

The JOURNEY

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Lauderdale

December 2016
Volume 58, Number 11

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January 2017 Issue Deadline

Sunday, December 11, 2016

Submit articles to:
submission@uucfl.org

Editors

Valerie Heller
Gary Ladka

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A Center for
Liberal Religious Thought
and Social Action in
Fort Lauderdale

**Unitarian
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Church of Ft. Lauderdale

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**Annual All Church
Holiday Gathering
Saturday December 3
at 7:00pm**

Gather Ye on Page 7

**Second Friday Vespers Service
Friday December 9
at 7:00pm
Larry Wilkner Hosts
Service Info on Page 5**

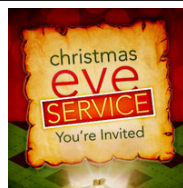


LifeNet4Families
Cooperative Feeding Program

**LifeNet4 Families Workday
Saturday December 10
at 9:00am**

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**Labyrinth Café Presents
Eric Schwartz (Sunday Blue)
Saturday December 10
at 7:30pm
Concert Info Page 6**



**Annual Christmas Eve Service
Saturday December 24 at 6:00pm
See Back Cover**

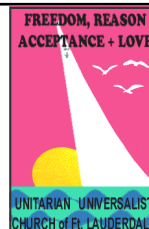
UUCFL Welcomes Our New Music/Choir Director

Direct Your Attention to Page 2 to Meet Mark Henschel



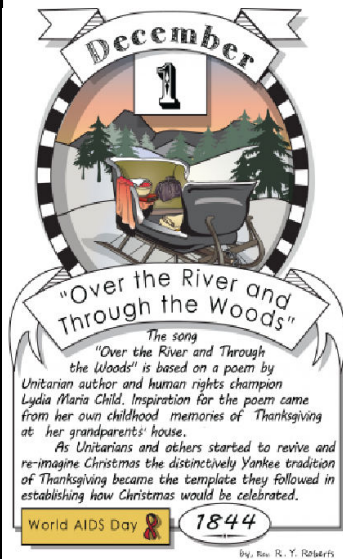
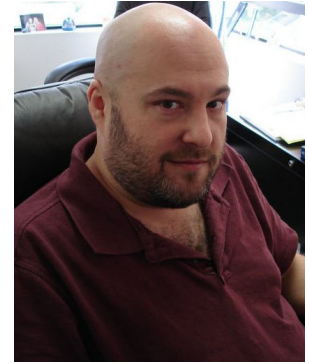
**Unitarian Universalist Church of Ft Lauderdale
Mission Statement:**

To come together as a caring community and sanctuary
for seekers of spiritual growth, truth, and meaning.



President's Message

I was raised Roman Catholic, and participated in all the trappings of the holiday season in my youth. I always struggled, however, with Christmas because my birthday is on Christmas Eve. My birth was overshadowed by HIS birth. A birthday party on 12/24 was completely out of the realm of possibility. And to this day, I'd like to meet the person who invented combination birthday/Christmas cards and gifts. I have a few choice words about combining all birthdays around Christmas with the holiday itself. And those words are not "G" rated.



When I became a Unitarian Universalist, learning to celebrate and recognize all holidays was a wonderful breath of fresh air. I wasn't tied to just Christmas, though I could keep the parts of the holiday that I enjoyed.

I knew UUism had a few ceremonies/holidays (like Water Sunday and Flower Communion, two of my favorites), but I wondered whether there was a holiday in the month of December that was uniquely UU. Guess what...there is one, called Chalica! As the UU website describes it, "Chalica is a week-long celebration of our Unitarian Universalist Principles. The holiday first emerged in 2005 out of a wish to have a holiday organized around Unitarian Universalist values. Chalica begins on the first Monday in December and lasts seven days. Each day, a chalice is lit and the day is spent reflecting on the meaning of that day's principle and doing a good deed that honors that principle. Not all Unitarian Universalists celebrate Chalica, but it has a growing following. There is a Chalica Facebook page, blog, and many Chalica-themed videos on YouTube. Our faith continues to evolve and grow. And so do we. I wish you and yours peace and joy however you celebrate the season.

I always welcome calls to talk about what's on your mind. I can be reached at (954) 296-0089.

Jim Giblin

Meet Our New Director of Music/Choir Director Mark Henschel



We are so pleased to welcome Mark Henschel as our new Director of Music and Choir Director. Mark holds a B.S. Music-Business from Wingate University and a M.Ed. Educational Leadership. He is also National Board Certified in Early and Middle-childhood music since 2007. Mark is a seasoned spiritual music director. He has worked with various religious institutions for over 25 years in the local area.

He is currently performing as a member of the South Florida Master Chorale. His main instrument is the piano where he won the Irwin Belk Scholarship to study at Wingate University in North Carolina. He is also a seasoned organist and has been known to pull out his recorder to perform on occasion. In addition, he is a music educator in Broward County and feels fortunate to be using his college education for a career that he loves. He invites those who are interested to join the choir or perform as an instrumentalist for the services. He is excited to be a part of this community and looks forward to growing in his new position.

His hobbies are good humor, travel, and the Green Bay Packers. (Yes, he owns a cheesehead and stock in the team)

Music Committee

Appeal for Volunteers - Kwanzaa Celebration, January 1, 2017

We are asking for:

- a) 7 individuals/families/groups to light the Kwanzaa Candles. Participants will name the corresponding Principle and read its meaning/intent.
- b) drummer(s) to play at the beginning of the service as well as during the Libation/Calling of Names segment.

Please contact me at opalom18@gmail.com to volunteer or for more information.

Rev. Opal Murray- Sunday Services



Rev. Susan's Space

Firstly, I want to wish each and every one of you the happiest of holidays. Whether you will be celebrating Chalica, Muhammad's Birthday, Yule, Christmas, Hanukkah, Boxing Day or Kwanzaa during December (or your unique combination of these or none of them), may you benefit from twinkling lights, merry songs, glowing candles, yummy treats, fragrant greenery and all the trappings of the season. What an amazing bulwark we humans have established to surround ourselves with light as nights grow longer! Along with all of the celebratory lights, I also wish you darkness – long sleeps, stargazing, comfy afghans, restful silence and deep waters – with all the blessings they bring.



Many of you attended the timeline exercise in October when we "looked backward in order to move forward." It was long hard work, and I'm deeply grateful for the honesty and forbearance that you brought to this exploration. We talked about some significant conflicts and some great shining moments. We heard differing accounts of what has occurred at different times in our history. We discussed adding a bit more detail to our history so that we can own our whole history for the sake of our health now and in the future. We experienced several times when it was clear that hard and hurt feelings linger from things that happened long ago. Your leaders are working on another opportunity in which these feelings can be processed.

The next Saturday, Susan Friend, Dave Griswold, Jeff Hutt, Larry Wilkner and I represented UUCFL at our meeting of area UU churches. As part of the program, we discussed how we live our UU values of Freedom, Reason and Tolerance which our keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Fred Muir reinterpreted for our times as Generosity, Imagination and Pluralism. I was able to talk about what an inspiring, resilient congregation I've found here at UUCFL. While it is true that some of your behaviors have struck me as risk and conflict adverse and designed to keep your church small, not one time that I've brought up my concerns about any of these areas have I been disappointed by your response. Because you have a beautiful, healthy, resilient core in the center of your church, you always respond with the open mind, the helping hand and the loving heart that we evoke on Sunday.

So, I leave you with a quote from Albert Camus that I think suits UUCFL perfectly: In the midst of hate, I found there was, within me, an invincible love. In the midst of tears, I found there was, within me, an invincible smile. In the midst of chaos, I found there was, within me, an invincible calm. I realized through it all, that... In the midst of winter, I found there was within me an invincible summer. And that makes me happy.

For it says that no matter how hard the world pushes against me, within me, there's something stronger – something better, pushing right back.

Blessings,
Rev. Susan



Director of Religious Education (DRE) - Susan Dirgins-Friend
 Phone (954) 424-1910
 Email tiredmomofbob@aol.com



We have a new world order, or at the least, a new USA order. We can be sad, or glad, but, we must move forward with our heads up, our shoulders back, and our hearts and minds committed. In the coming months I hope we can all talk, cry, or exalt but we must become one people again, as much as is as possible. Our children need to see us trying to move together as one US, in a positive way. They need a sense of security and hopefulness and not a feeling that they are living in fear, or on the edge of the apocalypse; don't misunderstand me, they also need to see you hopeful and determined, not resigned. You must always let them know that whatever they hear or see on TV, the Internet or out in the world, that you believe that love is what is important and that love will, in the end, bring us together again.

Love and blessings,

DRE Susan



December Children's Calendar

Sunday December 4, 11AM
 Regular RE

Sunday December 11, 11AM
 Regular RE

Sunday December 18, 11AM
 Winter Solstice

Sunday December 25, 11AM
 Christmas Day
 NO RE
 Children will attend church

Lifenet 4 Families/Cooperative Feeding Program

Lifenet4Families
Cooperative Feeding Program

Let's have a WOOT WOOT for the CUUPS group and their friends from our wider community because they are really rockin' it with the donations to our lobby food basket. Thank you, thank you. Thanks also to Labyrinth Cafe folks and to the rest of the congregation for their donations. Our once a month volunteer workday in December

with our River of Grass mates will be on Saturday December 10, from 9-11am. We make food boxes, fill shelves, maybe even work in the kitchen or in the dining room.

This is a great way to introduce children to the ways they can help others in the community who need their help. Lifenet4Families is located at 1 NW 33rd Terrace in Lauderdale, on the corner of Broward Blvd and 33rd Terrace. Please wear closed toed shoes, and comfortable work clothes. I hope to see you all our there this month..

Info or questions
DRE Susan (954) 424-1910 tiredmomofbob@aol.com

Susan Friend

And Now, An Announcement on Announcements

Please bring your Sunday announcements to the pulpit prior to the start of service. Also please be reminded to respect our Joys and Concerns time as one for personal sharing and not announcements or political statements.



The Editors

Second Friday Vespers Service

Ho, Ho, Ho!! Our December Vespers service on Friday December 9 at 7PM in the Multi-Purpose Room will be led by our mellow-voiced Larry Wilkner and will feature

a variety of holiday readings, music, and some quiet time. I have it on good info that we may get to hear a bit of David Sedaris' famous Santa Land Diaries. There will be holiday snacks and libations, and we hope to see some new faces. Vespers is a short, reflective evening worship service that is a wonderful way to end a crazy week, or a fantastic way to kick off the weekend. There are no announcements, and we follow the service with a time for fellowship. Info or questions, DRE Susan tiredmomofbob@aol.com (954) 424-1910

Susan Friend

cUUrrious cUUriar -

If you are not receiving our weekly email newsletter, the cUUrrious cUUriar or a mailed copy of The Journey newsletter

visit our website at www.uucfl.org and click on "Subscribe" to sign up

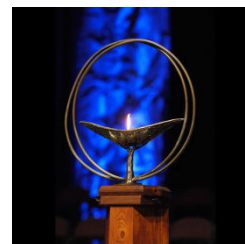
**Name Tags -**

If you have not yet received a name tag lanyard, please sign up in church on Sundays. You have a choice of designs between a picture of the church and a chalice. Please wear your name tags each Sunday so our veterans and our newer members and visitors recognize each other better.

**The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalists**

There are seven principles which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



**Labyrinth Café Concerts Presents Eric Schwartz (Sunday Blue)
Saturday December 10 at 7:30pm**



Award-winning singer/songwriter, performer, satirist multi-instrumentalist and entertainer Eric Schwartz (aka Eric "Red" Schwartz) tours the U.S. and Europe bringing his music to every audience he can find. He's been playing music and comedy venues nationally for fifteen years (the Improv, The Bluebird, The Comedy Store, The Bottom Line...). He has composed for and performed in various Satiristas shows spearheaded by Paul Provenza, as well as "The Bad Boys of Comedy" with Bobby Slayton, Jim Norton et. al. His songs have been sung by Ronny Cox, Holly Near and Van Dyke Parks. Schwartz is possibly the only artist in the history of the world to get raves from Gloria Steinem and Hustler Magazine, Eric's songs go from the political to the profane, sometimes both (see the International Songwriting Competition's best comedy song of the year, "Clinton Got a Blowjob".) Eric's latest CD release *The Aristocrat*, which Paul Zollo (Songwriters on Songwriting) calls "a comic treasure" and the U.K.'s *Rock'n'Reel* magazine calls "beautifully produced and perfectly executed," contains "There's a

Picture...", currently in rotation on the nationally syndicated Bob and Tom show. Schwartz has also garnered radio play on stations as diverse as Howard Stern's 100, Raw Dog Radio, the Ed Schultz Show and NPR's All Things Considered. Schwartz' latest release is *The Better Man* which Brian Keathley of KALX Berkeley calls "by far his best work yet. A great collection of tunes with humor, and social commentary – some of which is damn profound. Be listening for it this week and beyond on my radio shows!"

[Note: This will be more of an Eric the Blue (as opposed to Red) concert, showcasing the low-key ballads (like on his Sunday Blue CD) that don't often see the light of day. Don't worry, though! Eric is also scheduling a show in the area to include his much-loved R- and X-rated tunes...

www.eric schwartz.com

Reservations requested but not required:

Contact Susan at OzWoman321@aol.com or 954- 478-8637

\$20 at the door, plus non-perishable item for our local Cooperative Feeding Program (canned meats, beans, fruits, vegetables, peanut butter, dried milk, pasta, rice, cereal, baby food and baby formula);

Advance Reservations: \$17, checks received in the UU church office no later than Wednesday before Saturday show (or call or e-mail Susan at the contact info above):

UU Church of Ft Lauderdale ATTN: Labyrinth Café 3970 NW 21st Ave. Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

Please consider purchasing our Season Pass, \$150 per person, which includes admission to all 9 September-May shows, as well as premium reserved seating and a Labyrinth Cafe Tshirt (designed and printed by Virginia and Erik, Labyrinth Café volunteers).

It's a wonderful way to support the UU church, our performers and the continuation of live, original music!

Please visit www.labyrinthcafe.com for further details and the artists' websites, and our Facebook page to give us

a thumbs-up, which will then keep you informed of upcoming concerts.

Can't wait for you all to join us once again for song and camaraderie!

Susan Moss Coordinator, Labyrinth Cafe Concert Series

Come on Ring Those Bells!! (or Dreidels!!)

Hang the Greens, Hang the Greens!! Saturday December 3, from 7-10 PM is our annual congregation holiday celebration. You and yours are invited to come and help us decorate our beautiful space for the holidays while imbibing hot mulled wine, cider, holiday sangria, holiday punch, delicious snacks (latkes, latkes) and cookies, and enjoying fellowship. There will be time for board games, the traditional making of the ornaments, and maybe this year we can finally sing some carols.

We are looking for folks who might be interested in helping organize one part of the event or another. All helpers are welcome.

This is one of our best events to invite family and friends, so let's try and make this our best party ever.

Want to Help?
Contact Rev. Susan



Coming CUUPS Events

On December 17th, we celebrate Yule by honoring the Goddess Yemaya. African in origin, Yemaya is a goddess of water and well-known in the Caribbean. See MoonPathCUUPS.org/yule/. Please wear white or blue and bring food for the ritual feast and seven pennies to make a wish. We show up at 7 PM.

Coming Thursday night Study Groups.

December 1: Animal Protection

December 8: Joy of Yule

December 15: Stories of Yemaya and Ritual Planning

December 22: Dragon Magick and Ritual

December 29: Dark Moon Ritual



--Kip, Resident Pagan

With Blessings, Edie & Marty McAnulty - CUUPS Facilitators
TheMoonPath Chapter of CUUPS

Committee on Ministry Has First Meeting with Rev Susan

The Committee on Ministry (COM) had our initial meeting with Reverend Susan on Friday, November 11th, ready to hit the ground running. The committee consists of three church members who meet once a month with the minister, to focus on the spiritual well being of the congregation, as well as part of the feedback process on the overall health of the congregation. We are tasked with monitoring to see if we are "being" what we mean to be and "doing" what we mean to do. We are not advocates or protectors of the minister; we advocate for the congregational well-being and our shared vision. We are looking to move forward, focusing on the positive aspects of our congregation.

Our first step will be to realize a shared vision for the congregation. This will require congregational input at visioning sessions, followed by healing sessions, and demographics studies. These processes will culminate in the development of a strategic plan, beginning in the summer. The COM is excited about the path the congregation is taking and is looking forward to working with all of you.

Members of the Committee on Ministry are:
Claire Mostel (Chair) cmostel@gmail.com, Annett Vafa. Judy Knopp

Please feel free to contact a committee member if you have any questions or concerns.
Keep an eye out for announcements of visioning sessions that are scheduled to meet in January 2017.

Committee on Ministry



Fund Raising Suggestions



Members of the UUCFL have recently sponsored fund-raisers that have included the pajama party (part 1 and 2) and the pool/barbeque party. We are always looking for opportunities to raise money for our congregation and have fun at the same time. These events are great ways to get to know each other outside of Sunday service.

Please contact a Board member if you have any ideas for fund-raisers, or if you would like to sponsor an event.

Claire Mostel

Tearing Down Boundaries and Other Improvements

You may have noticed an open space where a wall had been before. We have had the wall removed in the rest room vestibule to allow folks with wheelchairs, walkers and other mobility issues to have easier access to the restrooms. Other plans for this area and others around the building will make our church home more accessible to all who attend. You may also have noticed fresh paint in the Religious Education and rest room wings, as well as Rev, Susan's office. In the new year, you will be seeing other improvements coming to the church including newly polished finished flooring in the sanctuary and hallways plus a new look to the pulpit platform. We are also preparing for new front doors and other internal door replacements. A few outdoor improvements are coming around the backyard and playground. Also new audio/visual upgrades will soon add new possibilities to church services and other activities. We look forward to all of the improvements coming our way and we are sure you will too.



Doug Friend and Gary Ladka—Building and Grounds

Caring Committee Update



At its regrouping meeting on 11/13/2016, the UUCFL Caring committee agreed that we need to do a better job of letting UUCFL members and friends know what the Caring committee does.

The UUCFL Caring committee contacts church members and friends who have been missing church and those who may need a little assistance or tender loving care. However, we can only help those who we know need help. If you or someone you know needs a visit or phone call or text/email/card, please let us know.

Several of our members would like to attend UUCFL services, but have transportation issues. Those in this situation are requested to contact one of the Caring committee members. We will try to find rides.

We also want to reach out to members we have not seen in a while. If you can think of someone that might benefit from a check-in, let us know.

The homebound may appreciate visits in person or by phone/email/US mail/social media. If you are homebound and would like to be contacted, please let us know. Likewise, let us know if you can help with visits, phone chats, mail, email and other forms of social-media contact. We would appreciate your assistance.

Some members would like to see us do more to serve the homeless. While the UUCFL has limited resources, we can help individually by providing small toiletries and personal items such as unused/new undergarments and socks. Contributions designated for this purpose can be made to Rev. Susan in the UUCFL office.

Congregations care for one another. Caring for our members and friends is something that all of us can take ownership of. We count on your cooperation to help with Caring needs. Please reach out to us. At least one of us will be at church each Sunday. You may also reach me or Rev. Susan Smith by email or phone. Please let us know if you need help, or can provide help. Thank you.

Douglas Paul, Chair Caring Committee (Email: dpaulnyc@yahoo.com Phone: 646-256-1421)

Rev. Susan Smith, Minister (Email: susan.smith.uu@gmail.com Phone: 318-550-8462)

Members: Eleanor Siegel, Larry Wilkner, Molly Lesnick, Jerry Waltz

Caring Committee

Directory of Staff, Board, Committee Chairs & Affiliates

STAFF

• Minister

Rev. Susan M. Smith.....318-550-8462

• Director of Religious Education

Susan Dirgins-Friend.....954-424-1910

• Music/Choir Director

Mark Henschel.....954-536-5220

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

•President

Jim Giblin.....954-296-0089

Past President

Dave Griswold.....786-389-9575

•President Elect

Sandy Lange.....954-401-5675

•Treasurer

Donna Gutierrez.....971-267-9165

• Secretary

Colleen Coburn.....305-409-7340

Trustees

Betty Brantley.....954-536-5754

Nelson Lamis.....305-742-9524

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Building & Grounds

Doug Friend.....954-424-1910

Gary Ladka.....954-650-3728

Aesthetics

Janet Logan

Stewardship

Kathy Ervolina.....813-312-3292

Community Outreach

Social Justice

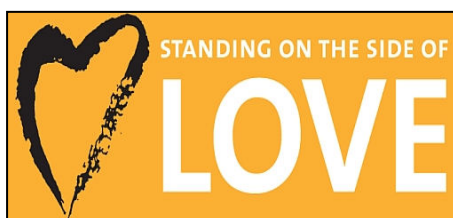
BOLD Justice

Betty Brantley.....954-536-5754

Marie Turner.....954-850-4889

Cooperative Feeding Program

Susan Dirgins-Friend.....954-424-1910



Online Calendar

Kip Barkley.....954-784-8307

Printed Newsletter – The JOURNEY

Valerie Heller.....954-663-3859

Gary Ladka.....954-650-3728

Webmaster/Email Newsletter

Gary Ladka.....954-650-3728

Caring Committee

Douglas Paul.....954-739-8879

Library

Molly St. Cavish.....954-752-5717

Finance

OPEN

Building Usage

Dave Griswold.....786-389-9575

Labyrinth Café Concerts

Susan Moss.....954-478-8637

Welcoming/Membership

Jim Giblin.....954-296-0089

Ministry

Claire Mostel.....786-512-5180

Nominating

Jerry Waltz954-527-5275

Religious Education

Michael Coburn.....305-409-7340

Sunday Services

Opal Murray770-265-6242

Wisdom and Enlightenment Series

Opal Murray770-265-6242

ASSOCIATE & AFFILIATE GROUPS

• CUUPS

Edie and Marty McAnulty..954-294-4757

• Endowment

Doug Friend.....954-424-1910

• UU Service Committee

Michael Coburn305-409-7340



Building Usage Scheduling

With all of the activities going on in the building, especially with all of the exciting new things coming along, it will be very important to keep a close look at the calendar to make sure we have room for all events and renters that we have, and to have scheduling conflicts kept to a minimum. Please email me at dgriswold2001@hotmail.com with any inquiries or to schedule an event at the church. Thank you.

Dave Griswold



Unitarian
Universalist
Church of Ft. Lauderdale

Supports:

BLACK LIVES MATTER

END CORPORATE RULE. LEGALIZE DEMOCRACY.
MOVE TO AMEND

BOLD Justice
{Broward Organized Leaders Doing Justice}

Expand Your UU Horizons

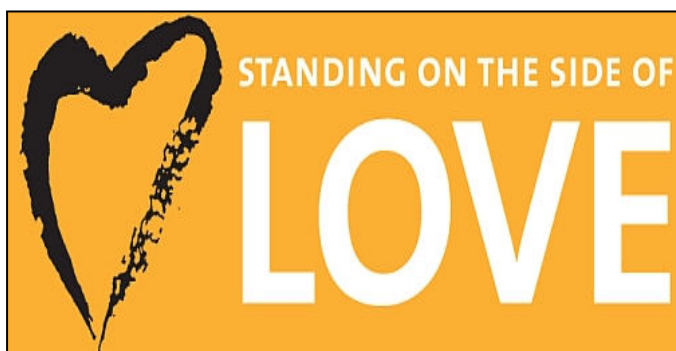
Learn more and how you can become more involved beyond our walls

UU Association - uua.org

UU Southern Region - seduua.org

UU Southeast Cluster -

facebook.com/UUFloridaSoutheastCluster



Remember the Hungry People Around Us

Please continue to fill the Food Baskets at the church with non-perishables for the LifeNet for Families | Cooperative Feeding Program.

Learn more about the CFP and other ways you can help.

Visit www.lifenet4families.org



December Birthdays

Caterina Turner 12/2	Jerry Waltz 12/15
Amy Ladka 12/3	Stephen Lange 12/16
Shah Mohammed 12/3	Ronnie Van Sickle 12/18
Pierre Claros 12/4	Jim Giblin 12/24
Tabo Glenn 12/7	Savannah Friend 12/29
Christopher Booty 12/10	Kimani Salim Pearce 12/30
Bill Cox 12/13	



Please Patronize and refer the above Friends and Members of the Church as they support the us with their advertising. Make sure you tell them you saw their ad in The Journey.

If you would like to see your birthday announced here and in the cUUrious cUUrier email newsletter, please contact the office to make sure we have your updated information in the computer

Sat

Fri

Thu

Wed

Tue

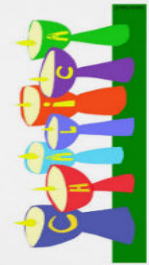





Mon

Sun



December Calendar



Every Sunday : 11:00 AM- Church Service and Children's Religious Education	Religious Education Events See special calendar on the RE page 4	Visit our on line calendar for late-breaking events www.uucfl.org and click "Coming Activities"	1 •7:00pm Mens Group •7:30 pm CUUPS	2	3 •7:00pm - All Church Holiday Gathering
4 •9:30am- UU Sisterhood •11:00am - Sunday Service •12:30pm - Fellowship Lunch Day	5 	6	7 •6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal	8 •7:00pm Mens Group •7:30 pm CUUPS	9 •7:00pm Second Friday Vespers Service - by Larry Willkner (See page 5)
11 •Journey Article Submission Deadline •11:00am - Sunday Service	12 •7:00pm - Board Meeting	13	14 •6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal	15 •7:00pm Mens Group •7:30 pm CUUPS	16 •7:00pm - Yule Celebration (See page 7)
18 •9:30am- UU Sisterhood •11:00am - Sunday Service •12:30pm - Fellowship Lunch Day	19 •7:00pm - Sunday Services Committee	20	21 •6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal 	22 •7:00pm Mens Group •7:30 pm CUUPS	23 •6:00pm - Special Christmas Eve Service (See Back Cover) 
25 •11:00am - Sunday Service 	26 •SWIM Begins through January 1 (See Page 8) 	27	28	29 •7:00pm Mens Group •7:30 pm CUUPS	30 •7:00pm Mens Group •7:30 pm CUUPS
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Unitarian Universalist

Church of Ft. Lauderdale

3970 NW 21st Avenue
Oakland Park, Florida 33309

Minister: Rev. Susan M. Smith

Office Phone: 954-484-6734

Minister Phone: 318-550-8462

E-mail: uucfl@aol.com

Website: www.uucfl.org

Sundays at 11 am: Service & Children's
Religious Education

The JOURNEY



Sunday Morning Services at 11 am

DECEMBER 2016

December 4 – "Give Peas a Chance" by Susan Moss -

A no-guilt, no-shame service, exploring the vegan/vegetarian path from the perspectives of health/compassion/environmental/spiritual.
A vegan lunch to follow!

December 11 – "Season of Light" by the Rev. Susan M. Smith - Our theme for the remainder of December will be our fourth source: "Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves." December is a month like none other with an array of holidays. This will be the third Sunday in Advent and the final day of "Chalica," which is a seven-day UU holiday in which a principle is reflected upon each day. The birthday of The Prophet Muhammad falls on Nov. 12. So much celebration to lighten the heart as the longest night of the year arrives.

December 18 – "The Blessings of Darkness and Light" by the Rev. Susan M. Smith - The Winter Solstice (Yule) falls on Dec. 21. As the longest night of the year arrives, it is a good time to reflect on the beauty, the comfort and the mysteries of darkness.

Special Service Saturday, December 24 at 6:00pm

Christmas Eve – In celebration of Christmas Eve we will have a traditional intergenerational Service of Lessons and Carols with candlelighting. Please bring a treat to share for fellowship afterwards.

Sunday, December 25 – The same Service of Lessons and Carols will be repeated. This is also the first day of Hanukkah. Kwanzaa starts on "Boxing Day" December 26.

January 1 - "Annual Kwanzaa Service - We are blessed to have Dr. Albert Kafui Wuaku as our Guest Speaker. He will share insights on how ancient African wisdom might speak to 21st Century Western living and how these philosophies offer tools to create healthier communities and progressive attitudes towards our natural environment. Dr. Wuaku is an Associate Professor of Ethnography and African/African Diaspora Religions and Graduate Program Director with the Department of Religious Studies at Florida International University.

