



The Communicator

[Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lake County](http://www.uulakecounty.org)



Sunday Services

- March 6** Rev. Randy Becker
“Deadly Serious”
- March 13** Rev. Byrd Tetzlaff
“Overcoming Myself”
- March 20** Sally Westover
“Singing Bowl Meditation”
- March 26** Rev. Kathy Schmitz
“Obedience to the Unenforceable”

March Birthdays

Ozell Ward
Betty Emery
Patti Stiner
Fred Lorch
Dottie Beebe
Joyce Axelson
Julie Champion
Ted Fessler

UUCLC Information & Contacts

Address: 1235 Mt. Homer Rd., Eustis, FL 32726
Mail address: PO Box 1761, Eustis, FL 32727
Office Phone: (352) 805-8451
Email contact: office@uulakecounty.org
Website: www.uulakecounty.org

Officers

Russ Littlefield, President
Janeane Reagan, Vice President
Henry Millat, Secretary
Chris Higgins, Treasurer
Christina Wilkins, 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.
Editor: Christy Millat Phone: 248-921-0541
Email: UUCLCCommunicator@yahoo.com
Submit articles for the April Communicator by
Friday, March 25.

If you have not shared your birthday with us, please email christy.millat@yahoo.com so we can wish you a happy birthday too. Also, if you have any changes to your record such as mailing address, phone number, etc., email Val Rosado at valdarosado@gmail.com.

UUCLC President's Message- March 2022

At the beginning of each year Bernie and I sit down and plan out our charitable giving for the year ahead. In part, this is a defensive move to deal with the onslaught of mail we get every day asking for donations. (I bet you get them too.) As we diligently open them, remove our address, and place the rest of the wasted trees into our recycling bin, I am far too easily pulled into wondering if we should give something to this or that worthy cause. If I give in to this urge, however, we might be living on the street.

So we write down our values and determine our priorities that will best support these values. Then we determine the total amount we feel we can afford to give for the year. We look at the organizations that fit under each category, such as Nature Conservancy, World Wildlife Federation, and Trout Lake Nature Center all of which go under Environment. We usually try to do something national and something local, like choosing Nature Conservancy and Trout Lake. When we try to decide under which category and for which of our values UUCLC falls, it always amazes us that it easily ticks the boxes under every one of them. UUCLC is a mirror of who we want to be and what we value most. It quickly rises to the top of our list, and even though we still support some other organizations with smaller donations, UUCLC has been for several years and still is our first choice for whatever discretionary charitable spending we can do.



March is the kickoff for the UUCLC pledge drive. With high inflation, the impact of two years of Covid and a scary war looming, decisions about charitable giving may be harder than ever. But not only are our pledges to UUCLC charitable, they are an affirmation of what we hold most dear and support for an island of sanity in a world that can feel pretty crazy these days. (And that's coming from a psychologist, after all.)

Our annual pledge drive for the 2023 fiscal year that begins July 1, 2022 kicks off this month. By stating our intent through our pledge, we make it possible for the church to make realistic plans for the year ahead, a year when UUCLC can make a difference in each of our lives and in the health of our greater community.

The 13th-century Zen teacher [Dogen Zenji](#) once said, "In giving, mind transforms the gift and the gift transforms mind." Ultimately, this is the most important thing we can do: to approach our lives in a spirit of [generosity](#) and with the intent to benefit all beings and not harm them. This is what the Buddha taught, and what he would want for all of us. What do you want?

Janeane Reagan, Acting President

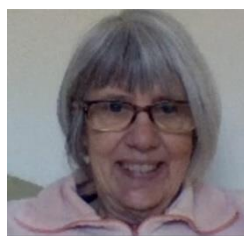
Meet Our Newest Members



Liz Morton says “I grew up in Minneapolis, MN and attended Plymouth Congregational Church with my parents and three siblings. One of my best friends belonged to the Unitarian church which I also attended with their family. After high school I moved to Colorado for 30 years and then moved to central Florida just before the 2004 hurricanes. I am ecstatically retired from the City of Eustis after 10 years employment and enjoy living close to the Ocala National Forest with my two cats and horses.”



Claudia Marshall says “I grew up in farm country in Indiana with one brother and one sister. After going to college, getting married, and working for two years, Jay and I moved to Leesburg, Florida in 1968. We started attending church in April of 2018. Both of our careers were in education. After a life dedicated to education, Jay died in March of 2020. We have one daughter, Cara, and one grandchild, Annakiya. We also have a large extended family living all over the country.”



Karen Frank says “In the early 1990's, I relocated to Gainesville Florida from Rhode Island, with my husband and 3 children, to escape New England winters and be closer to my extended family who had already migrated to Florida. My husband and I moved to Lake County in 2002. My children have blessed me with 5 grandchildren whom I adore. I retired in 2018 after 40 years as a registered nurse mostly working with children in different settings. While I lived in Gainesville, I was a member of the UU congregation there. In 2021, I was looking for a welcoming, like-minded community and began attending UUCLC ZOOM services.”

Welcome



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING GOING SOLAR

Saturday, March 26, 2022 2:00 pm

**Brief Speech Making Dedication and Ribbon Cutting
Light Refreshments and Tours**

Please dress appropriately for outside activities.

Masks and social distancing required inside. KN95 masks preferred.

PLEASE RSVP:

<https://uuclcsolar.eventbrite.com> or

marrow.barbara@gmail.com 703-625-0030





Recommended Safety Protocols and Procedures for Reopening on March 13, 2022

Covid risk level for Lake County remains a concern. We have improved from a severe risk level to a very high risk level. The Committee anticipates future improvement in risk status. We will reevaluate monthly with a gradual return to pre-covid status.

- Our next in-person service at UUCLC will be held on March 13th. Current restrictions remain in place, but speakers and musical performers may go without a mask at the podium. A 10 foot social distance from the podium to the audience will be maintained.
- We anticipate opening the building for small group meetings in April. “Lesson Learned”- when small group meetings were held in the past, members removed masks. We are anticipating that by April, our risk level will be lower.
- Outdoor events, such as Tai Chi will continue with masks preferred but not required.
- The Solar Celebration will be held on March 26th with masks preferred but not required. The social hall may be used with doors open for ventilation. Individually wrapped cookies and a drink in paper cups will be served.

The current guidelines are as follows:

To wear a mask regardless of your vaccination status. KN95 masks are recommended as they are the most effective and offer the best protection.

Maintain social distancing of six feet.

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. This applies each time you enter the building.

Please do not bring food or drink into the building.

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

We will not have a choir presentation or congregational singing, but may have a pianist or musical guest. We will 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 rear of the sanctuary next to the exit doors, going to the narthex.

When the service ends, we will not have a social hour. We ask that you move outside the building for visiting.

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 our community status. Thank you for remaining patient and flexible as we continue to navigate our way through this difficult situation.

UUCLC Safe Congregation Committee 2-22-22



CUSTOMER SOLAR IS UNDER ATTACK

Solar net metering allows solar customers to receive full, fair retail credit for the excess energy they produce and share with neighbors.

Senate Bill 1024 and House Bill 741 would undermine our right to net metering and have a devastating impact on Florida's solar industry.

Having recently gone solar here at UUCLC, we should be especially concerned about this legislative threat. Now more than ever, Florida's leaders need to hear our voices.

Go to

<https://www.savesolar.org/fl>

to learn more and send a message to your legislators.

Go back and resend every week. Your repeated message will reach different legislators each time.



SAVE THE DATE: CONSERVATION SYMPOSIUM ON APRIL 30 FROM 11:00 TO 3:00

A Conservation Symposium co-sponsored by fourteen conservation organizations (including the UUCLC Social Justice and Environment Committee) will be held at Trout Lake Nature Center on April 30 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Symposium is chaired by UUCLC's Jane Hepting.

The purpose of the Symposium is to explore Lake County environmental challenges and possible solutions. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Beverley Ward, anthropologist, speaking on "Centering Environmental Justice in Lake County Conservation Work". There will be a panel on "Water, Open Space, and Climate Change – Challenges and Solutions" with well known people from Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District, Lake County Water Authority, University of Florida Department of Conservation, and the Keep Clermont Rural community activism group. Finally, there will be planning for possible joint action toward solutions.

The information and registration flyer for the event will be circulated via email as soon as it is ready. All UUCLC people interested in conservation are urged to order tickets quickly, as the event is expected to be a sellout. If you take advantage of the early bird registration, the cost is only \$12 per person AND that includes a tasty lunch.

Thank you to the good people who responded so quickly to our request for help in the last Communicator. Bernie and Janeane will be the smiling faces at the UUCLC information table at the event, and Nancy Lapointe volunteered to help Karen Frank and Karen Woolhouse on the lunch committee.

The information and meet-and-greet table on UUCLC and its activities is a great recruiting opportunity for UUCLC and we need to have a display that will draw people to be part of our community. Are there a couple of creative people who would like to help think through the messages that we want to convey and how best to convey them? We will need a banner and giveaway leaflets and perhaps other recruiting supports. Should we have a bowl of candy on the table? Should it be chocolate covered soft caramels or sour lemon drops? Should we put funny hats on Bernie and Janeane? Help! Please email woolhouse@earthlink.net.

Thanks for your help and support. This will be an exciting day!



Tai Chi Class Every Monday 11 am – Noon

In-Person UUCLC Tai Chi class will be available again until April. 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. Open to all.



The Dharma Group

Meets first Wednesday 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.



1st 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.



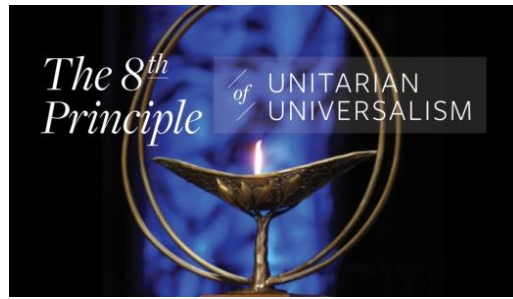
Our Relationship With the LGBTQ+/TGQNB Community by Chris Cleveland

UUCLC became a “Welcoming Congregation” in 2012. This means that everyone is welcome here, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. It means that we will take steps to see that everyone feels welcome at our church. It also means that we will continue to work to educate ourselves about how we can become more welcoming, so that all will feel comfortable here. Many of our current members were not with UUCLC when we went through the process of gaining “Welcoming Congregation” status from the U.U.A., our national organization. Many of us can use help in understanding people who are different than we are.

First of all, LGBTQ+/TGQNB stands for:

- lesbian
- gay
- bisexual
- transgender
- questioning (people who are in the process of exploring their sexual orientation or gender identity)
- + sign (to recognize the limitless sexual orientations and gender identities)
- transgender
- genderqueer (reject notions of static categories of gender and embrace a fluidity of gender identity and often, though not always, sexual orientation)
- non-binary (may identify as being both a man and a woman, somewhere in between, or as falling completely outside these categories).

There is much for all of us to learn, so that all people feel welcome at UUCLC. Our Board of Trustees has approved a plan for UUCLC to “renew” our “Welcoming Congregation” status with the U.U.A. Our Lifespan Faith Committee will be working on this project. If you are interested in helping to plan some educational events or elements of our Sunday worship services that assist in opening our minds and hearts to the LGBTQ+/TGQNB Community, please contact Chris Cleveland at chrisclleveland1951@gmail.com.



Vote on Adoption of U.U. Eighth Principle by Chris Cleveland

After our Sunday service on April 3rd, at our UUCLC Annual meeting, we will hold a **vote to decide if UUCLC will adopt the U.U. 8th Principle**:

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

8. 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.

—The Proposed 8th Principle of Unitarian Universalism

Many U.U. congregations are adopting this principle to add to their own list of U.U. Seven Principles, as they work to dismantle racism and white supremacy culture.

At our **After-Sunday Service Discussion on March 6th**, we will have a presentation and a discussion about adopting this principle at UUCLC. The link to the discussion will be the same Sunday Service link, as it will immediately follow the Sunday Service. Please join us to learn more and have time to discuss it with others.

Throughout history U.U.s have frequently done very good work in fighting racism. During the Civil Rights Movement and in the 1990s there were many U.U. initiatives against racism. In 1992 a resolution was passed to become an Anti-Racist, Anti-Oppression Multi-Cultural (ARAOMC) Organization, but funding for this decreased in the 2000s. A feeling that we need to recommit to these values and hold ourselves accountable has driven the need for an 8th Principle.

It is easy for people, who identify as white, to ignore the problems caused by our white dominant culture. There is a mass incarceration of People of Color (POC), which has replaced the older systems of slavery and Jim Crow Laws. There is police violence against POC. Recent Supreme Court decisions have reduced Voting Rights and Affirmative action. There is a huge income gap between whites and POC. U.U.s have a responsibility to act to reverse these trends. Whites have benefitted from white privilege for many years, but we can still impact the path of the “moral arc of the universe.” In order to build Beloved Community, where our church families are

diverse, inclusive and equitable, many changes need to happen. Adopting the U.U. 8th Principle can start us on a path toward racial justice. Come to the information and discussion session after our Sunday service on March 6th, and learn more. More importantly, come to the **April 3rd Annual Meeting to vote** on this and other issues.



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



Presented by The League of Women Voters, The Villages / Tri-County. What do you say to change a heart? **Uprooting Prejudice: Conversations for Change** Lessons for overcoming hate are explored by Ann Patton, award winning journalist and author. Tangible ways to build bridges and change hearts are presented by Stephen Poynor, Education Curator of Florida's Holocaust Center. A discussion moderated by Lou Sasmor of the Civil Discourse Club of The Villages provides an opportunity to interact with the speakers and others in the audience. Saturday, March 5, 2-4pm Wildwood Community Center, 6500 Powell Rd, Wildwood, Florida. To learn more, ask questions and register, visit lvvtrifl.org Registrations required by March 4.

UUCLC Proposed Congregational Covenant Change Survey

It has been proposed that UUCLC change the word “law” in our Congregational Covenant, which currently reads:

1. “Love is the spirit of this church and service is its **law**.
This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace,
To seek the truth in love and to help one another.”
James Vila Blake, 1894

Two potential changes for the word **law** are listed below:

2. Love is the spirit of this church and service is our **commitment**.
This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace,
To seek the truth in love and to help one another.
adapted from James Vila Blake, 1894
3. Love is the spirit of this church and service. is our **legacy**.
This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace,
To seek the truth in love and to help one another.
adapted from James Vila Blake, 1894

Please email Chris Cleveland (chrisclleveland1951@gmail.com)
by **March 6th** with your Survey preference, if you have not already done so.

If you want our Congregational Covenant to **stay the same**, choose #1. If you want to **change** the word “law”, choose #2 or #3. If a simple majority chooses #1 in this Survey, our Congregational Covenant will remain the same, without any further voting. If a simple majority chooses either #2 or #3, we will hold a final vote (yes or no) at our April 3rd annual meeting.

Rationale for/against changing “law”.

For the word change-The word “law” sounds forceful and offensive. U.U.s perform service, because service is the right thing to do, and we commit to continuing the practice of service. We want to leave a legacy of the good deeds that we have performed. Some other U.U. churches have changed the word “law”.

Against the word change-Use of the strong word “law” shows that service is a necessary part of being a U.U. Every U.U. should be obligated to serve others. Our current UUCLC Congregational Covenant is the authentic quote of James Vila Blake in 1894.