

The JOURNEY

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Lauderdale

May 2015
Volume 56, Number 5

In This Issue

President's Message.....	2
Rev. Gail's Space.....	3
Religious Education News.....	4
Directory.....	9
Market Place.	10
Calendar.....	11
Sunday Services.....	Back Cover

June 2015 Issue
Deadline
Sunday May 10, 2015

Submit articles to:
submission@uucfl.org

Editor
Valerie Heller

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Fort Lauderdale

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LifeNet4Families
Cooperative Feeding Program

LifeNet4Families Workday
Saturday May 2 at 8:45am

See page 8

Labyrinth Cafe Concerts

Presents

Amy Carol Webb &
Cosy Sheridan
Saturday May 9

at 7:30pm

See Page 6



Postal Food Drive
Saturday, May 9
Two shifts available

See Page 7

Official Meeting Notice!

Annual Election Meeting
Sunday May 17 at 12:45pm



We will also be voting to change
some of our bylaws. All voting
members are urged to attend.

See Page 2

Flower Communion Sunday
May 31

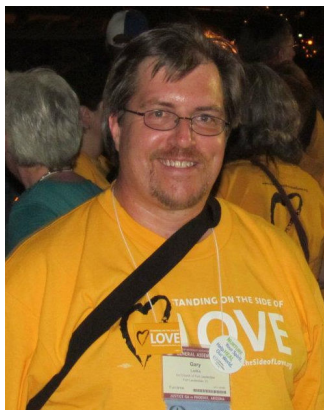
Please bring a flower to put on
the altar.



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

With our Long Range Plan taking shape and committees being revitalized, so many important discussions are ahead in our near future. I thought I would go back in the archives to an article I had written a number of years ago about email communication, and with a few slight adjustments and updates in the writing, it mostly still holds true today. I ask that, as we communicate, we keep these things in mind to be in right relation with each other in the process and in all church matters. Email can be our friend, but it can turn around very quickly if we are not careful with its use.

To Comm-U-n-I-cate or Commun-E--cate?

In the fast-paced world that we all live in today, where we are used to sound bites and snippets, let's take a sensitive look at interpersonal communication. The continued evolution of communication has taken a great deal of the personal interaction and dialogue out of the path, which many times leads to miscommunication, misunderstandings and hurt feelings. Email, something foreign to many of us just a few years ago, has become one of our standard ways of communicating. This is a great tool for spreading news, dates and information quickly to large groups of people, but it should be used carefully. When we commun-E-cate via email or other electronic writings, and even in my writing of this article, we lose the dialogue that comm-U-n-I-cation gives us. Using email, conversation is removed and we are instead monologueing at each other, and not talking to and sharing with each other.

And then there is "CCommunicating," that sometimes useful, sometimes dangerous "cc" (carbon copy) to bulk-mail groups of others, when the conversation really should be between the writer and he receiver. Also, trying to make decisions on complex issues in a group "cc" email is not a good means of discussion, as the flow of conversation is often fragmented and people cannot communicate and share ideas in real time, at the same time. Please consider carefully, when using the "cc," whether the email is spreading information that is useful to all receivers, and not being used to monologue at a select receiver in front of a hand-picked "cc" group, or that a complex conversation about issues is being forced on a less than optimal environment in lieu of a live, real-time meeting of the minds (which can now, with some tech finesse, even be accomplished electronically via Skype or Google Hangout). Carbon copied emails should be mostly limited to communication of undisputed information, like "The RE Committee will meet at 9:30am on Sunday. There will be donuts."

I think all of us, myself included, should reach out and try something old-fashioned... talking. Let's be gentle with each other, and let's put the U and I in the center of "comm-U-n-I-cate," and leave the E at the end of the word where it belongs.

It has been an honor to once again serve as President here at UUCFL. I look forward to working with Dave Griswold, your incoming President, and the rest of the new Board in the next exciting year ahead for all of us. See you all on May 17 for our annual election meeting. We will also be voting to change some of the bylaws, so please join us that Sunday and every Sunday.

Gary Ladka

The following slate of candidates for open positions is being presented for the upcoming Elections on May 17 at 12:45pm. All voting members are urged to come and participate in our democracy as we will also be voting to change some of our bylaws.

Board of Trustees

President—Dave Griswold
 President Elect—Jim Giblin
 Past President—Gary Ladka
 Secretary—Molly St. Cavish
 Trustee (2 Years) - Alexis Blasenheim
 Trustee (2 Years) - Bill Schoolman
 Trustee (1 Year) - Betty Brantley

Nominating Committee

Tom Karneth
 Sandy Lange
 Jerry Waltz

Endowment Board

Steve Lange
 Judy Knopp
 Jerry Waltz

Rev. Gail's Space

STARTING THE LONG GOODBYE

As we move on toward summer, I will be celebrating many occasions with you for the last time in my long ministry here. It is strange for me to think about that, although I am excited for both your future and my own future. Still, saying goodbye is hard after we have been in partnership for so long. This will be my last full summer in Florida. I will finally be having surgery on the always-problematic right knee in August but will hopefully be back in the pulpit for the September Water Ceremony. I will be in and out during June and July.

I hope we can make this last year together a celebration of the past and a gathering of ideas and energy for the future. I would like to review in sermons and classes over the next year what I feel have been some of the main themes of my 16-plus years of ministry with you. This does not mean I will be repeating old sermons but rather that I will go over old Journey issues and take a look at what were some greatest hits Sundays and take a new and fresh look at some of the topics that seemed to resonate over the years. If any of you have personal favorite topics that you would like to hear more on, please submit requests over the summer.

Though our church faces challenges in the areas of numbers and finances, it is imperative that we all understand that most of the same issues are also being faced by most, if not all, Unitarian Universalist congregations and religious institutions in general. The oldest and most prestigious publishing and seminar-producing group in the liberal Christian world, Alban Institute, closed down last year. Attendance at religious services is declining across the board. Some point to the mega churches as exceptions but many of these churches are facing scandals and ever-changing faces in the pews as well, even if the overall numbers are still high. Rather than a time for doom and gloom, it is a time to reflect, regroup and renew and be open to risk-taking, trying new things and pushing the envelope. The future will happen regardless of what we do or don't do, but our actions and commitment can make a difference. Be engaged, be ready and most of all, for heaven's sake try to have fun. Nothing is more attractive to new people venturing into a place as a seeker than to see the people who are already there appearing to like each other and having fun.

Blessings on the journey.

Rev. Gail



THANKS TO ALL JUSTICE SEEKERS

Many thanks to all who gave up a night of their busy lives to attend the April 20 BOLD Justice Nehemiah Action. I hope more people will step forward in the future to take a major leadership role in this important and impacting Interfaith justice ministry. June 9 will be the celebration where all the Justice Ministry Team and Network members are asked to attend to start preparing for next year's Justice goals.

Rev. Gail





Director of Religious Education (DRE) - Susan Dirgins-Friend

Phone (954) 424-1910 Email tiredmomofbob@aol.com
Committee Meetings - Third Sundays of the Month - 9:30am



My son Spike is now 25 years old, and is quickly climbing higher and higher in his chosen work field. We are very proud. My daughter Savannah is 21, and next year will be a senior in college. These things are hard for me to fathom. It seems like in the blink of an eye they went from cute-as-a-button babies to successful, independent adults. I have had the pleasure of watching many UUCFL kids grow up as well. There were kids who needed to sit in my lap to stay on task who are now out in the world keeping us all waiting to see what happens next in their lives (via Facebook). Many of my littles are now engaged, in graduate school, putting on radio shows and living their own crazy lives. We have one of our kids who is now a dad himself, and another one about to graduate and head off to college. I also spent more than ten years in the public school system as a volunteer and teacher. Not a month goes by that I don't hear "hey Miss Friend" in Publix. I love it when it happens. I look into an adult face, and then I see him, the little boy who saw me in the grocery store at Christmas time and said, "Hey, Miss Friend, why aren't you at school?" I said we are on break. "Oh no, teachers should be working." I have held their babies, looked at college graduation pictures, chastised them for partying too much and flunking out of college, and held them as they cried, telling me about the death of a parent. Some of these young adults are successful and on their way to exciting, engaging, well-lived lives. Some, not so much. There is one thing that the lucky ones had that some of the others did not, and that was a network of adults who cared, who kicked their butts, who made them a priority, who put them before their own needs, who were willing to be their parents and not their friends, who spent all their hard-earned income on them, who laughed with them, cried with them, and made them the important thing in their lives. It is simple, really. It is not fair that there are kids who don't have that— all of them deserve it. If you have a chance to be part of a network, please do it. All it takes is one caring adult sometimes. All it takes is one adult who says "you are worth something." We are responsible for the world that we create, and we can make it a world filled with cared for, loved, challenged children.

Love and blessings,

DRE Susan



May Children's Religious Education Schedule

Sunday May 3, 11AM

Mother's Day Prep

Sunday May 10, 11AM

Mother's Day Activity

Sunday May 17, 11 AM

Movie Day

Sunday May 24, 11AM

Memorial Day Activity

Sunday May 31

Flower Communion Sunday

News of Yellow Wood

You may already be well aware of Yellow Wood Learning Community, operating happily right here in the Unitarian Universalists' beautiful home! We are a contemporary educational institution designed to support the academic and life goals of teenagers in Broward County. Like many progressive learning centers, **Yellow Wood nurtures a community** that allows students to study in an environment that caters to their own interests, passions and goals—**without the distractions** or disparaging atmospheres traditional settings might foster.

As society continues to evolve, our children have to come to terms with the realities of their persona faster than ever. In fact, these realities are happening quicker than we can reform our schools to protect and cultivate our youth.

Yellow Wood Learning Community is a unique institution that understands what youth are going through. That is why we've designed our community to support students in core pillars:

- **Academics** – By helping students pursue their passion and interests, we've discovered that they excel in their academics through freedom and self-motivation.
- **Lifestyle**—No matter how our students choose to identify themselves, our professional staff members help cultivate young adults and encourage them to strengthen their character via an array of after-school activities.
- **Empowerment**—One of the greatest advantages of our community is a sense of empowerment each of our students has in structuring their lives.

On May 19, we are hosting a Celebration of our Students & our program from 3pm until 7pm. We are inviting guests to visit us to experience first-hand the advantages students have when they enroll in our inclusive community. For more information, please visit our website: www.ywlc.org and see our Facebook page too!

We would LOVE to meet you and show you what we have been up to this year. Drop by any time between 3pm and 7pm and enjoy some refreshments!

Judith Hirsch

Yellow Wood Learning Community

Music Notes



Tri-Choir rehearsals are under way, leading to special Sunday services at the three venues. On April 19, Tri-Choir was at the Boca Fellowship; May 3 the selections will be repeated at River of Grass; and the third and final presentation will be at UUCFL on May 17. It is always exciting to hear a choir of about 25 voices in our sanctuary which is so perfect acoustically. The music which was chosen by each director is varied and beautiful. Please try to be present for at least one of these programs. It will be worth your time.

Meanwhile, Susan, our Director par excellence, is continuing to prepare the choir for our regularly scheduled Sunday services. Choir will be singing on May 10 and May 31 which completes our church year, after which we will be on summer break until September. There will be a Choir Retreat planned in August to prepare the music for the first few Sundays in the fall season. An announcement will be forthcoming when a date is chosen. We have some fine singers in our congregation most Sundays. Why have you not volunteered to join the choir? Being fluent in reading music is not essential as we learn the music at rehearsals. Of course, background in music is an advantage for the singers, but Susan has been supplying recorded vocal parts to practice at home. This helps choir members who learn their parts by rote. So don't be shy, speak to Susan and enjoy a fulfilling experience being a part of the UUCFL Choir.

We miss our organist so much. Charlie, rest in peace. Your work here is done. Our sympathy is extended to his partner, Mario.

We appreciate the faithful choir members who have attended rehearsals regularly. Enjoy your time off and return at Choir Retreat refreshed and ready to sing better than ever in the fall.

Dot Muise, Director of Music

**Labyrinth Café Concerts Presents
Amy Carol Webb/Cosy Sheridan
Saturday May 9 at 7:30pm**

"Amy Carol Webb," defined, is "beloved song weaver." She is passionate, powerful, and poignant. She's the girl next door and no ordinary woman. Born and reared in Oklahoma, Amy traces her heritage back to Native Americans through her Great-Grandmothers who settled Oklahoma when it was still a Territory. Amy's music reflects the same pioneering spirit, tenacity, integrity and never-quit grit. She is "beauty and vulnerability, genuine, sympathetic and electrifying." (Gables Gazette) Her joy is infectious, her courage inspiring, her songs gifts of literate, humorous, often profound poems of one woman's remarkable journey from precious child to woman to mother... to "Songweaver." Amy was ordained as a Unitarian Universalist minister in 2011 and is currently Consulting Minister to the River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Davie, Florida. Amy says: "I believe that both ministry and music are, at depth, a continuing conversation among our authentic, imperfect selves as



we spiral toward what really matters most in our lives– that we may transformed and transform our world."



Cosy Sheridan has been called "one of the era's finest and most thoughtful singer-songwriters." She first caught the attention of national folk audiences in 1992 when she won both the Kerrville Folk Festival's New Folk Award and the Telluride Bluegrass Festival Troubador Contest, then released her critically acclaimed CD "Quietly Led" on Waterbug Records. Since then she's released nine more CDs, taught songwriting at workshops and camps across the country and written a one-woman show entitled "The Pomegranate Seed– An Exploration of Appetite, Body-Image and Myth." She is one of the most respected touring musicians on the folk circuit, appearing everywhere from Carnegie Hall to the Jerry Lewis Telethon and the Philadelphia Folk Festival. Her concerts are wide-ranging explorations: modern renditions of mythology (meet Hades the biker), children's stories woven into tales of modern adulthood, blues and gospel guitar and love songs for adults. Her altar ego, Chlamydia, often appears with songs such as "Botox Tango" or "Multiply Pierced." The Cornell Folksong Society wrote: "Sheridan is frank, feisty, sublimely and devilishly funny. She fuses myth with modern culture; Persephone with Botox."

Reservations requested but not required:

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

\$20 at the door; \$17 advance reservations (checks made out to the performer received in the UU church office no later than Wednesday before Saturday show)...

...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).

Susan Moss, Coordinator, Labyrinth Cafe Concert Series

Postal Food Drive
Saturday, May 9

Put May 9th on your calendar! This year, DRE Susan and Judy King will be the team leaders at the Melrose Branch (Broward Blvd. & 441) post office for the annual Letter Carriers' Food Drive. This is a huge benefit for our own LifeNet 4 Families. We want a big turnout for this once-a-year very important day for our food pantry. We need folks to make boxes, pack boxes, separate food, shrink-wrap pallets, and on and on. You get to spend a day, or part of one, doing good, hanging out with friends, and you get a T-shirt. What is not to love? There are two shifts, from 12-3ish and 3-6ish. If you want, you can even stay all day. Children are welcome, and there are service hours available for students. Bring friends, family, neighbors, and everyone you know.

Information and questions

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

A Fan Letter

I know I speak for many when I congratulate Rev. Gail for her thought-provoking and inspiring sermon on March 31st entitled "A House Divided," based on Matt Taibbi's book: "Divide." I am reading the book now and it is a stunner!

Dot's rendition of "The Crane" by Lanz touched my heart. We are so blessed to have her play for us each Sunday morning.

Following service, at 1:00 we had a discussion of "Capitalism vs. the Climate" and then later, "In Heaven as it was on Earth," celebrating the kind of love that transcends death.

All this just on March 31st!

Come to church! We have it all!

Judy Knopp

Coming CUUPS Events

We celebrate no Sabbats in May. Although the traditional date for Beltaine in May 2nd, we held ours in mid April to match up other schedules in the greater Pagan Community.

Thursday 7:30 pm Study Groups continue. We select presenters from among our own people plus outside leaders.

May 7: Goddesses of the North; May 28: Cernunos - The Horned God. We will fill the other Thursdays and post them at MoonPathCUUPS.org/coming.htm.

There are eight major celebrations on our Wheel of the Year. It's not just Samhain and Beltaine. Coming up in June is the Summer Solstice or, as we call it, Litha.

Come out and play!

Kip, Resident Pagan



Free Your Giant Within

Unleash your hidden giant with the Social Justice Empowerment Workshop on Saturday, May 2. Bring clarity to your Social Justice motivation and release your power to make a difference in Social Justice. This exciting workshop is presented by the UU SE Cluster (www.uuflorida.org/secluster.htm) and UU Justice Florida (<http://www.uujusticefl.org>). The workshop will be from 9:45am to 4pm on May 2 at the First UU Congregation of the Palm Beaches (www.uunpb.org). The cost is \$15 with advance registration, \$20 at the door. Registration includes continental breakfast and lunch.

In addition to the Empowerment Workshop in the morning, there will be exciting workshops on Environmental Justice, Racial Justice and the new Study/Action Issue Escalating Inequality in the afternoon.

LifeNet 4 Families/CFP Update

We will be working our regular monthly workday on Saturday May 2nd at LifeNet from 9am until 11:30am. We will make food boxes, stack shelves and other tasks. Judy King and I will also be planning for the May 9th postal food drive, so I hope that we can get a crew out on this Saturday to work.

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

**Third Friday Vespers Service
May 15 at 7:00 pm**

Vespers is our third Friday service that combines readings, music and meditation in a small group setting. It is a short service at 7 PM, usually 45 minutes long. These services may include poetry, prose, music, singing, occasional live music, occasional dance, and meditation. The service is followed by wine and cheese and an opportunity to enjoy fellowship.

See www.uucfl.org/vespers/ For more info or question, DRE Susan Dirgins-Friend (954) 424-1910



“ And this our life, exempt from public haunt,
Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in everything. I would not change it. ”

William Shakespeare

As You Like It

Directory of Staff, Board, Committee Chairs & Affiliates

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- **Minister**
Rev. Gail Tapscott.....954-288-4245
- **Director of Religious Education**
Susan Dirgins-Friend.....954-424-1910
- **Music Director**
Dorothy Muise.....954-731-8790
- **Choir Director**
Susan Dirgins-Friend.....954-424-1910
- **Church Office Assistant**
Jeffrey Hutt.....786-766-1550

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- Steve Lange954-257-9262

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Social Justice Committee

Chairperson — TBA

BOLD Justice

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Cooperative Feeding Program

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

South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice

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Webmaster

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- Joe DeAngelis.....954-973-1337

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- Mara Newman.....954-849-3736

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Labyrinth Café Concerts

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

Welcoming/Membership

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

Ministry

- Betty Highton.....954-484-6313

Nominating

- Steve Lange954-257-9262

Religious Education

- Laura Lange.....954-584-2499

Sunday Services

- Opal Murray.....770-265-6242

Wisdom and Enlightenment Series

- Opal Murray.....770-265-6242

ASSOCIATE & AFFILIATE GROUPS

• **CUUPS**

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

• **Endowment**

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

• **Interweave**

- Nicole Rivera.....954-815-0086

• **UU Service Committee**

- Noralee Traylor.....954-776-4226



The Market Place



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The program runs between January 1 and the IRS income tax filing deadline (usually April 15) of the current year.

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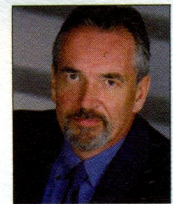
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Remember the Hungry People Around Us

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.feedbroward.org



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.

May Birthdays

Cathy Waltz 5/5
Mary Jane Stone 5/7
Judith Pine 5/8
Olive C. Beverly 5/12
Alexis Blasenheim 5/12
Sara Solis 5/25
Walter Karnatz 5/28
Luna Ekendiz 5/29
Kaden Mohammed 5/29



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

Sat

Fri

Thu

Wed

Tue

Mon

Sun

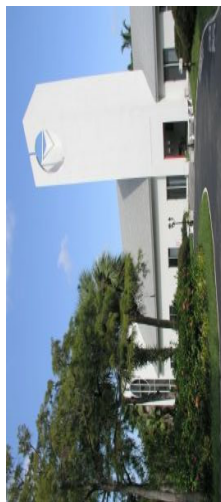
Religious
Education Events
See special
calendar
on the RE page 4

Every Sunday :
11:00 AM-
Church Service
and Children's
Religious Education

May Calendar



Visit our on line calendar for late-breaking events www.uucfl.org and click "Coming Activities"



2

•8:45am LifeNet4Families
Cooperative Feeding
Program Workday
•9:45-4:00 SE Cluster
Social Justice Workshop,
UUNPB

1

9

•12-6 Postal Food Drive
•7:30pm Labyrinth Café
Concert (See page 6)

8

7

•7:30pm- CUUPS

6

•6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal

5

4

•9:30am—UU Sisterhood
•12:30pm— Fellowship
Lunch Day

16

15
7:00pm- Vespers Service

14

•7:30pm- CUUPS

13

•6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal

12

11

•7:00pm- Board
Meeting

10

•JOURNEY ARTICLE
SUBMISSION
DEADLINE

23

22

21

•7:00pm- UU Men's
Group
•7:30pm- CUUPS

20

•6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal

19

•3-7 Yellow Woods
Celebration of Students

18

•9:30am—UU Sisterhood
•12:30pm- Fellowship
Lunch Day
•12:45 Annual Election
Meeting

30

29

28

•7:30pm- CUUPS

27

•6:45pm- Choir Rehearsal

26

25

•7:00pm-
Welcoming/
Membership
Committee

24

•Flower
Communion
Sunday
31

Unitarian Universalist

Church of Ft. Lauderdale

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Minister: Rev. Gail Tapscott

Phone: 954-484-6734

Minister Phone: 954-288-4245

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

MAY 2015

May 3— The Cathedral of the World – Our Universalist heritage is rich and relevant, and many feel its message of love, hope and courage, as well as its radical inclusiveness which is more important than ever. Rev. Gail will take a look at the past, present and future of Universalism through well-known older sermons and forward-looking ideas for small-group ministry and ways of building community.

May 10—Lessons from Nature and Mother's Day – On this Mother's Day, Rev. Gail will pay homage to the act of mothering in the human world but will also be looking at some lessons for living from Mother Nature and her creatures. Our UUCFL choir will be back.

May 17 —The Church of the Future: Congregations and Beyond – Much is changing in Unitarian Universalist Land. Today, with the Tri-Choir here, Rev. Gail Tapscott will look at the many possible ways that our movement could change in the future as the Gen Xers and the Millennials become more active in shaping the coming decades. The future looks bright and interesting but different, and we need to be ready.

May 24—Personal Journey Back to Jesus – Today our own Jeff Hutt will offer us his journey away from and back toward some of the beliefs of his younger days. Singer Kiya Heartwood will be bringing her amazing singer/songwriter talents our way as well.

May 31 —International Unitarian Universalism and Flower Communion – Today marks the end of the official church program year which starts in September with our Water Ceremony and ends each year with the Flower Ceremony. This year's Flower Sunday will focus on the increasingly international nature of our movement and how that may impact future trends here at home. Bring a flower to put on the altar and you will take a different flower home. Beauty and diversity will abound. Our choir will also make its last appearance until Water Sunday.

June 7 —TBA— Our Sunday Service promises to provide you with a service that will be stimulating, inspiring and, in general, terrific. Stay tuned for specifics.