



# The Communicator

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

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## February Programs

### Discussion Group Sunday at 9:30 am

- February 2** Open Discussion
- February 9** Open Discussion
- February 16** Covenant Circles discussing the UU First Principle. Led by Chris Cleveland
- February 23** Open Discussion

### Woerscippen Sunday at 11:00 am

- February 2** Beyond the Homestead Into The Clearing
- February 9**
- February 16** Rev Tracie Barrett-- Harm Not the Child: The Parkland school shooting was two years ago. We can't change what happened, but we can learn about what we do now. Rev. Tracie explores the effects of trauma, how to support and live with its effects, and what we can do.
- February 23** Rev Tracie Barrett-- UU the Vote: Rev. Tracie discusses the UUA initiative to get the vote out and how our values as Unitarian Universalists can inform our votes this year.

### UUCLC Information & Contacts

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

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 Submit articles for the March Communicator by Tuesday, February 25



February 23—Potluck 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month



### Minister's Message...

As February starts, the busyness of the church year really begins. It's mostly in the background, but it's important to know that it's happening. The Board of Trustees is preparing for the Annual Meeting, the Nominating Committee is preparing to select a slate of nominees for the board, and the Finance Committee is beginning to look ahead at the pledge campaign and the budget for next year.

All this work is happening in the background, but there are things that you can do to help with that work.

As we get closer to the Annual Meeting, if you are a voting member of this congregation, make sure to take the time to read any documents pertaining to the meeting ahead of time. Please plan to be there to make your voice heard in the future of our congregation. Each voting member has a right to vote and has a responsibility to be informed and ready to make that vote.

If you're interested in serving our congregation in a leadership capacity, let us know. If you are interested in serving, but worry you don't have the skills, come talk to me. There are leadership development modules available through the Southern Region of the UUA and I can point you to them. If you're interested in serving on the board, make sure to let the Nominating Committee know (you can find the list of committee members in the order of service).

The biggest way you can support the work happening right now is to start thinking about your pledge. This congregation builds its budget based on pledges that come in for the next year. It takes a lot to maintain our building, provide programming and speakers, and pay our staff. When our Finance Committee comes to ask you to make your pledge, I hope that you will think about the ways this congregation has touched you and pledge to support it. The quicker you turn in your pledges for our next year, the quicker our Finance Committee and Board of Trustees can make decisions about the budget.

Our congregation exists because of the input and the contributions of each one of you. May we all work together to build the future of UUCLC.

~ Rev. Tracie



The Board of Trustees' secretary keeps the UU World magazine subscription mailing list. It's possible to have your subscription go to 2 addresses in a year. Give Julie Champion your information for when and where you want your magazine mailed or if you are not receiving your copy. [juliemilamchampion@gmail.com](mailto:juliemilamchampion@gmail.com) or (407) 929-9796.

## President's Message:

We did it! We accomplished the task of revising our By-Laws! The process began in the late spring of 2019 with Carl Skiles forming a By-Law committee. Over a period of many months there were many revisions. After the revisions were completed by the By-Law committee, then the document was forwarded to the Board of Trustees to review. The Board made some additional revisions and then we shared the proposed By-Laws with the congregation. We did get some feedback from congregation members and we incorporated the suggestions into the final version. And in the last step of the process, the final version was voted on and approved by the members of the congregation on January 26<sup>th</sup>. So, after a long and thoughtful process, we have a new set of By-Laws we can all be very proud of.



Several congregation members did voice some concerns about the wording in a few places but for the most part, the By-Laws were well received. However, it should be noted that this is a document that can and will be changed in the future. We were not looking to achieve perfection. It was a step to improve and modernize the By-Laws that we have been working under for many years. The By-laws that we were using previously were extremely well thought out and the authors of that document have much to be very proud of. But times change and we are growing and we need to make things work for how we want to see ourselves grow. Thank you to all who participated in this process especially Carl Skiles and everyone who served on the By-Law committee. You are to be commended for your time and effort.

On Sunday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Board of Trustees will be meeting with representatives from UU Orlando to discuss an opportunity for UUCLC to sponsor a solar co-op for Lake County. If the Board decides we should move forward with this, we will share the news with congregation after our next Board meeting in February. We will share all the details with the congregation once we have more info. Our next Board meeting is scheduled for February 20<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. All congregation members are welcome to attend all board meetings.

Other news to note, we will be holding an election of Board Officers at our Annual meeting in April. Seats to be voted on are President, Secretary, and Treasurer. If you are interested in the business matters of the congregation and have a desire to make a difference you would be very welcome on the Board. No experience is required, only enthusiasm. Reach out to one of the members of the Nominating Committee and let them know you are interested. The Nominating Committing members this year are Barbara Hill, Bernie Greenberg, and Carl Skiles. They would be more than happy to talk with you.

At our meeting in January, the Board of Trustees voted to schedule the Annual Meeting this year for April 26<sup>th</sup>. This date is later than we have held our Annual meeting in the past. The reason for the last Sunday in April was due to scheduling around the Easter Sunday holiday and the schedules of other Board members and our Minister, Rev. Tracie. Mark your calendars for this important date.

Here are some other dates you will want to know about. The weekend of February 14, 15, and 16 UUCLC will be hosting an event by the Eustis Art League. They will be setting up works of art which will be on display to the public during the weekend. Take some time to come see what the artists in our community are doing and show support for them.

On March 28<sup>th</sup> at 2pm, the very talented Bing Futch will be returning! Thanks go to Barbara Marrow for bringing him back for a return engagement. More info on this exciting event will be coming, so stay tuned.

Happy Valentine's Day to all. Take time to share with others a little bit of love.

Betty Emery



### UUCLC CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

The Program for Children's Liberal Religious Education is centered around the Seven UU Principles this year. Currently the topic is "Justice".

All children are welcome to attend the classes which begin at 11:00 am and held in the classrooms at the end of the hall to the right of the entrance. Two teachers will be in attendance for each classroom.

The schedule for the Children's Program for February still has a few blanks that need to be filled by members of the YRE Team. If you are able to be available to teach in the YRE on those Sundays, please let me know.

Sylvia Wince, Dir. YRE [sylviawince@centurylink.net](mailto:sylviawince@centurylink.net) or 352-669-2078

#### Older children's class:

#### Younger children's class

Feb. 2: Sylvia Wince; Denny Libby

Betty Emery; Julie Champion

Feb. 9: Sylvia Wince; ?

Jane Hepting; ?

Feb. 16: Sylvia Wince; Betty Emery

? ; ?

Feb. 23: Sylvia Wince; ?

Jane Hepting; ?





**Circle Dinners** are potluck meals at UU members' homes where you can get to know a small group of UUs in a deeper way. If you are interested in hosting a UU dinner in your home, please contact Diana Reed at [DiReed@aol.com](mailto:DiReed@aol.com) or phone 352-735-1520.

### **Covenant Circles**

Covenant Circles are groups of 6-10 people who meet every 2-4 weeks to discuss topics of choice in a deep and respectful manner. Some groups meet for just a few months, and some groups can decide to continue longer. Each group develops covenants that describe how interactions take place, such as not interrupting and confidentiality.

You can experience a one-time Covenant Circle during the Feb. 16th, 9:30 Sunday Discussion Group. Each table of 6-8 people will be holding a discussion using Covenant Circle format. This discussion will be on the First U.U. Principle to "covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person". It is best to come right at 9:30 on Feb. 16th, so you get to hear everyone speak in your group.

If you decide you would like to join a Covenant Circle please sign up in the narthex on the table under the chalice quilt. When we have at least 6 signed up, a group will be started. Date and time will be determined by the group members.

by Chris Cleveland

### **FRIDAY MORNING SEMINARS**

Find out about the worst hurricanes to hit Florida! Everyone is invited to the first seminar on Friday, February 7th, 10:30 to 11:30 in the Social Hall. On Valentine's Day, the seminar has a Seminole Indian Wars expert, Christopher D. Kimball of Tallahassee, as our guest historian. We'll talk about the facts, the weird stuff, and the wonderful state of Florida. Dress is casual. Come and have some Friday morning fun with us! Details: Julie Champion (407) 929-9796.

**February is Black History Month and the Social Justice and Environment Committee invites you to participate in several related events at our church and in the community.**

On **Feb 6th** at 7 pm, Nilda Comas, the artist creating the Mary Bethune statue for Statuary Hall in the Capitol, will speak at the Lake County Historical Museum. This is a major event for Central Florida and Lake County as the African American educator, Mary Bethune, was a distinguished civil rights activist and educator who founded a



private school in Daytona Beach for African Americans. That school eventually became Bethune-Cookman University. The marble portraiture of Bethune will replace the bronzed statue of Confederate General, Kirby Smith which is being removed from the Capitol to make room for her — an action that moves Florida into the 21st Century. On the other hand, the bronze of Kirby Smith, will be brought to the Lake County Historical Museum — an action that offends many, including and especially, African Americans. The Kirby Smith statue will stand in the very building where the young men falsely accused of raping a white woman were tortured and beaten. The placement demonstrates, at the least, the insensitivity of some of Lake County leaders and, at its worse, shows the reluctance of a handful of powerful Lake County leaders to leave the 19th Century.

### **Mabel Norris Reese Honored**



Several members of UULC were inspired at the unveiling of a sculpture by Jim McNalis of Mt. Dora journalist Mabel Norris Reese on January 12, 2020, at the Mt. Dora Community Building. Ms. Reese was honored for her reporting about the corrupt Lake County Sheriff Willis McCall and his mistreatment of African American men accused of raping a white woman. In retaliation for challenging Sheriff McCall in her newspaper, Ms. Reese's home was bombed, her dog poisoned, her office vandalized, and a cross was burned on her lawn. Those events are described in the Pulitzer Prize-winning book "Devil in the Grove" and the follow up book "Under a Ruthless Sun" by Gilbert King who spoke at the unveiling. Ms. Reese's portrait is in the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame in Tavares.



## Household Hazardous Waste and Recycling in Lake County

On January 16th a group from UUCLC toured the **Lake County Household Waste Convenience Center** located at 13130 County Landfill Rd. in Tavares, off CR-561. Their phone number is **352-343-3776**. They are open M-Sat. from 8-5. We would like to share with you what we learned, hoping you can apply the information to practice the U.U. “holy trinity”, which is **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!** Fees do apply for some items dropped off. If you are unsure, simply call the above phone number to get more information.

**Household hazardous waste** can be brought to the Center for safe disposal or reuse. They **take**: antifreeze, aerosol spray cans, pool and lawn chemicals, fluorescent bulbs, solvents, gasoline, batteries (including auto), thinners, paint, poisons, thermostats, filters, cooking oil, used motor oil, propane tanks, pesticides, thermometers (mercury). They also take electronic waste, yard waste (< 4' long, < 6" diameter), tires, construction debris, residential furniture, appliances, mattresses/box springs. They remove/dispose of freon safely before crushing appliances.

Curbside recycling **takes**: paper, cardboard, box board (not waxed), aluminum and tin cans, plastic bottles and containers, glass bottles and containers. It is then taken to a site outside our county to be separated. The Social Justice committee may schedule a subsequent field trip to a site that separates recycled materials.

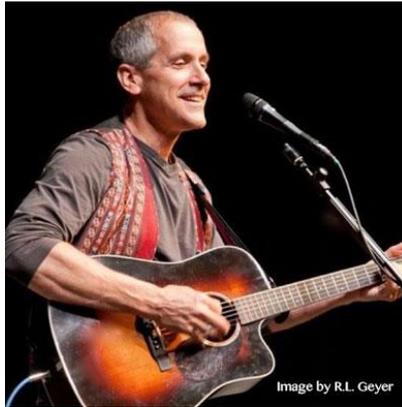
Curbside does **not take**: plastic bags (recycle at Publix), batteries, styrofoam (recycle egg cartons and meat trays at Publix), wrapping paper, used pizza boxes, coat hangers, mirrors, plastic toys, windows, pyrex, disposable plates/cups, paper towels, facial/toilet paper, or wax board containers (i.e. milk/juice cartons).

Partially full cans of latex paint are **available at no cost for residents to take** up to 20 gallons/year. The county finds creative ways to reuse some items. Some wood items are burned to create energy for several hundred homes. They use oyster/clam shells collected to create reefs for fish.

We learned that our county is very concerned about environmentally safe disposal or reuse of our waste products. Let's do all we can to protect our Mother Earth.

**There is no planet B.**

By Chris Cleveland and Julie Twist



Many UUCLC members and friends were uplifted by the performance of folksinger David Roth at UUCLC on January 21, 2020. Mr. Roth was impressive as the sole performer in his engaging baritone and displaying wonderful skill with the guitar and piano. His songs hit solidly on our cultural and political issues. Some examples were “Is It Too Much To Ask”, a song about the need for simple courtesy and respect for each other, “Change the Laws”, expressing the need for more gun control, “Home of the Brave”, touching the heart with stories of personal sorrow and loss due to current immigration policies, “Trail of Tears”, about the suffering and injustices inflicted on Native Americans by our political system, and a reminder about staying personally involved with each other in “My Voice Counts”.



## 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- 7 pm.

**Tai Chi**, a healing, slow motion martial art will meet every Tuesday from 9:00-9:45 am in the Social Hall. 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](mailto:janeane99@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](mailto: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.

**The Science and Philosophy Group** is a meeting of persons to discuss and express 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](mailto:fdpennington11@gmail.com).

Here are S&P discussion topics for February 2020 -- always Thursdays at 10:30 in the UU social room.

Feb 06 Our cultural history is cluttered with VAST numbers of PROTECTIVE rituals, many of which use FIRE to remove demons or keep evil spirits away. NOW, in the depth of Winter (even somewhat in Florida), our ancestors were stalked by freezing temperatures, starvation and disease with NONE of our scientific explanations. So how DID they explain their problems and what kind of symbolic actions did they take for protection? How many of these actions do you still see in your world, your family and yourself? Remember "Jack be nimble, Jack be quick, etc.?" (For reference, "The New Golden Bough" is useful.)

Feb 13 TRUE or FALSE: At the end of Desire, the Restless Mind finally finds PEACE! That is the message of Lao Tsu in "Tao de Ching" and the Buddha in the Dhanapala, but HOW often in modern times ARE we without desire ? ON the contrary, is it not the goal of ADVERTISING to create desire on an endless scale, lest our economy and GDP fail? Hey, let the radio or TV create the NEED for the latest gadget and hopefully, others will go to WORK to gain that EXACT item, whatever utility it might promise! Today ponder with me the perks and problems with this process. Suggested reading "With All Its Faults: A Candid Account of Forty Years in Advertising" by Fairfax M. Cohen.

Feb 20 "Farming is everybody's bread and butter!" read a 70's bumper sticker. But NOW, the age of Agribusiness, hydroponics, vege-burgers and so forth, WHAT should or shouldn't we be eating and WHY, and how did HEMP come to be on the menu? Are GMOs and current farming practices SAFE for consumers, even as Monsanto assured us Roundup was no problem? Let us share our collective knowledge about our FOOD choices and our FDA watch dog!

Feb 27 Do you ever kind of hear VOICES in your head that are a remix of our life COACHES, namely parents, teachers, pastors, other relation ? How did you react (accept, question, reject?) to their messages THEN, and how do you see that message NOW ? This is a critique of ENCULTURATION really, how one generation attempts to inform the next, and how it must have failures due to "Future Shock" RE Toffler. After all, in the PRE credit card and huge debt times there was the saying "Use it up, wear it out, make it DO or... DO WITHOUT!"

The following classes will be offered this winter. You may sign up in the narthex at the activities table by the Social Hall. If you are interested in teaching or facilitating a class complete a Class Proposal Form (available in office or print from church website). Give forms to Chris Cleveland (mail folder in office or [chrisclleveland1951@gmail.com](mailto:chrisclleveland1951@gmail.com)).

### **Building Your Own Theology**

Thursdays, 5:30-7:30 pm, Jan. 2-Mar. 5 with Rev. Tracie Barrett

Limited to 10 participants

This program, based on the assumption that everyone is their own theologian, guides participants to develop their own personal statement of faith. Book needed: *Building Your Own Theology, Vol. 1*. Some copies are available in our library.

### **Life Stories**

Wednesdays, 10:00-11:30 am Jan. 8, Feb. 5 & Mar. 4 with Peter Pitzele

Participants will be guided in writing their personal memoirs, reflecting on life experiences, learning and sharing with each other.

### **Florida Seminars**

Fridays, 10:30-11:30 am Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28 & Mar. 6 with Julie Champion

Kicking off the Florida Seminars is a Discussion Group program on Sunday, January 19, beginning at 9:30 a.m., first, with the Florida Trivia Game. Next, the folks there will suggest seminar topics for the seminars scheduled for February 21st, 28th, and March 6th. Topics already set are as follows: 10:30 a.m., Friday, February 7th, "Hurricanes", and 10:30 a.m., Friday, February 14th, "Seminoles". An expert scholar and researcher, Christopher D. Kimball, will be the guest seminar discussion leader. He has published three works about the Seminole Indian Wars. The Seminoles remain an undefeated Tribe! Europeans established St. Augustine before settlers founded Jamestown! Meanwhile, you may check out all sorts of Florida-related media from the UU Library, located across from Rev. Tracie Barrett's office. For even more details contact Julie Champion (407) 929-9796, [juliemilamchampion@gmail.com](mailto:juliemilamchampion@gmail.com).

**Do you have an idea for a class?** If you are interested in facilitating or teaching a class, please complete a class proposal form and give it to Christie Cleveland ([chrisclleveland1951@gmail.com](mailto:chrisclleveland1951@gmail.com)). Forms are available in the church office in wall rack beside the door.

**If you are interested in taking any of these classes,** please sign up at the table in the narthex and put it on your calendar.

