. We invite the Sensei (teacher) regularly to speak to deepen our understanding of Buddhism. This month he will be exploring the concept of "truth" from different angles of Buddhism and religion."

May 21 – Occupying Ceremony of our Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. This is provisional as we seem to always encounter setbacks, but on this Sunday, we hope to have a "we did it" celebration. This will not be a dedication or open house; this will be just for us. More details as we get nearer the time.

May 28 – Memorial Day Service. This is our annual service in recognition of those who have served their country in the military. On this day, we also recognize those members who have died by attaching their name tags to our banner. Roger Seidner, WWII veteran and our Minister Emeritus will conduct the service.



President's Message – Building Project Budget Update

Hello Congregation,

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will see updates on the progress of our new building. Yay—it should be soon; and I for one am eager to get to know our new home! What I have for you is an update regarding the budget for the Building Project, beginning with a bit of history.

As many of you know, on August 28, 2016, at a Special Meeting the Congregation voted to “authorize the Board of Trustees to negotiate the terms and to enter into a contract for the sale of real property and to secure a line of credit using a portion of the remaining 19 acres of church property on the corner of Mount Homer Road and David Walker Drive in Eustis as collateral”. ▶

UUCLC Information & Contacts

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

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► Based upon that authorization, the Board:

- sold the northernmost 3 acre portion of the property for \$129,388, and
- explored obtaining a line of credit with First Green Bank, found the administrative fees to be excessive, and closed out the application, incurring no expenses.

Beginning in 2014, UUCLC began collecting toward a Building Beautification Fund to supplement Ruth Gray's generous Bequest. To date we have collected \$34,260 in donations to the Beautification Fund (of which \$13,700 is undesignated) and we heartily thank the donors, as we will truly need those funds to bring our building project to fruition.

As you can imagine, this has been a long and complex Building Project, beginning with Ruth Gray's bequest in February of 2012. Your Building Project team has been coordinating with realtors, architects and engineers and other specialists; construction contractors, including electricians, plumbers, and carpenters; city planners, and more. We have taken advantage of our tax-exempt status as a church, but this required that we purchase building materials directly from the provider. To do so, change orders to our construction contract were necessary, adding a level of complexity to an already detailed process.

We've been coordinating the Building Project budget with the UUA for five years, until we received the last transfer this past December. Some expenditures were beyond the team's control and exceeded our estimates, like the city of Eustis permits of almost \$33,000. Another example is our experience with the kitchen. City officials initially told us that our specifications qualified us as having a 'warming kitchen'. A 'new' city official revised the assessment and we are now required to install a stove hood that is being custom made at a cost of almost \$12,000.

You see the point, these items add up over five years, and here we are almost at the close of the project. We have a beautiful building that will serve us well for many years into the future. But... we find that there are some items that the Building Construction budget will be unable to cover.

Now that final bills are coming in, we find that we must recommend cuts of approximately \$10,000, earmarked for Monument signs (\$8,200) and Streaming Services (\$1800). It is envisioned that these two initiatives might be either postponed for a bit or be the subject of special fundraising campaigns.

The larger issue, however, is that even after we eliminate these two cost items, we find the Ruth Gray Bequest Fund is short by approximately \$100,000.

The Board of Trustees discussed this at the meeting of April 27 and recommended:

- using the balance in the Money Market Account (\$49,486) that had accumulated over multiple past fiscal years,
- asking individuals who had donated undesignated contributions to the Beautification Fund to re-purpose their donations toward finalizing the Building Construction Budget. This could potentially provide up to \$13,700.
- advising the Congregation of the need for additional Building Campaign donations, and
- scheduling a special meeting on May 21, 2017 to request authorization of the Congregation for a member loan program. Additional detail regarding this Loan Program will be provided with the first meeting notice which will be issued on May 7, two weeks before the Special Meeting.
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RECAP

Shortfall	-\$100,776
Money Market	\$49,486
	-\$51,290 ►

► SOLUTIONS – Explore

Undesignated Building Donations, potentially up to	\$13,700
Building Campaign	\$ TBD
Member Loan Program, potentially up to	\$50,000

As you can infer, the Building Project has been demanding and rewarding. We will all soon reap the fruits of those labors. In next few weeks, you will receive more information about the Building Campaign and Member Loan Program and learn how you can help.

Think about what you want and need from and for our Congregation and also how you can contribute your time, talent and treasure. We welcome and need your involvement. This is your congregation; it wouldn't be the same without you.

Chris Higgins, President of the Board of UUCLC

Tidbits from the Board of Trustees...

The Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lake County (UUCLC) normally meets once a month at our Temporary Office in the Wells Fargo Bldg. in Eustis, Florida. These meetings are open to all members of the congregation. The Board is happy that year-round and winter resident members are taking time to attend some of our Board Meetings. Some very lively and vibrant discussions and brainstorming occur during these meetings.

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, March, and April. The following tidbits from the first April meeting that was held on April 13th at 1:00 p.m.

Chris Higgins, President of the Board of Trustees (BOT) opened the April meeting with a moment of silent reflection and lighting the chalice.

New Board Members – At our Annual Meeting the Slate of Officers was voted on with Suzie Lockwood taking the Vice President seat that was formerly held by Russ Littlefield, Donald Stearns taking the Secretary seat that was temporarily held by Joyce Axelson-Lorch. Joyce Axelson-Lorch will be a Trustee on the Board taking the seat that Suzie Lockwood formerly held.

Part-Time Minister Search Committee – The Board appreciates the hard work of this committee and it's recommendations. The Board has met and voted on the candidate and a letter of agreement is being worked on with our candidate.

Building – Carl Skiles brought the BOT up to date on the timeline of completion of the building, the vandalism that occurred to the Air Conditioning units outside of the building; funding, and additional work that was unexpectedly required due to code and other City requirements. Betty Emery also provided a lengthy report on the work of her committee. Big news – Chairs for Sanctuary and building will be delivered soon. Our 'First Service' will take place soon after we move into the new building...please check the website for information on that.

Membership – The Membership Committee works hard on keeping membership data up to date, new member orientations designed and planned, and are working on new brochure for UUCLC. Plans to update our database with pertinent information is in the works. Watch for more news on this.

Adult Education – Christie Cleveland and Eloise Fisher will co-chair the Education Committee. They welcome Cecilia Everist as a member to their group and always welcome new members. They are developing a Mission Statement and looking at new and innovative adult programs and Religious Education Program for youth. Christie continues to help members stay flexible and limber with her morning TAI CHI classes.

Social Justice – Open Door always welcomes volunteers to assist in UUCLC's commitment to serving homeless in Eustis. UUCLC was able to donate \$1,000 from monies collected at Pot Lucks to Lake Cares, ►

► an organization that reaches out to homeless and others in need collecting food and monies to support their mission.

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

Book Club...



Be warned: This story talks about characters who are forced into sexual slavery.

Canadian smartie-author, Margaret Atwood, wrote *The Handmaid's Tale* in 1985. Since then, it has never been out of print. On Wednesday, HULU, the internet entertainment company, started broadcasting its adaptation of the novel. The internet news and gossip writers are giving it fantabulous reviews so far. Let's go to the source and see what Atwood did with this story. We usually meet on Tuesday afternoons.

This month (May), let's meet the third Tuesday. We are still in the office. Because of the TV and internet noise about this book, if you are going to try your library, better get there. It is of course, available as an eBook. Might be in used book stores. Russ

Care & Connect Committee

This relaunched committee will be having its first meeting on May 7th, following Sunday service. The first item is review & revision of the Mission Statement as best addresses the needs of our Community. We have limited volunteers; of these, a few work during the week, live out of town and/or are snow-birds. If you can lend a hand and heart, any sort of help is greatly appreciated. Your opportunities may be brief & infrequent or even just one time.

We need to work intently to form a network of members who can reach out to one another in times of need, in good times and in bad or during life transitions. Please consider volunteering for this much-needed committee/network so that we can connect. Contact Joyce Lenahan 352-602-4934 or email at jjlen53@gmail.com or just come to our first meeting on May 7th after service.

May Birthdays

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

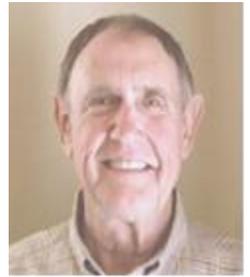
Building Report 4-26-17...

The projected occupancy date has been delayed until May 16, 2017, due to problems with the delivery of some materials, subcontractors work schedules, and permitting.

Building construction in central Florida is booming again and manufacturers and suppliers cannot keep up with demands for materials. There is also a shortage of skilled workers in some trades and subcontractors cannot meet the deadlines originally agreed upon.

Items remaining to be completed are installation of carpet and vinyl flooring, siding and caulking, sound panel installation, sewage pump station electrical controls, the range hood delivery and installation, grass seeding, installation of remaining audio/visual equipment, and final inspections on the uncompleted items.

Most of the completed work has been inspected and passed by the City and we do not expect any problems with the inspections of the remaining items and receiving the certificate of occupancy.



...Carl Skiles



Snowbirds (by Peter Pitzele)

i

Snow birds do not leave in flocks
but individually or in pairs

they lift off, nosing northward
into Spring where the tulips open,

cherry blossoms fill the canopies,
apple orchards blowse the hills.

But we birds of passage go not just to Spring,
we return to the dear birds left behind:

young adults whose lives we're tethered to
by blood and time, and younglings,

tethered on to them, and the newlies,
spouse or infant, entering the clan.

They call the snow birds home.

ii

I am one of these migratories,
about to lift off with my mate.

I circle this moment. What do I leave
behind? It is not a church,

not a fellowship, not a congregation,
not a sanctuary, not a project,

but a flock of bright plumed friends
and the nest we have built among them.

It's where I've found my future.
The north's my past

where I only wish
to visit and catch up. Then,

as the leaves turn and fall falls,
the longing for the nest returns.

A hard frost, some planned event cancelled,
And you'll look at me and say:

"Almost time to go."

"Yes," I'll say, "it's nesting time."

Then we will return to you,
Our feathers grayer, our songs still new.