



The Communicator

[Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lake County](#)

September Reopening

- August 1** Rev Kristine Spaude
- August 8** Off
- August 15** Rev Byrd Tetzlaff
- August 22** Rev Kristine Spaude
- August 29** Rev Libby Moore

August Birthdays

Carole Armele
 Logan Heinzelman
 Russ Littlefield
 Suzie Lockwood
 Antoinette Prather
 Alicia Sparks

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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

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 Submit articles for the September Communicator by Friday, August 27.

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

Our Dynamic Seven Principles.

The Unitarian Universalist General Assembly (GA) for this year is over. For those who don't know, General Assembly is the annual meeting of the congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). It's a big deal. Julie Twist and I attended representing UUCLC as delegates, meaning we could speak our opinions and vote on some of the UUA's business matters.



This meeting, GA, traces its roots all the way back to 1962, a year after the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America agreed to merge. The merger was organized around an agreement to honor six principles, the precursors of our current seven principles. The Seven Principles as we know them were established in 1985 when the agreement between UUs to share principles became more than an agreement. For the first time, Unitarians and Universalists did not just affirm principles, but *covenanted* to affirm them. Here is how it is written in Article II of the Bylaws of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote ...”

That one word, “covenant,” makes all the difference. With that one word, Unitarian Universalism truly became a faith.

The Seven Principles are not a creed. They were established by a democratic vote of the UU Congregations meeting in General Assembly in 1985, a sterling example of our Fifth Principle in action. Not only do our Association's bylaws not have the rock-like permanence of a creed given from on high, but they call upon us to scrutinize them often and change them when needed. That the revising of our principles is not to be taken lightly is borne out by the fact that our current principles have remained untouched for over 35 years.

But now there are serious voices within Unitarian Universalism calling for significant change. Two changes will almost certainly be considered at the next GA. The first is adding language to the first principle so that the inherent dignity and worth of all beings, not just human beings, is recognized. The second major change being considered is the adding of an Eighth Principle. This principle would affirm Unitarian Universalist's commitment to ending white supremacy and racism. Some individual UU churches have already added this proposed Eighth Principle to their list of principles. As of now, it reads: (we covenant to promote and affirm) *journeying toward spiritual*

wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.

Wow. Thank God for the dynamic, living faith that our Unitarian Universalist forefathers and mothers handed down to us not so much to protect but to develop.

A Note About Our Reopening.

If you are like me, you may have felt some envy when you have seen some of your neighbors attending in-person services at their churches, some for months now. I pray that they will be fine. I pray they will be. The surge of the Delta variant, however, has shown the wisdom of caution. We know from our polling that most UUCLC members and friends have been vaccinated; nevertheless, we will continue to be careful. Small group meetings will be allowed in August and in-person Sunday services will resume on September 5th with safety protocols. You will find an article by our Congregational Safety Committee about those safety measures elsewhere in this newsletter. Even though we may be wearing masks, even though we may not be singing, we will be together in love at our beautiful blue boat home. What a moment that will be.

Russ



Spotlight – Christina Wilkins



It is amazing how many of the items on the board of trustee's agenda and the announcement list of our Sunday service have Christina Wilkins's name after them. This observation simply reflects the extent of involvement that Christina has in the vital functions of our church life.

Christina was born in Philadelphia, PA but grew up in New Jersey and the Chicago areas. She received her Bachelor's from DePauw University in Greencastle, IN, majoring in Economics. She then went on to get her MBA from Northwestern University, majoring in Finance and Accounting.

Following a 6-week exploration of Europe with friends, she began her business career with a major Chicago bank in Commercial Lending to corporations in four Midwestern states. After rising to Assistant Vice President and head of small business commercial lending for the suburban Chicago area, Christina left banking to join a Fortune 500 company as Assistant Treasurer. During those 12 years, she was promoted to Treasurer and oversaw all Treasury operations including Corporate Finance, Pensions, Real Estate, Risk Management, and Shareholder Relations.

In 1985, while still at Hillenbrand Industries, she purchased a franchise for Sylvan Learning Centers in Cincinnati, OH with two female business partners. They grew their business to become the largest franchise in the nation with 10 learning centers in Chicago and Cincinnati. Realizing there were only 24 hours in a day, she left the corporate world to run her franchise business full time, eventually selling the business in 2004 and retiring to Florida at the age of 54. Since that time, she has done volunteer work, served on the Mt. Dora Public Arts Commission, and became a Master Gardener.

Never having been attracted to traditional religions, she started searching for a spiritual community with which she could identify. In 2019 she became a member of UUCLC. In this short three years' time Christina has become a vital part of what makes UUCLC work. As chairperson of Building & Grounds committee she is more than just an overseer who

coordinates the maintenance of the facility. She is an all-round handyperson for the building, along with hiring and managing service providers such as lawn mowing, cleaning, and repairs. She puts her Master Gardener knowledge to work in the care of the landscaping and irrigation. She arrives every Saturday morning and, along with Wendy Pacek, picks up trash, prunes, and plants. She was previously our Assistant Treasurer and is now our Treasurer and a member of the Board of Trustees. Christina has applied her skills in the creation of our budget (along with Chis Higgins, Assistant Treasurer) as well as in the negotiation of contracts that have included our pending land sale and our solar power project. Christina also serves on the Technical Advisory Committee.

Christina says that what drew her to UUCLC is that we are non-creedal and accepting of all individuals no matter what their background or beliefs. She is constantly reminded of what gives her the most warmth in her heart when we recite "and to help one another" from our covenant each Sunday.

In addition to her love of gardening, landscape design, and helping others, Christina also enjoys traveling and spending time with her family although we are not sure how she finds time for these given her many jobs at UUCLC. She lives with her 15-year-old dog, George in Mt. Dora.

Our sincere thanks to Christina for her dedication to our church and congregation.

UUCLC PLEDGING FOR FISCAL 2022

Members and Friends: Your UUCLC Finance Committee recently met and discussed the results of our pledge drive for the 2022 fiscal year beginning July 1st. While we are extremely grateful to the 35 individuals who have already pledged, it falls 25% short of the 47 pledgers we had last year. If we do not make up the shortfall in pledges, we run the risk of experiencing a financial deficit in our annual budget for fiscal 2022. It was surprising that a number of members who have pledged in the past did not pledge for our new year. We hope that is merely an oversight, and encourage you to send your 2022 pledge to the Treasurer as soon as possible. A simple email to clwfl@hotmail.com will suffice indicating the total amount of the pledge and the increments that fit your personal finances (weekly, monthly, quarterly, or even one annual payment). It takes all of us to financially contribute to UUCLC's continued success. Please send in your pledge today! And thank you for your ongoing support of our wonderful Congregation.

Safety Protocols and Procedures for Reopening – September 2021

Our first in-person service at UUCLC will be held on September 5th. We will be so happy to see you! Love is the spirit of this church and in the spirit of love and caring for one another, we are asking all members and guests to observe the following protocols:

To wear a mask regardless of your vaccination status.

To check in, or, in the case of guests, sign in, so we will have a record of your attendance and be able to contact you should there be a Covid diagnosis of someone attending.

And to not bring food or drink into the building.

Our service will lack some of the features we have come to expect.

No service bulletin will be handed out. The order of service, however, will usually be on the monitors.

We will not have a choir presentation or congregational singing, but will likely have either a pianist and/or flute player. We also may have recorded music as a part of our service.

In lieu of an offering during the service, members, friends, and guests may leave their donations in the collection box provided in the narthex.

When the service ends, we will not have a social hour. We ask that you move outside the building for visiting. Again, please bring no food or drink into the building.

Our reopening and ability to remain open is all conditional. The Safe Congregation Committee and the Board will continue to monitor the situation in our area. Our protocols are based on CDC guidelines. Thank you for remaining patient and flexible as we continue to navigate our way through this difficult situation.

See you in September!

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice Action of Immediate Witness



Who they are:

The UUSJ Vision is a just compassionate and sustainable world community. Its Mission is to advance equitable national policies and actions, aligned with UU values, through engagement, education and advocacy.

Last week I tuned in to the UUSJ program “Stop the Voter Suppression and Partner for Voting Rights and a Multiracial Democracy” Zoom Program. The speakers were exceptional and shared what we as UU’s can do to help stop voter suppression. (<https://uusj.salsalabs.org/AIWActionAlert>). There were 157 participants on the zoom call. The main issues were:

- For the People Act (<https://uusj.salsalabs.org/update-s-1-forthepeople2021-postmarkup>)
- John Lewis Voting Rights Act
- DC Statehood (<https://uusj.salsalabs.org/aa-congress-hr51-deadmissionact-april2021>)

To keep this brief, these were the following suggestions:

- Ask your friends and family to contact their senators using the action alert, or you can text ForThePeople to 866-533-1494 to receive the action alert link. It is scheduled for a vote on August 16th.
- Promote the AIW in your congregation and include the action alert in your church newsletter, and/or organize an event.
- Participate in democracy vigils and actions across the country. (A lot of these actions are virtual. I recently participated in a virtual Poor People’s March in

West Virginia with Rev. Barber to bring Joe Manchin into the Democratic fold. Several UUs were at the John Lewis Vigil on July 17th, and it was wonderful)

- If possible, show up at face-to-face or virtual town halls and voice your support publicly.
- Support DC statehood using the S.51 action alert (<https://uusj//salsalabs.org/aa-congress-hr51-deadmissionact-april2021>)
- Send postcards or text/call residents of key states to gain their support.

In addition to the above, they discussed climate change and Pathways to Citizenship for Essential Workers.

If you copy the URL into your browser, you will find action alerts you can sign. Even though our representatives are Republicans, the fact many people support our position will be helpful in the event of a court case.

Our Values:

- ***We are effective and responsive***
- ***We are faithful to our UU Principles***
- ***We respect others***

Your Social Justice and Environment Committee
Barbara Hill, Chair

