



United Church of Gainesville

# ***NEWSLETTER***

WHOEVER YOU ARE, WHEREVER YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, WE WELCOME YOU.

LATE SUMMER 2011

Larry Reimer & Sandy Reimer  
Ministers

Andy Bachmann

Associate Minister

Vince Amlin

Associate Minister

Lisa Goldstein

Editor

## ***Sunday, August 14 - Ask the Pastor at 10:00am***

During this service, **Sandy Reimer and Larry Reimer will respond to your written questions.** Be thinking of a question about UCG, about ministry, about spirituality, about sermons or about faith. Vocal Ensemble with Amanda Garrigues-DeMouey, Alan Hill and Gary Swanson.

## ***Sunday, August 21 - Annual Gathering of Waters***

***begins our new worship theme: Come to the Waters***

***Services at 9:30 & 11:00am***

At summer's end, from oceans and lakes, swimming pools and faucets, rivers and streams, near and far, we each bring a small bit of water to share as we gather together. We pour that water – of power, of healing, of peace, of homecoming – into pitchers and then into a common urn, blessing it as our individual waters become our sacred communal water of baptisms and rituals for the year ahead. This year's services include special music by John Maze on pipes.

- ◆ **Chapel is open for meditation** at 8:30
- ◆ **Nursery care** from 9:15 to 12:15
- ◆ **United Tribes begins this Sunday after the Children's time**, when all children and their families can share their water.
- ◆ There is a **Potluck Brunch** between the two services, from 10:15 to 11:30. Please bring a finger food snack to serve 8 to 10 folks. Beverages and paper goods provided.
- ◆ **Guide and Pre-K Teacher Training** at 8:00am in the West Wing
- ◆ **Middle School Group and Youth United Informational Meeting** at 12:15pm

---

We all drink from one water.

We all breathe from one air.

We rise from one ocean and live under one sky.

Remember: We are one, all brothers and sisters,

Only one family, only one earth.

Remember: We are one. ~ Anwar Fazal

---

## ***Sunday, August 28 - Our "Come to the Waters" Theme***

***continues though Sunday, September 18***

On August 28, "**Waters of Homecoming**" with **Larry Reimer**. To come home, we have to leave home, and to find our true home is perhaps life's ongoing task. If you have a chance, watch the movie "Tangled." Special music by Mary Anna Evans and Amanda Evans.

# *What's Happening August and Beyond*

2

## **Parent's Night Out**

Need a night out? Bring your children, babies through 5th grade, to the UCG church school wing on **Friday, August 19** from 5:30 to 8:30 where they can play, eat pizza\*, watch movies, and have fun with our child care staff. The cost is \$10 for the first child and \$5 for each additional child. **RSVP to [lindaj@ucgainesville.org](mailto:lindaj@ucgainesville.org) by September 7.** \*Due to life threatening food allergies, no outside food can be brought in. Thank you.

## **POW - WOW Gathering**

Welcome back United Tribes families! **POW- WOW** (UCG's social group for parents and children age K and up) will host a family gathering at the H. Spurgeon Cherry "Westside" Pool on Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup> beginning at 1:30 (the pool is open until 5:00). Come join your friends for swim, slide and diving board fun (no RSVP necessary, just come if you can). Admission: \$3.65 Adults - \$2.35 youth (3-17)/Seniors 55+. There is a concession stand and outside food is not permitted. For more information, contact Laura Robertson at [laurar@ufl.edu](mailto:laurar@ufl.edu).

## **August 28 and September 4 Seminar at 11:00am**

**One Church, One Book Discussion (led by Dawn Beachy on August 28<sup>th</sup>; led by Jessica Elkins on September 4<sup>th</sup>)** - You've read the book, now come and share! All summer the Board of Adult Programs has been encouraging UCG to read the book, *Water for Elephants* together, to keep us connected through trips to the beach, the springs, or the Himalayas. Whether you read the book this summer, a few years ago, or just saw the movie, this is your chance to discuss it with other members and friends of UCG. Come to one week or both!

## **Fall TGIF Hosts Needed**

On October 7<sup>th</sup> from 7-10 we hope to offer our TGIF gatherings again. The TGIFs are informal get-togethers in church members' homes. The host provides the space, plates, ice, cups, and napkins. Then guests bring a finger food to share and their favorite Friday night beverage. If you're interested in hosting this fall, contact Mark Robinson at [mar@marllr.net](mailto:mar@marllr.net) or 215-7265.

## **Men's Overnight: Save the Date!**

The Men's Fishing Trip and Overnight is set for Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. Every other year the men of the church go deep sea fishing out of Crystal River. The overnight includes time for food and fellowship, meaningful conversation, and, of course, fishing. Watch for more information next month. But mark your calendars now, and plan to attend. Contact Mike Chance at [mdchance@hotmail.com](mailto:mdchance@hotmail.com) or Vince Amlin at [vincea@ucgainesville.org](mailto:vincea@ucgainesville.org) for more information.

## **We Love a Parade: Come Build a Float!**

The Gainesville Gay Pride Parade and our own UCG Pride Service are right around the corner (October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>). This year we want to include a float in our parade presence, but we need your help! The Open and Affirming (ONA) Committee, which leads our welcome of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people, is calling all artists, handy-women and men, and anyone else who would like to help design and create our 2011 Pride float. The Gainesville Pride theme this year is "Pride Will Set You Free," so free your mind and contact ONA Committee Chair, Bill Hutchinson, at [wrhjr962@windstream.net](mailto:wrhjr962@windstream.net) or Vince Amlin at [vincea@ucgainesville.org](mailto:vincea@ucgainesville.org) if you're interested.



Seeing our national denomination gathered in one place up close is a rare opportunity. We are 1.1 million members strong, with 5,300 congregations in 50 states. We have 10,000 ministers, 350 health care institutions, 7 seminaries, and 45 colleges or related schools. Florida has 97 UCC churches with 26,000 members, and we hosted this remarkable event.

I was amazed to see the leadership and support of Synod from UCG. Mary Nutter was Florida co-chair of the event. She recruited Joyce Henry Hettel to run child care for the entire five days of Synod. She then brought in Lael Johnston, Yo Tucker, and Kathryn King to help her. She also drafted Margaret Johnston, who attended a General Synod as a youth, to be an assistant recorder. Larry Ligammare organized thirteen more volunteers from UCG which included, Bill Gallagher, Bill Hutchinson, Steve Waybright, Kathy Funke, Carol Barron, Pamela Smith, Phoebe Papadi, Kitty Williams, Rachel Kirk, Sally Kimberly, Sandy, and me. We ushered at worship, and assisted speakers at various workshops.

Worshiping at Synod is like being part of a UCC mega church. I imagine 3,000 people were part of Friday night worship. There were three large screens capturing the images of the event. Fantastic musicians led songs of every variety. The theme, from the promise of God to Abraham and Sarah, that your offspring shall be as numerous as the sands and stars, meant that the worship center included a virtual beach of sand and a backdrop screen of thousands of stars. Liturgical dancers entered in a darkened auditorium with lanterns that matched up with stars. At one point the dancers swirled long sparkling ribbons on poles.

Even more remarkable was to be in a crowd this size that consistently proclaimed our Open and Affirming welcome of all people; gay, straight, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered without any hesitation. The UCC includes Pacific Asian Islanders, Native Americans, and people of all colors and genders in its membership and leadership. Over and over again our leaders proclaimed their commitment to social justice for all, not sacrificing a child's healthcare to tax breaks for the comfortable and wealthy.

I loved the new button developed by our Open and Affirming coalition with rainbow colors and the words, "It's just love."

The Synod presented the Antoinette Brown award, in honor of the first woman ordained in the United States in 1853, which happened to be in the Congregational Church, one of the parent denominations of the United Church of Christ. Sandy was nominated for this award by members of this church, but the awarding committee didn't quite have the insight to choose her!

An alternative journal, "Balaam's Chronicle," which has been the unauthorized, underground commentary on Synod for over twenty years, featured a wonderful article about UCG's response to Terry Jones' Quran burning.

Leonard Pitts, syndicated columnist from the *Miami Herald* and UCC member, gave the keynote address Saturday morning, challenging us all not to give up the fight for equality and justice for all in the face of the ignorance and cruelty of the those who always have money for the military but never seem to be able to find it for the health care of a poor child.

The business of the Synod is still occurring as I write this article, and we will report on that later. In the mean time, ask the people named above about their Synod experiences and the pride they found in the United Church of Christ.

Larry

# Youth Happenings... Andy Bachmann

4

On August 21 we will host a Welcome Back! party for all our MSGer's! Come on up to the youth room at 11am to get acquainted with our new MSG and get the year started off right! MSG is for all our Middle School aged UCGer's.

After the 11 am worship we will host an All Youth (Middle School- High School) information session, complete with a list of all our scheduled events for the year. Parents, please plan on attending and bringing YOUR kids to this important informational event. We will meet in the Sanctuary.

Then, at 5:30 pm Youth United, our High School youth group gets kicked-off with a light supper and some great "getting to know you" games. Come on out, it's going to be great!

Our **Middle School youth group meets every Sunday at 11 am in the Youth Room.** We are finished at noon. **Our High School youth group (Youth United) meets on the first and third Sundays of the month,** with special days regularly scheduled. For more information, please attend our meeting at noon on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

---

## A Little Child Shall Lead Them

UCG Children's Program ~ Director, Heidi Stein

### What's a Frogurtle?

While I am writing this it's the first two weeks in August and that means Tribal Camp! The Frogurtles (frog +turtles) and the Mysterious Mega Muffins are our two Tribes. Counselors Erin, Julia, Kayleigh, and Yo, Camp Manager Cam Parker, Shanna Johnson our Volunteer Coordinator, Salina Briseno our cook, Summer Hartley our rover and many UCG members and friends have created a fun and meaningful community for our kids! Thank you to the many people who make this event happen. We had 31 campers this year including 3 rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders who just refused to "graduate" from camp.

### Where are the Waters of Homecoming?

The UCG Playground of course. United Tribes will start back up on August 21<sup>st</sup>. We will have a fun festival, kids will meet their guides/teachers, and enjoy a water slide. Registration forms will come in the mail so please complete them and turn them in immediately or after the 9:30 service on the 21st.

### What's New?

Our preschool room was bursting at the seams last year, so this year we will be using two rooms for that class. One room will be used for gathering, circle time and floor play and the other for snacks and table top activities. We are excited to have more space and tables that allow everyone to sit!

**8-14-10** *Guide and Teacher Training*

**8-21-10** *First Day Fun Fest – Swimsuits!*

**8-28-10** *First Rotation*

*Pre K-1<sup>st</sup> Music*

*2-5 Tribe Building*

*Water Rotation*



***Children should come in a swim suit to our First Day Fest on August 21<sup>st</sup>!***

## **Fall Small Groups are Here!**

Small groups are back for the fall, and, as always, the members of UCG are offering a wide variety of exciting groups in the areas of Spiritual Exploration, Personal Growth, and Recreation and the Arts. Some of the groups this Fall include:

Advent Contemplative Prayer

Memoir and Fiction Writing

*New Harmony*- a group on the latest book by John Phillip Newell

Friends Over 50

The Work of Byron Katie

Hand Building in Clay

Plus groups on: Hypnosis, Dreams, Bicycling, Birding, and much, much more...

**Special note to parents:** After the success of our “Wednesdays in Lent,” we will be offering “Wednesdays in October!” Each Wednesday evening in October a number of groups will meet at the same time with childcare provided in order to allow parents of young children to attend! So please take advantage of this opportunity.

The fall small groups brochure will be available on August 28<sup>th</sup>, and sign-ups will run through September 11<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to confirm that you are able to come to each group for which you sign up as space in many groups is limited. Thanks to all of our wonderful members and friends who are offering groups this semester. And special thanks to the members of the Small Groups Committee who have worked hard to make all of this happen: Lea Galigani, Paul George, Reisa George, and Terri Regotti.

## **Thanks for a Great Summer!**

Being the MOD (Minister on Duty) for a month each summer could be an intimidating prospect, but you make it an absolute joy. Thanks for your assistance and support in keeping things running smoothly at UCG in the dog days. Many thanks to our Board of Parish Ministry for their beautiful summer services; it is a treat to come and worship and not have to lead anything! I can't wait to welcome back the rest of the team in the next couple weeks, but you have made summer a breeze! Vince

## **UCG Bikeshare**

As you go back to campus or around downtown, remember that UCG has two bikes available to share. Just come to the office to get the combination to the lock. We even have helmets.

## **Women in the UCC! Speak Your Mind — We Are Listening!**

UCC women are being asked to complete an on-line survey regarding resources, programs, groups, meetings and ministries with, for and about women of all ages in the UCC. To participate, please visit [www.ucc.org/women](http://www.ucc.org/women).

# LATE AUGUST 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>14</b> Teacher / Guide training 8am  Worship 10am "Ask the Pastor"	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Budget Summit 1:30pm  Alzheimer/Dementia Support Group 7pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  Lunch Groups 12pm	<b>20</b>  Wester / Patel Wedding 9:30am
<b>21</b> IHN Begins Worship 9:30 & 11:00am Gathering of Waters 10:15-11:30am Potluck Brunch United Tribes Kick off 9:45am  Friendship Group 11am IHN Team 12pm Youth Groups Info Meeting 12:15pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  Newsletter Deadline 12pm  SJC 6:30pm	<b>24</b>  Council Exec 12pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  Lunch Groups 12pm	<b>27</b>
<b>IHN Hosting this week through August 28</b>						
<b>28</b>  Meditation 8:45am Worship 9:30 & 11:00am  All-Board Kick off 4 - 6:30pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  Newsletter Folding 10:30am	<b>1</b>  Choir Practice 7:15pm	<b>2</b>  Lunch Groups 12pm	<b>3</b>  UF vs FL Atlantic 7pm  BCM Football Parking

# BOARDS, COMMITTEES, ETC...

7

## All –Board Kick-off

Calling all Board/Committee members to come to our annual **Kick - Off Planning meeting Sunday, Aug 28, 4:00-6:30 PM**. It is the one time during the year when all the different boards and committees converge to consider “The Big Picture” for the coming year, so I hope you will plan to attend. We will take time to review our business statements, develop goals and consider an action plan to get us off and running for the new church year. In addition, it is fun and enlightening to hear about what others are doing and to share a meal together. Child care is available on request. Dinner will be served for a cost of \$8.00 each. **RSVP to [lindaj@ucgainesville.org](mailto:lindaj@ucgainesville.org)**. See you there! ~ Sally Simonis, Moderator.

## IHN

Recruiting for the August 21 hosting week has gone exceedingly well. As of this writing, only 4 vacancies remain to be filled: 3 female overnight hosts and one breakfast host.

Besides meeting our needs for volunteers for our hosting weeks, IHN **needs** committee members. Over the years we’ve worked at streamlining and dividing our tasks so no one person takes on an inordinate amount of work. Please consider a three year term on our committee. The first year is largely an extended orientation to what we do, then moving into a more active role taking turns as a day coordinator (calling and assisting volunteers), helping with recruiting, set-up or take-down. There’s always someone more experienced on the committee that you can turn to for answers and support. Please join us in this ministry so that we can continue this vital work, caring not only for homeless families, but also for our committee members by sharing the load. Contact Jean Epling -374-7144 or [gvillejean@live.com](mailto:gvillejean@live.com).

## Enlistment

The fall 2010 congregational survey, the basis for our current three-year plan, revealed that our congregation believes that the average recommended annual pledge should be 4.5% of income. Presently 80% of our congregation pledges 4% or less each year. If each pledging unit commits to the average pledge recommended in the survey, we would achieve the budget goal at the end of the regular campaign.

## Board of Outreach

Watch for details about the **Food 4 Kids Sponsorship drive** starting August 28!

---

## PASSAGES...

*We welcome with love and joy:*

- ◆ Ethan Robert Cecchini, son of Kasey Cecchini born Wednesday, June 15, weighing 6lbs 13ozs.
- ◆ Abigail Faith Courtney, granddaughter of Diana Karol and Wayne Nagy, born Tuesday, July 5, weighing 7lbs 5ozs. She joins big brother Graham
- ◆ Jackson Cole Nagy, son of Matt Nagy, grandson of Wayne Nagy and Diana Karol, born Thursday, July 7.

*We send our blessings to:*

- ◆ Sarah Ingley and John Maze who were married on Saturday, July 30 in the Sanctuary. Vince Amlin officiated at the ceremony.

*We send blessings and best wishes to:*

- ◆ Bob and Pat Atkins, longtime UCG members as they relocate to Portland, Oregon. Bob was one of the founding members of UCG.

UNITED CHURCH OF  
GAINESVILLE

1624 NW 5th Avenue  
Gainesville, FL 32603

Phone: 352-378-3500

Fax: 352-378-0501

E-mail: [info@ucgainesville.org](mailto:info@ucgainesville.org)

Hours: Monday - Friday

8:30am - 4:30pm

NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
GAINESVILLE, FL  
PERMIT NO. 285

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

---

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 23 AT NOON  
FOR SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**

## **Looking Ahead:**

- ◆ **Sunday, Sept. 25 - Bible Sunday:** 2nd & 3rd graders receive their Bibles
- ◆ **Wednesday, September 28 at 7:00pm—New Member Orientation** for anyone interested in joining UCG on **Sunday, October 9 at the 9:30 or the 11:00 service.**
- ◆ **Sunday, October 2 - Fall Congregational Meeting**
- ◆ **October 14 - 15 - Men's Overnight Fishing Trip**
- ◆ **Sunday, October 16—Humor Sunday**
- ◆ **October 16 - 23 - IHN Hosting Week**
- ◆ **Saturday, October 22 - Pride Parade**
- ◆ **Sunday, October 23 - PRIDE Sunday**
- ◆ **Tuesday, November 1 - 7:00pm - All Saints Service**
- ◆ **Saturday, February 4 and Sunday, February 5 - Women's Overnight**

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 23 AT NOON  
FOR SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**