



The Communicator

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

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April Programs

Discussion Group at 9:30 am

April 1 – History and Politics of the Iran Nuclear Deal, with **Mohammad Behforouz.**

April 8 – Is our taxing system fair, and if not, what should be changed? Moderated by **Carl Skiles**

April 15 – Future Offerings of the Lifespan Committee. Find out all the interesting classes that will be offered Summer 2018 through Spring 2019. We have quite a range of topics and opportunities for those who want to expand their mind, body, and spirit. Increase your connection and get to know your fellow congregants in a deeper way.

April 22 – Earth Day topic, to be determined.

April 29 – Open Forum

Woerscippen at 11:00 am

April 1 – Annual UUCLC Flower Ceremony. You are invited to bring a cut flower to share with someone. The Flower Ceremony is a UU ritual that celebrates beauty, human uniqueness, diversity, and community. It was initiated in Prague on June 4, 1923 by Norbert Capek, the founder of the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia.

April 8 – “When the Spirit Said Do, We Did.”

A celebration of our first year in our spiritual home with music by the amazing Logan.

April 15 – “Come Back to the Well.” It is said that you cannot pour from an empty cup. In this time of great upheaval in our country and our world, we need to find ways to replenish our souls before we can be the justice seeking and compassionate people we are called to be. **Rev. Tracie** will encourage us to discover spiritual practices that allow us to refill our well and give us strength to go on.

April 22 – “Applying Our Principles.” It’s natural to apply our principles of inherent worth and dignity and the responsible search for truth and meaning to those within our walls. But what about our friends and family and those who disagree with us? **Rev. Tracie** explores how we can take our message outside of these walls.

April 29 – “All of Humanity is on the Same Train: A Reflection on Faith and Social Justice.” with **Rev. David Crump**

UUCLC Information & Contacts

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Suzie Lockwood, Vice Pres.
Stu Anderson, Treasurer
Marion Strahle, Secretary

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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The **Annual Meeting** of the Congregation is scheduled for Sunday, April 8, immediately following Sunday service in the church building.

Per UUCLC By Laws, Board Officers required to be elected shall be elected at this time and a budget for the upcoming fiscal year (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019) will be presented to the Congregation for discussion. Note that although only UUCLC members may vote for board positions, non-members are welcome to attend the annual meeting.



April 2018

I have been thinking a lot this month about beginnings and endings and the liminal space in between. We technically are in spring yet it seems like winter is not ready to let go. Our first church year in the new building is wrapping up and we will start a new one with new board members. Our winter residents are about to depart for their northern homes and we will begin to transition to our summer programming. In a few more months, I also will depart for the summer and return in the fall.

This liminal space in between is what I want to focus on though. It is the space of waiting, the space to breathe and rest for a moment. We have worked hard this last year to get moved into our building and to develop new policies and procedures for things we couldn't even dream of before. We have stretched and

adjusted to a new space and new people and how it all fits together. We have celebrated the new building and the transitioning of volunteers to retired status.

I encouraged us this month to dream about what is next for us as a congregation and as a community. I want us to do that and to begin making plans for how to achieve those dreams. These things are important and we will discuss this at length over the next year. I also want to encourage us to take the time to rest and to breathe. We have done a lot of growing over this last year. We will continue to grow, we will continue to move forward. I have no doubt about that. This congregation is full of passion and love and we won't be able to prevent that from spreading. But we need to take care of ourselves.

Take this liminal space to breathe, to rest for a bit, to evaluate and celebrate all we have accomplished, to review where we want to go next, and to prepare for that journey.

I am so proud of this congregation and I am blessed to be your minister. I cannot wait to see where our dreams take us. I look forward to taking the journey with you.

...Rev. Tracie

More Chairs Needed

UUCLC has a good problem! We need 30 more red chairs for the sanctuary and 25 more black chairs in the social hall. YOU can help by donating \$25 to buy a black chair and/or \$100 to buy a red chair. Those who purchase a red chair have the option of having a plaque placed on the chair back. It can say "Donated by...", "In honor of..." or "In memory of..." a person or event. Or you can have a "Donated Anonymously" plaque or no plaque.

To buy a chair, remove an appropriate card (red or black ribbon) from the Giving Tree in the Social Hall. Complete the card and place it with your check ("chairs" in memo line on check) in the basket under the tree. Together we can help our congregation to have enough room to grow. Thank you. If you have any questions please ask Rev. Tracie or Christie Cleveland.

President's Message...

When I joined the Congregation in 2010, we were meeting for Sunday services in the American Legion Building on Citrus Avenue in Eustis, while the Woman's Club was being rehabbed. I was recruited to the Board as Secretary in 2012, and much has changed at UUCLC since then.

Once the Woman's Club was renovated, UUCLC was well pleased with its improved Sunday facility. But Ruth Gray and others had always dreamed of a permanent 24/7 home. When Ruth died in February 2012 and left us her estate, the congregation voted to accept the challenge to build toward that dream. We started by renting modest office space on Grove Street, so that we could meet and plan for our building.

UUCLC recognized that we needed to develop a 'program' project to parallel our building project. Thus, in addition to finding a building site and working with our architect and builder, we focused on developing our Committees and community outreach, and in 2014 were fortunate to hire Reverend Susan Berryman as our first Developmental Minister.

Fast forward through four years of building/program projects. On May 28, 2017 we held our first service in our new building at 1235 Mt Homer Road in Eustis. Our Committees have supported a variety of activities and services and as of September 2017, we have had Reverend Tracie Barrett-Welser, a UUA ordained minister with us part time.

Yes, much has changed, but I am happy to tell you that we have preserved some things as well. I think that we have preserved the warmth that emanates from the spirit and love of those who preceded us—those who were willing to open their doors and hearts and minds to listen to others; those who were and are willing to explore to find a spiritual path and to respect and support others when their paths differ.

On April 8, immediately after our 11 am Sunday service, we will conduct our Annual Meeting, which includes election of new officers and review of the budget for Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019). My term as President of the Board of UUCLC will be over, but my dreams for the Congregation will continue. I continue to believe that we can provide a non-judgmental sanctuary for people who work for a just community and who are searching for personal spiritual fulfillment.

Either during or after the Annual Meeting there will be opportunity for discussion. It is important for Board members to be aware of the priorities of Congregation members. This is your Congregation. Please share your ideas, your time, your talents and your treasures. It is my experience that we reap what we sow. So be it.

...Chris Higgins

Order Side-With-Love T-Shirts

Christie Cleveland is taking orders for yellow UU Side-With-Love T-Shirts through April 15th. It always looks good for social action events to have the famous UU Love shirts on. They are available in sizes S through 5X. The shirts with the new slogan, "Side With Love" cost \$22 and the older "Standing on the Side of Love" shirts cost \$14. If you wish to order any, complete the chart in the narthex and pay Christie Cleveland exact change or a check made out to her.

Leaks from Leadership

On behalf of the Leadership Council I wish you a joyous leap into SPRING....

The Leadership Council is made up of Committee Chairs and Board of Trustee Members. We meet once a month prior to the monthly Board Meeting.

The overall infrastructure of our Congregation is made up of volunteers and a Part Time Minister. A lot of work goes into planning and implementing the programs and services that are provided to members and to each of us daily. ▶



► It is almost one year since moving into our new Building. Think back, can you remember how different our Congregation was a year ago. We have been offered opportunities to develop the depth and breadth of our Sunday Services and Discussion Groups.

Community organizations have reached out and utilized our space to offer their programs and further enrich our community. As Unitarian Universalists we are called to be an integral part of our outer community.

We are doing that, and most recently many marched locally, and in Orlando and other areas to support our student's safety in schools and to call for responsible gun control.

If you are reading this and are not currently volunteering in some capacity, please consider this an invitation to share your time and talents with us so that we might get to know you.

We are a team and when we all contribute we are able to meet the needs of all the congregation members and reach out to our local community and beyond.

The following are highlights from our meeting:

- Leadership Training is scheduled for 21 April with UUA Southern Regional District representative Connie Goodbread at UUCLC.
Training is for Board of Trustee Members and Committee Chairs.
- Recommendations and innovative ideas were discussed and brought to the Board of Trustees on how to be more visible to the congregation. One idea will begin in the near future and the Board will have a quarterly panel at Sunday morning discussion group.
- Thank you to David Jantz who has been working nonstop on getting our website revised and up and running. Dave has provided several presentations to the Leadership Council reviewing the new format and getting input to bring the project to completion. Check out our website. Thank you, David!
- Thank you, Fred Lorch. Fred has been researching and preparing protocol for emergency safety measures and developing a safety team.
- Thank you to Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs for consistent, and persistent time, energy, and passion that you bring to your committees. Our vibrancy is due to your generosity of time and talent.
- Thank you to Kit Tatum for keeping us updated on the Calendar.

Joyce Axelson

FOREVER CHANGED

The pain of others, seared by trauma.

I witness their trembling,
how their speech suddenly falters,
how silent tears stream down their cheeks.

These I watch are not survivors of the WWII Holocaust,
they are our precious children,
survivors of the escalating public school mass murders.

Lay down your armor
and allow yourself to feel their pain ...

And be forever changed.

Written by **Howard McQueen** after participating in the
March for our Lives rally in Tavares, FL.

April Birthdays

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