



The Communicator

[Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lake County](#)



Sunday Services via Zoom

- october 3 Off
- October 10 Colette Yellow Robe, Ph.D.
- October 17 David Roth
- October 24 Rev. Kathy Schmitz
- October 31 Janeanne Reagan

October Birthdays

- Henry Millat
- Denny Libby
- Gina Rossi
- Carl Stiner
- Janeanne Reagan
- Ceilidh Hughes
- Christina Wilkins
- Doug Walker
- Lois Sanford

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

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- 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 November Communicator by
 Wednesday, October 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:

The President's message this month is written by Barbara Marrow with an Afterword by Russ Littlefield.

Do We Really Want to Be a Welcoming Congregation?

"How can you ask that?" you might say, especially after we did the work to be officially designated a UU Welcoming Congregation for LGBTQ+ folks.

Bear with me...

When I recently searched on "welcoming congregation in central Florida", my search results included an article titled ["Why We Will No Longer Be a Welcoming Church."](#) I was intrigued. Turns out the post is from five years ago on the *livinglutheran.org* website. And while not all of the narrative applied to UU's, the basic idea had merit.



You see, the author's thinking was that "welcoming" is a passive concept, essentially leaving folks to find and come to us, and we can then welcome them.

A more active approach would be to reach out, "inviting" people in. But reaching out in such a way can be scary and leave us feeling vulnerable. You never know what folks might come back with in these combative times. So, start small. Here are some suggestions inspired by the *livinglutheran.org* article but edited more for us.

- "That restaurant is just up the street from my church."
- "I support solar too. In fact, my congregation is going solar."
- "Many in my congregation supported/participated in _____."
- "Check out my church's _____." Or "Check out _____ that my congregation is involved with."
- "Would you like to join me at church this Sunday?" This can be the most frightening invitation of all. It could be especially challenging currently, given our remote services, but then it may be easier for some who are hesitant to physically attend an unknown entity. If you think it may be something that would benefit the person, go for it!

I'm sure you can think of other ways to subtly – or not so subtly – invite folks to learn more about and participate in our congregation. Try it today!

Barbara

Afterword by Russ Littlefield

Unitarian Universalists were one of the first faith communities to make a point of welcoming those whose sexual preferences were non-traditional. This Congregation, like most UU congregations, went through a course of study to become a recognized Welcoming Congregation. The term (with capital letters) was designed by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) as a term of distinction for those congregations that complete a course of study designed to promote understanding of LGBTQ concerns.

We are a Welcoming Congregation, and we are a welcoming congregation.



Here at UUCLC we have adopted the rainbow chalice as our official logo. By doing so we extend a special welcome to the LGBTQ+ community as well as to others who may face discrimination. We are suspicious of labels and try hard to honor our first principle which calls on us to “honor the inherent worth and dignity of every person.”

Wishing you all safety and good health. Russ



If you would like to be part of the Communications Committee, please let me know. We especially need someone who is adept with social media or print media. We also need a photographer. christy.millat@yahoo.com

Update from the Safe Congregation COVID-19 Task Force

As we slowly begin utilizing our beautiful building (after 18 long months!) for small group meetings and, eventually, Sunday Services, you'll need to be aware of mask and social distancing requirements approved by your Board. The key components for everyone's safety are:

- KN95/N95 masks must be worn inside the building
- Use hand sanitizer upon entering the building
- Observe social distancing (2 chair separation between individuals or couples)
- No food or beverages
- No singing

KN95 masks can be purchased online, at Walmart, or in drug stores. Due to their specialized fit design and multi-layering, they are the most protective mask available for public use and are what is recommended by the CDC. Please purchase your KN95 masks now, prior to attending an event in the building. If you forget, for a short period of time we will have a small supply of KN95 masks for purchase at the door.

It is our hope, that over time, the masks and social distancing won't be required for entry to the building. But for now, we feel a great responsibility to protect members, friends, and guests to the greatest extent possible while still enjoying our UUCLC family live and in person.

Thank you for your cooperation!



Spotlight—Wendy Pacek

By Janeane Reagan



One of the richest aspects of our wonderful UUCLC congregation is the diversity of backgrounds and talents that our members bring to our beloved community. This month's spotlight focuses on Wendy Pacek. Many of you know Wendy as one of our greeters for our in-church Sunday services as well as special events. During our Covid shut down she has been busy doing follow up contacts to visitors at our Zoom services and helping Christina Wilkins keep the grounds of our church looking wonderful. If you have sat in on any of the Board of Trustees meetings you would see her there, first as the Secretary for a year and now as a Trustee. In her role on the Board and on the Membership Committee, she is always a wise voice when decisions are tough or creativity is needed. Wendy grew up moving around to six different towns in Westchester County, New York, just north of New York City. She received her BA in psychology from Russell Sage College in Troy, NY and her nursing degree from Shepherd College in WV. She married her first husband, Tony Pacek in 1968 and they had a son, Greg, who now lives in the Pittsburgh area. Prior to getting married, Wendy served for a year in VISTA working in a school for mentally and physically handicapped adults near Mt. Ranier, Washington. After that, she worked as an interviewer for Metropolitan Life Insurance in NYC and another organization serving people with disabilities. She and her first husband and their three year old son moved to Shepherdstown, WV. There she eventually got her RN license and worked for a year in the ICU before changing to home health care for ten years and Hospice work for another ten years. She finished out her career with eight years in the VA Medical Center doing palliative care in a long term care setting. After several years of being single again and just prior to retirement, Wendy met Denny Libby. Wendy says she was "just looking for a buddy to hike with and

Denny answered her ad.” Together they hiked the complete Appalachian Trail in pieces over a two year period. They married in 2009.

Wendy describes her early church experience as taking place in a variety of Christian churches in the many towns in which she and her mother lived. Her involvement was mostly Sunday school and choir. Like many of us, she stopped attending church when she went off to college. She rejected the dogma and saw religion as “a crutch I didn’t need.” After graduation, a boyfriend introduced her to the UU and she attended All Souls Unitarian Church in Washington, D.C. for a while. After her seventeen-year marriage ended, she started attending UU with her son, but changed to a more local Unity church after he left for college. When she and Denny moved to Lake View Terrace in 2018 they saw the COEXIST sticker on Janeane and Bernie’s car. Once they got to know Bernie and Janeane they found out they were members of UUCLC. Wendy and Denny were invited to attend a concert at the church and then Denny suggested they start going regularly. They both began taking an active role in the church almost immediately.

When asked what draws her to UUCLC, Wendy answered: “The church is open-minded and accepting of all people and all beliefs. It gives me a sense of community of like-minded people which is so refreshing! I still have a lot to learn about the fundamentals of the religion, but there is no requirement that I have to learn something in a certain amount of time. I hope to get to know more members as the time goes on.”

We thank Wendy for bringing her time and talents, her work ethic, and her enthusiasm to UUCLC.

Loving Kindness

After hearing the recent wonderful sermon by Rev. Byrd Tetzlaff on “Mindfulness,” (which you can [view on our YouTube channel](#)) in which she talked about loving kindness, Val Rosado was reminded of a song with this title written by her dear friend Cynthia Crossen. If you would like to listen to it, [click here](#) and then on song #5. Here are the words:

Loving Kindness © 1996 Cynthia R. Crossen

May my eyes be the mirror,
for the beauty of your soul
May my hands reach out to comfort and heal
May my words bless you and wish you well,
 May I speak with loving kindness,
 May I look with loving kindness,
 May I walk with loving kindness
 Loving kindness, light my way
 Loving kindness, light my way

May I understand your suffering,
And see your truth come shining through
May my heart be open to it all,
May my songs express my love for you.
 May I sing with loving kindness,
 May I hear with loving kindness,
 May I give with loving kindness,
 Loving kindness, light my way
 Loving kindness, light my way

May we all discover,
That we are all children of God,
May we walk gently upon this earth,
May we change our world with love.
 May we see with loving kindness,
 May we touch with loving kindness,
 May we dream with loving kindness,
 Loving kindness, light our way
 Loving kindness, light our way

May we build strong bridges,
Where heart to heart we can meet
May we honor our different paths,
May we find the peace that we seek.
 May we meet with loving kindness
 May we pray with loving kindness,
 May we live with loving kindness,
 Loving kindness, light our way
 Loving kindness, light our way

May we walk with loving kindness
May we give with loving kindness
May we touch with loving kindness
Loving kindness, light our way.
Loving kindness, light our way.
Loving kindness, light our way.





Meditation for All is Back!

Meditation for All resumed meeting on **Monday, September 27th from 6-7 pm at UUCLC** (1235 Mt. Homer, Eustis). Everyone is welcome. Various group members take turns leading meditation each week. Most people lead a meditation using the *Insight Timer* phone app or play some relaxing music. There is usually some discussion before and after the meditation. Be sure to wear a **KN95 mask and social distance**. We will also have everyone who is there, sign their name and phone number, in case we need to do any contact tracing. It is very exciting to have this group meeting again. Many of us have really missed the connection of meditating with others. If you have any questions, email Chris Cleveland at chriscleveland1951@gmail.com. Namaste



The St. Johns Riverkeeper has posted a survey to be submitted to the St. Johns River Water Management District, which will be voting soon on whether to remove Rodman Dam and free the Ocklawaha. You can learn more about this by going to <https://www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org/urgent-action-alert-for-the-ocklawaha/>

Jane Hepting



My dear UUCLC Congregation:

Jane Hepting is keeping her eye on our governmental representatives. Last week, we lost the fight for the North Hospital Taxing District because of behind-the-scenes maneuverings. We can't let this happen with our water authority.

Barbara Hill, Chair
SJEC

Dear LCCC members and friends,

LCCC members have heard that the Lake County Board of Commissioners (BCC) are trying to schedule two public meetings – one in Tavares at the Ag Center and one in Leesburg at Venetian Center– as early as October 5th and 6th to discuss a takeover of the Lake County Water Authority (LCWA). **We will try to send out more info when it becomes available.** Eventually, the public meetings should be posted on the BCC website. The more voters who attend these meetings and show an interest, the better it will be.

Keith Truenow, who represents the northeastern part of Lake County in the FL House of Representatives, is advocating a take-over of the Lake County Water Authority by the Lake County Board of Commissioners (BCC). Specifically, his plan is:

- Voters will no longer elect LCWA Board members.
- BCC will approve all budgets and expenditures.
- BCC could use LCWA funds for other purposes than originally intended for.
- BCC can change the charter of the LCWA at any time for any reason.

One of LCCC's members attended a meeting where the LCWA's attorney indicated that if the BCC approves the change, then the final step is for the FL Legislature to pass it. The issue will NOT come back to the voters for approval since the LCWA is not "being dissolved but changed."

So, if residents and voters want to have any input into the process, they should express their wishes to the BCC now. Here are the email addresses for the Lake County Commissioners: dshields@lakecountyfl.gov, sparks@lakecountyfl.gov, lcampione@lakecountyfl.gov, ksmith@lakecountyfl.gov, jblake@lakecountyfl.gov

Here's some important background from Peggy Cox, former chair of the Lake County Water Authority:

This plan to take over the LCWA by the County has some other bad elements including the ones listed below. The Legislature created the LCWA and has made it an independent taxing district with specific reasons for existing since 1953. Its last change was to make the Board of Trustees elected, not selected by the Governor. This change has, for the most part, worked better than expected. LCWA partners with other State agencies in pursuit of its goals, and with local government to help them afford better storm water systems, etc., to help local education efforts on what our water resources mean and how they can be protected from pollution.

The proposal to make the LCWA a local, county run, agency is purely to benefit the County tax base and appoint Board members to aid local political party goals, not to preserve and protect our Water Resources. LCWA is a taxing district and the small tax levied by the agency will be part of the County's taxes, and they can decide on how to use it.

The Lake County Water Authority was created by the legislature, as an independent taxing district, in the 1950's. It was a Governor appointed Board in the beginning until the late 1990s-2000. LCWA became an elected board of trustees at that time and a few years later became a partisan elected Board of 7 members. 5 to mirror the 5 County districts, and 2 at large seats. AS a former Elected Trustee of the LCWA (2012-2016, and 2016-2020) I know very well the work and progress that LCWA has done in preserving and bringing awareness to the water resources of Lake County and all that they represent. It is that the State is the only governmental entity that can change the status or abolish the existence of LCWA as a State taxing district. Apparently, a local legislator is part of this plan to take over the LCWA and change its existence as now existing. This is a power take-over, for the taxes that would still be on the tax bill, but all controlled by the County and the local legislators who would profit from complete local control of the LCWA Board and mission.

Please let everyone you know about this new tactic to take control of funds now used in a needed role to protect and preserve the exceptional lakes and streams and all they provide for Lake County.

Remembering Mabel Norris Reese: The Journalist Who Went Up Against Lake County's Notorious Sheriff Willis V. McCall



On September 24th, the beautiful bronze sculpture of the courageous Mabel Norris Reese was installed and unveiled in downtown Mount Dora. As owner, publisher, editor, and lead reporter for the Mount Dora Topic from 1947 to 1960, Mabel Norris Reese would place her life at risk by finding the truth, speaking the truth, and writing the truth. Her routine coverage of small-town news changed while reporting on a highly charged rape case involving a white woman and four black suspects – the Groveland Four. After uncovering evidence that contradicted the sheriff's official version of events, she confronted him in print and in public; a decision that had immediate consequences. Her business was vandalized, her dog murdered, a cross burned in her yard, and bombs detonated at her home. Yet she refused to back down. In a show of courage and fortitude, Reese continued to fight for justice, civil rights, and human rights. Throughout her career she remained committed to the essence of journalism--the truth. Mabel's bust is on display at Sunset Park, 230 W. 4th Ave., Mount Dora. For more information on this courageous woman, go to www.rememberingmabel.com.

