



The Communicator

[Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lake County](#)



March 7 Rev. Lori Staubitz “Speak for the Trees”

March 14 Kathy Schmitz “You Have Broken Your Vows A Thousand Times”

March 21 No service today. We are giving our hard-working Tech Team a day off.

March 28 David Roth “One World, Many Concerns”

March Birthdays

Ted Fessler
Julie Champion
Joyce Axelson
Fred Lorch
Patti Stiner
Betty Emery
Ozell Ward

UUCLC Information & Contacts

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Officers

Russ Littlefield, President
Janeane Reagan, Vice President
Wendy Pacek, Secretary
Christina Wilkins, Treasurer
Chris Higgins, Asst. Treasurer

Trustees

Lois Sanford
Pete Conde
Ted Fessler

Committee Chairs

Membership – Julie Twist
WRaP (Sunday Services) – Val Conde
Building and Grounds – Christina Wilkins
Music – Kit Tatum
Finance – Chris Higgins
Social Justice/Environment – Barbara Hill
Communications– Christy Millat
Lifespan Faith Development – Christie Cleveland
Religious Education – Sylvia Wince
Hospitality – Bernie Greenberg
Safe Congregation – Julie Twist
Care and Connect –Lois Sanford
Technology – Val Rosado
Technology Administration –Val Rosado
Library – Julie Champion

The Communicator is published monthly.
Editor: Christy Millat Phone: 248-921-0541
Email: UUCLCCommunicator@yahoo.com
Submit articles for the February Communicator by Wednesday, February 24.

If you have not shared your birthday with us, please email christy.millat@yahoo.com so we can wish you a happy birthday too.

President's Message

Bits and Pieces

Living a UU Life

I am a UU. What does that mean to me? It means I am obligated through covenant to be more active than most in social justice and environmental causes. It means that I feel the otherness of the universe in a deep and personal way and that I am on a journey of discovery, not just for myself, but with others. It means that being in fellowship with other UUs is a vital part of my identity. UU is my home. It is where I feel safe.



I like the phrase, “living a UU life.” It has real significance for me. And I know it is deeply dependent on giving. I am not talking just about being active in UU community, although there is most certainly that, I am talking about money giving.

Coming up is my chance and your chance to commit once again to our home here in Lake County — UUCLC. One of the best ways to demonstrate our commitment is through pledging an amount of money to support UUCLC’s activities through the 2021/22 fiscal year. For whatever reason, sometimes folks resist the commitment of a pledge. Don’t do it. We have a really good Financial Committee and a fine Board of Trustees, but they can’t develop a plan for the upcoming year if they can’t project — they need to know what they have to work with.

Living a UU life has several parts to it. If someone were to ask me to boil it down, I would tell them, *living a UU life means understanding our heritage and making love work in the world.* That is the larger perspective on what my pledge and your pledge will go for. Stay tuned. You will be hearing more about our pledge campaign.

Opening our Building

When will we open our building again? At the last Board Meeting we had a lengthy discussion about when to open. We have relied heavily on the UUA’s guidance which can be found in a document available to any of you to read. Just click on <https://www.uua.org/safe/pandemics/gathering-guidance>. Their recommendations are based on a frank recognition that the bulk of our membership is among those most endangered by COVID. We need to protect all who come into our spaces. The good news is that more and more of our members are getting vaccinated and the risk may be going down a bit in Lake County.

As I write this, though, the risk is considered high by the COVID tracker we use on our website called “COVID Act Now.” The scale categorizes risk from severe to low. You

can find this tracker at our website under “Latest News.” Go to <https://lakecountyuu.net>

I can tell you for sure that we will not have open services until our Safe Congregation Committee and the Board feels we have little risk. If we err, we will err on the side of safety. That is siding with love.

Making ourselves Visible: The Website

If you have not taken a look at it recently, you should. You may be surprised — the Tech Committee has been updating it. Ted Fessler and Val Rosado deserve special credit for the update. And Barbara Marrow also deserves a special mention for her continuing efforts to improve our presentation. Again, go to <https://lakecountyuu.net> to see the current website.

Sale of Our Land

As our members and friends know, the results of the land sale vote was: 46 YES; 5 NO; 1 Abstention; for a total of 52 votes. We are currently working on finding a suitable buyer. We will keep you updated on our progress. Good things are going to come out of this.

Good Works in Our Community

The Social Justice and Environment Lecture Series concludes its three part series on racism on Sunday evening, March 14th. This presentation is titled “Racial Wealth Gap,” and features two community activists, Cassandra Brown and Mae Hazelton. The SJE Lecture Series has been a means, during the pandemic, to introduce many to UU’s distinctive commitment to social justice and to environmental caring. The lecture series will continue in the months of April, May, and June with programs on the environment.

Final Thought —Visibility

Recently, I was out at dusk doing my walk/run routine and decided to pass by the businesses located in the Plaza area near Waterman Village. If you don’t know, that’s where June and I live — Waterman Village, not the plaza. At one time, an evangelical Christian church called “The Cross” rented many of the storefronts. They still occupy a few of them. As I looked through the glass fronts, this is what I saw: an office reception area with pleasant lighting set up for visitor information, a classroom with several students sitting side by side studying the Bible, a worship area dominated by a large wooden cross where a praise band was practicing. The look was active and appealing — behind glass for all to see. Putting aside the fact that this has been and is still going on while the risk of COVID is high, the point is that it is very effective advertising. Visibility--if they don't see you, they can't find you.

Spotlight—Val Rosado

By Janeane Reagan



In this past year of Zoom living with Zoom church, Zoom meetings, Zoom birthday parties and family dinners, and even Zoom funerals, navigating the world of Zoom technology has been a mighty challenge for all of us. What would we do without Val Rosado? Val has used her extensive background in computer science and education to lead us through this ever-shifting maze. She, with the help of the other members of the tech and communications teams, has led UUCLC to a point of having a smooth, professional virtual Sunday service, stimulating social justice presentations, and a myriad of Zoom committee meetings and activities. And, Val has only been with us for a little over two years.

Val grew up in the Arlington, Virginia area. She earned her BA in elementary education at William and Mary. She received her first MA in mathematics education from Florida State and her second in technology (computer) education from Lehigh University. She started out teaching elementary grades in public and private schools in Florida, but spent the majority of her career as a computer coordinator and instructor for both students and teachers at a Quaker school near Durham, N.C. Val had a variety of jobs throughout her working and college years, but she says the most unique was a part-time job she had with The Psychical Research Foundation in Durham, NC. She answered mail from people who wrote to them with unusual paranormal experiences or questions. She also participated in some of their research.

As a young child, Val attended the Catholic Church until her parents left the church when she was about seven. After trying a different church every Sunday for several years, her father settled on the UU church in Arlington when Val was 12. From then on, she continued to attend UU churches wherever she lived. When she moved to the Hillsboro, NC area she helped found the UU church (UUCH) there.

During her time at UUCH she served on the board, was treasurer, participated in the choir and music events and was on nearly every committee at one time or another. She greatly values the classes for women she took while she was there including

“Cake for the Queen of Heaven” and “Rise Up and Call Her Name: Explorations of Feminist Theology.” It was in these groups that she made several close friends with whom she still has frequent contact today. Val also attended the Womenspirit at The Mountain UU retreat center. She served as director of one event and was on the coordinating council for several years.

After retiring, Val was a snowbird between Hillsboro in NC and Palm Coast, Florida. This allowed her to live near her two nieces in Palm Coast part of the time. A few years ago she started looking for a continuous care community in Florida, but it had to have a UU church nearby. Part of her decision to move to Lake View Terrace in Altoona was the comfort she felt when she visited UUCLC. She served on the finance committee until her work with the tech team and the communications committee grew to a formidable undertaking. She currently runs the Zoom account, is part of the website management, and keeps our calendar which includes setting up Zoom meetings, helps with the management of the data base for ICON-CMO, and serves as a consultant for many of our technical needs.

This past year Val was thrilled to have her sister, Wendy and her husband join her and her sweet cat, Louise, at Lake View Terrace.

We thank Val for bringing her vast knowledge and experience to UUCLC right when we most needed it and for her incredible patience when helping all us old dogs try to learn new tricks.



In-Person Tai Chi Class Mondays from 11 am-noon

In-Person UUCLC Tai Chi class is now available in our UUCLC parking lot on **Mondays from 11 am-noon**. We will be learning Tai Chi for Arthritis, which was adapted by Dr. Paul Lam from the ancient Sun style tai chi. It is gentle, slow-motion martial arts movements done smoothly and mindfully. The class will be taught by Chris Cleveland, who has been trained by one of Dr. Lam’s master instructors. Tai chi has been shown to increase one’s immunity.

You will need to wear two face masks (new CDC recommendations), social distance (6’), and use hand sanitizer before and after class. Do not come if you are sick or have a fever. There are **no** bathrooms available.

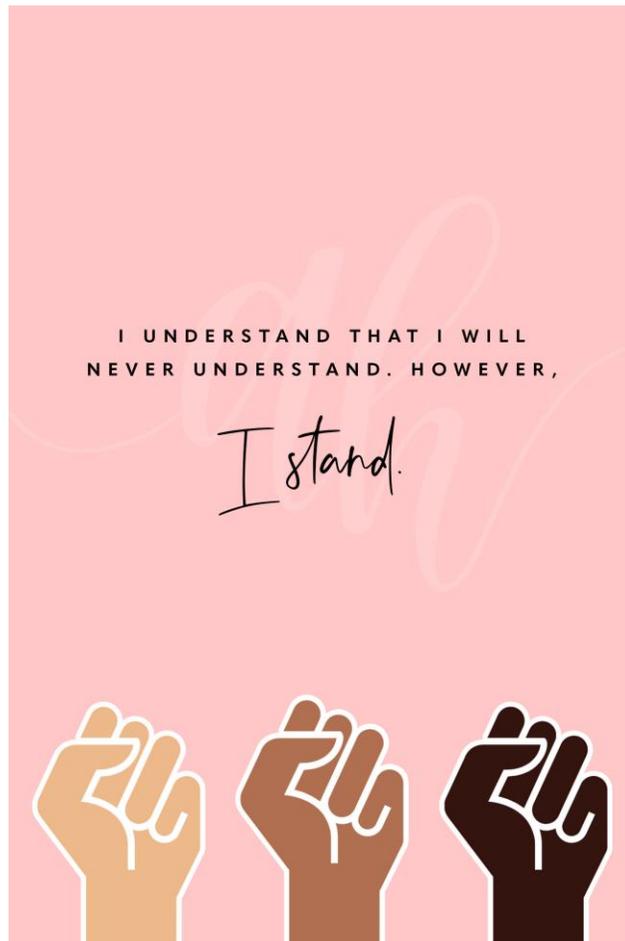


FORWARD PATHS

UUCLC's Social Justice and Environment Committee has some updates on **Forward Paths**, which provides housing and mentoring to young adults who have aged out of foster care in Lake County. Forward Path's Executive Director, Denise Burry, presented a Social Justice Lecture about this program to our congregation last October.

Forward Paths currently houses youth in four houses, two apartments, and two host homes in Eustis and Leesburg. By the end of this year, Ms. Burry hopes to start building ten tiny (600 sq. ft.) houses in Eustis. The planned location is at 101 W. Woodward Avenue on 1.67 acres of land donated by the First United Methodist Church in Eustis. She plans to launch a capital campaign soon.

Forward Paths needs volunteers to help manage the office and to provide mentoring and tutoring. It also needs contributions of cleaning supplies, such as laundry soap, bleach, dryer sheets, dish soap, kitchen trash bags, wipes, window cleaner, mops, and brooms. For more information, please contact Ms. Burry at 352-408-2307 or denise65fl@embarqmail.com. The office for Forward Paths is located at 1005 W Main Street, Building 4, room 102, Leesburg, and its mailing address is PO Box 492109 Leesburg, FL 34749.



Moving Toward Antiracism (MTA) Zoom Discussion Group

March 5 & 19 at 1-3 pm

This Zoom discussion group is now open to anyone in our greater community. We use the study of books and movies, introspection, courage, authentic discussion and deep listening to help participants to recognize how the system of racism shapes their lives, how we uphold the racial system, how we might interpret it, and how we can personally become less racist. If you have any questions please contact Chris Cleveland at: chrisclleveland1951@gmail.com. The Zoom link will be published in the Sunday Bulletin before each MTA meeting. Future topics are listed below:

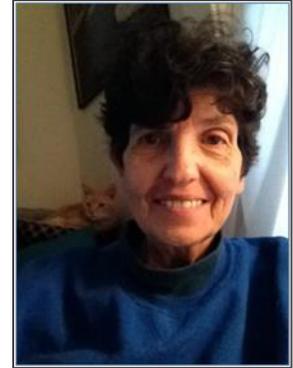
March 5 & 19-*How To Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi

BLACK LIVES MATTER

Byrd Tetzlaff Classes Available to UUCLC

In March, our recent guest minister, Byrd Tetzlaff will be teaching three classes on Zoom, and she has invited UUCLC to attend any of them.

The classes are based on the classes and books of Bart Ehrman, a professor at Chapel Hill in North Carolina. His expertise is the New Testament and Early Christianity, which he approaches as an historian, not a theologian. She finds his perspective fascinating and very much in sympathy with Unitarianism. He does not talk about the theology, but his insights as an historian are extremely helpful in understanding the origins of how Christianity morphed from its inception.



March 13 – Misquoting Jesus (the origins and versions of the New Testament)

March 20 - The History of Heaven and Hell

March 27 – How Jesus became God.

Classes will be held in the First UU church of South Bend ZOOM room at 1 pm the last three Saturdays in March. Each class stands alone and addresses just the one topic in the title. You can attend any or all. No registration is required.

The Zoom link for all classes is:

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/4774349822> or just use a phone: 312.626.6799.

DO YOU HAVE PHOTOS FROM UUCLC GATHERINGS? DO YOU ENJOY TAKING PHOTOS?



Do you have digital photos of events and people at UUCLC? We are updating our website and would love to include some of these pictures. Email them to christy.millat@yahoo.com. We would also love to have a volunteer to take pictures at our various gatherings. Email Christy Millat at the above email address to volunteer.



SOCIAL JUSTICE LECTURE SERIES CONTINUES

The UUCLC's Social Justice and Environment Committee announces that the final Online Social Justice Lecture on racism will be held at 7 p.m. on Sunday, March 14, 2021. The topic is *Living in the Racial Wealth Gap*. Cassandra Brown and Mae Hazelton, co-founders of *2020 All About the Ballots*, will present a 90 minute interactive learning experience to show what living in the racial wealth gap is like.

In April, May, and June, the Online Social Justice Lectures will focus on saving our environment.

A link to register for each live presentation can be found on our website at www.lakecountyuu.net. Every UU member is urged to invite others to attend this series. Videos of all past Online Social Justice and Environment Committee programs are on our You Tube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkh4mjlfzSf0-LLyjpTttg/>. Feel free to share this link with others you think might enjoy these programs.



WHY WE SHOULD KEEP THE NORTH LAKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT

By Jane Hepting, member of the UUCLC's Social Justice & Environment Committee

Florida State Representative Anthony Sabatini has filed House Bill 257 to end the North Lake County Hospital District and the funds it distributes for indigent health care.

He has taken this action even though 59% of voters passed a referendum in 2016 to keep the Hospital District for another ten years.

People often confuse the Hospital District Board with the Board of Directors for our area hospitals. The concept of the hospital districts was created about 60 years ago by the Florida Legislature to give counties the authority to collect a tax on real estate to provide health care to uninsured, low-income patients. Patient income must be at or below 150% of poverty level. The tax can be no higher than one dollar per year on every \$1,000 in real estate value, minus exemptions. The tax is set and the revenues are disbursed by a six member board whose members are elected to four year terms by the residents of North Lake County. Audit reports are published on the Hospital Board's website. Annually, tax revenues now amount to over ten million dollars.

With skyrocketing health care costs and increases in the income gap between rich and poor, the Hospital District tax is needed more now than ever. Many workers have no insurance through their employer, earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, and

too little to qualify for insurance through the Affordable Care Act. Sadly, our Florida Legislature has refused to expand Medicaid. According to U.S. Census figures, more than 15% of Lake County residents under age 65 have no health insurance.

Hospital District funds pay for emergency care, hospitalizations, primary care, dental care, and mental health and drug abuse treatment. Services are provided through five community clinics and three not-for-profit hospitals -- Advent Waterman, Leesburg Regional, and LifeStream Mental Health Hospital. Annually, these funds provide over 12,000 patient encounters. Two of the clinics are hosted by churches with many volunteers keeping costs low. Clinic care is several times more economical than emergency room care.

The ten million dollars in Hospital District funds infused annually into our local economy create jobs, provide state of the art medical equipment, keep our emergency rooms and hospitals from overflowing, keep costs down with preventative care and education, keep families from being forced into bankruptcy, and reduce human suffering. All of that helps the entire community. Clearly, taxpayers get a huge return on their investment. Anyone who wants to stop House Bill 257 should contact these public officials:

State Representative Anthony Sabatini at 352-989-9100

State Representative Keith Truenow at 352-742-6275

State Representative Brett Hage at 352-315-4445

Lake County Commissioner Sean Parks at sparks@lakecountyfl.gov

Lake County Commissioner Doug Shields at dshields@lakecountyfl.gov

Lake County Commissioner Kirby Smith at ksmith@lakecountyfl.gov

Lake County Commissioner Leslie Campione at lcampione@lakecountyfl.gov

Lake County Commissioner Josh Blake at jblake@lakecountyfl.gov--

