



The Communicator

of the [Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Lake County](http://www.uu-lakecounty.org)

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December Programs

Discussion Group at 9:30 am

December 2 – Harvard Justice series part 4. Michael Sandel is a philosopher with the global profile of a rock star. He's a Harvard professor who doesn't just lecture in halls, but in stadiums."

December 9 – To Be Announced

December 16 – Many Faces of a Covenant Group

December 23 – To Be Announced

December 30 – Open Forum.

Woerscippen at 11:00 am

December 2 – "Meet a Millennial" You may have read recently that the Millennial generation is "killing" American cheese, napkins, cold cereal, landline telephones...and Applebee's! Worse yet, they never vote and they ruin elections by voting for 3rd party candidates! Who are these youngsters who seem determined to dismantle the most American of American institutions? **UU seminarian Joe Donatone** would like to introduce you to one.

December 9 – "How Covenantal Communities Can Change the World". One of the things that makes Unitarian Universalist congregations unique is that we are a covenantal community. Covenant means "to come together by making a promise." **Christine Dance**, the Ministerial Intern from the Tri-UU Congregation of Summerfield will talk about the context of covenantal relationships and why being in one can create a model for changing the world.

December 16 – "Vulnerability in the Dark", with **Rev. Tracie**. The nights grow longer as we approach the Winter Solstice. During this time of increased darkness, can we open ourselves to be vulnerable? With ourselves and with one another.

December 23 – "Giving Birth to the Mystery", with **Rev. Tracie**. In this time of expectation, what mysteries can we give birth to in our own lives and in our community? Let us explore this holy time of darkness and anticipation to find what new things we can birth for the coming year.

December 30 – To Be Announced

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To schedule an appointment with Rev. Tracie, please use <https://calendly.com/tbarrettwelser>

The Communicator is published monthly.

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Bing Futch Concert, Saturday, December 8

Join us for An Afternoon with Bing Futch on Saturday, December 8, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Using the mountain dulcimer – along with other instruments of choice – Bing explores a variety of music styles from traditional to pop to blues to Disney. His casual way and warm wit are tailored to each audience, which always provides a unique experience and a good time. Tickets are \$15.00 and will be available after Sunday's program. Or buy online at <https://uuclc-bing.eventbrite.com>. Tickets will be sold at the door as available. Cash or check only. Proceeds benefit paying off our loans. Please help us spread the word. See you there!



Minister's Message...

The past few months have been a time of transition and adjustment as we settle into our second year together. I know that anxiety has been high. I also want to assure you that the transitions and feelings and struggles are normal and a good indicator that we are in the right spot on the journey. My hope is that you will have faith and trust in me, our leadership, and also ourselves as a community. May we use this time of the holidays to remind us of our connections to one another.

In furtherance of that, I want to introduce you to the **Committee on Shared Ministry (CoSM)**. Chris Higgins, Carl Skiles, and Egor Emery have agreed to serve on this committee. Their role is to work as the process observers of the congregation. What does that mean? They are looking to see what ministries in our congregation are working well, where there might be some rough spots we need to work on, and work to help all of our ministries be effective. You might be asking yourself what ministries am I talking about. Well, as I mentioned in our service on November 18, every single committee and every single member of our congregation is a part of the ministry of this congregation. We are in this work together.

The CoSM and I meet monthly to discuss concerns and strengths about the congregation. These conversations help shape the services I plan as well as give me an opportunity to coordinate with other ministries to best meet the spiritual needs of our congregation. Should you have any questions or concerns about the ministries of our congregation, you can reach out to any of the Committee on Shared Ministry members. Please keep in mind, they are not just there to vent to anonymously. The CoSM will work in a healthy way and assist in helping you to present your concerns to the appropriate committee or team.

Also, do know that I am here for you. As we move through the holiday season, I am here if you find yourself struggling with memories, family issues, or just need someone to share joy with. I wish all of you a very happy holiday season and I look forward to what's next for us.

...Rev. Tracie

From Members of the Committee on Shared Ministry

Recently we've been thinking about covenants—the promises we make to one another. The UUCLC Covenant that we recite is:

“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.”

Within our congregation, there are various ways that we serve one another and the larger community. When I served on the UUCLC Board of Trustees, it was clear to me that the work of the Board is one kind of ministry. Whether service is through individual actions or through Committee work, Congregation members promise (covenant) and share in the ministry of this Congregation ►



▶ through our service. As you will or have read in Reverend Tracie Barrett-Welser's article in this Newsletter, Carl Skiles, Egor Emery and I have been asked to serve on a Committee on Shared Ministry. Our role is to work as process observers of the Congregation and to help the various ministries to work together effectively and harmoniously.

So, if you have any observations, questions or concerns, please come talk to one of us, either before or after service on Sunday, or contact us via telephone or email. Our contact information is in the UUCLC Directory, which is available to every member.

Chris Higgins



Greetings UUCLC members and friends

I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. Now begins the holiday rush through New Year's which makes this a very busy time for many people. I am very grateful for the gift of time that all our UUCLC volunteers give to the congregation. Many have limited time but give what they can. UUCLC is blessed with many people who generously give their time and their talents so that we can enjoy a thriving, enriching and supporting fellowship. It is especially evident with this upcoming holiday season.

Our volunteers are making it possible for us to enjoy many special events this month. Please mark your calendars to attend the Bing Futch concert on December 8th at 2pm. This is a very exciting event not to be missed! We also have a brass quintet under the direction of John Landers performing on December 14th at 7pm. Rev. Tracie will be holding a candlelight service for us on December 24th. And if the holidays are a stressful time, you can learn how to reduce and manage stress in a 3-part workshop being offered by Janeane Reagan over 3 consecutive Saturdays this month. Please check our UUCLC calendar on our website and our Facebook page for more details about these holiday offerings as well as many other events we have during the month of December. Every event has at least one UUCLC volunteer making it happen. Thank you for giving the gift of your time to UUCLC. The entire congregation appreciates you!!

I look forward to enjoying this holiday season with our UUCLC family.

Season's Greetings!

Betty

A technique which uses tapping on acupressure points plus affirmations has been shown to help reduce stress, manage pain, help with asleep, and let go of thoughts that get stuck in our minds. Janeane Reagan is offering a 3-part workshop on how to use this technique Saturday, Dec. 1 at 10:00 in the Social Hall at UUCLC. It is open to anyone who wishes to attend. Two follow up sessions on Dec. 8 and 15 will be available for those who wish to continue developing their skills. No sign up is required. See you Saturday. Janeane 352-669-2272

December Birthdays

Kit Tatum, December 4
Jane O'Connor, December 5
Susan Collignon, December 16
Carl Skiles, December 26

Notes from the Social Justice and Environment Committee

In her sermon of August 26th, Rev Tracie called our attention to the theme of this year's General Assembly: "All Are Called." We are called on, collectively, she said, to work collectively toward our collective salvation.

For many UUs, our collective salvation has come to mean working for Justice on Earth - which happens to be the title of this year's UU Common Read. In the words of the UUA's Common Read Selection Committee, this "book asks us to recognize that our faith calls us to long-haul work for justice for our human kin, for the Earth and for all life." Copies are available in our library and available for purchase from UUA's In Spirit book store.

Our central vehicle for justice and environmental work here at UUCLC is our Social Justice and Environment Committee (SJE). This committee has been reorganizing through the leadership efforts of a team: Barbara Hill, Jane O'Connor, Julie Twist and Russ Littlefield. Recently Cara Luchsinger has joined us.

We consider our mission to be at the heart of what we do here at UUCLC. In the deepest sense, it is a ministry. We are guided by our faith's affirmation of the inherent worth and dignity of all peoples and its recognition of the interconnectedness of all people, beings, and natural systems. We hope to be an effective vehicle for making smart change in the world.

We are a small congregation and we want to be as effective as possible in pursuing our social justice goals. One way we hope to do this is to identify and support those organizations and even individuals in the community who are working toward the same ends.

One organization that we have identified is the Farm Worker Association of Florida whose main office is in Apopka. The SJE Committee has met with its director, Jeannie Economos, and together we are organizing a teaching tour of Lake Apopka. The tour is unique. It demonstrates the interlinking of environmental concerns with concern for the workers, many who are migrants, who have worked the farms around Lake Apopka. If you have interest in taking this tour, please sign up on the contact sheet on the table in the foyer. You can get more information from any member of the SJE Committee.

We Need a Van.

In connection with that tour, we are looking for anyone who might have access to a large van that we might use. If you have any information that might be helpful in this regard, please contact Jane O'Connor.

Cotton Shirt Drive

One of our initiatives in support of the Farm workers of Florida is our cotton shirt drive. Workers are in need of long sleeve cotton shirts which provide protection from the sun and from insecticides. Please bring any shirts you no longer use to the church. Be sure that they are cotton. You will find a deposit box in the social hall. We are especially in need of small and medium sizes.

Russ Littlefield

The **safety committee** is requesting that anyone who could provide shelter for people in emergency situations such as hurricanes please let the office know by contacting: office@lakecountyuu.net. Please advise if you have rooms available for how many people, if you can allow pets and if so which types or how many etc.

This information will be handled by the safety committee and will link people in need, by first calling the people who are available to see if they could accommodate people at that time. Also, people offering their home may specify if they prefer only females/males, children etc.

