



The Communicator

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

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Welcome to another edition of the UUCLC Communicator. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the UUCLC building is currently closed and all in-person programs are cancelled. However, **WE ARE STILL HERE!** We have Sunday services planned, committees are still meeting, and some groups and circles are meeting via Zoom. Check your weekly email blast for links to all of our Zoom activities. If you aren't receiving the weekly eblast, request to be added to the list at office@lakecountyuu.net.

July 5: Janeane Reagan "Implicit Bias, Part of Being Human". As UU's we are often frustrated and appalled when implicit biases that dwell in our subconscious mind surface unbidden. By understanding the natural role of such biases in human survival, we can become better adept at managing their impact on our thoughts, words, and actions.

July 12: Rev. Sara Villarreal Bishop "The Power of Diversity"

July 19: Rev. Kathy Schmitz "Summer Camp for All of US"

July 26: Randy Granger "Lessons from a Pandemic, a Native American Perspective."



Minister's Message...

Saying Goodbye



July 2020

Well, beloveds, here we are. Time to say goodbye. As I mentioned in my last sermon, this is the end of our journey together and the beginning of the next stages for both of us. I wanted to share with you the words that I shared with the board a few weeks ago, because they are for you as well.

UUCLC has grown in leaps and bounds during my time here. You started as a family sized congregation, meeting in a rented facility, to worshipping together in your own building and inviting many people to join you. You are right on the cusp between family size and pastoral size. That size transition is a difficult one to manage and I am confident that with guidance, you can do it. You have also grown in depth, with many different offerings of programs to meet the needs of those who enter your doors. My hope for you is that you will continue to grow both deeper in your spirituality and wider in the community as a home and beloved community for all who need you in Lake County.

I have been impressed with your willingness and bravery to pivot to online services. Many members have embraced the technology of Zoom and I have heard many good things about how this helps us stay connected. I know that this has been a challenge and making sure everyone stays connected is tough. My hope for you is that you continue to be creative and find ways to make online offerings appealing and accessible to all.

The core of UUCLC is the volunteer base. You have some of the most committed and hardworking volunteers that I have ever seen. They all take great pride in the work that they do for UUCLC and it shows in everything they do. My hope for you is that you work to ensure that your volunteers don't become too over-extended, that they are recognized, and that there are new volunteers brought in regularly through leadership development to allow current volunteers to move back and rest.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve this congregation as minister. You have such potential and energy to grow and I wish all the best for you. My hope is that you will continue on a path of having professional and fellowshipped Unitarian Universalist ministry to guide you as you grow into your potential here in Lake County and the wider UU community.

I want to thank you all for being on this part of the journey with me. Each of you has taught me things I will carry forward in ministry. Thank you also for your generous gifts. The beautiful photo of the church now hangs on my wall and I am already using the notebooks and pen. May you move forward remembering the gifts each of you are to each other and to this faith. Go forth in peace, go forth in love, go forth in faith.

Blessings to you all,
Rev. Tracie Barrett



President's Message.

"Are we there yet?" This is the phrase that I find going through my head these days. We are on a long journey down the coronavirus highway. And like all of you, I often feel anxious to have the whole thing over with. Unfortunately, we have no way of knowing when it will end. But, fortunately, as we travel, we still have ways of keeping in touch - maybe it is not ideal, but it works and it can keep us together. And so I write to you as we travel this highway together with faith that somewhere ahead is our destination - the resumption of a more "normal" religious life in our beautiful "Blue Boat Home."



In the meantime, the board is meeting as are our committees and life span groups. We are pursuing the ministries of our faith, including our Sunday morning worship service. In July, the Social Justice and Environment Committee is hoping to start a super Zoom Sunday evening lecture series where we invite people from our community to talk on pertinent social justice issues. You will find a tentative list of speakers in this Communicator. I think it is an exciting extension of our social justice ministry. When you see Jane Hepting, who headed up this effort, be sure to thank her.

So we are finding ways to operate even while out of our building. But we continue to face uncertainties and there are a number of questions about our future that are heavy on my mind and I am betting they are also on yours.

This first has to do with our building. We know, all of us, that as meaningful as our virtual services have been, our religious life is tied up with our sanctuary building. And yes, I am using this term, "sanctuary building" deliberately because I believe, to steal a slogan from the Lincoln car ads, in "the power of sanctuary." What we call our place of worship was not chosen casually. It was chosen by this congregation as the term that was most descriptive of our place in Lake County. We have a UU sanctuary, a place of safety and renewal for UUs and for all those who share the faith that our progressive religion has created. I have written this before and I continue to believe it - there is nothing else like it in Lake County.

Every time I enter our grounds, I marvel at the beauty I am experiencing. It just makes me feel good. And I often think about the woman that made it possible — Ruth Russell Gray. She trusted us to fulfill a vision of a landmark in Lake County that would stand, not as a memorial to her, but as a haven for progressive thought and religion.

We know that our church is more than a building, but our building *and* our grounds are the symbol of our progressive church and what they look like reflect who we are. That is why Christina Wilkins and her helpers are such an important ministry for us. During this time, while we are traveling on the coronavirus highway, take a turn off onto our sanctuary grounds. Sit for a while in your car or get out and walk a little. Maybe you will see some wild turkeys or spy an osprey or an eagle. Let the beauty enter you. Look for chipping sparrows at the edge of the driveway. If it is near evening you may watch the light change on the building. You might experience a summer rain storm under our portico. Experience the power of sanctuary.

I don't know when we can open up the building. We all want it to happen. But people in Florida and Lake County are testing positive for COVID-19 and dying in greater numbers than a month ago. As long as that is the case, we can't risk it. So the board has decided to continue us on hold. Don't worry, we will figure this out. But in the meantime realize that sanctuary is not just a building space we call the Ruth Russell Gray Sanctuary.

Which brings me to another part of our responsibility, to Ruth, to members past, and to ourselves - the responsible use of our land. There has been a good deal of excitement generated by the possibility that we might list a portion of our land for sale. No one is quite sure how much active interest exists for buying right now, but it is likely that speculators are looking for areas to invest in. And so, it is not surprising that Glen Tyre, the real estate agent that sold us our property, has called Carl Skiles expressing interest in listing a portion of it.

We know that our building is located in an active area of development. It is valuable. *And it is precious.* And that is the point. Now is the perfect time to step back and treat our land not as a commodity, but as a precious possession that we hold, like our building, in trust. Our goal is not to maximize profit, but to use our resources in a way consistent with our principles and purposes.

Broad guidance is provided, as we know, by our Seven Principles, especially by our Seventh Principle which affirms our “respect for the interdependent web of all creation of which we are a part.” But we need to have a clear vision of what our focused emphases are here at UUCLC. And that includes purposive use of our land.

And I think we can afford to do that. We are not a rich church, but neither are we a poor one. There is no mortgage on our property and the small debt we incurred is nearly paid off. We have a cracker jack financial team, headed by Chris Higgins and they look after us. Soon, they will be helping the board refine our 2021 budget and together we will be making a careful assessment of our financial situation. Included in that conversation will be a statement about the role of our land in our future from a financial point of view. That is only a first step, though, as we work toward a distinctive vision for the land that we hold in trust. In the meantime, to the extent that we can, we can all restore our spirits at the the green sanctuary space that we share together.

A Note about the Board

We recently held elections and a reconstituted board was put in place. Since then, there has been some shifting within the Board that you need to know about. Our elected Treasurer, Kristen Hughes, who is facing health challenges, has decided he must step down. Fortunately, Christina Wilkins has stepped forward into the Treasurer’s position. Kristen will continue to work with the Financial Committee and with our Worship Committee. We support Kristen and hold him up and thank Christina for her willingness to take on this challenging position. Christina will continue to work on Building and Grounds as well.

And another Board member has decided to step down. Our beloved Suzie Lockwood has served on the board for several years now. She has decided she just needs to take a breather. She will continue with her other activities for the church including as one of our Sunday morning hosts.

One Last Thing.

It is likely that when you read this, we will have wished our minister of three years our farewells. We will have done what we can to celebrate her passage as she moves on with her UU ministry. It was good to have her here.

Now we are looking for another UU minister from the UU Minister’s Association. But we do not have to rush. Our Worship Committee, headed by Val Conde, is experienced and devoted to our congregation. Despite the many challenges, I am confident they will continue to provide meaningful Sunday services for us all.

Russ



Honoring our outgoing Board of Trustee's officers:

Submitted by Janeane Reagan

If we were not in our current state of Covid-19 restrictions we would be recognizing the hard work of our departing officers at one of our services. In the absence of that option, the board has chosen to deliver gifts of appreciation to each one of them at their homes. When I asked for gift ideas, it was wisely suggested that "you can never go wrong with wine, chocolates, and flowers." So with that advice Bernie and I went shopping and were able to deliver baskets with those precious items plus a few other goodies.

We caught Betty Emery, our outgoing president and her husband Egor at home on Saturday evening. She was totally surprised and delighted. Betty has captained our board through both calm and choppy waters over the past two years while juggling her demanding job as a pharmacist with the many duties of president. Betty is known for her unflagging diplomacy, future-sightedness, and problem solving. She is a seasoned and committed UUr who kept the UU principles in the forefront of everything she did as president.

Chris Higgins served as treasurer. Managing the finances of any church is a challenge. As a legal entity we are a not-for-profit which requires much detail in the keeping of financial records. Chris is one of the best "t-crossers" and "i-dotters" we could hope to get. She puts out an awesome report that even I, a financially challenged individual, can understand. When faced with difficult financial decisions Chris "tells it like it is".

When our last election for secretary was held we had no one willing to run for the position. It is hard to run a board without this important position being filled. Julie Champion stepped up and volunteered to serve as secretary and for the past 1½ years she has done a great job. She has aptly sifted out the important points from the nonessential chatter to create accurate minutes.

We also want to thank Pete Conde for serving as vice president and the chair of leadership counsel this past year. Pete graciously moved out of the VP position so Russ and I could work more closely in a kind of job share style for the president and vice president positions. Pete has moved over to a trustee position where he will continue to serve the congregation with his insight and wisdom.

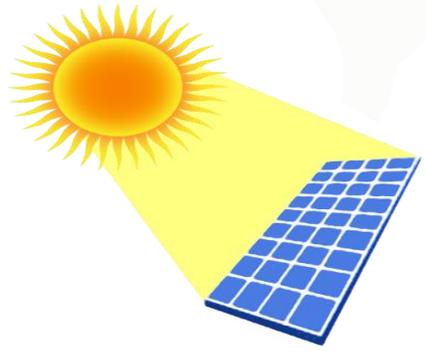
As these hard working officers leave their positions we thank them from the bottom of our hearts and we welcome our newly elected officers. Russ Littlefield is taking over as president. I won't say that he has big shoes to fill because we know Betty doesn't have big feet and Russ has a head start from having been our very capable president in the past.

We just had a change in the treasurer position as Kristen Hughes has resigned due to medical issues and Christina Wilkins has been appointed by the board to take his place. She is also one of those "crossed t's and dotted i's" kind of people with lots of business experience. We are fortunate to have her in this position.

Wendy Pacek is our new secretary. Wendy is very thorough in whatever she does. We look forward to her reports and her kind nature on the board.

I have moved into the vice president position and will work closely with Russ as he leads us into the challenges of the year ahead.

BE CALM, BE SAFE, LAUGH WHEN YOU CAN, Janeane



UCLC Sponsors Solar Co-op Coming to Lake County

UCLC is pleased to sponsor the Solar United Neighbors (SUN) co-op coming to Lake County this month. What is a SUN solar co-op? Slightly paraphrased from www.solarunitedneighbors.org:

Imagine walking into a solar company's office with 50 or 100 of your neighbors and saying, "We all want to get solar. What kind of deal can you give us?" But first imagine having access to a neutral resource created specifically to help YOU navigate the entire process:

- **Vendor-neutral expertise.** Solar experts will help you understand how solar works and make the best decision for *your* energy needs.
- **Your questions answered.** Call or email them anytime you need help. Now and long after you install solar.
- **Teamwork.** Leveraging the power of group purchasing discounts, experts request bids on your behalf. Then, a committee of your peers meet to assess the pros and cons of each and select the best installer for the group.
- **Community.** You'll have a built-in network of support and inspiration from others who, like you, are taking a stand for energy freedom and advancing the clean energy economy.
- **A bigger impact.** Going solar creates jobs and puts energy production and its benefits back in the hands of the people and contributes to cleaner air and water for everyone. A solar co-op amplifies those outcomes exponentially.

Joining the co-op is **free**, and you are under no obligation to pursue your own rooftop solar.

The co-op launches July 15. Learn more about it at <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org>, or contact Barbara Marrow, marrow.barbara@gmail.com.



Photo courtesy solarunitedneighbors.org

LECTURE SERIES IS COMING TO UUCLC

UUCLC is pleased to announce that we will host a ***Social Justice On-Line Lecture Series*** to explore the major social justice issues facing Lake County. This series is free and open to the public, and everyone may connect by phone or via the internet – computer, tablet, or smartphone. The first topic will be ***The Question of Race: Has Lake County Changed in the Last Thirty Years?*** The speaker will be Mae Hazelton, a well-known local advocate for racial justice. This lecture will be presented on Sunday, July 19, 2020 at 7 p.m. We will send out the procedure for connecting to this series soon. Future topics and speakers include Cassandra Brown on criminal justice, Debra Townsend on immigration, Jeannie Economos on farm workers, Peggy Cox on our waterways, Stuart Klatte on public education, and Rev. Sandy Haxton on the faith community.



Social Justice Committee Collecting for Open Door and Lake Cares

The Social Justice & Environment Committee will have a drop off for donations to Open Door and Lake Cares **July 2 from 12:00-1:00**. Open Door has a need for deodorant and insect repellent. Canned or boxed goods will also be delivered to Lake Cares .

Jane Lovejoy will be parked in the front yard of the church in the shade with receptacles available for people to come and drop off their items. Proper physical distancing will be observed.

Thank you,
Email Jane Lovejoy at lovethatjoy@gmail.com if you have any questions.



General Assembly Recap, Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression

By Henry Millat and Carole Armel, UUCLC Delegates

Henry says:

Thanks!

First of all, thank you to the Board of Trustees for allowing me to represent UUCLC at the first all virtual General Assembly. The experience was informative and inspiring. I learned how deep and wide the UU experience really is. Let me share some highlights.

Worship – Wonderful Music

To my surprise, the most enjoyable sessions for me were the worship services each morning. The services included wonderful music. The performers were very talented, and the musical selections with multiple performers were blended into flawless virtual presentations by the technical team. Kudos to all!

The Pilgrims were Genocidal Colonialists.

My favorite lecture was a presentation by historian Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, author of the book *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*. Ms. Ortiz described how policies of violent dispossession, genocide, and chattel slavery pervaded the colonization of the United States and continue to affect us today.

White Nationalism/White Supremacy is recruiting.

Advocates of White Nationalism/White Supremacy are near us as demonstrated by recent news of video footage from The Villages. That's why I attended the workshop entitled "Building Communities to Counter White Nationalism/White Power". The movement targets nonreligious and atheist white men and can use bullying tactics.

Reparations – When?

I attended two workshops about reparations. Reparations have been on the table since 1865. One presenter asked the question: Why did white people spit on 6-year-old Ruby Bridges when she integrated her school in Louisiana? I think that question is at the heart of the matter. There are funds for a charter school nearby, but not reparations.

Action Items for consideration: establish Indigenous Peoples Day, don't call the police, defund the police, end ICE, and advocate for a national, publicly funded, comprehensive program of universal medical care.

The culmination of GA, in my opinion, was the adoption of 2 Actions of Immediate Witness (AIW), (1)

Address 400 Years of White Supremacist Colonialism and (2) Amen to Uprising: A

Commitment and Call to Action, and the statement: The Pandemic: A Religious Response.

These documents include the actions stated in the title to this paragraph. The documents were controversial to some delegates, but were approved by an overwhelming majority of voting delegates: 94 percent for AIW #1, 82 percent for AIW #2, and 99 percent for the Pandemic Response.

Carole says:

Thank you everyone. I share Henry's gratitude and thanks to our Board and Congregation for sending me to the 2020 GA.

Amazing event. I highly recommend people attend a GA at least once and check the UUA.org website to see the wonderful worship services and any lectures that are online. I especially recommend the final Ware Lecture by author Naomi Klein (*No Is Not Enough: Resisting the New Shock Politics and Winning the World We Need* (2017) which pulled together the threads of the many changes needed now in our country that were the basis of the sessions of the Assembly and were represented in the Actions of Immediate Witness Henry listed. I learned new histories of the founding of America, UU, and the racist and genocidal movements of today and throughout America's history.

Also, there were many fun sessions - song workshops, rituals and Friday Fun Night.

I attended sessions on developing a congregation's vision (a process I believe we plan to be engaging in), communication on difficult topics, and solving differences of opinion among congregation members.

I was concerned about the Action of Immediate Witness - **Amen to Uprising: A Commitment and Call to Action** and voted against adopting it. While its principles and intent I wholeheartedly support and feel they are very much in line with our 7 Principles, I felt some actions were too proscriptive and therefore couldn't be applicable to the diverse congregational situations within UU. Two examples are "Choosing not to involve police departments, and deactivating security systems that mobilize police response when triggered" and "we will support uprisings with spiritual and material resources, serving as places of respite during protests, funding movements through congregational budgets, ...".

A congregation can choose whether or not to adopt these Actions of Immediate Witness and to make changes to them that meets its situation. However, it still concerns me that delegates chose what I see as overreaching in asking for commitment to specific actions rather than suggesting consideration of those actions. The full texts of the Actions and other decisions voted on will be on the UUA website.

I am hoping that the UUA will be able to provide many of the GA sessions for congregations to present. Many would be excellent topics for our Discussions when we can resume them. I made that request to the conference committee.

Again, my thanks for this opportunity AND I would strongly encourage everyone to go to the UUA.org site and look at the descriptions of the many, many GA sessions and the Report of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change, Widening the Circle of Concern. If you do, and see any you would like more information on, let me know. Delegates can see most sessions over the summer in On Demand channel, and I can report back to you.

**DO THE RIGHT THING
WEAR A FACE MASK**

