

## Unitarian Universalist Congregation



**Ormond Beach**

### REV. LYN'S PLUMB LINE

The holidays are upon us! And with them are a heady mixture of joyous celebration, frenetic activity and quite possibly sadness and pain. Whatever the season brings to us this year, I wish for you times of quiet reflection, rest and renewal. And toward that end, I offer you some words from Elizabeth Selle Jones:



It starts early, too early,  
 With an innocent, colored light,  
 Or a jingling bell.  
 Almost unnoticed, certainly resisted, the momentum builds.  
 It oozes, multiplies, infiltrates,  
 Permeates, engulfs, and overwhelms.  
 Now there is no corner, no page, no sound,  
 No thought, no mind, no heart  
 That is not pregnant with it.  
 Despite growing anxiety  
 Do not resist it.  
 Abandon cynicism.  
 Suspend suspicion.  
 Overindulge in friendship.  
 Give endlessly of compassion and justice.  
 Unwrap possibility and promise.  
 Let the Soul Season flood throughout.  
 Let holiness saturate,  
 Invigorate,  
 Hope purify.  
 Let love finally be born.  
 Oh, yes, let love be born.

May you surrender yourself to the true meaning of this "Soul Season." May it flood your being despite anything else. May you experience joy and live the hope that each new birth, each new beginning, brings.

With love and many blessings of the season,

--Rev. Lyn



### Special Celebration for Steve

We'll spend some time at our December 4<sup>th</sup> potluck, celebrating the life of Steve Segner, who especially enjoyed our potlucks and the fellowship that we shared with him.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Ho, Ho, Ho!**

Time to be grateful. Time to be thankful. Time to dwell on what will please others. Time to be generous. Time to ponder the past year and resolve our concerns about the year to come.

Time to play Santa, be joyful and hang mistletoe. Time to beat the crowds, to spend too much. But time to enjoy it, sharing toasts, trying to resist too much egg nog.

Time to appreciate turkeys, cook cranberries, overeat and take a nap. Time to stop at the bell ringer, stuff the red kettle with green and silver, and feed the hungry. Time to count our blessings.

Time to open doors for gift-laden shoppers. Smile. Say thank you to strangers. Time to savor hot chocolate on a cold morning. Wear a scarf. Remember what snow is like, and sledding or ice skating on a pond, hearing the ice crack as you move. Wondering . . . if! Time to rub our hands over a log fire and gaze at the stars bathing in the Northern Lights.

Time to ponder once again the meaning of it all and our place in that meaning— sharing the wonder of the search. Time to be thankful that I found this place. . . and you here!

--Bill

**UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES****November 29— Rita Scheeler, "LGBT Rights--We're Not Finished Yet"**

The Supreme Court's gay marriage decision was welcome, but many issues remain for the LGBT community.  
Service Leader: Enda Nolan

**December 6— Rev. Lyn Plumb, "Let Us Make No Prisons"**

After the Paris attacks, we again find ourselves endeavoring to extricate truth from misinformation and misunderstanding, to manage our fear for both ourselves and others and to decide on ways to most effectively deal with the threats, perceived or real, around us. How can our UU values and principles help us make no narrow "prisons" of our minds during this most disturbing time?  
Service Leader: Linda Kalaydjian

**December 13— Kay Kummerow, "Alfred Adler, the Crucial C's & Our UU"**

The psychological principles of Alfred Adler are soul mates for Unitarian Universalists. Bettner & Lew's Crucial C's (connect, capable, count & courage) are aspects of Adlerian psychology important for our UU community.  
Service Leader: Gaia Davies

**December 20—Rev. Lyn Plumb, CUUPS, Deb Hanson, "A Winter Solstice Celebration"**

During this intergenerational service, we will learn and lift up ancient, pre-Hebraic traditions celebrated this time of year. Come and participate in honored rituals, songs and stories all expressing the universal themes of hope in the midst of darkness, joy in the midst of despair.  
Service Leader: Chris Ringue

**Thursday, December 24—Christmas Eve Service --Congregation participates w. Rev. Lyn Plumb**

Come celebrate a UU Christmas of carols, candles, readings and good cheer. Light refreshments and loving fellowship time will follow the service. Please bring your choice of an appetizer or a dessert.

**December 27—“Looking Back at 2015 --Congregation participates w. Ellen Nielsen**

In an informal Quaker-style service, we'll share our best memories of the last year and blow away (literally!) the memories and bad karma we don't want to carry with us into the new year.

**January 3-- Rev. Lyn Plumb, “Covenant: From Sinai to Ormond Beach”**

The history of the concept of covenant, that is sacred promises, in both Judaic and Christian traditions can give us insights into what this word has evolved to mean for us UU's today and why it is becoming more and more important for us today.

Service Leader: Marilou McKemie

**Making Announcements During Our Worship Services**

We have a lot going on in our congregation right now, and many hard-working people may need to make announcements during the worship service. There are three ways to do this:

- Please e-mail your message to [ellennielsen@att.net](mailto:ellennielsen@att.net) during the week before so that it can be included in the service leader script.
- If you have to make an announcement at the last minute, write it out clearly and place it on the podium at least 15 minutes before the service so that the service leader can review it before the service starts.
- If you want to make an announcement in person during the time for Announcements at the beginning of the service, please let the service leader know you are going to do so before the service. Please speak for 2 minutes or less.

If we all work together, we can control the length of our worship services and help the congregation focus attention on what they came to the service for, a challenging message and uplifting words and music. Thanks!

--Ellen Nielsen for the Worship Committee

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT US –“You and UU” Class on December 5<sup>th</sup> — 9:30 to 12:30.**

A new “You and UU” class will begin on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. The class is open to prospective members, new members or even more long-time members who would like to find out more about Unitarian Universalism, its history and beliefs. Attendance does not constitute a commitment to join our congregation. Be sure to sign up at the Welcome Desk in the back of the sanctuary.

–Rev. Lyn Plumb and Judy Gordon, Membership Committee

## When You Receive That End-of-the-Year Solicitation

In December, we not only receive those welcome Christmas cards from friends, but our mailbox is stuffed with letters from charities begging for money. The pressure is on to beat the IRS tax-deduction deadline. But how can we judge the worthiness of these causes? How do we know that our contribution will actually help? Maybe most of it will go to “administrative expenses” i.e. to pay some Fat Cat CEO a big salary? That’s when we should check in with Charity Navigator at <http://www.charitynavigator.org/>

Charity Navigator was launched in 2001 to help donors make informed decisions about the causes they support. It not only describes how the charity operates and the services it performs, it rates how much of our donation actually goes to the charitable work. Then it ranks that charity with other similar ones. For example, the **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee**, (UUSC) which works for human rights and social justice around the world, ranks even higher in terms of putting dollars into action than Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International. So check up on your charity before you donate and consider donating to UUSC.

Our Alliance has given \$125.00 to UUSC and all donations of \$125 or more will be matched by a UU church in Long Island that has a large endowment for this cause. Contact Jeanne Young to find out how to contribute.

## ALLIANCE NEWS: Christmas Giving

Our Alliance has bought a new nine-foot Christmas tree for our UU sanctuary. You’ll see it for the first time at the Friday potluck on December 4th. Please help us decorate the tree with brand new pairs of socks, which will be donated to the local domestic abuse shelter. The shelter case worker told me that nobody ever thinks of donating socks for men, women, and children, and they are thrilled to receive them. Last year we donated 180 pairs of socks. Can we match or exceed that number this year?? Last year the tree looked gorgeous with all of those bright pairs of socks hanging from its branches — a true symbol of our UU love and generosity.

Our Alliance will be donating \$30.00 to the Hospitality Committee each month to help buy a turkey or main entree for the first Friday potluck during the upcoming year. Good Food brings us together! On Christmas Eve we will be selling beverages to accompany the light appetizers and desserts following the worship service.

We will be giving a Christmas gift to our RE children. We will bake cookies for them on the Sunday before Christmas, and they will have the opportunity to learn how to professionally decorate their own cookies. Each child will have a full plate of festive cookies to bring home to their friends and family. We will also give holiday gifts of thanks to our kitchen volunteers and to our RE teachers.

For this Holiday Season, we will be adopting 16 Volusia county teenagers who live at a group home in DeLand. We will be fundraising as a way to buy these teens gifts for the holiday season, including the Share-the-Plate offering on Sunday, December 20th.

In addition, a crafts table will be set up in the Sanctuary each Sunday in December, so please be generous and do your Christmas shopping with us. Your purchases will help buy gifts for these youngsters. We will also contribute the proceeds from our Christmas cookie sale on the Sunday before Christmas. Plan to get some goodies for your own holiday tables.

The Alliance meets at UU at noon on the second Thursday of each month. Please join us— we always enjoy meeting new members.



--Jeanne Young

## SEARCH TEAM UPDATE

Our Search Team continues laying the groundwork in the search to find a new “settled” or permanent minister for our UU. We hope very much that he or she will begin working with our congregation next September. Team members have updated the Congregational Record (CR), a lengthy application form describing our UU in detail. It should become “live” on the UUA website this December 1<sup>st</sup> —when many potential ministerial candidates begin looking at applications there. In addition, we are revising and updating the extensive Information Packet that describes our UU, including lots of photos and specifics about our congregation and the surrounding community. The packet will appear on our own website by December 1<sup>st</sup> as well, so be sure to take a look at it there at <http://www.uuormond.org/about-us/ministerial-search-committee/>

We have been pleased that many of you have taken part in the listening sessions after the Sunday services, and we hope that more members will participate in future listening sessions, where we can discuss the qualities that we most would like to find in a new minister. Our Search Team intends to make the process of seeking a new minister as transparent as possible, with lots of communication with the congregation.

(Of course, we must also respect the privacy of potential ministerial candidates.) Please plan to join us for some good discussion or feel free to chat with us at any time.

---Your Ministerial Search Team



Search Team members Joan Thate, Renny Roker, Carolyn West, Evan Rivers and Cliff Jackson meet with congregation members at a Listening Session

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION— Notes from the Back Room



The holiday season is upon us, and it is a wonderful time for meaningful services that are intergenerational. We celebrated one the Sunday before Thanksgiving and will have another the Sunday before Christmas. These services give the children an opportunity to join in worship services with the congregation, helping to underscore the importance of our children’s program.

The RE children take pride in contributing and hopefully provide entertainment and inspiration. They also really enjoy collecting money for worthy causes, so expect to see them during the coffee hour every Sunday this month collecting extra change or more for the “Guest at Our Table” program, which helps the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee raise awareness and support for human rights.

In the past, we have collected funds for UNICEF and for Heifer. The children’s biggest joy was collecting money for “Project Water Buffalo” — a program making a difference in people’s lives by providing clean drinking water. We would also like to thank Ms. Rhoni, who donated a large number of fired bisque figurines that the children have enjoyed painting. The Alliance will be contributing a holiday cooking class where the children will be making treats. We have many fun activities to look forward to this month.

Best wishes for the holidays to all!

--Debbie Hanson

## LIFE LONG LEARNING --Bee Aware!

"When was the last time you were stung by a bee? Probably not in a long while! It's not because bees all of sudden decided to be nicer to people when we encroach on their territory. The reason for the scarcity of bees may have more to do with a phenomenon called Colony Collapse Disorder, a term referring to the massive honeybee deaths that have occurred in North America since 2006.



So what? you might ask. It might surprise you to learn that the world without the bees looks pretty bleak. For example, are we ready to say goodbye to many of our favorite fruits and vegetables like strawberries, blueberries, peaches, apples, onions, almonds and many more types of food? Come find out what's happening to our bees and what we can do about it."

Kim Park has written an award-winning novel for which she did extensive research on bees. She will present her findings at the Life Long Learning seminar on December 9, 2015, from 4 to 5:30. Hope to see you there.

--Joan Thate

## FOCUS ON F.A.I.T.H. — Fighting Against Injustice Toward Harmony

In October, fifteen members from our UU joined members of other FAITH congregations at the annual Problems Assembly. Drawing on results from September cottage meetings, representatives from 30 area congregations presented the community problems their members had identified as the most serious. Participants then voted to select the most important initiative to explore in the coming year— healthcare.

FAITH will undertake the healthcare issue as a follow-up to a 2004 FAITH initiative holding Halifax Hospital accountable for the tax dollars it receives. These funds are earmarked to provide healthcare to those who are either underinsured or not insured at all. Led by Our Lady of Lourdes parishioner Dave Archard, the Research Committee is already meeting to pursue this effort.

Homelessness is another continuing issue for Volusia County. FAITH Assembly participants are redoubling their efforts to convince city governments to approve money in their budgets for the operating costs of a homeless shelter, once it is constructed. This past year's effort was successful in getting a written commitment for the donation of the land and the construction cost of the shelter. Now is the time for the cities to include operating expenses for the shelter in their 2016-17 budgets. Representatives of FAITH are working hard to visit the city councils and meet with officials.

Join us in our march toward Justice by becoming a UU Team Leader or Network Member. Go to the FAITH website for more information: <http://www.faithvolusia.org/> or e-mail me at [leighsmontgomery@yahoo.com](mailto:leighsmontgomery@yahoo.com)

--Leigh Montgomery



## PROTECTING OUR EARTH—a Religious Issue

The **2nd Florida Interfaith Climate Conference** takes place on January 28-30, 2016 at Northland Church in Longwood. Members and friends of all faiths and ethical communities, and all who care about climate change and stewardship of the earth are invited. For more details Google "Florida Interfaith Climate Conference 2016."

December 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> Crafts Group: noon -2 pm  Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	<b>2</b> Piano Lessons 2:30-:6:45 pm  Choir rehearsal: 6-7:30 pm CUUPS: 7-9 pm	<b>3</b> Caring Mtg: 10 am –noon  Spiritual Growth: 4:30-6 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	<b>4</b> Eastern Philosophy: 10 -11:30 am  Potluck supper and memorial for Steve Segner	<b>5</b> “You and UU” Class 9:30 am- 12:30 pm
<b>6</b> Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am  Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am  Tai Chi: 4-5 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	<b>7</b>  Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm	<b>8</b> Writers Group: 10 am – noon  Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	<b>9</b> 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	<b>10</b> Finance Mtg. 10:30-noon  Alliance: noon-2 pm Spiritual Growth: 4:30-6 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	<b>11</b> Eastern Philosophy: 10 -11:30 am  Ventangle workshop 1:30-3:30 pm	<b>12</b>  Subud Mtg: 6-9 pm
<b>13</b> Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am  Tai Chi: 4-5 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	<b>14</b>  Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm	<b>15</b> Crafts Group: noon -2 pm  Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	<b>16</b>  Choir rehearsal: 6-7:30 pm CUUPS: 7-9 pm	<b>17</b>  Spiritual Growth: 4:30-6 pm <b>Board of                      Trustees Mtg:                      5-7 pm</b> N Anon: 7-8 pm	<b>18</b> Eastern Philosophy: 10 -11:30 am  Exploring Metaphysics: 6-7 pm	
<b>20</b> Jotter articles due Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am Tai Chi: 4-5 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	<b>21</b>  Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm	<b>22</b> Writers Group: 10 am – noon  Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve service 5- 7 pm light appetizers   N Anon: 7-8 pm	<b>25</b>  Christmas Day	<b>26</b>  Subud Mtg: 6-9 pm
<b>27</b> Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am Tai Chi: 4-5 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	<b>28</b>  Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm	<b>29</b> Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	<b>30</b>  Choir rehearsal 6-7:30 pm	<b>31</b>  N Anon: 7-8 pm	New Year’s   Day	

\*The UUCOB office will be closed for the holidays on December 24 and December 31.

### Upcoming Pulpit Presentations

Date	Topic	Presenter	Service Leader
December 6—	“Let Us Make No Prisons”	--Rev. Lyn Plumb	--Linda Kalaydjian
December 13—	“Alfred Adler, the Crucial C’s & Our UU” Share-the-Plate offering for the Alliance Christmas Giving project	--Kay Kummerow	--Gaia Davies
December 20—	“Winter Solstice”	--Rev. Lyn Plumb	--Chris Ringue
Thursday, December 24—	Christmas Eve Service	--Congregation participates w. Rev. Lyn Plumb	
December 27—	Year-End Quaker Service	--Congregation participates w. Ellen Nielsen	
January 4—	“Covenant: From Sinai to Ormond Beach”	--Rev. Lyn Plumb	--Marilou McKemie



## December Birthdays

Judy Gordon -6<sup>th</sup>  
 Kimberly Park-13<sup>th</sup>  
 Ann Awdey -15<sup>th</sup>  
 Evan Rivers -15<sup>th</sup>  
 Don Kennedy -26<sup>th</sup>



## The Jotter

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Ormond Beach

December 2015

Rev. Evelyn Plumb, Pastor: (239) 240-9171  
 Bill Ternent, Congregation President: (386) 615-4616  
 RE teachers: Debra Hanson/Mary Wentzel: (contact UU Office)  
 Cathy Jackson, Office Administrator: (386) 677-6172  
 Office hours: M/W: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. & T/Th: 2:00 to 6:30 p.m.  
 Sunday: 9:45 a.m. +

Rev. Lyn's e-mail: [revlyn555@gmail.com](mailto:revlyn555@gmail.com)  
 Website: <http://www.uuormond.org>  
 Children's' RE on Sunday 10:15 - 11:45 a.m.  
 Carolyn West: Jotter Editor (386) 672-9352  
 Discussion Group meets Sunday at 9:15 a.m.

**Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.**