



The Communicator

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

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October Programs

Discussion Group at 9:30 am

- October 1 – Conversations. Moderated by Carl Skiles.**
- October 8 – Conversations. Moderated by Carl Skiles.**
- October 15 – What Now in the Health Care Debate.**
[possibly with the Jantzes]
- October 22 – Open Door**
- October 29 – Open Discussion**

Woerscippen at 11:00 am

- October 1 – “Rising Up Through Diversity” with Bill and Eli Perras.**

Through original words and music, Eli and Bill share some of the extraordinary difficulties of their lives. Eli was raised as a foster child and raised a blind and deaf child of her own. Both Bill and Eli have faced major health problems. They share how they have used meditation and song writing and performance to overcome these unusually difficult circumstances. This presentation fits very well with the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, and 7th UU Principles.

- October 8 – Rev. Robert Tucker: “Taking Our 5th UU Principle Seriously”:** Rev. Dr. Tucker will survey the changing history of the idea of democracy in the West and focus upon what our role as UUs ought to be, given our 5th Principle: “The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and society at large.”

- October 15 – Rev. Dr. Randy Becker** joins us again for a special message. Randy is a special friend of this Congregation. He is the son of Gladys and Bill Becker, early members and shapers of UUCLC.

- October 22 – “500 Years of Resisting the Establishment”:** This month is the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his theses to the church door. That moment, sparked a reformation that continues today. Rev. Tracie traces not only how the Unitarians came out of this moment, but also how we are still affected by this moment of resisting the establishment.

- October 29 – “Remembrance”:** Nearly every culture and many faith traditions have ways to honor and remember those who have gone on before us. On this Sunday, we will honor and remember our own loved ones. Rev. Tracie invites all to bring a token (photo, an item that holds memory, etc.) of a loved one who has died to be placed on a communal altar before service. During service we will learn about various traditions and begin our own.

UUCLC Information & Contacts

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 Stu Anderson, Treasurer

Trustees

Betty Emery
 Carl Skiles
 Joyce Axelson

Minister

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

To schedule an appointment with Rev. Tracie, please use <https://calendly.com/tbarrettwelsler>

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“Join Rev. Tracie and Rev. Randy as we join with UU congregations across the country to learn more about the white supremacy culture that affects our country, how to recognize and use our privilege to dismantle that supremacy culture, and where to go from here. We will hold our first White Supremacy Teach-In on Saturday, October 14, from 1pm-5pm in the sanctuary.”

Minister's Message...



According to the calendar, fall is now here. According to the actual temperatures, probably not as much. The calendar does not lie. We now begin shifting to fall events and that natural turn more inward as the nights get longer. It's a time for the preparations for family traditions around the holidays.

I am so excited to be with you and for us to be in this new building. It means we can begin setting up some of our own fall and winter traditions. We will begin that this month with our Remembrance Sunday service. On October 29th, I hope you will join us and bring a token (photograph or some other small memorial item) of someone in your life who has passed on. This could be from this year or from ages ago. It could be someone in your immediate family (blood or chosen) or an ancestor. On Sunday, October 29th, you are invited to place those tokens on the tables in front of the chalice before service. During service, which will be laid out a bit different than usual, we will honor those people. You will be able to gather your items after service.

Other things to look forward to, which are still in planning, is a congregational Thanksgiving potluck dinner. We will do this on Thanksgiving for those who may not have a big family to cook for but want to enjoy a big meal! Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year and we will have a regular service that morning. We will also have a traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service that evening. More details on all of these will be forthcoming in the next month as plans are finalized.

I look forward to what we are able to do together. Now that I am here with you on a regular basis, I am available for office hours and pastoral care. I am not here every week, but you can find my availability (and make an appointment) by going to this site: <https://calendly.com/tbarrettwelser>. I look forward to getting to know you all and serving you as your minister. .

...Rev. Tracie

The Journey to our New Building – February 2012 to the Present

Those who read my article in the September Communicator, learned about the UUCLC Operating Budget. This month's article provides a summary of our five year Building Project, including some high level financial data. Since not everyone who is reading this article was with us five years ago, let's begin with a bit of history.

The story of our building began with a group of local people who met in 1989 and found that it was too far to go to Orlando for UU services. After about 5 years the group was formally recognized by the UUA as the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lake County or UUCLC and they rented space primarily at the Woman's Club in Eustis.



Fast forward to 2012 when long time member and former UUCLC President, Ruth Gray died and bequeathed her estate to purchase or build a permanent home for the Congregation. Documentation of the Building Project Milestones has been collected and resides in a binder in the bookcase in Classroom 113, available for Congregation Member and friend review. ►

► Of course, that potentially represented a huge change for the Congregation, so we undertook research and analysis, including a demographic study and many discussions, culminating in a formal congregational vote in November of 2012 to determine whether the Congregation wanted to accept the bequest and all that it implied. The vote was a virtually unanimous YES.

A Building Committee was convened with Carl Skiles as the overall Committee Chair and with Betty Emery as the Interior Design Co-chair. The Committee drafted a vision for our new spiritual home, project plans, criteria for evaluating options and construction bids and more.

In May 2013 we drafted a Vision for Our New Spiritual Home, which read in part:

“Our new home will embody the values, purpose and place in the greater community of the UUCLC. It will invite all who work for a just community and who are searching for personal spiritual fulfillment. We value lifelong learning, freedom of belief, caring fellowship, spiritually meaningful services, and engaged social action. We envision our new home as being respectful of the land with a strong connection to nature, full of natural light and fresh air. To the extent possible, it will be a green, sustainable, energy-efficient, low maintenance building—a model for the community. We will create a building that allows for flexibility and growth and is universally accessible. We see it being simple, but well done, aesthetically pleasing, and of a timeless quality.

This will be a warm, inviting, and welcoming space. We will make every effort to make it intergenerationally attractive. There will be outside areas for gatherings, gardens, meditation, and play. Most importantly, we are building a home that allows us to provide fully for the programs that are our reason for being. This home will include space for religious education and social issue programs that inspire curiosity and lifelong learning and service for both young people and adults. It will be a living space—not just on Sundays, but throughout the week, and will be an asset not only to our own congregation, but also to the greater community.”

So... getting back to our story. We had our criteria. We couldn't find an existing building that would meet our needs. We were concurrently looking for land to use as a building site. After an unsuccessful bid to purchase a 5 acres parcel of land, UUCLC purchased approximately 25 acres on the current site in December 2013. Our minister at the time, Rev Susan Berryman dedicated the property on November 1, 2014, followed by a picnic. We were happy to have then Mayor Holland of Eustis, as well as Commissioner Morin, who is now the current mayor of Eustis, attend.

After meeting with several architects, in June 2014 we contracted with Rispoli & Associates Architecture, Inc. At Building Committee meetings often with over twenty Congregation members, we began to identify our needs and desires, and Joe Rispoli and staff helped us to translate those dreams into building plans.

On December 4, 2015, UUCLC received bids from five construction companies. Scherer Construction & Engineering was the low bidder, but exceeded our budget, so we worked with our architect and prospective contractor to 'value engineer' the project, reducing specifications and negotiating until we came to agreeable terms.

Three years after we put up our 'COMING SOON' sign, we received our temporary Certificate of Occupancy. On May 28, 2017, we held our first service in our new building at 1235 Mount Homer Road in Eustis, FL.

But, even with a temporary CO, construction was not complete as our stove required a (costly) custom designed hood to be tied into the fire suppression system. This special construction would take another two months and our permanent Certificate of Occupancy was not received until July 25, 2017.

Over the 6-year duration of the Building Project, there were many, many meetings – formal and informal – of the Building Committee and Board and of representatives of the Committees with the entire Congregation. In addition to the first meeting in November 2012, where the Congregation voted to accept the bequest, there were three more formal Congregational votes related to the Building Project: ►

- ▶ September 22, 2013 to authorize the Board to negotiate and contract to purchase real estate (See Binder tab 13),
- August 26, 2016 to authorize the Board to sell real property and to secure a line of credit (See Binder tab 23), and
- May 21, 2017 to authorize the Board to promulgate a Member Loan Program of up to \$50,000 to help fund the completion of the building (See Binder tab 25).

Of course, during this building construction project, UUCLC continued to conduct services and develop programs and were looking forward to membership growth and bringing on a new minister – the Reverend Tracie Barrett-Welser – who started officially on September 17, 2017. This has been a busy and productive time for UUCLC.

So, now let's recap the finances associated with the Building Project.

As of the end September 30, 2017, we had spent \$2,740,579.92 on the Building Project. This Project spanned six fiscal years (it began during FY 2013 and we are in FY 2018) and was overseen by 3 UUCLC Treasurers (Pat Linfield, Carl Hommel and our current Treasurer, Stuart Anderson). Stu has painstakingly constructed a twelve-page spreadsheet that lists over two hundred items of expenditure made since January, 2013 and has categorized them, so that they can be summarized. Congregants who would like detail can talk to Stu.

The single largest category of cost was for Construction, followed by Land and then Materials. Note that as a church, we are exempt from the payment of the 7% Florida state sales and use tax. To qualify for this exemption, the church (not the construction contractor) was required to directly purchase materials, furnishings, or supplies. This required extra administrative work, but we estimate that we avoided paying approximately \$30,000.

Building Project Cost by Category as of September 30, 2017

Building and Construction	\$1,352,598.97
Land	751,664.41
Materials	380,892.40
Architect	122,125.03
Furnishings	51,442.45
Fees	45,931.05
Engineers/Design	17,382.67
Rentals	15,555.72
Insurance	2,987.22
TOTAL	<u>\$2,740,579.92</u>

Where did the funds for the UUCLC Building come from? Most of the money came from Ruth Gray's Bequest. In addition, in March 2017 we sold 3 of the 25 acres that we bought in March 2014. We also tapped Money Market funds that the Congregation had been accumulating for years. Lastly, as outlined above, in May 2017, nine congregation members loaned UUCLC an aggregate of \$50,000 at 0% interest for completion of the ▶

► building project. The total available for the Building Project as of September 30, 2017 was \$2,741,151.59, without counting funds earmarked for Beautification (currently approximately \$22,000).

Building Project Funds by Source as of September 30, 2017

Ruth Gray Bequest	\$ 2,512,160.89
Sale of 3 Acres at 1235 Mt Homer Rd.	129,388.00
Money Market Accounting	49,602.70
Member Loan Program	50,000.00
TOTAL	<u>\$ 2,741,151.59</u>



UUCLC was extremely fortunate to receive such a generous bequest from Ruth Gray. We are also fortunate to have dedicated and talented members who have been willing to invest time and effort planning, designing and negotiating to have our church built and now to help to maintain it.

In some ways we are at a new beginning, as we define who we are in this new church. We are attracting new visitors and members, who bring new ideas and new energy. We are learning about the challenges of home ownership. For the first time, we must make provisions for building maintenance and debt re-payment.

We are learning how to budget our resources, which include our meeting space. We are exploring partnerships in the community and beginning to schedule programs that weren't possible when we were using rented space. Yes, this is a new beginning! Bring your ideas and energy. Together we can make a difference.

... Chris Higgins

Greetings everyone, my name is Malorie Murach and I will be spending the duration of the fall term interning here with you all as I am finishing my last semester at the University of Central Florida. I was born and raised in central Florida, Sorrento in particular, though I have lived in Davie and Saint Petersburg FL throughout my college career. My husband Christopher Murach and I have a three-month-old son by the name of Wyatt who some of you may have seen at the services on Sunday.

Come mid-December, I will be graduating with my Bachelors in Interdisciplinary Studies emphasizing in both Health and Behavioral & Social Sciences with a minor in Non-Profit Management. My courses for this semester include a Capstone Experience which is an undergraduate requirement for Interdisciplinary Studies, Strategic Planning & Improvement, Non-Profit Organizations, and Non-Profit Leadership Seminar. As a final requirement for graduation, I am to complete an internship that applies to my degree of study and I am truly grateful and proud to be sharing this experience with UUCLC.

As an outsider new to Unitarian Universalism, I am thrilled to work with a fellowship that is open-minded and welcoming. Nurturing, nonjudgmental, and spiritual are a few values that I identify with that are seemingly synonymous with UUCLC. Both educationally and personally satisfying, I could not ask for a better fit. If there is anything I can do to help you as an individual or the community as a whole, I am here for that sole purpose!

I look forward to serving your community,

Malorie Murach

p.s. This is Chris Higgins writing: We are happy to have Malorie with us and have already assigned her a variety of projects. In addition to her project work, she is available to support Rev. Tracie and our Committees. You can reach her at malorie@knights.ucf.edu or 352-321-1802.



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.

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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 September meeting:

- The Leadership Council is grateful for the addition to our Community of Malorie Burney our new intern who will be wearing the cap of many roles. Thank you Malorie for joining us, and to Joyce and Jim Lenahan for referring her.
- **Safe Congregation** --- AED Training has been completed by six members/friends of UUCLC and we currently have 10 CPR certified volunteers within the Congregation if an emergency situation occurs requiring use of skills and/or equipment. Welcome and thank you for your generosity.
- **Emergency Management Response Training** is being planned for congregants. In light of the recent storms and other emergency situations as well as opening our new building. We anticipate having this training in the upcoming months. Thank you to Julie Twist for suggesting this and for her recent participation in the training and then volunteering during Hurricane Irma to assist Lake County residents.
- **WRaP** – Thank you to the entire Wrap Committee for their persistent, passionate, and mindful process of bringing vibrant topics to our discussion group for discussion, and for providing UUCLC with meaningful, inspiring, and challenging Worship Services.
- Worship Service **Leader Training** in August trained six people to become Worship Service Leaders.
- We also enjoyed the unveiling and **presentation of the amazing Chalice Quilt** that was donated to UUCLC by Bernie and Janeane.
- **PR** -- On November 4th a formal opening celebration with Lake County Band performing. Please refer any questions to the PR Committee.
- **Care and Connect** is actively reaching out to members with needs and continues to be a thriving Committee. The Committee will be adding a Care and Concerns confidential container in the social for congregants to place any concerns they have for the Care and Connect Committee and/or our Minister, Rev. Tracie.

Joyce Axelson

October Birthdays

Henry Gray, October 1
Steve Vucic, October 2
Gina Rossi, October 11
Gladys Becker, October 13
Melba Seron, October 14
Carl Stiner, October 17
Janeane Reagan, October 24
Karen Herchen, October 25
Kathy Collins, October 26