



The Communicator

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

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January Programs

Discussion Group at 9:30 am

January 6 – TED Talk: “What if we replaced politicians with randomly selected people”, by Brett Hennig

January 13, 20 – To be Announced

January 27 – Open Forum

Woerscippen at 11:00 am

January 6 – Barry Pendry will speak on “Resolutions: Why we make Them & Why we Break Them; Strategies for Keeping promises to ourselves.”

We have all made resolutions at the New Year and at other times. Resolutions are promises that we make to ourselves for many reasons. This talk explores the why of resolutions and strategies for keeping our promises to ourselves through the application of empirical studies and Unitarian Universalists' precepts.

January 13 – Rev. Bonnie Frost. “Love Wins”

January 20, 27 – To be Announced

UUCLC Information & Contacts

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Suzie Lockwood, Vice Pres.
Stu Anderson, Treasurer

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Pete Conde
Lois Sandford

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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“An Evening with David Roth”

On Tuesday January 22 at 7:00 our sanctuary will be the site of a concert filled with song and laughter as we welcome David Roth, songwriter, singer, and comedian. David strikes many chords, hearts and minds with his unique songs, offbeat observations, moving stories, sense of the hilarious and powerful singing and subject matter. As a recording artist and songwriter, keynote speaker, and instructor, he has earned top honors at premier songwriters' competitions-Kerrville (TX) and Falcon Ridge (NY) – and taken his music, experience, and expertise to a wide verity of venues in this and other countries for three decades. Each winter when David makes his swing through Florida, he is in great demand particularly at UU congregations.

David's music and humor are timeless and touch the hearts and funny bones of every age. Don't miss this opportunity to experience a truly unique entertainer. Come; bring your friends, your family, and your neighbors.

Tickets: \$ 15, on sale at UUCLC each Sunday or call Janeane Reagan at (352) 669-2272. Or on line at <https://uu-davidroth.eventbrite.com>

Tickets will also be sold at the door, as available. Cash or check only.

Winter Classes at UUCLC

Spirit in Practice is an 8-session class facilitated by Christie Cleveland in which participants are invited to reflect, share and grow together to develop regular practices of the spirit. You will explore ways to nurture your connections with the sacred (however you define the sacred) in everyday life. The first class will be **January 16 at 10:00-11:30 am in room 113.**

Bibliodrama is an experience using arts and imagination to explore stories from the Book of Ruth. No biblical education is required. Facilitated by Susan and/or Peter Pitzele on **1st Mondays, December-April at 10:30-noon in the Social Hall.**

Tai Chi originated in ancient China and today is practiced throughout the world as an effective exercise for better health. It consists of gentle, fluid movements that can be done standing or seated. **This class is for UUCLC members only.** Taught by Christie Cleveland on **Tuesdays, January-May at 8:45-9:45 for experienced group and 9:45-10:30 for beginners.**

If you are interested in taking any classes, sign up on the table in the narthex.



Minister's Message...

A new year is about to begin for us. The new year is a time when many of us make resolutions for ourselves to better our lives. I often make a lot of the same resolutions, not because I fail at them, but because January is a great time to recommit to them. My usual resolutions? Carving out time for self-care. Renewing my spiritual practices. Reading more. Making time for friends and family. Eating healthier and taking care of my body. I encourage you to think about your own resolutions and goals for the upcoming year.

In furtherance of my own resolutions, I wanted to let you all know that my time here at UUCLC will change starting this month. Instead of coming up for a three-day period at the beginning of the month and an eight-day period at the end of the month, I will be here every week. We will shift to an actual twenty hours per week as per half time accounting. I will have office hours every Tuesday and Thursday here at the church. Thursdays are set as available for evening appointments. Wednesdays will be a flex day and I will be working from home in Lakeland. On Wednesdays I will be available by phone, email, and video chat while I use the time to study and prepare sermons and other duties. Since that day is a "flex day" it means I can make myself more available for other events here at UUCLC (I will simply move those hours to allow for it). I will still be in the pulpit here on the third and fourth Sundays of the month. I feel that this new schedule will allow me to be more fully present with you here and give me room to be more fully grounded in myself. If you have any questions, feel free to let me know! My appointment calendar has been updated with the new availability starting in January. I do ask that you make an appointment (either through the calendly link or via phone or email) so I can make sure I'm available for you.

I hope all of you have a safe and happy New Years and I look forward to what 2019 has in store for us at UUCLC.

...Rev. Tracie

January Birthdays

Royalene Millard, January 8
Pete Conde, January 19
Bill Hermann, January 27

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



President's Message...

Happy New Year!! While we look forward to the year ahead, I have been reflecting on some of our achievements from 2018. We had a very successful year at UUCLC thanks to the hard work of many. Our accomplishments this past year included successful fund-raising efforts for our new street signs and additional chairs for the sanctuary and social hall. And as 2018 came to a close, we collected the money needed for window film for the sanctuary and social hall. We were fortunate to have a group of individuals who got together to provide new chairs for the meeting room as well. UUCLC also had generous donors who provided plants for our landscaping and volunteers who work year-round keeping the grounds looking beautiful! We have an amazing children's classroom created by volunteers and we are blessed with a wonderful team of dedicated people who help to maintain the building. We can all take credit for these achievements and enjoy the fruits of our efforts. Another accomplishment of the past year was starting the process of purchasing renewable energy certificates. This will help us offset our energy use and our impact on the environment. We have much to be thankful for and we can be proud of what we accomplished in 2018!

I have heard concerns that we are constantly asking for money with our fundraising efforts. UUCLC did have some unfunded needs and so it is true we did reach out to the congregation multiple times this year. However, each time you were asked, you did find the generosity to give to UUCLC and we achieved our goals!! We should give ourselves a round of applause. I doubt there will ever be a time when we do not have a need for something. I am sure this is true in every congregation regardless of religion. This congregation could not exist without the generosity of our members and friends. But hopefully, over time, our needs will be fewer as we complete the furnishings and finishing touches on our building. In the future, I am certain we will have new expenses as we grow. So, the reality is that we will always be asking for financial support. Your generous financial gifts and your generous gifts of your time allow UUCLC to be a welcoming place for those who seek a liberal religion. So, congratulations are in order to everyone. Our congregation has met some amazing goals and for that we can all be proud of what we accomplished in 2018!

We also had some challenges in 2018 and again members and friends stepped up to assist when needed. We continue to remain vigilant regarding the homeless campers in the woods. In trying to resolve the problem, we developed relationships with our elected officials at the City of Eustis and with the local police department. We also strengthened our relationship with Open Door. I am pleased that it appears the challenges we had with homeless living on our property have been greatly reduced. I do not think that we have this problem completely resolved and it will require continued monitoring but the situation is much improved. We also faced challenges this past year in how we relate to and interact with each other. It is no surprise that Unitarian Universalists speak their mind. We are all in covenant with each other and that should give us safe space to be open and honest. However, sometimes the openness and honesty can be difficult to hear or even hurtful. We had several members whose interaction with each other was less than positive and unfortunately it impacted more than just the few who were directly involved. A few members left the congregation while a couple others decided to step back for the time being. Although this was difficult, it is an opportunity to allow time to heal. However, it left some holes in the functioning of the congregation. As a result, we had a trustee position become vacant and the Board, per the bylaws, needed to appoint someone to fill the vacancy until our next election at the annual meeting. I am very pleased to announce that Julie Champion has agreed to hold the position. We have faced the challenges of this situation and have been able to continue the operations of the building and the services we provide. Again, we as a congregation pulled together because there is a sense that what we are doing is important work. This is certainly an accomplishment the congregation can be proud of. We continue to need to be aware of our interactions with each other and be reminded that we all love and support each other. We are not perfect and we need to accept that. But we can be humble and know that this is a work in progress.

And finally, in reflection of 2018, I wish to mention the loss of a longtime UUCLC member and friend, Melba Seron who passed in December. She and her husband Dick, were active members of UUCLC in the 1980's and 1990's. Melba continued to be an active member after Dick's passing until her own health began to decline. My family was very close to Melba as were several other UUCLC members. She would light up any room she entered. She will be missed and very fondly remembered. ►

► Looking forward to 2019, we can enjoy spending more time with Rev. Tracie in her new schedule. We also have some exciting programs and upcoming events. No matter what challenges we face, we continue to grow and see new faces on Sundays. Our liberal faith is much needed in this community and we are doing important work! We can all be proud of our generosity and accomplishments. Best wishes to everyone in the upcoming New Year! May 2019 bring many joys and blessing to all.

...Betty Emery

Semiannual Financial Report to the Congregation

by Stuart Anderson, UUCLC Treasurer

In the calendar year (CY) 2018 just concluded, the UUCLC accomplished a great deal. Surely not as much as in CY 2017, when we completed construction of, and moved into, our new building, but certainly a great deal nonetheless. Let us review what we accomplished this past year, from January 1 to December 31, 2018.

First, the members and friends of UUCLC supported the operations of our church. Your contributions given to support these operations are deposited in the General Fund (GF) of the Operating Account, and expenses to pay for these operations are taken from the same fund. Our expected operating expenses, the anticipated recurring costs of operating our church for one year, are projected in the Annual Budget, which is posted on our website. Our actual operating expenses for CY 2018 amounted to about \$88,000. To compensate for these costs, pledging members made payments of about \$75,000 and other members and friends made donations of about \$18,000, for total contributions of about \$93,000. We are grateful and give thanks to all you contributors. So, we made it: contributions exceeded expenses by about \$5,000. That surplus is nice; it will help us live up to our financial responsibilities, but it is not enough for us to develop a robust financial position.

Second, we made great progress reserving or raising funds to repay our Member Loans, which total \$45,000 and are due in July, 2020. On January 1, the Loan Repayment Fund (LRF) in the Building Account (BA) held about \$1,700. In July, the Board decided to move \$10,000 of Surplus from prior years sitting in the General Fund of the Operating Account over to the LRF. During the year, rentals and fun fundraising events raised about \$7,800. On December 31, the LRF stood at about \$19,500: excellent progress, you will agree. If we can do as well over the next year and a half, we will be able to pay off the Member Loans when they are due, but just barely.

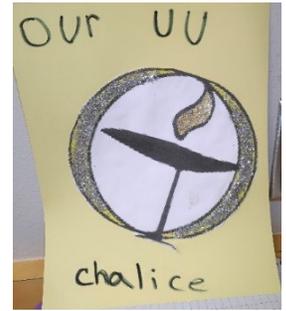
Third, many improvements to the Church Building and Grounds were achieved this past year. They were made possible by special donations given by members and friends in the 2018 and prior years and held in the Improvement Fund of the BA. The largest improvement, at \$14,300, was the creation and installation of the two street signs. The second largest, at about \$10,500, was the creation and installation of the pair of stained-glass windows. Other windows have been tinted for a cost of about \$1,600 and another \$1,400 has been given to tint yet more windows. Then there are the additional chairs, about \$3,540 for 30 red Sanctuary chairs and 25 black Social Hall chairs, \$580 for 14 burgundy meeting-room chairs, and \$417 for two brown library chairs. Other improvements include bulletin boards, file cabinets, a whiteboard, a podium, a Florida State flag, some nameplates or plaques, and trees: three tabebuias, six crepe myrtles, and others. Our special thanks go to all those who made special donations for these improvements.

Finally, in 3019, and in the years ahead, we will have expenses, some that we can anticipate and others that we cannot anticipate, that will be quite onerous. We need to develop a Reserve Fund to bear the burdens that are sure to come. Thank you all giving so generously in the past for the benefit of UUCLC. In the years ahead, please give even more generously, as you are able, to support UUCLC through the thick and thin of an uncertain future.

Chalice Children UU YOUTH

One of our fun activities in December was a Chalice hunt inside & outside. Quynn was very thorough in her search finding a very long list which she documented. She then made her very own Chalice art.

The Children & Youth subcommittee of the LFDC has several exciting ideas which we hope to be implementing in 2019! Stop in Sunday morning 9:30-10:30 if you would like to get involved.



UUCLC COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

<u>Name of Committee</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Building and Grounds Committee	Carl Skiles (temporary)	305-318-6824
Interior Space and Design	Gina Rossi	352-728-1631
Maintenance and Cleaning	Ana Briggs	386-956-9009
Landscape and Grounds	Christina Wilkins	352-250-9124
Finance Committee	Stuart Anderson	352-589-5321
Fund Raising	Ana Briggs	386-956-9009
Hospitality Committee	Bernie Greenberg	352-669-2272
Circle Dinners	& Egor Emery Julie Champion	352-360-3003 407-929-9796
Lifespan Faith Committee	Christie Cleveland	989-627-1234
Adult Education	Christie Cleveland	989-627-1234
Covenant Circles	Cecelia Everist	352-207-5264
Children & Youth	Candi Tipton	941-416-8957
Library	Julie Champion	407-929-9796
Membership Committee	Janeane Reagan	352-669-2272
Care and Connect	Antionette Prather	941-545-5426
Public Relations Committee		
Website		
Safe Congregation	Dawn Wood-Collins	352-210-3133
Safety Team *		
Mediation Team	Janeane Reagan	352-669-2272
Social Justice & Environment	Russell Littlefield	352-735-0690
WRAP Committee-	Val Conde	305-304-8951

*Safety Team leader needed. This person is a sub-committee member of the Safe Congregation Committee. The main duty is to prepare your team for any emergency that happens at our congregation services. This person needs to contact myself or any member of the Safe Congregation Committee for more information.

Dawn Wood Collins Chairman of Safe Congregation Committee

Tools for Managing Stress

Janeane Reagan is again offering a three-session stress management class focused on the use of a technique called EFT (Emotional Freedom Technique). EFT combines problem identification and focus with positive affirmations and tapping on acupressure points to reduce the distress of difficult life events, large and small.

When: Thursday, January 17, 24, and 31 at 6:30 pm

Who: The class is open to anyone; member, friend, visitor. No preregistration required, just show up.

What: Handouts will be available.

Cost: Donations to the church for use of the space and copying are appreciated.

For more information contact Janeane Reagan (352) 669-2272.