



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

May 6 – TED Talks: “Why its worth listening to people you disagree with” by Zachary R. Wood, and “How to have better political conversations”, by Robb Willer

May 13 – TED Talk: “Why Does the Universe Exist” by Jim Holt

May 20 – “The UU Website, how to access and use it”, by David Jantz

May 27 – Open Forum - Bring your topics for discussion.

Woerscippen at 11:00 am

May 6 – Eleanor Bentley: “The Three Ms - Materialism, Metaphysics, and Mysticism.”

We welcome Unity Minister, Eleanor Bentley back to our pulpit. Eleanor became interested in the concept of Metaphysics at Unity church in Lakeland where she raised a family. Her interest eventually led her to seminary at Unity School of Christianity where she obtained her Masters of Divinity in 1995. She has spent nearly 30 years in the ministry, including at Unity at the Lakes in Mount Dora. She is currently minister at Unity of Gainesville. Her work includes an online ministry as well as teaching, speaking and consulting.

May 13 – Pete Kersey: “Mean Spirit” - On the Mean Spirit that has been let loose these days.”

After swearing off organized religion and considering himself a “none” for many years, Pete was invited to make a presentation as a Crime Prevention officer to the Vero Beach UUs. He says he was so impressed with the questions and comments that he decided to try a Sunday service. After a few years he found himself writing and delivering sermons. He now shares his passion for Unitarian Universalism with a dozen or so other congregations in Florida. Pete is currently President of the Vero Beach congregation and we are happy to welcome him back to our pulpit.

May 20 – “Letting Go” When we hold too tightly to things that no longer serve us, our hands are not open to receive new things. Join **Rev. Tracie** as we explore the beauty in letting go and breathing new life into our community.

May 27 – “Enter in Joy” - We have so much to be joyful for in our community. **Rev. Tracie** explores and celebrates the joy in our lives. This will be Rev. Tracie's last sermon before she goes on leave for the summer (No worries! She will return in August!)

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May 2018

The past few weeks have reminded me of little yearly anniversaries. The day I was able to announce I had accepted the offer to be your minister. My first time seeing our new building (which still was under construction at the time). The day I came to the Women's Club to be introduced to you as your minister. This month will see more milestones for all of us. Including the big one at the end of the month – the anniversary of opening our beautiful building and having our first service. What a year this has been! We have accomplished so much in this year.

We installed our chalice, our piano, a beautiful quilt, and stunning stained-glass windows and dedicated the building and the Ruth Russell Gray Sanctuary with a full house of members, friends, neighbors, and honored guests. After a few delays, we moved into our kitchen and had a wonderful Thanksgiving meal as a community. We had our first candlelight Christmas Eve service. We have hosted numerous concerts and community events. We have filled this space with love and commitment to Unitarian Universalist values. These are marks of a thriving congregation.

Our Lifespan Education team has organized the library and set up a beautiful room for children and their families. We have a full offering of adult classes for the upcoming year. We have covenant groups forming and circle dinners happening. We now are preparing to order new chairs for both the sanctuary and the social hall. And, since entering this building, we have welcomed twenty-three new members to our community. These are the marks of a growing congregation.

Our hardworking president and one of our trustees have finished their terms of office after a very busy couple of years shepherding our congregation through the building project. We wish them well as they transition to other duties (or none at all!) within the congregation. We welcome our new trustees and our new president as we shift into the second year in the building. Things will change and adjust as we settle in to new structures and procedures. These are marks of a reflective congregation.

As I wrap up this first year of ministry with you, I am amazed and humbled by all of you. The numerous conversations I've had with so many of you in all kinds of settings have shown me how much you love one another, how willing you are to be challenged to go deeper, and how proud you are of this congregation. These are the marks of a spiritual congregation.

I cannot wait to see where we go in our second year together. The month of May wraps up my final month of this year but I will be with you all for three days in June to wrap things up before General Assembly in Kansas City and then summer leave. I will return in mid-August to be with you all again. This month, let us begin to plant and tend to the seeds for what we will grow next year. I can't wait to see where we go next year...together.

...Rev. Tracie

May Birthdays

Paulette Stewart-Johnson, May 13

Stuart Anderson, May 14

Joanne Reilly, May 16

President's Message...

Welcome members and friends of UUCLC! Spring time is upon us with a season of renewed growth and joy. As seasons change, so do we as members of our community, our congregation, and as members of the human society. Sometimes change is wonderful and welcome. Sometimes change is difficult and uncomfortable. Here at UUCLC we have experienced both!

This past year, we have been blessed with a home where we can have fellowship with one another and reach out to the larger community. This amazing place is our very own! We all have certainly welcomed that change. We have also experience the mixed blessings that come with building ownership and the growth of our congregation. In other words, we are going through some growing pains.

This can be a good thing. Sometimes being uncomfortable can make us see things differently and bring us to action. So why am I stating the obvious? Well it is a call to all of us to take part in the growth of our beloved congregation. I am asking you to get out of your comfort zone and consider volunteering for UUCLC. We need everyone's help to continue to grow. If you think you need experience or tenure you are mistaken. We welcome everyone to join in our growth. Please consider giving your time to one of our committees. We have many much needed "holes" to fill. Find something that interests you and please give your time and your talent to our amazing and growing congregation. You are wanted and needed.

I encourage you to check the committees bulletin board in the social hall for committee chair contact information. There are other ways you can give of your time as well. Please contact any board member or leadership council committee member and they can assist you. If you have not volunteered before, then I challenge you to participate and give your time. If each and every one of us gets involved then we all will enjoy the benefits of the growth of the spring season throughout the entire year! Let us all work together and grow together!



...Betty Emery

The Urge to Grow

By Howard McQueen

We desire to grow,
to grow in number-of-members,
to engage and retain them.

We desire to grow,
to grow our ability to speak in harmony
and, when needed, with one voice.

Covenant Circles are one means to encourage deepening friendship and trust.

How else do you envision us growing together spiritually?

We were once a very small congregation.

We are now a growing congregation.

Have you felt our growing pains?

Have you noticed our dream unfurling?

Interest in Environmental Justice Blossoms...

'Friends' of Environmental Justice met on April 26th to organize efforts to help our environment. We are not a 'committee' as yet, and welcome any and all to get involved. We listed our individual concerns (energy, sustainability, clean air, trees, clean water & conservation, recyclables, over-population, world citizens, food availability, climate change and plastics). We would love to hear your concerns and ideas about the environment that sustains us.

We learned about Empower Organic Farm and Buying Group in Umatilla and planned a presentation (May 17th) by Buddy Walker, the manager. The Rodale Institute says "Regenerative organic agriculture is also integral to the climate solution" by sequestering carbon underground. We are also taking a field trip to the Empower Farm on May 3rd.

Arcadia, a group that allows you to purchase offset credits toward renewable energy was also discussed - is it just another money-making scheme, or a truly positive step in the right direction? Growing a model herb garden on our land was another idea.

We are very interested in the congregation considering gaining certification by the UUA Green Sanctuary program www.uua.org/greensanctuaries

Join us for our next meeting on **Thursday, May 10th at 7 pm** and at the Empower Organic Farm presentation on **Thursday, May 17th at 7 pm**.

...Christie Cleveland

The Power of Organic Produce

UUCLC is honored to host local organic farmer, Buddy Walker, for a presentation on Thursday, May 17th at 7:00-8:30 pm in our sanctuary. Buddy will provide a presentation on the interdependence of humans and the soil where our food is grown. He will speak about good health and how to choose produce, as well as stewardship of our soil and the earth.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, nearly 70% of conventionally grown produce is contaminated with pesticide residues. These pesticides persist on fruits and vegetables even when they are washed and, in some cases, peeled. There are however differences in the amount of pesticides on various types of produce. (<https://www.ewg.org>). EWG'S annual Shopper's Guide to Pesticides in Produce lists the Dirty Dozen fruits and vegetables with the most pesticide residues, and the Clean Fifteen, for which few, if any, residues were detected.

Empower Organic farm in Umatilla is an intensive pesticide free urban farming project producing vegetables, fruits, herbs and perennials. The Empower Farm is affiliated with the Empower School which provides international internship opportunities for students to assist projects focused on alleviating global hunger and malnutrition.

Empower Organic Buying Club <http://empowerobc.com> offers their local produce for sale every week between Fridays 8 pm and noon Mondays at the farm. You can also order online and pick up at the farm on Tuesdays or the Tavares YMCA on Wednesdays.

Join us at UUCLC on Thursday, May 17th and bring your friends.

...Christie Cleveland

HELP WANTED FOR UU BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Starting on May 15th, we need volunteers to take over and be responsible for one or more of the following listed tasks that are related to the maintenance of the building and grounds:

- 1) Supervise the volunteers providing lawn and building maintenance
- 2) Obtain and coordinate with a contractor for the lawn mowing
- 3) Purchase supplies for building maintenance
- 4) Coordinate repairs needed for the building
- 5) Manage the tree and shrub irrigation system
- 6) Manage the A/C and Heat controls in the building
- 7) Manage the building interior and exterior lighting systems
- 8) Gardening and weeding of the trees and shrubs

Jim Lenahan's term of providing volunteer services for these tasks will end on the 15th and we need volunteers to replace Jim. If volunteers cannot be found to take over these tasks, we must obtain them from contract vendors and this will have a severe impact on our budget. If you can help with any of these tasks, please contact **Carl Skiles** or any member of the Board of Trustees.

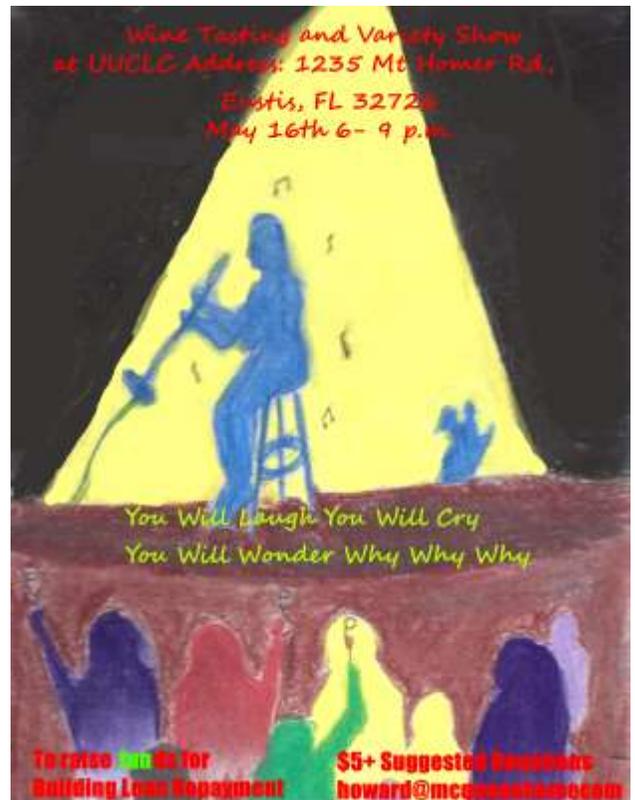
FOR BOARD SECRETARY

The Board of Trustees is looking for a volunteer to join us as Secretary of the Board. Please contact any Board of Trustee member for more information. We are also looking for individuals who would be willing to act as scribe for our Board of Trustee meetings until a permanent Secretary has been chosen. UUCLC needs you and welcomes anyone willing to give their time to this very important role for the congregation. I urge anyone who is interested to please come forward. Your service to UUCLC is very needed and much appreciated.

Betty Emery

CHALICE CAFE VARIETY SHOW AND WINE TASTING!

This event sponsored by the Fundraising Committee will take place **Saturday, May 12**. The wine tasting will start at **6:00 PM** in the narthex. The **Variety Show** will take place in the Social Hall, aka the Chalice Cafe, beginning at **7:00 PM**. The suggested donation for the **wine tasting** is **\$5.00/person**. Those attending the **Variety Show** will be asked to make a **Freewill Donation**. Funds raised will go toward paying our members who made loans for the building construction. This will be a **fun** event; **be sure to save the date, May 12!**



New in the Children's Chalice Room...

We have been pleased to recently welcome several children ages 3-week-old, 11-year-old & 10-month-old to the newly furnished & well stocked Chalice Children's Room. Thanks to members & friends generous monetary & in-kind donations, our UUCLC children/youth program is now a reality! It has been a privilege for me to use my many years as a Center Director / Teacher to work with the LFDC as we dreamed BIG & now have a special welcoming place for young children. We are looking forward to setting up a similar space for our UU Youth in the near future.



...Candi Tipton

Choosing Family

In the June 2016 Communicator, **Susan Berryman**, our minister and a member of our congregation, wrote the following words: "This is the end of our season and it is time for me to go."

In the same issue of the Communicator, Carl Skiles wrote: "The contract documents have been completed ... site work can begin after June 7th as soon as the building permit is issued."

While we were building our new spiritual home here in Eustis, Florida; Susan and her family were building a new life for themselves in Tumacacori, AZ.

It did not strike me at the time, but in rereading Susan's periodic updates published in *The Communicator*, I began to think of the significance of the fact that these two building projects were taking place at the same time. We were all building much more than physical structures, we were building family.

Susan was our first paid part time minister, a job in which she was fully invested for nearing two years. She was present when we were planning the layout of our building and evolving from a small congregation to a more significant one; and, it needs be said, she had a hand in all that, both as our spiritual counselor and (this is important) as a member of our congregation. ►

► Susan was in the thick of things here when out of the blue, came a life changing possibility for her and her family. They had been having multiple difficulties. She spoke openly of her and Peter's sons and their concern for them. Peter's son has "Asperger's Syndrome." Susan's son, had left his business in Mexico for fear of a drug cartel.

Susan wrote of her heart wrenching decision to leave UUCLC: "I have loved being your minister, teacher, and friend," she said, as she explained that she had to choose family. They sold all that they had and moved to Tumacacori, AZ - making a leap of faith in restoring a historic ranch that had been abandoned for 25 years.

They did not have an easy time of it as Susan's messages to us made clear. The place was a mess. Entire plumbing and electrical systems had to be restored and a families of pack rats had to be dealt with. The swimming pool had essentially become a swamp, Susan said, complete with turtles and frogs. It is easy to imagine how discouraging the situation must have seemed at times. Besides the daunting prospect of restoring the sewage, water and electrical systems, the family faced health problems - a small thorn lodged in Susan's eyelid, Peter had surgery for a double hernia, and Susan's son, Josh was hospitalized for a while with high blood pressure. Susan herself had to be hospitalized. In a moving message in November, Susan wrote, "I feel a loss not being there for the building of the church. ... You have no idea how often I think of you..."

But somehow, over a period of two years, Rancho Santa Cruz began to be restored and in March of 2018 opened its doors for the first guests. A [newspaper story](#) in the *Nogales International* told the story - its headline said more than the editor probably knew.

Family Unites to Restore Historic Ranch



Photo by Kendal Blust

We know that their labors are not over, but we send congratulations on their opening and want them to know, they will always be a part of our UUCLC family.

Russ Littlefield