



# The Communicator

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

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## January Programs

### Discussion Group at 9:30 am

**February 3 – Russ Littlefield** will lead a presentation and discussion about the Groveland Four and related events that took place in Lake County and central Florida. It is called **"Where the heck are we living and what are the implications for us as UUs?"**

**February 10 – TED talk:** J Marshall Shepherd, **"Three kinds of Bias that shape your world view."**

**February 17 – To be announced**

**February 24 – To be announced**

### Woerscappen at 11:00 am

**February 3 – To be announced**

**February 10 – To be announced**

**February 17 & 24 – Reverend Tracie will speak.**

### UUCLC Information & Contacts

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#### Officers

Betty Emery, President  
Suzie Lockwood, Vice Pres.  
Stu Anderson, Treasurer

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Pete Conde  
Lois Sanford  
Julie Champion

#### Minister

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

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### Minister's Message...

The new year is already in full swing and chugging along. January saw us welcome twelve new members to our congregation. This is fantastic and sign of the health of our congregation. Well done to all of you being welcoming and inviting to our visitors. To our new members, welcome and I hope you continue to find a spiritual home here.

February is traditionally a time when people look towards love and relationships. I encourage you during this month to not just focus on romantic love. I encourage you to think about what it is about our free faith of Unitarian Universalism that you love. What is it about UUCLC that you love? What is it about our community here in Lake County that you love? It is so easy to focus on the negative things that we don't like about what's going on around us. I encourage you to take a bit of time to focus on the things that bring you joy and love. For it is those things that you love about our community that I'm sure other people love about our community. It is those things that attract more people to not only Unitarian Universalism, but to our congregation. Focusing on those things we are doing well, those things that attract us to UUCLC, will help us make a plan for the next church year.

In the upcoming months our leadership will draft next year's budget. They do not do this in a vacuum. They rely on the input of our various committees to know what the needs are for the following year. But it's not just that.

The truth of the matter is that in order to have a working budget, they rely on the members and friends who pledge. You see, it's not just the gifts that are given in the basket each week. To create a budget, the finance committee needs to know what to expect for the year. They need to know what the members are pledging for the next year. I encourage you, if you love this congregation, begin thinking now about how much you give. Think about if you can give more. Then pledge that amount when the time comes. Let the leadership know, through your pledge commitment, that these things are important to you.

I've heard some of your big dreams for this congregation. I know we can make them reality. We need the help of all of you to make that happen. Time, talent, and treasure. Together we can do what we cannot do alone.

...in faith, Rev. Tracie

### February Birthdays

Susan Pitzele, February 3  
Carl Scott, February 5  
Ray Cormany, February 24  
Candi Tipton, February 25

Members: If you would like to have your birthday announced here or if you wish to make a change in your Photo Directory information, please send your info to Ted Fessler:

[ted.fessler@gmail.com](mailto:ted.fessler@gmail.com)

### President's Message...

February is the month of Love. Unitarian Universalists have a unique focus on this word love. It is an emotion, a verb, a noun. A call to action. A sense of community and family. It means many different things to many different people. We even have the word love in our congregational covenant with each other "... to seek the truth in love and help one another." UUA has a social justice campaign known as Side with Love. Here is what UUA's website has to say about it: "Unitarian Universalists affirm unconditional, universal love as a foundation and grounding for our actions in the world. We strive to be of service to our communities and advocate for change on local, state, national, and international levels. Through our Side with Love campaign (formerly "Standing on the Side of Love") we amplify the voices of the oppressed through online media; we show up in partnership at justice events across the country; we lobby national leaders on immigration reform, racial justice, equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people, religious freedom, and more; and above all we work to make love real in the world." Wow! I find that very last statement to really resonate with me... to make love real in the world! I could belong to no other faith. I am at home here with Unitarian Universalists who embrace this effort. I feel very fortunate to belong to our local community of Unitarian Universalists who feel the same way.



As I write this, I am in Seattle sitting at the dining table with my dear sister 3000 miles away from Eustis. Last night I had a wonderful evening with my son and his lovely girlfriend. I will be seeing cousins later this week. Our connections to people across the globe are woven with the threads of love. I met a gentleman last night from Ethiopia who moved to Seattle 5 years ago. We talked briefly about the differences in culture but the underlying current in the conversation was he felt love and kindness for all people. I met a woman on the airplane who was from the Dominican Republic. She was brimming with joy and doing what she loved most which was traveling the world meeting people. She and I are now friends on Face Book. I am filled with joy that love is real in the world. I know that love is not found everywhere, but I feel it here at this moment and I feel fortunate. I also feel fortunate that when I return next week, I will be coming home to our UUCLC community where we believe it is important to help make "love real in the world."

I would like to share some of the latest news at UUCLC: We have just had the largest group of new members join us in recent memory. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to all of them:

Christina Wilkins, Barbara Hill, Barbara Marrow, Sylvia Wince, Bevington Wince, Susan Moore, Bruce Rogol, Stephanie Spangler, Ann Jones, Tom Hendricks, Christy Millat, Henry Millat.

One of our new members, Christina Wilkins has graciously accepted the position of Chair of the Building and Grounds committee. Under that umbrella is the physical security of the building. She will be working with the Board to update some of the procedures having to do with opening and closing the building. We will share the information with everyone when these changes are made but be aware, they are coming. Also, on the horizon we will be working on the budget for our fiscal year 2019-2020. The budget will be presented to the members of our congregation at our annual meeting the first Sunday in April. Also, at our annual meeting we will have an election to fill vacancies for positions on the Board of Trustees. In addition to the slate of nominees presented by our nominating committee, we will be taking nominations from the floor. If you have an interest in being a member of the Board, please reach out to the nominating committee. The members of the nominating committee are Chris Higgins, Russ Littlefield and Phyllis Gillette. Even if you are a newer member of this congregation, please consider giving your time and talent to this very important role in our congregation. You would be very welcomed on the Board. We want everyone to be involved in the growth of our UUCLC community!

...with love, Betty Emery

## The UU Difference

By Russ Littlefield

Like many (most, all) UUs, I struggle with terms. I am a UU because it fulfills a need for me (call it spiritual or what you will), but since long ago I gave up on any conventional religion, I sometimes hesitate to call our faith a faith, and our religion a religion. And yet we use these terms, or many do, including the leaders of our movement in the UUA. And I can accept them, but only with the UU difference.

The difference for me is this, UUism makes possible a secular religion. Of course, this is a contradiction in terms. "Secular" is usually understood by definitions like this one: "denoting attitudes, activities, or other things that have no religious, spiritual basis." Nevertheless, after years of struggling with the terms religion and faith, I now describe myself as a secular UU with a secular UU faith.

It was the Universalist part of our faith that did this for me. When our Christian Universalist mothers and fathers declared that no one is condemned to hell; that all are deserving of the love of God, they opened the possibility of a secular faith, a faith that all beings are deserving of love and salvation. It is not too difficult to see the implications of this: maybe especially for secular UUs: to me it says that it is our moral obligation to work for "heaven on earth" or, as Martin Luther King called it, a "Beloved Community."

This belief can elevate the role of social justice to the level of religious conviction whether one believes in a deity or not. As UUs We work for a world in which every one of our seven principles are not just honored, but held as *articles of action*.

- We work with the conviction of religion to assure that every person is treated with dignity and to seek justice and promote compassion in our relationships with one another and in our interaction with our community and beyond.
- We hold with religious conviction that democracy is a precious gift to be treasured and protected. We know how fragile it is. And it is all the more precious because our very UU principles were established through the democratic process.
- We hold with religious conviction that democracy is a precious gift to be treasured and protected. We know how fragile it is. And it is all the more precious because our very UU principles were established through the democratic process.
- We hold as an article of faith that love and compassion can unite all humans in world community.



- And we also hold as a related article of faith that all life is interconnected. We feel in our hearts our kinship with all creation and feel deeply the pain of inaction as we watch greed, self interest, and ignorance endanger the very web of life of which we are but one part.

This is the core outlook of our social justice program at UUCLC. In our effort to develop a sensible and humane approach to the homeless who have used our woods for refuge; in our caring about immigrant families who have made their way to central Florida; in our quest to find ways to better connect with our African American heritage, both locally and within our broader UU community; and in our continuing concern about “greening” our community - in all these things, we see opportunities for social and environmental action.

Specifically, we have stood with our African American sisters and brothers in wanting a sensitive approach to lake county history. We have opposed the importation of the Kirby Smith statue into the Lake County Museum of History; and, though delighted with the governor's pardoning of the Groveland four, we continue to work for a statement of innocence. We have sponsored a cotton shirt drive for farm workers - the shirts will be distributed by the Farm Worker Association in Apopka. We are sponsoring a learning tour for those interested in learning about the toxic history of the Lake Apopka area. We continue to encourage a partnership with Open Door. And we aim to continue the green initiatives that went into the construction of this building and the development of our land.

We do all of these things recognizing that social justice and earth care are fundamental to what we believe. They are what makes the UU difference.

### **Window Film Installation: Update**

By now you may have noticed that it is noticeably cooler in the social hall and sanctuary. You may also have noticed that the glare is greatly reduced. The reason for this is that, to date, we have installed window-tinting film in the following rooms: the kitchen, social hall, meeting room, and the sanctuary. But right now, the only sanctuary windows with tinting are those on the east wall. If you look first through those windows and then the north-facing windows, you see the difference immediately. Not only does film cut glare, it also reduces heat transferred through the glass, reducing cooling bills.

This project has been partially financed by your donations to our Giving Tree window film fund and UUCLC. The amount of \$1431 we collected was intended to cover the north-facing sanctuary windows and the social hall doors. That number was what the vendor quoted us and we collected that amount. But when the installer arrived and looked at the sanctuary windows, she saw that the estimate on the sheet she carried was way off base. No way could that small amount cover the large windows. Yes, we could get the social hall doors done but not the rest of the job. So, we said, “Ok, go ahead and do the doors today. We will have to get a corrected estimate from the vendor.” And we did: those windows from that vendor would cost us over \$4000. In light of the fact that they had erred, we were offered a 25% discount, bringing the cost to about \$3000.

Subsequently we requested estimates from two other local vendors. One came back with two quotes, both high, just a bit lower than \$3000. Still not acceptable. However, the second vendor surprised us with a solid quote of \$1335 for the sanctuary windows with a 10-year guarantee on materials and labor. He assures us that that quote will hold if we need time to get the funds. No problem. He is the owner and it's a small company.

Do you want those windows tinted? One side says definitely, complaining of blurred vision and discomfort; other side isn't bothered by the glare but does like the idea of reduced electric bills. The hard truth is that UUCLC has a large loan that must be paid, so we will have to wait. At this writing, the BOT is planning to discuss this issue. Let them know what you think. If we want those windows tinted, we may have to come up with some creative fund-raising. Please feel free to offer your opinions and creative ideas.

**Gina Rossi, Chair, Interior Space/Design Committee**

## Leadership Council

It's a New Year, and UUCLC is having many MANY exciting events, programs and wonderful Worship services happening and we have so many to thank for this. I would like to begin by thanking the Leadership Council.

To remind everyone, the Leadership Council consists of members of the Board of Trustees (BOT), and Standing Committee chairs (and sub committees) The Council meets once a month to review the work and needs of the congregation. It is where they come together to share ideas and support each other for which they graciously give their time and energies to the work of the needs of our Beloved Community.

There have been a few changes. For one, I have taken the role of Leadership Council Chair. I have some mighty big shoes to fill (thank you Joyce for all you have done for UUCLC) and I want to personally thank Pete Conde for agreeing to be my co-chair. THANK YOU, PETE!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the following chairs and so that you can recognize who your leaders are:

**WRAP** – Val Conde (WRAP-Worship Research and Program, plans our Sunday service)

**Lifespan Faith and Development** – Celia Everest and Christie Cleveland (Adult & Child Ed programs)

**Membership** – Janeanne Reagan

**Care & Connect** – Toni Prather

**Finance** – Stu Anderson

**Fundraising** – Ana Briggs

**Social Justice and Environment** – Russ Littlefield

**Building and Grounds** – Christina Wilkins

**Interior Design** – Gina Rossi

**Hospitality** – Bernie Greenberg & Egor Emery

**Housekeeping** (committee in process of restructuring)

**Safe Congregation** – OPEN

**Safety Team** – OPEN

**Public Relations** – OPEN

If you happen to bump into any of these leaders, **thank them for their service.**

**Peace, Suzie Lockwood**

Regard the banana:

How in its youth the skin is green,  
clings to the fruit, and the flesh  
is tough, only hinting at sweetness.  
When ripe, she yellows like the sun;  
Her skin is loose; she is soft in the mouth  
And the tropics sugar the tongue.  
Not so this body, but perhaps  
This soul.

Peter Pitzele