



## Sunday Itinerary

**Adult Discussion Group**

10:00 am

**Sunday Service**

11:00 am

**Coffee & Conversation**

Noon

**EarthFamilies Evensong**

2:00 pm

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## Through the Office Door: Minister's Column



It's a measure working to collect the signatures to be put on the Florida Ballot in November of 2012. Like other attempts, the Personhood Amendment has come back to Florida. The language of the amendment follows:

SECTION 28. Person Defined: (a)The words "person" and "natural person" apply to all human beings, irrespective of age, race, health, function, condition of physical and/or mental dependency and/or disability, or method of reproduction, from the beginning of biological development of that human being. (b)This amendment shall take effect on the first day of the next regular legislative session occurring (sic) after voter approval of this amendment.

By defining a person as existing from the moment of conception, this amendment if passed would do several things:

- It would make all abortions, even those in cases of rape, incest, or to preserve the life of the mother illegal.
- It would allow the state to prosecute anyone being known to have an illegal abortion, and the doctors who performed it for murder.
- It would outlaw one of the primary forms of birth control for women who have had children and want to plan their families, the IUD. The IUD works by preventing implantation, not fertilization.
- It would take us back to the George W. Bush administration policy on stem cell research and perhaps even further back. Research that has the potential to

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## Presidential Ponderings

*a message from Cynthia Patterson, Ph.D. President, Board of Trustees*

“Everything Old is New Again” – as the old year passes away and a new year launches, I’ve been thinking a great deal about the things that remain, the traditions of our Unitarian and Universalist forefathers and foremothers that linger.

As many of you may know, I’m a cultural historian by training. I’ve been working on a new book about the contributions of Unitarian and Universalist women’s sewing circles to American social movements of the 19th century. I just spent a week at the South Carolina Historical Society working through the records of the Unitarian Church of Charleston, the oldest Unitarian church in the south. Their “Ladies Sewing Society” organized under the leadership of Caroline Gilman (wife of the famous Unitarian Minister, Rev. Dr. Samuel Gilman), in 1831.

This group kept detailed records of their activities for over 150 years, records from 1847 until 1988 that are now available to scholars. These take many forms: bound membership lists and meeting minutes (the group met every other Tuesday morning); cash books recording the proceeds of the sales of their plain and fancy sewing items; correspondences (with the vestry, other Charleston churches, Unitarian ladies groups elsewhere); scrapbooks; etc.

Think the “Service Auction” is a new UU fundraiser? Think again! The Ladies Sewing Society of the Unitarian Church of Charleston initiated the very first recorded fundraiser of its kind in 1832, a “fair” at which nearly \$1000 was raised for support of the church – an astounding sum for its day. The group disbanded briefly during the Civil War but after reconvening in 1868, initiated an annual “Donation Dinner” – held in December at which the Sewing Society sold fancy goods, refreshments, and provided entertainment: all of these elements of the present-day “Service Auction” and “Annual Dinner” kicking off the pledge drive.

Additionally, the group manned a “sewing basket” and congregants and visitors could purchase items from the basket. The ladies constructed and raffled off quilts and other decorative items. This group also staffed tables at Charleston-wide bazaars and fairs, where they sold their wares.

The funds raised by the Ladies Sewing Society supported a number of causes, some within the church walls others without. In the early years, 1847-1861,

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## Office Door

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treat and cure many of the diseases from which people suffer by producing totipotent embryonic stem cells that have the potential to re-grow diseased tissue would be halted. Fertilized embryonic cells left over from in vitro fertilization procedures are used for these purposes. Otherwise they are discarded.

- Would researchers and fertilization specialists who provide hope to childless couples be charged with murder for discarding these leftover fertilized cells, or would childless couples be denied the opportunity to try to have children?

- It would place the state of Florida in a legal fight against the law of the land as handed down in *Roe v. Wade*.

- It would deprive a woman of the choice of what to do with her own body and her own life.

- It would take women back in time to the earlier half of the twentieth century when back alley abortions risked the life of the woman, and the freedom of her and her doctor; or when unsanitary conditions for abortions caused many women to become sterile and in some cases to lose their lives.

Folks, it can come and it is close to being on the ballot. For your mothers, your daughters, your granddaughters and for all those women who would lose so much, get out and make your opinion known.

## Treasurer's Report

We have completed the first four months of the fiscal year 2011-2012. The income for November was \$5,746, and Expenses were \$4,933. Our Operating Budget funds total \$37,435, of this \$20,337 is in Restricted Funds that needs Board approval before being spent. In November 2010 we had \$16,619 in total Operating Funds. This means we have gained over \$20,000 since the end of November last year.

The Auction made about \$3,000. All expenses have been paid for the marvelous lunch.

If you plan on deducting Special Collections donations on your tax return, be sure to make your checks payable to UUCL and write Special Collections in the memo space.

I am now able to accept credit card payments. If anyone ever wants to make a Special Collections donation by credit card, just let me know.

Please be sure to fill out an Expense Authorization Form when spending any money for UUCL even if you DO NOT wish to be reimbursed. This provides a record of real expenses and not just reimbursed expenses as well as aid in budget preparation. Expense Authorization Forms are in the Treasurer's mailbox in the kitchen; be sure to attach all receipts and indicate whether it is for reimbursement or a donation.

Please be sure to turn in all receipts immediately to the Treasurer.

Everyone should have received an e-mail statement of pledge payments at the end of December. If you did not receive a statement, please let me know.

	November	Year-to-Date	Budget 2011-2012
Income	\$5,746	\$35,356	\$85,400
Expenses	\$4,933	\$27,728	
Total	\$813	\$7,628	

**Joyce Bode, Treasurer**

## Ponderings

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the vestry counted on the Ladies to pay a portion of the minister's salary. The Ladies also purchased books for the Sunday School, paid the organist and the choir singers, recarpeted the chancel and sanctuary, and repaired the roof. The "Relief Fund" started by the ladies aided widows and orphans following the Civil War, as well as the "colored members" of the church left to fend for themselves after emancipation. The group paid for a new organ in the 1870s, and new windows (still intact today) after the earthquake of 1886 (yes, Charleston experienced earthquakes!).

In the local community, the Ladies Sewing Society furnished a room in the Seaman's Home, a refuge for aged sailors. In the 1890s, with the rise of the temperance movement, they also furnished a room at the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Additionally, they sent assistance to new Unitarian churches springing up in the Midwest (Kansas, Chicago) and the West (Sacramento).

In short, they accomplished MUCH by the labor of their hands.

With the Service Auction just behind UUCL, and the Annual Dinner and pledge drive just ahead, isn't it nice to know that we walk in the shoes of our Unitarian forefathers and mothers? Long live these traditions!

## Sunday Services Schedule

11 am, Sanctuary

- 1 Growth Opportunities.** President Elect Janet Stevens will bring in the year with thoughts about how we grow. Come share her vision for our future and inspire your own!
- 8 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear.** In 1849, after the Mexican-American War, the Unitarian minister Rev. Edmund Sears penned the lyrics to this beautiful Christmas carol. His words inspire our hopes for a more peaceful world. Join us for this month's intergenerational service as we explore what UU's really want for Christmas (world peace!) by singing, storytelling and learning about our UU contributions to peace during the winter holidays.
- 15 Words to Live By.** This month's intergenerational worship service is inspired by the 10 Commandments- but not those commandments (although the well-known story of Moses on Mount Sinai is a topic of discussion in RE classes this month). This is the weekend we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr., and thus it is his "commandments", as well as those of some other inspired sources, that will be the focus of our worship. These words to live by can help encourage us to achieve UUCL's mission to "unite in diversity and advocate for love and justice".
- 22 The Late Martin Luther King, Jr.** In his later years, Martin moved closer to Malcolm X and Malcolm's view of the plight of blacks in the cities of the North. Where might each one of them be now? Rev Susanne shares her thoughts.
- 29 Imbolc Potential and the Charming of the Plow.** Please join our EarthFamilies CUUPS chapter as they present a service welcoming back spring into our hearths and homes. Many of us do a physical spring cleaning during this time, let's not forget our spiritual and emotional spring cleaning.
- 5 Diversity not Divisiveness.** It's human nature to split ourselves into like-minded groups, but how does that work within our principles? How do we work to have diversity within our congregation and prevent the natural division into cliques that happens in large groups? Please join Tracie Barrett as she discusses the importance of reaching across the aisle to greet our fellow UU's regardless of their faith practice.

## Splinters From The Board

Best Wishes for a Happy New Year from the UUCL Board of Trustees!

The Board meets at UUCL on the third Wednesday of every month at 6 PM and all are welcome to attend. If you have any interest in learning how our congregation is governed, especially if you would like to get involved, visiting a board meeting is a great way to get an inside view.

At our December 21st meeting, Treasurer Joyce Bode informed us that we are in good shape financially for the year so far—always good to hear! (More details will be in Joyce's article elsewhere in the newsletter.)

We formally recorded a previous email vote to donate the November special collection to a local migrant family that recently suffered the accidental death of a child. Heather Curry, our Director of Religious Exploration (DRE), focused the service that Sunday on immigration, and the congregation gave generously to support the family.

Our congregation is governed by by-laws that are due for a major review and updating. Our newly-elected President-Elect, Janet Stevens, will lead the task force that will be taking on that work. Melissa Marshall and Peter Helwig will serve on the task force, and others who are interested in assisting should let Janet know.

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## Religious Exploration

*Sundays, 10 am, RE Complex*

Happy New Year! Religious Exploration classes will resume on January 8, 2012, and back to the Old Testament we will go. We left off (at the end of November) in the middle of the series of stories about Moses. Moses just heard God's voice in the burning bush where he was told to go back to Egypt to free his people. We will return to Egypt with Moses to free the Hebrews then make that long journey through the wilderness and up Mt. Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments! The children really are enjoying the journey (perhaps you saw them traveling through the churchyard as refugees), and this is helping them to remember the stories and their significance.

Additionally, we always try to relate these stories to their lives and current events. So, as we teach them the Ten Commandments, we will ask them to come up with some of their own. This will be the perfect opportunity to introduce them to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Ten Commandments for Cultural Change":

1. Meditate daily on the teachings and life of Jesus.
2. Remember always that the non-violent movement seeks justice and reconciliation — not victory.
3. Walk and talk in the manner of love, for God is love.
4. Pray daily to be used by God in order that all men might be free.
5. Sacrifice personal wishes in order that all men might be free.
6. Observe with both friend and foe the ordinary rules of courtesy.
7. Seek to perform regular service for others and for the world.
8. Refrain from the violence of fist, tongue, or heart.
9. Strive to be in good spiritual and bodily health.
10. Follow the directions of the movement and of the captain on a demonstration.

Speaking of MLK, I do believe we have a parade to march in; and you can count on our kids to be there, showing our UU spirit! Will you be a good UU role model and join them? Hope to see many of you there!

In faith,  
**Heather Curry,**  
*UUCL Director of Religious Exploration*

## Splinters

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UUCL needs a Religious Explorations team to provide guidance and support to our DRE. She and Rev. Susanne are working on reestablishing and redefining that group to work with our new team structure. Please see one of them if you are interested in helping.

It has been UUCL's policy to take a second Sunday plate collection once a month for a special cause. The board discussed modifying the policy to expand our giving to include a donation of the entire collection once a month. Janet Stevens will draft a new policy to clarify who will approve these collections and how requests can be made.

Rev. Susanne recommended the development of a Committee on Ministry as a way for congregants who are not comfortable interacting with the minister directly to voice their concerns, needs, etc. This committee will be a way to maintain a good relationship between the minister and the congregation. Rev. Susanne also pointed out that we should have an elected search committee and that it is time to start discussing whether we will look for a new minister next year when her current contract expires. The board agreed to discuss this in an executive session of the board during the January board meeting.

## EarthFamilies

Sundays, 2 pm, Sanctuary

**Starting January 8th, EarthFamilies CUUPS meetings will start at 1:30pm instead of 2pm. Please adjust your schedules accordingly.**

**January 1 – NO CUUPS.** Due to the holiday.

**January 8 — Full Moon Ritual.** The full moon has long had an aura of mystery and magic about it. It is tied to the ebbs and flows of the tide as well as the ever-changing cycles of nature. The moon is connected to our wisdom and intuition, and many Pagans and Wiccans choose to observe the full moon with a monthly ritual. As Sabbats are held as celebrations with revelry and fun, the Esbats are the magickal working days. These special times are when energies are raised and sent out for special purpose such as healing, success, for a positive project, personal growth, or banishment of negativity (such as a bad habit). Please join us as we take this opportunity to utilize this energy and work to bring healing and positive growth to our world.

**January 15 – 7th Anniversary Cookout.** A year is full of joys and sorrows, meetings and partings, tradition and change. We take time each January to celebrate that for another year EarthFamilies CUUPS has continued to serve the UU and Pagan communities in Lakeland, Polk County, and greater Central Florida. In commemoration of EarthFamilies' Seventh Anniversary, we will be having our annual Anniversary Cookout! Meat and veggie options will be provided so bring your favorite cookout dish and join in the celebration!

**January 22 — Guided Meditation: Healing.** Join us for our post-holiday tradition of a guided meditation for healing, relaxation and rejuvenation with our UUCL member, CUUPS Special Events Coordinator, and Certified Clinical and Transpersonal Hypnotherapist, Jessica Aldrich (AKA Aika Sumeragi).

**January 29 — No CUUPS Meeting/Group Luncheon.** EarthFamilies CUUPS will be hosting the main service at 11am. To celebrate (and take a much deserved break!) we'll be enjoying lunch at a local restaurant that we'll pick that day. Be sure to come and have a merry meal with your CUUPS friends.

**February 5 — Imbolc Ritual.** As the rays of the sun grow stronger and, in more northern climates, the first signs of life are beginning to reappear from under the snow, we take time to celebrate Imbolc, the Goddess Brigid, and the Archtypical Maiden. Join us as we celebrate the coming of Spring and the fresh growth from the womb of Winter.

For more information, including details about each event's child care policy/plans, please visit [www.uuclakeland.org/activities/earthfamilies/](http://www.uuclakeland.org/activities/earthfamilies/) to see the calendar.



The Tuesday evening Chalice Circle is collecting coats and blankets for local charities and individuals in need. Coats and blankets can be new or gently used and clean. We will be collecting through the end of January; a coat rack and a collection box are located in the corner of the Social Hall. If you are in need of a coat or blanket for your family, please feel free to take a look at what is there. Contact Tim Mclean at [timmykm.w@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:timmykm.w@tampabay.rr.com) or 686-0121 if you have any questions.

## Calling All (Any?) CPAs



UUCL needs an audit! For many years, the annual audit was ably performed by Mary Parent.

Mary has moved on to other duties and responsibilities, but UUCL still requires an audit in preparation for the annual meeting. If you have accounting/bookkeeping skills and are able to perform an audit (or if you know someone who can), please contact UUCL Board President, Cynthia Patterson, at [cpat3860@aol.com](mailto:cpat3860@aol.com) or 863-991-4433.

## Welcoming a Guest at Your Table



Each year at this time, UUCL participates in Guest at Your Table — a UU tradition for decades. We kicked off our annual campaign during our Time for All Ages on November 27th. If you were there you learned about how the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee puts our shared values into action in the United States and around the world.

In each household, a beautiful Guest at Your Table box is placed in a prominent spot through the holiday season, most often at the family dinner table. When family and friends gather to enjoy their blessings, they can reflect on the contributions of their “guests” to the movement for universal human rights — and share generously.

Please consider making a contribution that meets UUSC membership levels. Strong participation in UUSC is a sign of a congregation engaging with both the larger UU and the world that needs us. Since UUSC is an independent organization that receives no funding from government or the UUA, your support and membership are vitally important. Many years we have received UUSC recognition for our high level of participation, let’s make this one of those years!

If you didn’t get a Guest at Your Table box contact Theresa at Community@UUCLakeland.org. If you would prefer not to bring home a box, you can take a donation envelope or support UUSC directly online at [uusc.org/givetoguest](http://uusc.org/givetoguest).

The campaign will run through Sunday January 8th, when we will collect the boxes and envelopes.

## Would you like to participate in a Chalice Circle?



A Chalice Circle is a small relational group of 6-12 people who meet regularly to establish and nurture themselves. These circles provide an opportunity for group members to build strong relationships with each other and the congregation.

We currently have a few openings in some of our Chalice Circles that started in September. These groups meet every two weeks in the evening. If there is enough interest, a daytime group will be started as well. Please contact Janet Stevens before January 16 at [jstevens6@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:jstevens6@tampabay.rr.com) or 863-510-5184 and let her know which evenings or days you would be available.

## Caring Team in Service Training



We are re forming the Caring Team, and it will meet regularly with Rev. Susanne. While it will be a sub-group of the Community Ministry Team, it will not meet with them.

Rev. Susanne is offering a 3 hour in-service training starting with a yummy lunch on Saturday, January 14 at noon. Active listening, confidentiality and other skills will be reviewed, enabling participants to provide lay pastoral care. Future in-services will be on Ministry Sundays. We need those who will send cards, make phone calls, visit, organize help when needed, etc. If you’re willing and able to help, call Rev. Susanne at 727-946-8240, Theresa Lutz at 863-605-3815, or just show up for the meeting.

## Ministry Team Sunday

This month’s Ministry Team Sunday happens on January 15 at 12:15 pm in the Sanctuary. Stick around after the service; UUCL needs your time and talent!

Friends of Joe ([joeprine.org](http://joeprine.org))  
and the  
Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of Lakeland  
present

Saturday  
January 7th  
7:30pm

# Jim Scott

*Acclaimed Acoustic Guitarist  
and  
Peace Musician*

at the home of the  
Unitarian Universalists

3140 Troy Avenue  
Lakeland, Florida

**Tickets are on a sliding scale,  
\$8-\$20, as you are able**

for more details [Community@UUCLakeland.org](mailto:Community@UUCLakeland.org)  
or leave a message at (863)646-3715

