



# The Communicator

of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Lake County

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## Church Service Programs in September

**6** - "Water Service of Sharing and A Colloquy of Thought" Rev. Roger Seidner invites us to bring a portion of water from our summer travels to share in a common vessel. With the water each is invited to share words of contemplation.

**13** - "James Luther Adams and The Free Church" James McIntosh, a member of the UU Fellowship of Marion County, will encourage us to think about our UU heritage.

**20** - "It Matters What We Believe" Gladys Becker, our program chairperson and 50+ year UUer, will present thoughts on our liberal religious outlook.

**27** - "Free Faith Yom Kipper Service" Rev. Roger Seidner reminds us to reflect on our lives in the past year as our Jewish friends do at the time of their High Holy Days. Come, explore and bring a covered dish to share.

Our monthly potluck lunch follows this service. We welcome all to stay and enjoy the fellowship.

The Adult Discussions continue during the year. Beginning September 6 the discussions are from 9:45 to 10:45 AM. We need leaders so be sure to sign up with Bob Young.

The **UU Congregation of Lake County** meets Sundays at the Woman's Club of Eustis, 227 N. Center Street, Eustis, FL.

Adult Forum, with Bob Young is at 9:45 a.m.  
Church Service begins at 11 a.m.

**Note:** Rev. Seidner is available to respond to calls for pastoral care in crisis situations. If you or someone you know has a need, feel free to call him at 407-905-5767.

## Power of Positive Meditating

Please pass along this to the UU'ers who helped me this past spring.

The prison meditation program is in its 6th week of an 8-week cycle and it is going very well. The prison is asked me to offer a similar class to the correctional officers and clerical staff of the prison. That will be another first. It will probably run from early September thru October.

They also want another offering in spring 2010. I am grateful for the help received at UU Eustis. It is really paying off.

Best to Gladys and all.

...Steve Collins

## UUCLC Book Group...

The Book Group, consisting of Ted & Eleanor Fessler, Ruth Gray, Robyn Kelly, Wayne & Pat Linfield, and Marilyn Steingart, met at the Steingart's house on June 11th. We finished discussing Robert Spencer's book "THE TRUTH ABOUT MUHAMMAD" and chose "THE JESUS MYSTERIES" by Timothy Freke as our next selection. We will wrap up that book at our next meeting on Wednesday, September 16, at 3:00 p.m. at Wayne & Pat Linfield's. All are welcome. Feel free to call for directions if you need them. (352-315-0203) If you are still looking for a good end-of-summer read, may I suggest one of the following:

"One Second After" by William Forstchen  
"Jesus, Interrupted" by Bart Ehrman  
"Liberty and Tyranny" by Mark Levin  
"Common Sense" by Glenn Beck

...Robyn Kelly

## UUCLC Information & Contacts

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## Message from our Consulting Minister

A summer's break gives us time to reflect and look ahead. I am ever reminded of the faithfulness of this congregation as so many take part in the multitude of tasks essential to any ongoing effort. You have - you are - you will be faithful to the task. I appreciate being able to share with you in this ministry.

As we look ahead to fall and winter, many opportunities are before us. Our open, liberal atmosphere that respects the worth and dignity of all is a treasure! Treasures should be shared, not hoarded! You are in contact each week with people who have become disillusioned with traditional faith communities. Their lives would be changed and enriched if they could be introduced to our circle! Perhaps the goal each of us should adopt is to invite at least one person each month to share our services. If we value our faith community, we should share

## September Birthdays

Phyllis Gillette, September 9  
Joyce Littlefield, September 15  
Bob Sanford, September 21  
Sue Wicklund, September 21

## COMMITMENT DRIVE!

COMING IN NOVEMBER!

This year, UUCLC will be expanding the annual pledge drive asking not only for financial support of our congregation but also for commitment to our Unitarian Universalist purposes and goals.

Because commitment and involvement are core components of our UU beliefs, we will attempt to address these segments during the month of November. We'll ask people to re-affirm their support for the purposes of Unitarian Universalism as well as pledge financial support for our programs. We're expecting 100% participation from the membership, and we'll measure progress towards that goal throughout the month. The drive will begin with a Commitment Event service on November 8<sup>th</sup> and will end with a Success Luncheon on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

More information on the Commitment Drive will be in the October and November issues of The Communicator.

...Pat Linfield  
Marilyn Steingart  
Ruth Gray

## Passings

Margery Chadwick, Bill's wife, who is not a member of our congregation, passed away July 22. Bill went to Wisconsin with his son for her burial there.

Ruth Latimer, a member of our congregation since 2000, died on Sunday morning, August 9. A memorial service was held at Waterman Village, Mt. Dora, Fl. on August 28 with Rev. Roger Seidner officiating.

## UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS

Joan Lund, September 2009

In Tampa we have the good fortune of having Ron Hammerle as a friend. He has done much research on mega-churches, including attending Sunday services at several of them. He has come to a number of conclusions about what is universal with all of them and may be useful to us as we work to

welcome guests and grow. This month I share some of Ron's findings. Thank you, Ron.

The single most effective step in growing a congregation is to bring a friend to church for either a topical interest group or a planned service. Mega churches are comprised and sustained by small, special interest groups. These small groups serve as leadership training places as well as provide fellowship. Most guests who become members do so because of their participation in small groups, rather than attendance at the regular service. Hymnals are not used; the words are projected on a screen and state of the art sound and video is present. The choirs of these churches consist of talented, well-prepared, semi-professional singers who are dressed casually. These churches feature contemporary, upbeat, melodic music and they use contemporary musical instruments, specifically not an organ. Although there is emphasis on making guests feel welcome it is not overdone...no proselytizing.

From Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Church*, which perhaps many of you have read, Ron has gleaned pearls of wisdom. It is important in leadership to be able to distinguish what is essential and what is not. In Warren's church each first-time guest receives a welcoming letter and an enclosed pre-paid postcard which contains three questions: 1) What did you notice first? 2) What did you like best? 3) What did you like least? Nearly 90% of the thousands responses to the first question received say the guest noticed the warmth and friendliness of the people. In addition Warren believes the church can drain the life out of people by committee work. There are no committees in his church, just different lay ministries. He says the difference is committees discuss it, ministries do it; committees talk and consider, ministries serve and care; committees discuss needs, ministries meet needs.

I visited one "mega-church" in August, Without Walls International in Tampa, totally devoted to the love and gospel of Jesus, led by a dynamic, charismatic woman. But the atmosphere was more like what I know of early evangelical revivals so perhaps attendance at another "more representative" church is in order. According to Ron, who also attended that Sunday, WWI is not a good representative mega-church. To be sure I learned little; it was loud, the congregants

wandered in and out as the "spirit" moved them, and I observed no encouragement from the pulpit for congregants to think or question.

I wish all of you in our Florida congregations a good and meaningful year as you pursue excellence and your work in social justice. You can reach me at [jlund@uua.org](mailto:jlund@uua.org) or 813-931-9727. I look forward to hearing from you.

### From the Program Chair

I have entered into a speaker exchange program with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Marion County, with the approval of our Program Committee.

Doug Worthington of UUFMC proposed this exchange. He has given me a list of 5 names of their members with their message topics and a brief biography of each person. Four of our members have volunteered to speak there. They are Steve Collins, Robyn Kelly, Franklin Pennington and Bob Young.

The hosting congregation pays the visiting speaker only the round trip mileage involved. Robyn Kelly has already spoken there and enjoyed the opportunity and experience very much. UUFMC meets in their new building in Summerfield at 7280 SE 135th St. with a congregation larger than ours. In the fall two of their speakers will be coming to us.

...Gladys Becker

### Zen for those who take life too seriously...

1. Save the whales. Collect the whole set.
2. A day without sunshine is like, night.
3. On the other hand, you have different fingers.
4. I just got lost in thought. It wasn't familiar territory.
5. 42.7 percent of all statistics are made up on the spot.
6. 99 percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
7. I feel like I'm diagonally parked in a parallel universe.
8. Honk if you love peace and quiet.
9. Remember, half the people you know are below average.
10. He who laughs last, thinks slowest.

...Robyn Kelly