



The Communicator

[Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lake County](#)



Sunday Services

- January 2** Dan Gribbin
"When Social Justice Went to College"
- January 9** Ruth King
"Healing the Hurt That Breeds Hate"
- January 16** Rev. Janet Onnie
"What If..."
- January 23** Rev. Kathy Schmitz
"That's Not What I Meant"
- January 30** Sally Westover
"Singing Bowls Meditation"

January Birthdays

Sylvia Wince
Pete Conde
Dian Joy
Susan Zingale-Baird

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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 – Susan Moore
Care and Connect – Lois Sanford
Technology – Val Rosado
Technology Administration – Val Rosado
Library – Julie Champion

The Communicator is published monthly.
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Submit articles for the February Communicator by
Friday, January 28.

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

Well, here we are again, welcoming in a new year. This is always a good time to look back at where we have been and ahead to what the new year might hold, including our hopes and dreams.

For UUCLC, this past year has been marked by both tremendous challenges and outstanding accomplishments. Covid has continued to dominate much of our attention, requiring constant reassessment of our decisions both as individuals and as a congregation. In both cases I think we are struggling with not just pandemic fatigue, but a part of it that I call “decision making fatigue.” For me personally, I am tired out from constantly assessing what the risk / benefits are for so many actions such as going to a holiday concert, whether to spend time with an unvaccinated family member or friend, should we shop at a store that no longer requires masks. Decisions like these are on top of ordinary day to day decisions like what to have for breakfast and are these chest pains a heart attack or just GERD.



Twenty-twenty-one saw the fulfillment of our congregation's dream to go solar. We learned both the technology and the advantages of using Zoom to keep our church active and connected. Our social justice series brought awareness and education to our congregation and to the larger community. We coped without a minister and without an administrator which, although initially unplanned situations, helped us to survive financially while many churches went under. Our committees not only continued to function during the Covid shutdown, but with their strong leadership, they thrived. Two important new committees were created, the Communications Committee and the Technology Committee. One of the outcomes has been a completely new website which is more user-friendly and flexible. We are also set up on a new data base system that will give us a better picture of who we are on “paper”.

One of the major accomplishments this past year was the successful sale of 1.8 acres of our land. The proceeds of this sale have put us in a much better position to handle any significant physical crisis such as having our roof blow off and will allow us to cover capital expenditures that we may face in the future. These might even include some wish list items.

One of the projects we expected to have completed by now was our search for a new minister. After Rev. Tracie left in June of 2020, we had no idea that the Covid restrictions that had evolved would still be with us over a year and a half later. Nor could we have foreseen the impact that being out of the church would have on our

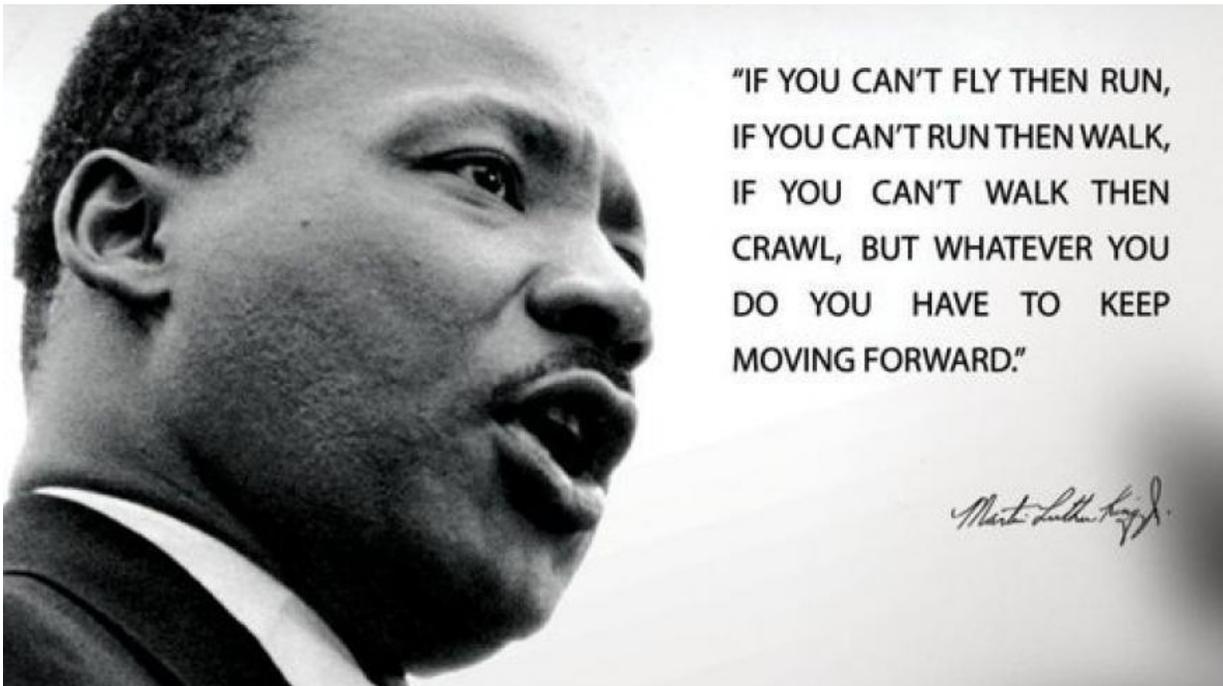
congregation--an influence that is not yet fully known. As another closure still looms, the Board has extended our hold on the search so we can better assess how we are financially and what our needs are once we are again settled into the new “normalcy”, whatever that may be. The current surge of the Omicron variant renders that point in time unknowable for now.

Meanwhile, we are incredibly fortunate to have the variety of excellent speakers coming to us on Zoom and for the moment, live in the church. The WRaP committee and the tech team will continue to supply us with quality Sunday services either way. The decision to return to Zoom-only services will be made on a week-to-week basis as we monitor the Omicron numbers. Our Safe Congregation committee is diligent.

These do remain uncertain times, but our perspective can make such a difference. In the words of Kaira Jewel Lingo, from “Trusting the Unknown”
“When we let ourselves hang out in the space of not-knowing, there is enormous potential and life could unfold in innumerable ways. So, rather than avoid and fear this place of uncertainty, we can embrace it and all its gifts.”

Wishing you a Peaceful, Creative and Healthy New Year,
Janeane Reagan, Acting President

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 17



IT'S OFFICIAL! WE'VE GONE SOLAR!
COME CELEBRATE WITH US
Saturday, January 22, 2022 2:00 pm



Brief Speech Making Dedication and Ribbon Cutting
Light Refreshments Tours General Fellowship
CELEBRATION WILL BE PARTIALLY AND POSSIBLY ENTIRELY OUTSIDE
PLEASE DRESS APPROPRIATELY
MASKS REQUIRED (KN95 OR N95 PREFERRED)

PLEASE RSVP at: <https://uuclicsolar.eventbrite.com>
Or marrow.barbara@gmail.com 703-625-0030



Solar Panels, Eclectic Vehicles, & You January 23 9:30 a.m.
With Charlie Behrens

Solar panels and electric vehicles are growing in popularity. Want to jump on the bandwagon, but not sure where to start? Join Charlie Behrens for an informative hour that will include plenty of time for questions. Also included is a demonstration of how to use an electric car as emergency backup power for your home. Charlie, the husband of Kathy Schmitz, our January 23 guest speaker, recently retired after a 40+ year career as a software engineer. He and Rev. Kathy Schmitz are committed environmentalists. They have a 100% solar powered home, which also powers their two electric vehicles.

UUCLC Honors Rev. David Crump



At our December 19th service Rev. David Crump was celebrated for his dedicated participation in UUCLC projects, by the planting of 75 trees in his honor at the Umpqua National Forest in Oregon. He is retiring and will be leaving the area to travel, and then ultimately return to Brazil, where he spent much of his childhood and met his wife. Drawing on the message of prophets, both ancient and contemporary and based on a deep commitment to social justice, his personal mission is to be engaged in and with communities at the margins of society in ways that lead to empowerment and radical transformation. David has master's degrees in philosophy and theology, and a Doctor of Ministry in Cross-Cultural Ministry; the latter received from Catholic Theological Union, in Chicago. He is retiring as the Grants Manager for the Farmworkers Association of Florida, in Apopka.

Besides presenting many sermons at UUCLC, he was also very active in our social justice programs. He presented in our Social Justice Lecture series in 2020-21, participated with UUCLC in parades and marches for various social justice causes, and was part of our Antiracism book group and the Racial Healing group that we participate in. He has influenced our minds and our souls with his ideas and dreams, and his legacy will continue on in many of us. We wish you well Rev. David.



A reminder to our congregation that we are still offering pastoral care with Rev. Byrd Tetzlaff. Rev. Byrd is a retired UU minister living in Indiana. She is a frequent speaker for our Zoom Sunday services. She has over 30 years of experience serving congregations throughout the US.

To contact Rev. Byrd for a one-on-one session you can call or email her to set up a time. Sessions can be held by phone or using a Zoom meeting that she will arrange. During our time without a minister, we are very fortunate to have such an experienced and compassionate person providing this service.

Contact information for Rev. Byrd:

Phone: 574-383-5207

Email: uurevb@gmail.com

Special Report from the UUCLC Safe Congregation Committee

Re: Updated COVID Status and Recommendations

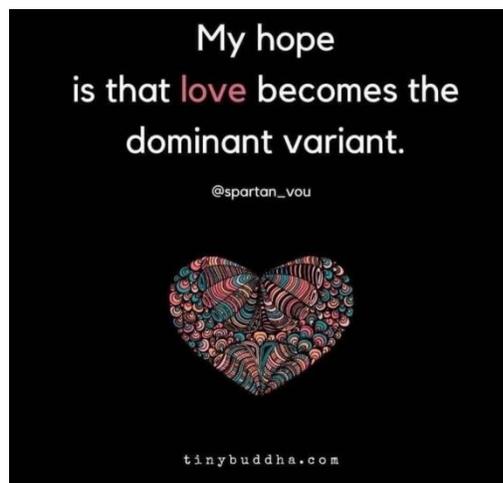
Due to the recent emergence of the rapidly spreading and highly transmissible Omicron variant, we are recommending that our original COVID precautions be reimplemented. All members are urged to receive the vaccine and booster. Masks must be worn for all church events inside and outside the building. The KN95 mask is again preferred for added protection. Refreshments will still not be served. Social distancing must be maintained. And starting December 27th, no small group meetings will be allowed in the building but should continue gathering using our Zoom technology. Tai Chi can continue to meet safely outside wearing masks. At this time, the New Year's Day drumming event will not be impacted as long as masks are worn. The Solar Celebration on January 22nd might need to be a strictly outside event if the Omicron spread gets worse as predicted.

The Safe Congregation Committee will continue to monitor the situation, and it may be necessary to recommend that we suspend in-person services in the near-future. This will require WRaP and our Tech Team to develop a Plan B.

We regret this unfortunate need to re-tighten our UUCLC COVID guidelines. But the health and safety of our Congregation must come first.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Moore, Safe Congregation Chairperson
Bernie Greenberg
Julie Twist
Christina Wilkins



Examining the 2022 Florida Legislative Session in Light of Our Values

UUCLC will host an Online Forum titled ***Examining the 2022 Florida Legislative Session in Light of Our Values***. It will be held at 7 p.m. on Sunday, January 30, 2022, shortly after the Legislative Session begins. UU Justice Florida has identified many important pending bills, and recommends that UU members support some and oppose others. Our forum will describe these bills, explain the legislative process, and provide advocacy tips. Our main speaker will be Nancy Hurlbert, a frequent lecturer and advocate regarding bills pending before our state legislature. After her lecture, she will entertain questions from the public.



Join us by phone or through the internet using Zoom. Please register in advance for this meeting by clicking on this link:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEpf-qgqzwpE9xiuLw1rCiTSYVBZ9ZiQFgv>.

Zoom will confirm your registration by sending you a link to use on January 30th



Tai Chi Class Every Monday 11 am – Noon, through April,

In-Person UUCLC Tai Chi class will be available again on December 6th. 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 improve one's immunity, blood pressure, balance, and focus. Loose clothing and thin shoes are recommended. Depending on the weather, we may meet outside under the portico or in the Social Hall. Be sure to wear a **KN95 mask and social distance**.

Open to all.

A Surprise Blessing by Chris Cleveland

Last month I decided to start coming to UUCLC at 8 am on Saturday mornings to help Christina Wilkins with the upkeep of our beautiful grounds. Wendy Pacek has been helping her for several years now. After working with the two hard-working women for about a month, I began noticing that I enjoyed seeing the changes that we had created with our landscaping work. I noticed that the tree we tried to redirect with ropes was growing straighter and looked very healthy and happy. I felt pride in the fact that I had a part in this effort. I also started feeling a stronger connection with the nature all around our grounds. Another benefit is that I have gotten to know Christina and Wendy so much better. When we are done working, we spend a little social and relaxation time together. It is as if we have our own covenant circle after our physical work together. I realized today what a blessing it is to be able to share our love of the outdoors and gardening with each other and the congregation. I highly recommend this form of volunteer work at UUCLC. Below is a picture of Wendy and Christina pruning one of our trees.



Florida Storytelling Festival January 27-30

The Florida Storytelling Festival is returning live to Lakeside Inn after a year of virtual activity. Two of the featured presenters are of particular interest to our UU members and friends. Nigerian-born Adetutu “Tutu” Harrell and music scholar Don Harrell will be combining their talents as tellers of African Folklore through stories and music. Susan O’Halloran is a noted speaker and storyteller on issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Several other outstanding storytellers plus the young people from the Youthful Voices Program will be presenting throughout the weekend of January 27 to 30. Check the website, Florida Storytelling Festival, for times of presentations and workshops. Tickets for performances can be purchased at the festival or you can register online.



The Dharma Group

Meets first, third and fifth Wednesdays of every month 5:30-7:00 p.m

The group reads and discusses books related to Buddhism and practices meditation. Currently meeting via Zoom. Open to all.



Two Openings in Our New Tuesday Covenant Circle

Covenant Circles are a way to help people think about their lives spiritually, through the process of sharing their thoughts and experiences with others. Participants will grow in their understanding of what is personally meaningful, while building a caring community. Covenant Circles create and foster community by providing an intentionally welcoming and safe environment where all feel valued and cared for. Participants are given the opportunity to form meaningful connections with one another. We foster a climate of purposeful inclusion of all. people. We exist together in peace, search for truth in love, and help one another.

Our new Covenant Circle will meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of January through April 2022 at 1:00-3:00 pm (presently on Zoom). Our first meeting is January 11th. In you want to join us contact Chris Cleveland at chrisclleveland1951@gmail.com right away, so she can send you information.



1st and 3rd Monday of every month, from 2:00-3:30 pm

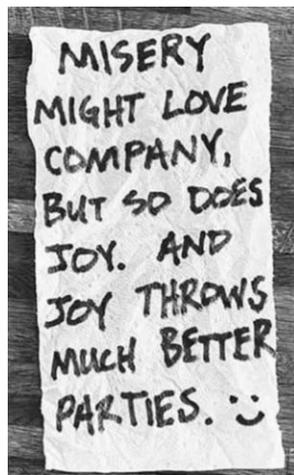
Graceful Aging is a thoughtful conversation group, conducted by and for members and friends of UUCLC. It is an open group, which means folks are free to come and go as they wish. The drift of each meeting emerges from the concerns of those present. Zoom link is in Sunday Service Bulletin. Open to all.



Meditation for All (Temporarily Not Meeting)

Every Monday 6:00-7:00 pm in UUCLC Sanctuary

The group meets for an hour of readings, discussion and meditation. Meditation is simply another word for concentration and is a way of getting in touch with your spiritual nature. Facilitated by members of the group. Be sure to wear a **KN95 mask and social distance**. Open to all.



Happy New Year!