



The Communicator

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

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11 AM Worship Service

November 2 – “What I Learned From Will Rogers” – Robert P. Tucker, Ph.D. Minister Emeritus, The U.U. Congregation of Lakeland



One of the most celebrated humorists and public figures of his day, Will Rogers offered dry, whimsical commentaries on a wide variety of political, social, and economic issues. He became the voice of the "average" citizen.

Dr. Tucker will share his insights into some of the deep philosophical wisdom underlying Will Roger's well-spoken messages.

Will Rogers was born in Oologah, Oklahoma in 1879.

Dr. Tucker received his M.A. and Ph.D. in Theology from the University of Chicago. He earned his B.A., magna cum laude, in Religion and Philosophy from Texas Christian University. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

His career has combined teaching and ministry. He taught Religion, Philosophy, Ethics, and Logic at Yankton College (Yankton, South Dakota) and at Florida Southern College (Lakeland, Florida). He has served congregations in Texas, Illinois, South Dakota, Nebraska, Virginia, and Florida.

November 9 – To be Announced.

November 16 – “Gratitude Lift” – Reverend Susan Berryman



Susan invites you to join in a celebration of gratitude as we prepare for this year's season of Thanksgiving and sharing.

The first American Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1621, to commemorate the harvest reaped by the Plymouth Colony after a harsh winter. In that year, Governor William Bradford proclaimed a day of thanksgiving. The colonists celebrated it as a traditional English harvest feast to which they invited the local Wampanoag Indians. Hardship was a challenge. They were engaged in a life and death struggle for food. But, there was also much to be thankful for — just as there is for us once again this year.

We will explore how gratitude affects our physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Be with us as we experience and share in a gratitude lift.

November 23 – “The Four Agreements” – with Mindy Simmons

Don Miguel Ruiz is onto something extremely important. His book *The Four Agreements* invites you to take on a whole new perspective of living by making four simple commitments — not to others but to yourself!

Mindy Simmons will explore these four agreements with us and the impact they have on how you can deal with outer influences in a healthy manner.

Mindy has been conveying her inspiring musical speak/sing programs to UU churches for about a decade now. She strives to bring thoughtful ideas that can be practiced in our everyday lives to make serving as UUs in our communities a joyful way of life for all.

When we practice the four agreements described by Don Miguel Ruiz, we come into a healthier understanding of our role in life and how we can move with more ease and conviction of who we are and how we relate to others.

November 30 – “Unitarian Universalists and Advent” Rev. Roger Seidner

The first day of Advent is November 30th, the beginning of the Holy Days for Western Christians leading up to Christmas — the Nativity of Jesus. Rev. Seidner will explore with us the significance of this sacred season for Catholics, Episcopalians, Anglicans, Lutherans, Moravians, Presbyterians, and Methodists.



Baptists and some other Christian Churches do not celebrate Advent. For Eastern Orthodox Christians, Advent is celebrated on slightly different dates. “Advent” is an anglicized version of the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming”. The first day of Advent is also considered the beginning of these western churches’ liturgical year.

UUCLC Information & Contacts

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The *Communicator* is published each month, from September through June.

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Dear Congregation...

As we enter November, the month of Thanksgiving, it is a good time to pause and remember all the things that make us thankful.

First and foremost we are thankful for each other, for kindred spirits of a liberal faith who have come together to form our congregation.

As we prepare to celebrate and dedicate the land for our new building we are most thankful for our benefactor and fellow seeker Ruth Gray.

As we think of our history we are thankful for our ancestors and forefathers (and mothers) who struggled and sacrificed for our liberty and freedom.

As we look out our windows and travel in our communities we are thankful for our beautiful environment, filled with lakes, sunshine, trees and flowers.

As we consider the trials and tribulations of other countries and cultures suffering from war and poverty and ignorance we are thankful for peace and security.

We are especially thankful for our families and friends; for our pets and for our health.

I want you to know how thankful I am for the opportunity to have a part in the life of UUCLC.

With Love, Gratitude and Appreciation,

...Rev. Susan Berryman

Vice President's Message...

I have enjoyed our recent cool nights and mild, sunny mornings. Autumn is upon us, the weather is lovely, and I'm looking forward to the return of UUCLC snowbirds!

We're seeing transitions within our UUCLC community.

Our Building Project is moving forward under the able oversight of Carl Skiles and Betty Emery—thank you Carl and Betty and dedicated Building Committee members! Many of our congregation have been out to see the 25 acre parcel that UUCLC purchased on the corner David Walker Drive and Mount Homer Road in Eustis. About 4.5 acres has been cleared via bush hog, and we are looking forward to a Celebration Picnic on Saturday, November 1 when we will dedicate the property, another big step toward establishing our new spiritual home. (See picnic details elsewhere in this newsletter or on the calendar on our website: <http://www.lakecountyyuu.org/>.)

On Sunday September 21, the UUCLC formally welcomed our new Developmental Minister, the Reverend Susan Moher Berryman. In her sermon “A Covenant for New Beginnings”, Susan shared information about her background and beliefs, as well as her commitment to and hopes for the congregation.

Susan comes to us with a wealth of experience and talent and has been highly recommended. After review of UUA literature, we have elected to use the term Developmental Minister to describe Susan's role with UUCLC. UUA website information says: “Developmental ministry is most useful for congregations that have a long-term issue(that) Members know the congregation probably can't resolve...in a normal twelve or even eighteen month interim period.” The developmental minister serves to help the congregation address issues, such as (in our case), growing the congregation and constructing and transitioning into a new building.

Our Consulting Minister, the Reverend Roger Seidner, will continue to be on call to serve UUCLC and plans to conduct services on the last Sunday of each month.

UUCLC has a number of standing committees that need additional members. Sign-up sheets have been posted on Sundays and there will be opportunity to sign-up via our website. During the past month, Rev. Susan has been meeting with committees, getting to know their members and talking to them about their ideas and challenges. In the next several months, we plan to convene the committees to brainstorm and to provide group training and support. If you have wanted to learn more about a committee or have wanted to join one, NOW is the time! Rev. Susan and I would be happy to provide more information or help you decide how you might get more involved.

Rev. Susan, Russ (our president) and I have been discussing the need for a goal setting session to guide the board, our Ministers and our UUCLC committees. At this point, I see this a multi-step process which begins with a leadership workshop for the Board. Concurrently, the committees will be developed and revitalized. Then, we envision that there will be a goal setting session for the congregation Leadership, comprised of the Ministers, committee leaders and the Board of Trustees.

Autumn is a natural time of transition. UUCLC offers many opportunities for you to use your talents and to grow spiritually. Think about what you want/need from/for our congregation. Then speak up and join in. We welcome and need your involvement.

...Chris Higgins, Vice-President

Highlights of the Board Meeting on October 9, 2014

After the approval of the minutes from the meeting in September we heard the Treasurer's Report. The income for September was \$5,197 of which \$4,780 was derived from Pledges. Carl Hommel, the Treasurer, also reported there is \$81,500 remaining in the Bequest Fund.

The Hope Community Center received a donation of \$500 from the proceeds of the Share-the-Plate funds from June, July, and August. The balance of this fund will be held until the BOT meets in November.

The ongoing business noted: 1.the hiring of Susan Berryman, on September 13; 2. An enhancement to the wifi in the office building is being explored and the board approved an expenditure up to \$150 for this purpose; 3. The microphones and headsets in the Woman's Club building need to be improved; 4. We have a scrapbook and are looking for memorabilia to fill it; 5. Susan Berryman agreed to attend a Northern Cluster Workshop and the fees and expenses were voted to be paid , the workshop has since been cancelled.

The committee reports were made regarding the new building, membership (we have four new members), discussion group, UU Singers (need more singers) and stewardship planning for another pledge drive.

The new concerns noted we need a talent bank of the interests and talents of our members. A goal setting meeting will be held in November.

Kit Tatum, Secretary

Anyone interested in a discussion group on issues associated with aging?

This winter I plan to do some reading and thinking about issues associated with aging, and I am wondering if there are people who would like to be part of an informal discussion group to share thinking.

By "issues associated with aging", I am thinking of:

- Physical issues – one's body and mind becoming less able
- Self worth and role in society when one no longer has paid employment
- The finiteness and uncertainty of time – how do you plan when you can't be sure that you have another five years or ten years or etc.
- Coping with the aging and illnesses of friends and family members
- Anticipating and being ready for death rather than waiting for it to happen

There are more items which could go on the list, but I think this gives the idea. If anyone would be interested in participating, or has comments or suggestions, please send an email to Karen Woolhouse at woolhouse@earthlink.net. Thank you.

President's Message...

Hi all. I hope to be back with you around the 5th of November. As a few of you know, I have sold my New York home and expect the closing to be sometime next week, depending on the lawyers.

A moving truck is picking up the household and personal items I have selected for Eustis on Sunday - the personal items are the hardest. Leaving behind a place where you have lived for so many years calls up all kinds of emotions as you are forced to make decisions about what you must leave behind and what you absolutely cannot. It is not an easy thing. So I am up here engulfed in the madness of moving and looking forward to my return to my spiritual home and my reunion with each and every one of you. I have missed you greatly.

...Russ

Book Club Meeting

We will meet on November 11, at 3 p.m. in the building at 127 N. Grove St. We are reading "The Universe Within" by Neil Shubin. This is Shubin's second book tracing the development of human beings to their modern state. More information is available from **Kit Tatum**, 352-669-1213 or on our website.

Treasurer's Report

The September income was \$5,197, of which \$4,780 were pledges. The budgeted expenses were \$4,111, which included \$2,000 for the completion of the development of the new WebPage. The Ruth Gray Bequest Fund expenses were \$5,728, which included \$5,146 to the architectural firm designing our new church building

.... **Carl Hommel**

Holiday Greeting Cards for Sale, to Benefit UUCLC Children's Program Fund

As the holiday season approaches, we are selling colorful and cheery holiday cards to benefit the UUCLC Children's Program Fund. This is a continuation of the greeting card sales which have raised over \$200. for the Children's Program. A flyer which shows the various card styles and includes ordering information is at the end of this newsletter.

The holiday cards are donated by Hinda Ramsay, and the entire proceeds from their sale goes to the UUCLC Children's Program Fund. The holiday cards are high quality, in bright colors, with tasteful messages, and each comes with a high quality envelope.

This is an excellent way to help raise money for UUCLC. The cards are very reasonably priced, at \$10.00 for a bundle of ten.

We would like to take orders for bundles of cards, and deliver them to people on Sunday mornings starting on Sunday November 23, in plenty of time for the holiday card season. If you need holiday cards before November 23, please arrange an earlier pickup with Hinda. The flyer has the instructions on how to place an order for bundles of cards by emailing Hinda.

Please do look at the flyer to see how nice the cards are. We hope that you will support the UUCLC Children's Program Fund by ordering your holiday cards to benefit UUCLC.

Many thanks for your support.

November Birthdays

Ginny Morgan, November 12
Connie Sanford, November 21

**Holiday Cards to raise money for the UUCLC
Religious Exploration / Children's Program.**

**This is a continuation of the program of greeting cards we sold previously.
100% of the proceeds from these card sales
goes directly to the Children's Program Fund.**

Cards are \$10 for 10

**For Ordering Contact: *Hinda Ramsay* at hindaramsay@gmail.com or
Karen Woolhouse at woolhouse@earthlink.net**



*Season's
Greetings*



*Merry
Christmas*



*Santa has
Christmas FEVER*
Happy Holidays!

Charitable Donations for New UUCLC Building

November is a good month for thinking about charitable donations for the remainder of 2014, to be sure that you get the benefit of your donation on your 2014 tax return. Sometimes it takes a bit of time to make a donation and maximize the tax benefits of it; for example, gifts of appreciated securities, or designating mandatory IRA withdrawals to a charity. Also, generosity is an important spiritual practice, and deserves time and consideration.

Please consider a generous donation to the new UUCLC building as part of your charitable contribution planning. Soon we will have lists of potential sponsored features of the building which could be funded by a memorial donation, for example. It is a wonderful way to remember a loved one, or to give back to the church community which means a lot to all of us.

If you wish to spread a donation across multiple tax years, it would be good to do the first installment in the 2014 tax year.

And please remember that all gifts to the new building, of any size, are important. It is a shared undertaking and we all want to participate.

The members of the Finance subcommittee are Karen Woolhouse, Jack Champion, and Frank Bishop. Any of us would be pleased to talk with you about possible gifts for the new building or to answer questions. Any such discussions would be completely confidential and without any commitment.

Celebration Picnic To Establish Our Spiritual Home

Come participate in the dedication and celebration

**Saturday, November 1
Festivities start at 12:00 noon**

NE Corner of David Walker Drive and Mount Homer Road

- ✓ Park on Mount Homer Road
- ✓ Look for the big tent in the clearing - Greeters will be there to guide you
- ✓ Enjoy a "Taste of Fall Feast": Hot Dogs, Kielbasa and Kraut, Burgers (Veggie and not), Sodas, Water and Cold Beer*
- ✓ Relax and revel in the sounds of live music
- ✓ Delight in being together



*BYOB if you prefer other beverages