

Unitarian Universalist Congregation



Ormond Beach

REV. LYN'S PLUMB LINE

From all of my time with you, I have heard many musings about how people feel about this congregation, about its people and about how they interact with one another. These musings run the gamut of feelings and experiences here, with a variety of thought and opinion. From listening to them all, I am led to ask some questions of you. Yes, it is most important that I hear what you all have to say in answer to these questions so that I may better serve you, and those ministers following me can do the same. But, much more important is talking to each other, so that you all may ponder how you can be of better service to each other.



Such discussions with one another point the way to self-realization. First and foremost, this self-realization leads us to appreciate all the great things people are doing in this congregation to make it a healthy one, all the aspects of our congregational life that inspire us and make us glad to be here. But also, to perhaps contemplate ways that improvement could be considered and implemented. Our congregation, indeed any community, is never a stagnant thing. It is always growing and changing, morphing and shifting, amending and modifying. And thus, there is always room to consider just how we may wish all this movement to either be of service to us, beneficial to us - or not.

So, here are some questions I invite you to ponder:

- What constitutes a healthy, vibrant congregation?
- How do our various programs figure into such a vibrant congregation?
- How do our interactions with each other figure into such a healthy congregation?
- What responsibilities do each of us have to help create and/or maintain such a congregation?

These questions are not easily answered and often require much thought, much time to ponder and sift through. They are questions that are best answered together, listening to how others think and feel, drinking that in and being open to what that may mean for us both as individuals, but more importantly, as a congregation, as a whole entity.

To address these questions, , we are setting aside time for us to at least begin to ask and answer these questions of each other. **On Sunday, March 6**, after the service and a quick lunch provided by our stalwart Alliance, all of you are invited to participate in a discussion around such questions mentioned here. It is essential that we all hear from each other. Such discussions, and any determination of what to do with the outcomes of them, need your input for it to be truly of the people, by the people and for the people. Consider this time to be the beginning of a process that can ultimately be beneficial for your future, especially as you ready yourselves to receive a new settled minister hopefully this summer.

So – please reserve this date on your calendars – and be there, both for your sake and the sake of the beloved congregation.

In hope and love,
--Rev. Lyn

UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

January 31 – Kurtland Davies, “Beyond Stewardship”

This service calls us back to a time in our history when we were in kinship with each other and nature.

Service Leader: Gaia Davies

February 7— Rev. Lyn Plumb, “The Pursuit of Happiness”

Just what does this mean, first mentioned in our founding fathers’ Declaration of Independence? What may it mean for us now, over two hundred years later? Rev. Lyn will explore various meanings and understandings of this rather elusive but persistent pursuit.

Service Leader: Denise Carter

February 14—Rev. Lyn Plumb, “Love and St. Valentine”

In honor of St. Valentine’s Day, we will delve into the life and times of this saint, raising up what the meaning his life has morphed into, and how it may be pertinent to our concept of love and caring for us personally and collectively today.

Service Leader: Linda Kalaydjian

February 21—Dan Gribbin, “The Meaning of a Life”

We aspire to find meaning in our lives, but what, exactly, are the factors that contribute to a meaningful life for each of us? To answer that question, I draw upon my own experience of my grandmother's life and upon the life of a man who spent seven years in solitary confinement, where he did discover the direction for a meaningful life. Viktor Frankl's notion of three approaches to meaning lies at the heart of this talk.

Service Leader: Ellen Nielsen

February 28—Rev. Lyn Plumb, “The Individual AND the Common Good”

We tend to be a people of individualistic inclinations, or so say many pundits. What does this inclination mean for the common good of all, of placing the well-being of the whole in highest esteem? Can we consider how to meld the two into a harmonious whole?

Service Leader: Phil Elliott

March 6— Rev. Lyn Plumb, “Creating a Healthy Congregation”

What goes into forming and maintaining a healthy, vibrant congregation that all can be proud to call their own beloved community? Rev. Lyn will “prime the pump,” as it were, to lead into the formal discussion of the various nuances to answering this question that will follow after the service. All are invited to be there, be heard, and to hear what others have to say on the topic.

Service Leader: Chris Gruner

Discussion follows the service: 12:15 - 1:45 pm: “How can we create and maintain a healthy congregation?”

STEWARDSHIP CANVASS DINNER—Get in the Mood on February 26th

How better to get “in the mood” for our upcoming Stewardship Canvass than an evening of food, fun, and fellowship? Join your fellow members and friends at 6:00 PM on Friday, **February 26th** for the Stewardship Canvass Kickoff Dinner. It’s not “pot luck”, so no need to bring food or beverages. We’ll have a cash bar, music, and entertainment. Please let us know that you’re attending so we can plan for enough food, etc. The sign-up sheet is in the back of the sanctuary, so add your name after the Sunday service. Thanks!

--The Stewardship Canvass Committee

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE--We Get By With a Little Help From Our Members and Friends

Beyond our Minister and some part-time assistance to deal with some ongoing necessities, as a small congregation, we are absolutely dependent for most of what happens here on the expressions of love and caring for one another. Our members and friends volunteering to do hundreds of small and large tasks is what makes us hum. And, as is frequently the case, we can use a little help. Here are some opportunities to volunteer you might like to consider.

1. The Annual Valentine Dinner party is getting underway. Contact me (386-615-4616) if you'd like to help set up for the event, decorate, plan the event, help with food preparation, serve dinner, greet guests, sell tickets, etc. The date of the event is Friday, February 12.
2. Soon the Nominating Committee for the Board will begin their work seeking those interested in serving as Officers or trustees for our congregation for our coming church year, which begins May 1st. When you hear their announcement, let them know if you are interested in serving.
3. Our Hospitality Committee has frequent opportunities for those who like to extend a warm reception to members and guests. See Rhonilee Bachschmidt (386-212-6144)
4. The Alliance is involved in activities throughout the year and welcomes new members. See Jeanne Young or give her a call. (386-366-2685)
5. Building and Grounds Committee has many small and large tasks that offer opportunities for helping keep our facilities functioning, clean and welcoming. See Peter Remington. (386-677-2976)
6. Our treasurer Bob Owens is seeking a person interested in working with him as an assistant Treasurer. Give Bob a call. (310-892-0280)
7. Like welcoming new folks? You might enjoy helping the Membership Committee. See Marilou McKemie or Judy Gordon. (682-4251 Marilou) (441-4586 Judy)
8. Like helping folks over the rough spots? The Caring Committee could be the place for you. Talk with Joyce Nelson. (441-1248)

In short, there are lots of opportunities for you to make a difference. Stay tuned. Thanks for your presence among us and all you do for others.

--Bill



BE MY VALENTINE! --Special Dinner for Sweethearts

Be sure to make your reservations for Friday, February 12th our 2016 Valentine Dinner Party. Instead of our usual first Friday potluck, we're having a special dinner to celebrate all of our sweethearts—that's YOU, of course! You can sign up after Sunday services, or e-mail Bill Ternent to make a reservation. The cost is \$22 per person, but that includes the works—snacks, main course, salad, wine or beer and dessert. Some of our volunteers will serve as cooks and bar tenders. The menu includes a delicious choice of *entrées*: Roast Beef, Salmon or a vegetarian choice --Portobello Mushroom. We'll begin with some special *hors d'oeuvres* at 5:30 and end the evening with even more special entertainment.

SHARE THE PLATE: Deliver a Difference

The Meals-on-Wheels program delivers hot food and big smiles. Once a day, Monday through Friday, a nutritious and tasty hot meal can ensure that many of our senior citizens are getting proper nutrition. While the specially trained Meals-on-Wheels volunteers are delivering the hot lunches, they can also "check on" a family's loved ones and bring them a friendly smile that brightens their day.



The Meals on Wheels program in Volusia County is an economical way to ensure that our elderly citizens are getting vital nutrition – every day. Serving over 260,000 meals annually, Volusia's Council on Aging has pioneered home delivered meal services and continues to set the bar for quality and safety in Northeast Florida. Not only must the program meet its own high standards, but also must adhere to strict governmental regulations. The program's nutritionally balanced meals are always packed in especially designed, heated carriers and delivered in less than 40 minutes to ensure a safe 140° to 160°F temperature.

On Sunday, February 21st our UU congregation will "share the plate" for the fifth time with Meals on Wheels. Please be generous in assisting our seniors to better nutrition and in helping them to stay in their homes. All of our Share-the-Plate funds will stay in the Ormond Beach community for our seniors.

OUR MINISTERIAL SEARCH — February Update

The work of your Ministerial Search Committee is moving along well. We are a wonderfully varied team that reflects well the diversity of our congregation, including Rhonilee Bachschmidt, Cliff Jackson, Evan Rivers, Renny Roker, Joan Thate, Teresa Webb, and Carolyn West. The hard work of writing and revising our Congregational Record and our Information Packet has paid off in our receiving applications from five ministers who are interested in our congregation. We have conducted video interviews with all five ministers through Skype. We have four candidates that we really want to get to know better in order to choose which one is the very best fit for our congregation.

Unlike most of our congregational decisions, where a simple majority is all that is needed, the choice of a called minister has a much higher standard. 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 is working toward consensus—where all seven of us agree on the candidate who is the best fit for our UU. I am confident of two points:

- 1) If we bring a candidate to the congregation, he or she will be the minister that we all agree has a very good possibility of meeting that 90% support.
- 2) If we cannot all agree on a minister or we don't think any of the candidates will meet the 90% support, we will recommend that the congregation begin the search process all over again.

One final reminder is that when our team selects and presents a final candidate to the congregation, there is no one else in the batter's box. That candidate will be all or nothing (at least in this search process cycle). However, 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.

--Cliff Jackson, Search Team Chair

THE ALLIANCE—Soup Lunch in the Works!

The Alliance has scheduled a soup luncheon for February 7th after the Sunday morning service. The menu will include chicken soup, ham-and-bean soup, a cold yogurt soup, and a veggie soup. Bread and dessert will be included, and the price for all of this is just \$5.00 per person. It will be a perfect time to get together and chat with your fellow UU's. We are looking forward to seeing you there, and all proceeds will go to Family Renew.

We received the sad news that Lynn Kaser, a graduate of the Family Renew program, died a few weeks ago. She leaves behind her husband and two young daughters. This family lived in our unit at the shelter until they were able to graduate into a Habitat for Humanity home a few years ago. Alliance members voted to help the Kaser family with gift cards from Publix to help them through this difficult time. After Christmas, 320 new pairs of socks were donated to the Domestic Abuse Shelter in Daytona Beach. Our holiday sock tree was beautiful, and many needy people will enjoy sporting colorful and warm socks during this winter season. Thank you all for making this fundraising event such a success!

Several purchases we are planning will improve things at our UU, including buying new chairs for the deck. The ones that are out there now are rusting and some of the cloth chairs are torn. We are looking at prices and different styles and hope to order them after our next meeting. As another improvement, we are considering adding some new silk flowers to our collection, especially ones that will help celebrate different holidays. And lastly we need to buy some new tablecloths. Alliance members will shop this month and report back so we can make decisions on what to buy.

The David Roth concert was a big success! The Alliance provided drinks and refreshments during the concert. Thanks to Dan Gribbin for bringing this loving and gifted folksinger to Ormond Beach. It's wonderful fun like that that our Alliance helps to support, so feel free to attend our meetings on the second Thursday of each month at noon. We are always looking for new members, so please come join us!

--Jeanne Young, Alliance President

FOCUS ON F.A.I.T.H. —Volusia Safe Harbor

Volusia County's F.A.I.T.H. organization held candlelight vigils on the steps of city halls from Daytona to New Smyrna and Port Orange. Members gave presentations to city council members and are working hard behind the scenes to inform, educate and yes, pressure, public officials and staff to approve annual funding and begin breaking ground on construction for Volusia Safe Harbor, a transitional shelter for the homeless that would provide not only a meal and a bed for cold nights, but also drug counseling and medical care as well as legal and employment services. The *Daytona Beach News-Journal* sponsored a public forum, drawing nearly 500 people who want to see this project go forward. We feel we are on the brink of a big win for the homeless.

In addition, F.A.I.T.H. (Fighting Against Injustice Toward Harmony) continues to work for changes in the criminal justice system as it relates to young people. Civil Citations, rather than criminal charges, are now available for juvenile misdemeanor offenses in several counties, including Volusia. However, more legislative action is underway to assure this program is applied equally throughout the state. Statewide last year nearly 12,000 young first-time offenders were eligible for civil rather than criminal prosecution, but they did not get access to the program. Thus they will carry a criminal record into adulthood. Remember that petition you were asked to sign last month after a UU Sunday service? Our legislators in Tallahassee received thousands of these petitions, resulting in their taking another look at the civil citation option. The Senate Criminal Justice Committee is working on SB 408: Juvenile Civil Citations, to be introduced to the full Senate shortly.

Thank you for the work you do for justice.

--Leigh Montgomery

LIFE LONG LEARNING: A Varied Program this Month

Wednesday, February 10, 2016, 4:00 – 5:30 pm— “Posthumous Writings of Mark Twain”

Skip Lowery, noted writer and photographer, has long been a scholar of Mark Twain’s life and work. His interpretations of Twain have included the writing of a play and numerous lectures and articles. In addition to his work on Twain, Lowery has been a high school teacher and college professor. His many articles, poems and photo-essays have been published in local and national magazines.



Saturday, February 27, 2016, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm— “Issues in K-12 Education”

Come to hear a distinguished panel of educators discussing such topics as: testing (e.g. grading schools, evaluating teachers, student retention in grade); vouchers and charter schools; Common Core curriculum; academic aptitude; and international models.

Panel members include Chris J. Colwell, Chair, Department of Education, Stetson University; Susan Garrison, Retired Public School Administrator; Tom Russell, Superintendent, Volusia County Schools; and Andrew Spar, President, Volusia Teachers Organization.

FLORIDA SPRING GATHERING—Where Do We Come From? Who Are We? Where Are We Going?

Join fellow UU’s from around the state at the Florida Spring Gathering **March 12, 2016**, at the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater for fun, networking, cooperative learning, and covenant! Feel free to stay over Saturday night and join the UU’s of Clearwater for worship on Sunday morning!

Connie Goodbread and Margie Manning will present the morning Keynote on Covenant. Lunch will be served before an afternoon of topical workshops. The closing worship will send participants on their way feeling connected and revitalized! Viewing of the Unitarian Universalist film series "Long, Strange Trip" is an optional evening activity. Workshops include the following:

- Natalie Briscoe - *From Principles to Partnerships: Relationships and the Path Forward*
- Rev. Carlton Elliott Smith - *The Shape of Justice*
- Rev. Kenneth G. Hurto - *The Zen of Stewardship: Minister to What You Love & the Money Will Follow*
- Maggie Lovins – *Introduction to Leadership as Spiritual Practice*

Regular registration (ends 21 February): \$50 for adults, and \$10 for youth (17 and under)

For more information see <http://www.uuasouthernregion.org/floridaspring2016.html>



WE WALK WITH HER— UUWomenspirit Spring Retreat

UUWomenspirit is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization that has hosted all-women retreats since 1987. The retreats emphasize and celebrate the

Divine Feminine in her many forms. The next retreat will be held on **May 11-15, 2016** at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center in Highlands, North Carolina. The event theme is We Walk With HER, as One, which will emphasize the connection to Mother Earth. For more information about UUWomenspirit, please visit their website at www.uuwomenspirit.org

February 2016

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| | 1 Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm | 2 Crafts Group: noon -2 pm Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm | 3 Piano lessons: 2:30- 6:45 pm Choir rehearsal: 6-7:30 pm CUUPS: 7-9 pm | 4 Caring Mtg.: 10 -11 am Canvass Mtg: 10 am-noon Spiritual Growth: 4:30-6 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm | 5 | 6 Canvasser Mtg: 10 am-noon Subud Mtg: 6-9 pm |
| 7 Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am Alliance Soup lunch noon-12:45 pm Tai Chi: 4-5 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm | 8 Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm | 9 Writers Group: 10 am –noon Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm | 10 Worship Mtg.: 11 am-noon Piano lessons: 2:30- 6:45 pm Life Long Learning: 4-5:30 pm Choir rehearsal: 6-7:30 pm | 11 Canvass Mtg: 10 am-noon Finance Mtg: 10:30-noon Alliance: noon-2 pm Spiritual Growth: 4:30-6 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm | 12 Valentine Dinner: 6-8:30 pm | 13 |
| 14 Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am Recital 2-5 pm Tai Chi: 4-5 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm | 15 Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm | 16 Crafts Group: noon -2 pm Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm | 17 Piano lessons: 2:30- 6:45 pm Choir rehearsal: 6-7:30 pm CUUPS: 7-9 pm | 18 Canvass Mtg: 10 am-noon Membership Mtg: 2:30- 4 pm Spiritual Growth: 4:30-6 pm Board of Trustees Mtg: 5-7 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm | 19 Exploring Metaphysics: 6-7 pm | 20 <i>Jotter</i> due date Geho Gold workshop 8 am-6 pm |
| 21 Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am Tai Chi: 4-5 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm | 22 Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm | 23 Writers Group: 10 am –noon Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm | 24 Piano lessons: 2:30-:6:45 pm Choir rehearsal 6-7:30 pm | 25 Canvass Mtg: 10 am-noon Spiritual Growth: 4:30-6 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm | 26 Canvass Kickoff Dinner: 6-8 pm | 27 Life Long Learning- Issues in Education 10 am-1 pm Canvasser Mtg: 10 am-noon Subud Mtg: 6-9 pm |
| 28 Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am Tai Chi: 4-5 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm | 29 Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm | | | | | |

Upcoming Pulpit Presentations

| Date | Topic | Presenter | Service Leader |
|--------------|---|-------------------|--------------------|
| January 31— | “Beyond Stewardship” --Story for All Ages | --Kurtland Davies | --Gaia Davies |
| February 7— | “Persuit of Happiness” --Alliance Soup Lunch to follow the Sunday service | --Rev. Lyn Plumb | --Denise Carter |
| February 14— | “Love and St. Valentine” | --Rev. Lyn Plumb | --Linda Kalaydjian |
| February 21— | “The Meaning of a Life” --Share-the-Plate donation to the Meals-on-Wheels | --Dan Gribbin | --Ellen Nielsen |
| February 28— | “The Individual and the Common Good” | --Rev. Lyn Plumb | --Phil Elliott |
| March 6— | “Creating a Healthy Congregation” Special Follow-up Workshop after a light lunch served in Room One | --Rev. Lyn Plumb | --Chris Gruner |

February Birthdays

Terry Terranera -2ndTom Hanson- 3rdRobert Owens -5thDan Kennedy -6thChris Gruner - 13thPat Maden -17thScott Macpherson -23rdHarry White -28th

The Jotter

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Ormond Beach

February 2016

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 Sunday: 9:45 a.m. +

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 Carolyn West: Jotter Editor (386) 672-9352
 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.