

Unitarian Universalist Congregation



Ormond Beach

REV. LYN'S PLUMB LINE



Well, according to our calendars, spring has sprung, even in this nearly tropical paradise in which we are living. To this former New Englander's eyes, I see subtle signs of our flora responding to this call of the season. Some trees have both recently shed their old leaves and are now budding with new greenery. Azaleas are blooming and other flora are responding to the sun's growing strength. I even got a bit of sunburn the other day from just a short walk on the beach.

Spring is the season of hope, and I know your hopes must be high for your future right now. How can you best ensure a successful search process for a new minister? What will it be like with a new ministry to work out between you and whoever the new minister will be? How can you form a good relationship with a new spiritual leader? Hope that all these questions can be answered in a self-assured manner, with confidence and calmness. Hope that all goes well among you all as well

Well, I have seen you do very well these last few months, both with each other and with preparing for your future. I have seen the results of our March 6 workshop on creating a healthy congregation and it was quite impressive! Some of the ideas you voiced at that time can be helpful to keep in mind, I feel, during the next couple of months in particular as you finalize choosing your next minister.

Some of these ideas involve practicing good communication, with active listening and being careful of assumptions. Such as being responsible participants in the life of the congregation, which means showing up to meet the candidate so you can better make an informed vote. Such as maintaining an open and respectful and receptive mind in the midst of different beliefs and opinions other than your own. Such as supporting one another, especially your hard-working Search Team and other congregational leaders.

I have every certitude that you can do this and all will go well for you. And, I hope you feel the same. You have every right to. You are the ones that came up with all those ideas. Now it's time to walk that talk.

In faith and affection,

Rev. Lyn Plumb

UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

March 27— Rev. Lyn Plumb and Deb Hanson, Easter Intergenerational Service

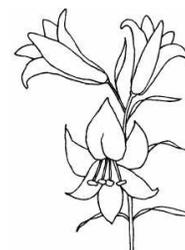
Let us celebrate this joyous holiday with song and readings, and participatory opportunities that bring together all our generations.

Service Leader: Chris Ringue

April 3— Flower Communion— Please Bring a Flower to Share

Here in Central Florida, spring already is in full bloom, and to celebrate the season, we'll hold our annual Flower Communion service, led by Ellen Nielsen, on Sunday, April 3. This service will celebrate the life of Norbert Čápek, who founded the Unitarian movement in Czechoslovakia. It will include special music by Martha Brandt, Brian Bielick, and Aanya Attri.

Service Leader: Patty Alsobrook



April 10—Rev. Lyn Plumb and Search Team— “Preparing for Our Ministerial Candidate”

As the time approaches for the arrival of this congregation’s final ministerial candidate, how can we best prepare ourselves to be in an open and welcoming mindset, both hopeful and confident, discerning and embracing, for the congregation’s future? We’ll have time for a panel discussion on this topic as well.

Service Leader: Cliff Jackson

April 17—Rev. Lyn Plum and CUUPS—“Celebrating Earth Day”

More than ever, we all need to both celebrate and be involved in the caring of our earth’s health and wellbeing. Our stalwart CUUPS group will raise our spirits and there will be readings— and singing.

Come and be inspired and renewed in this special Sunday service.

Service Leader: Gaia Davies

April 24— "Our Fifth Principle—Celebrating Our Democratic Process"

Let us take some time to affirm and celebrate "the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process" as we prepare to make decisions that will affect our congregation for the next year. This service will be shorter than usual, to allow us to begin our Annual Meeting by 11:30.

Service Leader: Denise Carter

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE— Focus on the Future

There’s much too much past to dwell on or relive. Our past may be prologue, but not necessarily our destiny. We become what we believe in and act on, not merely what we think and wish.

Some cycles seem essentially uncontrollable, beyond our intervention, but even then **they are** susceptible to change since we are a part of them and contribute to their reality. Progress requires intentional thinking, creating and considering options, making choices and commitments. Thinking and acting in community nurtures creativity, **as it** strengthens relationships, builds trust, and gets desired things done.

We are initiating a new cycle in our existence as a religious community, **anticipating a new**, settled minister, **electing** new Board of Trustees members, and **developing** new program initiatives. I urge that you actively engage in building a vibrant future for our ideals and our congregation. **You can begin to help build that future by attending and participating in the annual congregational meeting on April 24th.**

--Bill Ternent

SHOES THAT FIT—Our Share-the-Plate Partner for April 17th

Since 2006, our UU has provided new shoes and socks for school-aged children in Volusia County. This year we will purchase new footwear for the teenagers who live in Brian’s House and Destiny House, both facilities run by the Children’s Home Society of Volusia County. These teenaged girls and boys have been taken out of their own homes for their safety. Living at Brian or Destiny offers them a sense of security and stability.

The social workers at the two facilities will measure feet with the device we have provided. Each teen’s name, size, age and gender are then given to the Alliance, and our members purchase the new shoes and socks for them. Shoes-That-Fit is uniquely efficient and effective in helping kids improve their self-esteem and fit in at school by eliminating one of poverty’s most visible and debilitating marks. So on Sunday, April 17th please remember to bring your generous contribution. Many thanks!

–Joyce Nelson

OUR MINISTERIAL SEARCH — April Update

The work of your Ministerial Search continues, with all our team members actively engaged in the process: Rhonilee Bachschmidt, Cliff Jackson, Evan Rivers, Renny Roker, Joan Thate, Teresa Webb, and Carolyn West. We have carefully reviewed applications and gone through the pre-candidating process with three ministers who are interested in serving our UU. We have selected the individual who we think would be the very best fit for our congregation.

On April 7th —the date in the UUA process that we can make an offer—we hope the candidate will accept our invitation for Candidating Week. We will share information about her in the May Jotter and through other venues. We encourage all our UU members to get to know her during Candidating Week, possibly the first week in May if she is available to visit us then. We'll keep you informed about the dates that she will be with us — time for us to become well-acquainted. You will have a chance to attend or even host a dinner or luncheon with others to get to know her. She will attend committee and Board meetings as well.

On April 10th we are dedicating the Sunday service to informing you about the Ministerial Search Process. At this time, the process shifts from the search team to the congregation. Rev. Lyn and the search team will be available for information, questions and answers in order make a smooth transition in this exciting time.

As many of you know, the UUA suggests that a new minister needs at least 90% support of the congregation to thrive. With that high standard in mind, your search team has reached a consensus —where all seven of us agree on the candidate who is the best fit for our UU. Seeking the best minister for our congregation certainly has been a unifying process for our search team. We hope it will unite our congregation as well.

--Your Ministerial Search Team

THE PLEDGE CAMPAIGN—a Note from Our Treasurer

Many people have asked me how our pledge drive is going, and/or have asked for some guidance on pledging for the coming fiscal year. Maybe the best way to answer is to look at our current year's pledges first. Our pledges for 2015-2016 ranged from \$20 all the way to \$12,000. During the last pledge drive, we had 88 active pledgers, and our average pledge was \$1,402. We appreciate and need the support of ALL our pledgers. We could not have a sustainable congregation without YOU.



Now let's look at the coming year, which starts on May 1, only six weeks away. We have 48 pledges in thus far, from over 100 mailed out. Compared to this past year, some have increased their pledges from 10% to as much as tripled, some have stayed the same, and a very few have decreased for very understandable reasons. However, making a pledge—whatever the amount—means you're making a commitment to our congregation. Pledges make it possible for us then to develop a reliable budget for the coming year to cover the costs of sustaining our UU.

As to goals: We are trying to fulfill a program proposal that is increased almost 20% over this year's budget, which means, obviously, that an increase of 20% in our total pledged amount would cover that nicely. We know that not everyone can do that, but some will do more, and as mentioned before, we also know that some pledges will have to be decreased for unavoidable and very real reasons. But whatever your circumstances or the amount of your pledge for next year, we appreciate ALL our pledgers. It's an exciting time as we contemplate having a permanent minister at last! And YOU are the lifeblood of your congregation. THANK YOU!

--Bob Owens, Treasurer

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE— a Great Motivator for Spring Cleaning!!

The UU spring rummage sale will take place on **April 15 & 16**. Now is the time to plan for the items you will donate. Drop them off at UU on **Thursday, April 14**, between 8 am to 4 pm if possible. Please be sure that your items are clean and in good condition, with suggested prices if you can determine them. We need many volunteers all that day to help with unloading, sorting and pricing. Jewelry can be brought in sooner, for help with pricing. Donation receipt forms will be available for you to fill out. If you need help getting your donated items to the UU building or advice about storing them with a fellow UU until April 14, call Cliff Jackson at 677-7687 or e-mail: reelseeker@aol.com

We also need extra card tables or long tables if you can loan them. Please bring them Thursday, April 14th and mark them with masking tape underneath that says "not for sale" and your name. Volunteers are especially needed for helping at the sale on Friday and Saturday, from 8 am to 2 pm on those days. Cleanup of our sanctuary is also important later on Saturday afternoon. We especially need physically strong helpers to get leftover items ready for removal on Saturday afternoon. Please sign up for part or all of any of the three days, using the sign-up sheet on the back table. We usually bring our own lunches, and we usually bring extra to share with each other.

ALLIANCE NEWS—Our Private Oasis

The Alliance is busy getting ready for our second annual Easter Brunch, following the service on March 27th. Many of our members are working hard to provide a festive meal that day. The Alliance voted to buy new outdoor chairs for our deck at UU, and twelve new chairs will be delivered in time for the Easter Brunch. Many groups of people enjoy sitting out on our beautiful private oasis overlooking the hammock, and we hope that all will enjoy many happy hours of tranquil time in our new comfy chairs.

Due to the rummage sale during the second week of April, our next meeting has been cancelled. We are planning a "meet and greet" event when our new ministerial candidate spends a week with our congregation, likely during the first part of May. We will have a light lunch and give members the opportunity to meet the candidate during a leisurely and informal gathering. The Alliance is always looking for new members! Please come to our next meeting and join in on the fellowship and fun.

--Jeanne Young

FOCUS ON FAITH—"We Are Family"

Wow! This year the FAITH Action Assembly at Bethune Cookman University drew over 1,300 people, with many from our UU congregation in attendance. Our own UU choir led the program with two wonderful selections. Choir director extraordinaire Dan Kerr led the choir in two perfect selections: *Uma Familia* ("We Are Family") and "Make Them Hear You."



The Justice Ministry Celebration Banquet is the next and last big FAITH event until this fall. Join us on Monday, April 25 at 6:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church at 4675 S. Clyde Morris Blvd, Port Orange. This year is the 15th Anniversary of the Celebration Banquet. Because dinner will be served, you need to RSVP no later than April 10 by calling (386) 238-7060 or e-mail (faithorgsec@gmail.com) for reservations.

Healthcare Initiative: At the Action Assembly, Halifax Health Chief Revenue Officer Arvin Lewis agreed to improve access to the Community Clinic as well as improve signage for the clinic, parking lot, and also the ER. The hospital will also simplify links to the Clinic on the Halifax Hospital website. Lewis also committed Halifax to educating hospital staff about the purpose of the Clinic and its location. He also committed the hospital marketing department to informing residents in the 32114 zip code about the free clinic as an alternative to the emergency room. Halifax also agreed to increase access to mental and behavioral health services. Members of the FAITH Healthcare Committee will meet with Halifax officials again within 30 days.

Homeless Initiative: Catholic Charities is a new player in planning for the 250 bed, countywide homeless assistance center that would centralize services and assist the homeless in gaining permanent housing. Catholic Charities of Central Florida Executive Director Gary Testor said his agency would take the lead in operating the shelter, writing grants and fundraising. They join a long list of health service providers, including Halifax Urban Ministries, Stewart-Marchman-Act and Halifax Health. Funding commitments for the shelter included three members of the Volusia County Council re-affirming their promise of the land, building costs and adding to that, a total of \$400,000 annually toward operating costs, thereby echoing the commitment by Daytona Beach City Council of up to \$400,000 in operating costs annually for five years. Orange City Mayor Tom Laputka and Daytona Beach Shores Councilmen Wheeler and Geiger committed their support. Ormond Beach Mayor Ed Kelly discussed a contribution of \$100,000 per year and said that he is committed to seeing that happen. The mayor of DeLand made no commitment. Nobody said “moving mountains” was easy!

Civil Citations/Juvenile Justice Initiative: All three Volusia Criminal Justice State Representatives attended the Action Assembly—David Santiago, Dwayne Taylor and Fred Costello committed to continue supporting efforts to pass legislation at the state level allowing equal access to civil citations. They support legislation that would make civil citations mandatory for minors who commit non-violent, misdemeanor offenses. Under current law, civil citations are only available at the discretion of the police but not mandatory, resulting in the law being unevenly applied.

--Leigh S. Montgomery

LIFE LONG LEARNING—Logic in Real Life

All events are part of the Life Long Learning program at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation located at 56 North Halifax, Ormond Beach. These programs are free and open to the public. Join us on Wednesday afternoons from **4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

April 13: Dr. Reinhold Schlieper, "The Practical Application of Ethics"

Dr. Schlieper recently retired from teaching at various institutions of higher learning, including Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. Dr. Schlieper has a strong interest in the practical application of ethical principles to real life situations. After a brief presentation on theoretical concepts, the focus will be on examining a realistic case study. Audience participation will be an important part of the program.

April 27: Dr. Thomas Hilburn, "The Constitution, Language and Meaning"

Dr. Thomas Hilburn is a Professor Emeritus of Software Engineering at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and was a Visiting Scientist at the Software Engineering Institute, Carnegie-Mellon from 1997-2009. In addition to teaching mathematics, computer science and software engineering, he has worked on software engineering development and research projects around the U.S. Dr. Hilburn's talk—"The Constitution, Language and Meaning"—will explore the language of the Constitution, its interpretation by legal scholars and the public, as well as the impact of Supreme Court. A lively discussion will follow—especially of how the meaning of certain parts of the Constitution have evolved and extended the original intent of the authors.

--Joan Thate

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT—Elections Coming April 24th

The upcoming UUCOB Annual Meeting will take place on April 24, and the election of our new Board Members will be one of the main orders of business. The 2016 Nomination Committee has selected a slate for our Board of Trustees for the 2016-2017 year. For officers, the slate includes President—Joan Thate; Vice President—Ann Matteson; Secretary—Julia Sarver Hilburn; Treasurer—Bob Owens.

In addition to the officers, nominations for Trustees are Phil Elliott, John Horner, Shelia McMahon, Evan Rivers and Barbara Sandberg.

For the 2017 Nominating Committee, the slate includes - Judy Gordon, Leigh Montgomery, Kim Parks, Linda Sanders and Jean Scott. At the Annual Meeting, members may make further nominations.

--Rita Sheeler

NOTES FROM THE BACKROOM—Love Surrounds All of Us

Newness is in the air, and we are enjoying our new curriculum—"Love Connects Us"—which is available through the UUA's children's religious education program *Tapestry of Faith*. It is always a challenge to provide a program that reaches all our age groups, so a fair amount of tweaking is needed, but love conquers all. I really like how this material focuses on self-love as well as love for others since self-esteem issues are so important to our teen/tweens.

Soon our kids will be writing their own affirmations—aspects of themselves that they like, and then they will write all the good things they can say about each other. We've had some lively discussions about how to show love in the things we do. Our group card for Rev. Lyn brought out an outpouring of loving creativity. We look forward to working on a project expressing love for our planet to coincide with Earth Day. In all our activities, we emphasize their connections to UU principles.

Another big project was the Intergenerational Service for Easter. We have put much care into writing, rehearsing, and presenting the play "The Country Bunny" taken from a famous book by DuBose Heyward. In it, a country girl bunny develops all the skills she needs to be the Easter Bunny through devotion to her family. It is an early feminist statement as she never gives up her goal despite ridicule from the big Jackrabbits. We hope you had as much fun watching as we have had preparing. Happy Earth Day!



--Debbie Hanson

OUR CONTRIBUTIONS—"Guest at Your Table"

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee has received our congregation's contribution to their fundraising program at our holiday season. We all can be proud that as a congregation we sent them \$ 740.14!!!

Thank you to all the individuals in our congregation who contributed generously to this worthy cause! The UUSC appreciates all we can do for their worthy endeavors, and has sent us a thank you letter which said in part:

"Thank you for sharing UUSC's dedication to protecting the world's most vulnerable and delivering peace, justice and dignity to tens of thousands of people around the world."

--Rev. Lyn

April 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Friday Potluck 6-8:30 pm	2 Geho Gold 10 am-noon Pathways of Light Benefit 10 am-4 pm Reserve/Kennedy 10 am-2pm Subud Mtg: 6-9 pm
3 Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am Tai Chi: 4-5 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	4 Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm	5 Crafts Group: noon -2 pm Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	6 Piano lessons: 2:30- 6:30 pm Choir rehearsal: 6-7:30 pm CUUPS: 7-9 pm	7 Caring Mtg. 10-11 am Spiritual Growth: 4:30-6 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	8	9
10 Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am Tai Chi: 4-5 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	11 Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm	12 Writers Group: 10 am –noon Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	13 Worship Mtg.: 11 am-noon Piano lessons: 2:30- 6:30 pm Life Long Learning: 4-5:30 pm Choir rehearsal: 6-7:30 pm	14 Rummage Sale set-up: 8 am-4 pm Finance Mtg: noon-2 pm Spiritual Growth: 4:30-6 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	15 RUMMAGE SALE: 8 am-2 pm Exploring Metaphysics: 6-7 pm	16 RUMMAGE SALE: 8 am-2 pm Subud Mtg: 6-9 pm
17 Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am Recital: 3-5 pm Tai Chi: 4-5 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	18 Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm	19 Crafts Group: noon -2 pm Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	20 Piano lessons: 2:30- 6:30 pm Choir rehearsal: 6-7:30 pm CUUPS: 7-9 pm Jotter articles due	21 Membership Mtg: 2:30-4 pm Spiritual Growth: 4:30-6 pm Board of Trustees Mtg: 5-7 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	22 Dancing Kirtan: 7-9 pm	23
24 Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: 11:30 am-1:30 pm Tai Chi: 4-5 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	25 Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm	26 Writers Group: 10 am –noon Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	27 Piano lessons: 2:30-:6:45 pm Life Long Learning: 4-5:30 pm Choir rehearsal: 6-7:30 pm	28 Spiritual Growth: 4:30-6 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	29	30 WORK DAY: 9 am-noon Join us and help make our UU shine!

Upcoming Pulpit Presentations

Date:	Topic:	Presenter:	Service Leader:
March 27—	Easter Intergenerational Service	--Rev. Lyn Plumb/Deb Hanson	--Chris Ringue
April 3—	Flower Communion	--Ellen Nielsen	--Patty Alsobrook
April 10—	Preparing for Our Ministerial Candidate New Member Welcome Ceremony at the end of the service	--Rev. Lyn Plumb/Search Team	-- Cliff Jackson
April 17—	Earth Day Celebration Special Offering: Share-the-Plate with Shoes that Fit "Good Egg Award" at the end of the service	--Rev. Lyn Plumb & Others	--Gaia Davies
April 24—	Our Fifth Principle Congregational annual meeting will follow shortened service	--Congregation Participates	--Denise Carter

April Birthdays



The Jotter

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Ormond Beach

April 2016

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 Children's' RE on Sunday 10:15 -11:45 a.m.
 Discussion Group meets Sunday at 9:15 a.m.

Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.