



# The Communicator

[Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lake County](http://www.lakecountyuu.net)



**July 4** Rev. David Crump “We Hold These Truths”

**July 11** Rev. Kathy Schmitz “Once Upon a Time”

**July 18** Rev. Byrd Tetzlaff “Creationism”

**July 25** off

## July Birthdays

Val Conde  
Marion Strahle  
Donald Stearns  
Cecelia Everist  
Dawn Reed  
Chris Higgins  
Bev Wince

## UUCLC Information & Contacts

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### Officers

Russ Littlefield, President  
Janeane Reagan, Vice President  
Henry Millat, Secretary  
Christina Wilkins, Treasurer  
Chris Higgins, Asst. Treasurer

### Trustees

Julie Twist  
Pete Conde  
Wendy Pacek

### 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  
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  
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Submit articles for the August Communicator by Friday, July 23.

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

## President's Message

### Our Emerging Church

Long before we entered our congregational home for the first time in 2017, I wrote a piece for "The Communicator" on the emerging church movement. That term has stuck in my head. I like it. It originated as a term used to characterize initiatives within some Christian churches, especially in the 1990's and early 21<sup>st</sup> century. An emerging church breaks from the staid practices of a traditional church. The aim is to *really* make church so meaningful that it becomes the center of congregants' lives. That is done through creating powerful experiences, centering in worship, that affect people in direct and intimate ways. An example of such a church is the *House for All Sinners and Saints* in Denver, founded by Nadia Bolz-Weber. Here is a link should you wish to see what it looks like <https://houseforall.org/>. And here is a link to Nadia Bolz-Weber should you wish to see what she looks like. <https://nadiabolzweber.com>. Not surprisingly, young people find emerging churches particularly appealing.



Unitarian Universalism with its heretical roots has always been an emerging church. Putting it a little too simply, Unitarian Universalism is always reinventing itself.

I see that everywhere in UU, especially right now, for as I write, the UU General Assembly (GA), is being held virtually. At this assembly, participating attendees are discussing and modifying the Bylaws and rules that govern the UUA and offering workshops on climate change, white supremacy, rights of native peoples, LGBTQ+ issues, defunding the police, the rights of rivers, oceans, and mountains – the list goes on.

And underlying all this discussion there is an uneasiness on the part of some about the UUA and how it governs and even a little tension about the Board of Trustees election. That is the subject, perhaps, of another article.

The point is, UUs are always tinkering with their church.

I am also thinking about emerging church because we are nearing the time when we will reenter our congregational home. Very soon, we will open for in-person services and meetings. Things won't quite be back to normal – we likely will not be singing for a while and will have very limited refreshments, but we will be open. I think most of us recognize that while remote attendance has been convenient, and we have learned how to do it well, nothing substitutes for personal interaction, especially for UUs. This experience of being physically together with those who share our values has a

powerful emotional intensity. For many of us, it is one of the ways we experience UU spirituality.

Well, this is where we are as we enter the post-pandemic UU world. We will see how it all plays out — how it goes with the UUA; how it goes with UUCLC — as we continue to build our always emerging church.

Woyaya (We are going/heaven knows where we are going),  
Russ



#### GET INVOLVED AT UUCLC!

This has been a long year of staying home and staying safe. Now that things are opening up, it's time to get out there and get involved again. The best way to get to know your fellow UUs is to join a committee and get involved in keeping UUCLC strong.

All committees can use your help. Pick one and give the chairperson a call or email to get started. Do you like talking with people? Maybe the Membership Committee would be a good spot for you. Do you have experience with video, audio or internet communications? The Communications Committee would love to have you. Do you have an education background? Lifespan Faith Development might be the spot for you. How about gardening? Building and Grounds is always looking for helping hands. Take a look at the list of committees on page one and choose a spot for you to get started. Any questions, give Christy Millat a call at 248-921-0541 or email [christy.millat@yahoo.com](mailto:christy.millat@yahoo.com). Let's get involved!

## *Spotlight—Kristen Hughes*

*By Janeane Reagan*



In 2019 Kristen and Ceilidh Hughes moved from the Tarpons Springs area to Lake County to be close to Ceilidh's mother. With a history of UU involvement dating from 1980, Kristen Hughes brought to UUCLC a wealth of experience and an abundance of enthusiasm which has enriched our congregation in many ways. Kristen immediately joined committees where his particular skills and background could be applied, including the finance, fundraising, Wrap, and the recently formed tech committee and communications committee. With Covid-19 forcing us to learn new technical skills in order to produce our virtual church, Kristen has been one of our pillars in the planning and production of our weekly services.

Born in Greenwich, Connecticut, Kristen was the son of a Presbyterian minister who later served as a shaman, minister and pastor to priests. Kristen received his BS in environmental planning and public resources management with a minor in geology from Allegany College in Meadville, Pennsylvania. His career took him to numerous states including Maryland, western New York, Vermont, Virginia and Florida. He served at various levels of government. Kristen summarized his work experience by saying, "I have been heavily focused on improving local communities 'on the ground where it makes a difference both socially and physically. I am first and foremost an environmentalist. I also believe in efficient government and in ensuring that there is fair and equal access and opportunity for all people in the community's governance and decisions. It was my honor to serve as president the Maryland chapter of the American Planning Association for two terms and also as president of New York State Housing and Community Development. I also had a chance to serve on a national task forces addressing low income and affordable housing, as well as environmental protection particularly for forests and wetlands. While at the Maryland Association of Counties I served on the gubernatorial task forces on solid waste, forest conservation, affordable housing, gambling and education."

Kristen was the administrator of the Pasco County Florida Department of Planning and Community Development for 3 ½ year before health issues forced his early retirement.

As you can see, Kristen's career has strongly reflected his UU values. He and Cheilidh were active in UU churches in Annapolis, Rochester New York, the Blue Ridge Mountains, as well as Tarpon Springs. When asked what draws him to UUCLC, Kristen responded "UUCLC is simply a welcoming place. Whether in person, on committees or in Zoom meetings, you feel like you're a part of something. Each person is respected. There is a pervasive, yet intangible sense of feeling safe—safe to share or simply be—in community or with self. There is a knowing that you are not alone. And, you are free. It is a place where you can give of yourself, for others; to the extent you are willing and able. And sometimes you are pushed to be more than you can imagine."

Kristen and Cheilidh have, between them, three sons and a daughter, a granddaughter and two great granddaughters. A new grandson recently joined the family. Among Kristen's other interests is energy medicine. He is a Reiki Master. He is also trained as a Master Practitioner in Neuro Linguistic Programing. He plays both clarinet and sax in a local community band. You could certainly say that Kristen is a true Renaissance man.

We thank Kristen for all the time, talent, energy and creativity he brings to our congregation.



#### **AN EASY WAY TO HELP UUCLC**

Do you shop at Amazon? Did you know that Amazon will make a donation to your favorite charity every time you make a purchase? All you have to do is log on to Smile.Amazon.com when you are shopping and the donations will be automatic. When logging into Smile for the first time, choose a charity, hopefully UUCLC, and that's it, a percentage of each purchase will be made quarterly to UUCLC. If you use a mobile app, download the Smile app from your app store. If you have any questions, email Christy Millat at [christy.millat@yahoo.com](mailto:christy.millat@yahoo.com) or go to Amazon.com and search on Smile. Happy shopping!



## **LAKE COUNTY VOICES OF REASON LAWSUIT – PREVAILS OVER LAKE COUNTY**

On Thursday, June 17, 2021, the Honorable Dan Mosely held a hearing to determine the adequacy of the Lake County Board of County Commissioner's (County) Motion to Dismiss the lawsuit brought by the Lake County Voices of Reason (LCVOR). The lawsuit was filed to prevent the importation of a statue of confederate General Kirby Smith to the Lake County Historical Museum. LCVOR's argument was based on the fact the County violated the Florida Sunshine Law by discussing this issue outside of Commission meetings, as well as several other matters.

At the hearing, LCVOR's attorney, Faudlin Pierre, argued against the County's Motion to Dismiss in which the County said the issue was moot because they subsequently voted not to bring the statue to Lake County. Mr. Pierre argued the vote not to bring the statue to Lake County was voted on only after the lawsuit was filed. For that reason, LCVOR is entitled to attorney's fees. Judge Mosley took the matter under advisement and on Tuesday, June 22nd, the Judge ruled in favor of LCVOR.

Protesting (500 people marched peacefully in August 2019), letter writing, and emailing the Commissioners, along with the lawsuit brought justice to the people of Lake County. We all need to make sure our voices are heard.

Regards,  
Barbara Hill  
Committee Chair  
Social Justice and Environment Committee

