



The Communicator

[Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lake County](http://www.uuclakeco.org)

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August Programs

Discussion Group Sunday at 9:30 am

Woerscippen at Sunday at 11:00 am

CLASSES AND GROUPS

Meditation for All group meets weekly for an hour of readings and meditation. Meditation is simply another word for concentration and is a way of getting in touch with the spiritual nature. Open to all. Mondays 6 to 7 pm.

Tai Chi, a healing, slow motion martial art will meet every Tuesday from 9:00-9:45 am in the Social Hall. Now all may attend, including non-UUCLC members. All skill levels are welcome, from beginner through experienced. For information, please consult Janeane Reagan at janeane99@gmail.com.

The Science and Philosophy Group is a meeting of persons to discuss and expres their knowledge of various topics and exchange ideas and opinions. Thursdays 10:30 am open to all. For information, please consult Franklin Pennington at fdpennington11@gmail.com.

Dharma Book Club meets on the first and third Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7 pm. Open to all.

Graceful Aging is a thoughtful conversation conducted by and for members and friends of UUCLC. It meets the second and fourth Monday of every month from 10:30 to noon in the Social Hall. It is an open group, which means folks are free to come and go as they wish, and the drift of each meeting emerges from the concerns of those present. For information, please consult Janeane Reagan at janeane99@gmail.com.

Peacemakers Covenant Group This will be a small group, which will meet at 1:00 pm on the fourth Friday of each month, to learn compassionate communication, in which we listen deeply to the stories of others.

UUCLC Information & Contacts

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Officers

Betty Emery, President
Pete Conde, Vice President
Julie Champion, Secretary
Chris Higgins, Treasurer
Kristen Hughes, Assistant Treasurer

Trustees

Suzie Lockwood
Janeane Reagan
Lois Sanford

Rev. Tracie Barrett Phone: (863) 206-9086
To schedule an appointment with Rev. Tracie, please use <https://calendly.com/tbarrettwelser>

The Communicator is published monthly.
Editor: Christy Millat Phone: 248-921-0541 Email: UUCLCCommunicator@yahoo.com
Submit articles for the September Communicator by Wednesday, August 28

Potluck Change

Potluck has changed from the last Sunday to the fourth Sunday of the month. This month, August will be 8/25 and September potluck will be 9/22. This change was made to make it more uniform for planning.



Minister's Message...

Our minister, Tracie Barrett is taking a well-deserved summer break. Look for an article from Rev. Tracie next month.

President's Message...

Greetings

It's Communicator time again! Each month I am asked to write something to share with all our congregation members and friends. Sometimes writing this monthly article is easy and sometimes it is not. I usually start thinking about it the middle of the month, jotting down notes with what I want or need to share. My philosophy about writing a Communicator article is this: something will eventually come along that will inspire me with a topic so I don't sweat the details. In my short term as UUCLC Board President I have found that some event last minute has not failed to give me something to share with you. This month again is no different. My thoughts this morning as I write this are about PRIORITIES.



My inspiration is the very sudden death yesterday of a long- time family friend. Less than a week ago, he was alive and making plans for the future. His wife, now a widow, is faced with continuing without her life partner. This was all so unexpected. So, it makes me face the issue of what my priorities are! Do not wait until tomorrow to tell someone you love them. Do not wait until tomorrow to take something off your bucket list. Do not wait to enjoy life because tomorrow may not come. I know that everyone of us has had painful losses in our lives and that my experience is no different than what many of you have had. Sometimes this brings an epiphany and changes the way we think going forward. My hope is that we as a congregation can find it within ourselves to have the energy and desire to focus on our own UUCLC priorities. We need to do this to ensure that UUCLC does have a "tomorrow". The finance committee has been sharing that pledges have fallen short for our fiscal year 2020 targets and we are preparing for some difficult budget cuts if we do not see an increase in our pledge dollars. It will directly impact our ability to provide guest speakers and the services we offer. It will also affect the maintenance to our building and grounds and it will require that many more of us must step up and volunteer their labor and time to do things we currently pay others for. Please do not wait to make UUCLC a priority. Please do not assume someone else will step up with the financial resources to keep UUCLC a viable home for open minded individuals. We need YOU to step up. Every member of UUCLC is obligated to pledge annually. We hope you will give as much as you can.

Make UUCLC a priority! If you have already completed a pledge card, if you can increase your pledge, we would welcome it. If you have not pledged, please complete a pledge card and give as generously as you can. We need any increases to the pledged amount so we can decide about the budget cuts we are facing. The Board of Trustees is scheduled to vote on the budget at our next meeting on August 22nd. Your dollars will decide if you want UUCLC to be a priority in your life and this community.

Betty Emery

NOTES FROM THE SJE* COMMITTEE

UUCLC Joins the National Lights for Liberty Event, July 12, 2019.
A Personal Account

On a VERY stormy Friday evening in July, about 30 intrepid souls, Unitarian Universalists and our friends, joined thousands of others in supporting the national Lights for Liberty Event. Some came, some went. By the time we ended, as many as forty people had joined us.

We gathered here at the building that is our heart. We stood in vigil with our lights as a symbol of our heartbreak at the treatment of immigrant parents, children, teens and the elderly being held in detention centers throughout the United States.

Was this a protest? Yes and there were a few protest signs at the event. But first and foremost, it was an event of the heart - a statement that this place, our Blue Boat Home, is a center of conscience for this community.

There was a wonder about it - the atmospheric rain, the lights that shone through it, the singing and even the comforting presence of the Eustis Police who posted a car across the street in case there was trouble. There was none. There was at least one thumbs up from a passing motorist.

We came away knowing that we were creating an identity here at our still-somewhat-new home, doing what we are called to do as UUs: standing up, no matter what, for the inherent worth and dignity of all persons.



UUCLC has received THANK YOU notes from *Lake Cares Food Pantry*, the *Farm Workers Association of Florida*, the *Trout Lake Nature Center*, and *LifeSteam/Open Door*. SJE has identified each of these organizations as a special interest that we support in ways that we can. This includes encouraging UUCLC members to volunteer, donating material aid when appropriate (for example, food and clothing), and supporting financially. Recently, the Social Justice and Environment Committee sent \$250 donations in the name of this Congregation to each of these organizations. Their thank you notes of appreciation are posted on the Bulletin Board in the Social Hall. Please take a look at them and think about how you can support these organizations as a volunteer or a contributor. If you decide to do so, please let us know.

*SJE is the Social Justice and Environment Committee. Its co-chairs are Russ Littlefield and Barbara Hill. Its current members are Barbara Marrow, Jane Heptig, Jane O'Connor, and Julie Twist.

Confederate Statue Protest Planned



The march against the Confederate Statue to be placed in the Lake County Historical Museum In Tavares is set for August 10th. The timeframe is from 11A - 12:30P. It will begin at the St. John's I.F.M. Church at 120 Bloxom Ave and end at the historic courthouse, approximately 3 1/2 blocks away. The rally is scheduled to have several speakers, along with local politicians with media coverage.

The Social Justice Committee is working diligently with the community to oppose the import of the confederate statue of General Edmund Kirby-Smith. We have sent letters under the Board's signature to the County Commissioners vehemently stating our opposition. The letters stated the Board believed this community's relations with our African-American brethren would be driven back to square one, fomenting ill will and reopening wounds that should have healed long ago.

Robert Greiner, the self-appointed curator of the Historical Museum and president of the Historical Society's Board treat the Museum as their own private playground. Recently, a group of concerned Lake County residents, started a group called the "Lake County Voices of Reason." It was incorporated as a non-profit, non-partisan organization. As a member of the LCVOR and a former local government attorney, it has been my opinion the Museum is a quasi-governmental agency subject to the Public Records and Sunshine Laws of Florida. After a number of emails to the County Attorney and Grenier, we went to the Museum and met with two Board members of the Society to obtain copies of the membership list, which we were able to obtain under the Public Records Law, thereby bringing the Society into the "sunshine" subject to county regulations.

LCVOR is working closely with Pastor Watkins with regard to the August 10th march. A number of dynamic speakers will be present at the end of the march, including Representative Geraldine Thompson, a community activist who was instrumental in obtaining the pardon for the Groveland Four (although she asked for an exoneration of all four boys). Rep. Thompson, who is a dynamic speaker, is strongly opposed to the confederate statue being brought to Lake County. Hopefully, UUCLC will attend the march and we will have a significant presence. If you are mobility impaired, you can wait at the Historical Museum for the group to march to the Museum. Chairs and water will be available.

As I said in a previous article, I passed huge billboards in Jacksonville with a picture of a confederate monument, and beneath were the words: "Wrong side of history; wrong side of slavery"!

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Hill, Assistant Chair
Social Justice and Environment Committee

11 AM @ St. John I.F.M. Church
Meet at 120 N. Bloxham Avenue, Tavares
Walk 3 blocks to Lake County Historical Museum to hear
inspirational speakers and music



UNITE FOR WHAT'S RIGHT!

SAT, AUGUST 10
JOIN US IN PROTESTING THE
IMPORTING OF AN UNWANTED
CONFEDERATE STATUE INTO THE
LAKE COUNTY HISTORIAL MUSEUM

Bring drinking water, wear comfortable shoes, black bottoms with
a white top OR a top showing your group affiliation.

THIS IS A PEACEFUL MARCH.

For more info contact Pastor Michael J. Watkins @ 352.406.9608 or
pastormjwatkins7@yahoo.com.