



# The Communicator

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

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## 1. February Programs

2. Discussion Group at 9:30 am

3. February 4 – “The Seven Principles”

4. February 11 – To be announced

5. February 18 – To be announced

February 25 – Open Forum

**Woerscippen at 11:00 am**

**February 4 – “If we don’t believe in Hell, what do we do with the Nazis?”**, with UU seminarian, Joe Donatone\*

Our first principle is getting a work out! My mind embraces the logic of our first principle, but my heart resents those times when I am asked to apply our first principle to people whose words and deeds disgust me. Lately, that list is getting awful long! Let us work this out together. Let us dig into our Universalist history with the idea of universal reconciliation and explore the modern UU ramifications of universal Love. Are these concepts still useful to us today?

**February 11 – “What Would the Buddha Do?”** with Sensei Morris Sekiyo Sullivan.

The environment; the economy; politics; repression: There are so many things to fear, to abhor, to resist and to repair. But how do we practice mindfulness in the face of mindlessness? How do we maintain our compassion when we feel overwhelmed, oppressed or hopeless? The Buddha lived at a time of great change, when many people suffered from scarcity and dis-ease of many kinds, and yet he built a spiritual path based on wisdom and compassion. We will consider ways we can live an engaged life, protecting both our own freedom of mind without losing sight of our Oneness with others, even those we find difficult.

**February 18 – “What’s Love Got to Do with It?”** with Rev. Tracy Barrett-Welser. We’re known as the Love People, the ones who wear our bright yellow shirts proclaiming that we are on the Side of Love. But what does that mean outside of our social justice initiatives? What does love have to do with generosity, daily living, and how we are in community?

**February 25 – “Attitude of Gratitude”** with Rev. Tracie. We have so much to be grateful for here at UUCLC! So how do we use this gratitude to move us forward to spread this out into the world in which we live?

### UUCLC Information & Contacts

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

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### **President's Message...**

Wow! What a wonderful Dedication Weekend we had. Thank you so much for the work of the WRAP Committee that organized the festivities and ceremonies, and thank you for all the volunteer help that made this such a fulfilling and meaningful UU weekend.

When we embarked on our multi-year journey to find our property and construct our building, we said that we wanted it to be 'an asset not only to our own congregation, but also to the greater community.'

This weekend, I saw UUs and non-UUs, local people and people from other states and we all shared in the 'warm, inviting, and welcoming space' that UUCLC has built. As I saw the ministers and lay leaders' procession and heard the strains of 'Blue Boat' and saw the sun stream through our lovely new stained glass windows, my cup truly did run over. I was overwhelmed with the joy that our congregation had created. May we reach out for years to come, to our neighbors, our congregants and our adversaries, to create a place for religious education and social issue programs that inspire compassion, curiosity and lifelong learning.

**... Chris Higgins**

### **February 2018**

I stood in our narthex on Sunday afternoon and heard words that might make other people panic -- "We ran out of chairs!" My colleagues turned to me while our great volunteers moved to gather chairs from the social hall and all shared the same thought -- "How awesome!"



And it was, dear ones. Even in the midst of panic of the moment, to know that we had so many people coming to wish us well during our dedication was truly awesome. I teared-up as we entered the sanctuary for our processional to "Blue Boat Home" because I knew that, yes, this was our very own home and we always are willing to rearrange to make room for more guests. The evening was beautiful and I am so thankful for everyone who helped in the planning and worked throughout the weekend to make it so special.

However, as I said from the pulpit that night, we are not done. This was a long process to make our dreams a reality but we cannot sit here and stay. Now the real work begins. Now we are to live out our calling in this space and become a true home for those who are seeking our Unitarian Universalist values and message.

Our committees are putting together their "wish lists" for what they need in order to do the work and the ministries they are called to do. Our Finance Committee and Board will be putting together a budget soon. It is time to begin the process of putting our money where our values are. Now is the time for us to plant the seeds for the future of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lake County. We may not taste the fruits of the trees we will plant, and yet the job of planting is ours. Much like it was for Ruth Gray, who provided for us to build this beautiful blue boat home.

You will begin to hear me ask the question over the next few weeks and months, "Now what?" Now what do you want to accomplish? Now what do you want to do? Now what do you want to see as our legacy? Now what are you willing to fund to see those things come to fruition?

**...Rev. Tracie**

### **February Birthdays**

Carl Scott, February 5  
Ray Cormany, February 24

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATES

We are so very pleased to be planning for our next Orientation Class, Session #1. This is for anyone who wants to learn a bit more about Unitarian Universalism. We invite all and any who want to attend. Whether you've been here for years or are new, please come. We are planning to do this session on Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm. That will allow you time to go out for lunch or for a walk. This session usually lasts about 1½ hours. This is an introduction to "Learning More About Unitarian Universalism" and then if you would like, you have the option of going onto the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of "Becoming a Member of UUCLC". We will plan that next session at the end of this first Orientation Session.



We are so looking forward to many attending. If you have not yet signed up for this, please **visit** our **membership information table** in the Social Hall and sign up for this and for the 2<sup>nd</sup> session "ONTO MEMBERSHIP", so that we can plan accordingly.

We welcome & embrace all of our new UUCLC members, Tristan, Shainah, Terri and Cathy. We hold you all close to our hearts in joining our Fellowship.

**Membership Co-chair, Joyce Lenahan**

## As We Help the Homeless...The Open Door

As most of you are aware, UUCLC volunteers 3 hours every Friday at The Open Door which is a daytime drop-in center for the homeless in downtown Eustis.

We have recently had 2 **very** cold spells in the last month and I learned something on my visit just after the first cold spell hit. I learned that Lake County does not have ONE Emergency Shelter that is designated for frigid weather! Not ONE! The temperatures dropped to a dangerously low freezing temperature and not only were the homeless in peril, but those who had no heat in their homes. The Open Door is a daytime center so they could not open their doors. All they could do was frantically find blankets, sleeping bags, and tents to help protect these folks from the cold.

I quickly took to social media, as did many others who were aware of this situation, to make others aware and find out why. Another cold spell was approaching and this one to be even colder. Something must have worked as 3 places (only 3 in Lake County) were designated to open for the coming front. There were also designated "warming stations" to be open during the day for them to come in from the cold for warm meals and hot drinks.

As one from Open Door said to me, "This is only a start. There is so much more that could and should be done."

I would like to take this time to again thank those from our congregation for their continued work in volunteering. Thank you, Laine, Candi, Bernie and June for all your help. I would like also to thank those who quietly walk in to Open Door with their personal donations and those who slip me bags of supplies at church. You know who you are. Thank you.

If you are interested in giving a little of your time or supplies to help those less fortunate and in need, please see me. Thank you.

**Suzie Lockwood**

## UUCLC COMMITTEES and CONTACTS

The work of our congregation is done by volunteers who serve on its various committees. The committees and their chairpersons are listed below so that you may find where you can contribute. (WRAP is full to capacity. All other committees need more working members.)

### BUILDING AND OPERATIONS

Carl Skyes ([clskiles1@gmail.com](mailto:clskiles1@gmail.com))

### FINANCE

Stu Anderson ([stuander@gmail.com](mailto:stuander@gmail.com))

Sub Committee FUNDRAISING. Stephanie McCants ([sm3533@hotmail.com](mailto:sm3533@hotmail.com))

### MEMBERSHIP — Meets 3rd Monday @ 10:30am

Janeane Reagan

Sub Committee CARE AND CONNECT. **Vacant Chair**

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

Gina Rossi **until Feb 28 only**

### LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT — Meets 3rd Weds @ 8:30am-10:00 or 10:30

Christie Cleveland ([chrisccleveland1951@gmail.com](mailto:chrisccleveland1951@gmail.com))

Cecelia Everist ([celiaev@gmail.com](mailto:celiaev@gmail.com))

### WRAP — Meets every Tuesday 10:00-12:00

Russ Littlefield ([russnjoyce@aol.com](mailto:russnjoyce@aol.com))

### HOSPITALITY — Second Tuesday @ Noon, bring your lunch

Phyllis Gillette until Feb 28. Peter Pitzele in season ([asher65@gmail.com](mailto:asher65@gmail.com))

### SOCIAL JUSTICE **Vacant Chair.**

Suzie Lockwood ([finallyfree1204@hotmail.com](mailto:finallyfree1204@hotmail.com))

### SAFE CONGREGATIONS

Janeane Reagan/ Rev Tracie ([tbarrettwelser@uuma.org](mailto:tbarrettwelser@uuma.org))