



United Church of Gainesville

NEWSLETTER

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

FEBRUARY 2012

Larry Reimer & Sandy Reimer
Ministers

Andy Bachmann
Associate Minister

Vince Amlin
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The things that matter most in our lives are not fantastic or grand. They are the moments when we touch one another, when we are there in the most attentive or caring way. This simple and profound intimacy is the love that we all long for. Mother Teresa put it like this: *In this life we cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love.*

~ from A Path With Heart
by Jack Kornfield

UCG Book Sale

Sunday, February 19. Donations now being accepted. *See page 2 for more information.*

Lent at UCG

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22. There will be identical services at UCG at noon and 7:00pm. Child care is provided at both. *See page 3 for more information.*

Time and Talent Fair

Sunday, March 11. When UCG members sign up for boards, committees and other volunteer opportunities for the coming year. *See page 9 for more information.*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

HAPPENING IN FEB	2
SEVENTH TRUMPET	4
THRESHOLDS	5
YOUTH CALENDAR	7
IN VINNY VERITAS	8
UNITED TRIBES	9
SUNDAYS	12
CALENDAR	14

New Members will join our church

at the 11:00am service
Sunday, February 12.

There is an Orientation Session on Wednesday, February 1 at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

All Church Retreat at Warren Willis Camp, April 27 - 29

New Details Available

See page 7

CURRENT WORSHIP THEME

"TO A GOD UNKNOWN"

LENTEN WORSHIP THEME

**"PSALMS:
SONGS OF THE JOURNEY"**

What's Happening in February ²

PNO (Parent's night out) on Friday, February 10th

Need a night out? PNO is for parents of babies through 5th grade. The kids can go to the UCG church school wing from 5:30 to 8:30pm - where they eat pizza*, watch movies, play games, and have fun with their friends and our child care staff. The cost is \$11 for the first child and \$6 for each additional child. RSVPs are required so we have sufficient staffing for the children. **Please RSVP by Tuesday, February 7** to lindaj@ucgainesville.org. *Due to life threatening food allergies, no outside food is allowed.

A Time to Join UCG

The church is a container for our joy and our grief, our passages and transitions. The church holds us and shelters us when we need comfort, challenges us when we need to grow, and provides a direction for life's journey and a vehicle in which to take that journey. **We will have two special services on Sunday, February 12 when new members join. At the 9:30 service, our 7th and 8th grade confirmation class will join the church. At the 11:00am service we will welcome new members to UCG. The orientation session for the adult new members is on Wednesday, February 1 at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall.** Child care is provided. Please call or e-mail the church office (info@ucgainesville.org) if you are interested in joining.

Art in the Library

UCG member Kandy Penner will be the featured artist for February's Art in the Library. After a career as a Speech/Language Pathologist, Kandy has enjoyed the opportunity to expand her longtime interest in photography and to develop her skills in gourd crafting. Her prints and gourds will be on display in the library for the month of February. **A reception will be held on Sunday, February 12th at 10:30am.**

ONA Dinner Out

The UCG Open and Affirming Ministry Committee, which is responsible for our ministry of welcome and celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, invites you to dinner out on **Saturday, February 18th at 6:30pm, Ichiban Sushi, downtown Gainesville.** The menu and directions are available at: www.ichibanflorida.com. **Please RSVP by Wednesday February 15** to Bill Gallagher at bil3@cox.net or 514-5539. You can also RSVP on the Facebook group. To join the Facebook group, just email Bill at bil3@cox.net and he will gladly add you. This is not a meeting, but rather a social event. Those interested will walk to the University Club after dinner. The University Club is a major contributor to Gainesville Pride Celebration and the Gainesville Pride Center.

UCG Book Sale -- Sunday, February 19

Collection boxes are in the Library and Foyer for your donations of used books, DVDs, CDs, etc. This is an opportunity to "refurbish" your personal collection while helping to pay for new, relevant offerings in our Church Library. To volunteer to help with sorting, hauling or with the sale itself, please sign up on bulletin board outside the church office or e-mail Ellen Louis at n.ellen.louis@gmail.com

Workshop brought to UCG by the Board of Adult Programs

On Saturday, February 25th UCG will host a day-long workshop entitled, **"Living in the Light of Death"** with author and transpersonal psychologist, **Kathleen Singh**. Kathleen Dowling Singh will lead a day-long workshop examining the spiritual transformations that occur during the time of dying and the conditions that seem to facilitate those transformations. **This event is generously sponsored by the UF Center for Spirituality and Health. Contact the church office to sign-up.**

IHN Hosting March 4 - 11

Thank you to all the volunteers who assisted in our January hosting! We have a short turnaround to our next hosting, **which will be March 4 to 11. Recruitment for volunteers will start on Sunday, Feb. 5th.** Please consider helping with this endeavor and stop by our table to sign up.

The Lenten Season at the United Church of Gainesville

“Psalms: Songs of the Journey”

February 22 through April 8

Ash Wednesday Services – February 22 at noon and 7:00pm in the Sanctuary - We have two identical Ash Wednesday services which invite us to a forty day spiritual journey of reflection and awareness. Like cairns and signposts on the path, the three stations for reflection at our Ash Wednesday service give us points of reference for our individual Lenten journeys. Both services end with the ministers serving Communion individually to each participant. **Child care** is provided from 11:45 to 12:45 for the noon service and from 6:45 to 8:15 for the evening service.

Lenten Reflection Booklets – offer a variety of spiritual readings for your daily focus and meditation during the Lenten season. They will be available in the Sanctuary foyer on Ash Wednesday and throughout the Lenten season.

Sunday Morning Worship Theme is “Psalms: Songs for the Journey”. See page __ for more details.

Wednesday Evening Contemplative Prayer—from 6:00 to 7:00pm—led by Vince Amlin and Sandy Reimer. Deepen your Lenten experience by joining us each week as we gather in the quiet of the candlelit Sanctuary for silence, prayer, and reflection on a Psalm. We’ll also meet in small groups for the last 20 minutes with an opportunity to share and to listen. We will meet Wednesdays February 29, March 7 and 14, and March 28. On Wednesday, March 21, we will offer an hour of walking the Labyrinth from 5:00pm to 6:00 pm accompanied by music and the reading of several Psalms. **Child care is provided for all of these sessions. Note: You need to sign up in advance while there is still space! Contact the church office by phone or e-mail by the deadline, Sunday, February 19.**

The Labyrinth – March 18 - 23 – Walking the Labyrinth during Lent is a meaningful way to affirm our spiritual focus for the season. This practice, which dates from medieval Christian times with pre-Christian origins, frees the body, mind and spirit to experience the Holy in unique ways. Specific times are listed in the Lenten Reflection booklet as well as noted below.

The Labyrinth will be available in the Sanctuary:

Sunday, March 18 – 4:00pm to 8:00pm

Monday, March 19 and Tuesday, March 20 – 8:30am to 5:30pm

Wednesday, March 21 – 8:30am to 7:00pm. From 5:00 to 6:00pm, there will be music and the reading of several Psalms.

Thursday, March 22 – 8:30am to 5:30pm

Friday, March 23—8:30am to noon

Maundy Thursday April 5 - Tenebrae service at 7:00pm. Tenebrae is the Latin word for the shadow that fell across the earth when Jesus died. At UCG we read the scriptural account of the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus. After each reading a candle is extinguished followed by music and silence until the entire room is in darkness. This is a moving and contemplative service, a good way to experience again the struggle and loss that precedes Easter. It is a good opportunity for children and young people fifth grade and up to learn this story as well. Child care is provided from 6:45 to 8:15pm.

The Seventh Trumpet



The Boston University School of Theology Choir is coming to UCG on Sunday, March 11 for a concert at 7:00 p.m. Traveling academic choirs like this are always a combination of great music and wonderful opportunities to meet and host young people in our homes. In this case it is going to be quite exciting to meet theology students from a variety of denominations, hear their stories and let them get a taste of the diversity and vitality of UCG.

One of the members of the choir, Jenna Wood, attended UCG when she was a student at UF and told the director what a great place this would be to sing. The director, Chad Kidd, looked up our website and loved it. His wife happens to be a UCC minister.

We have three things to do. First, come to the concert.

Second, if you are able, please volunteer to host a pair of students for Sunday night. That is always very rewarding.

Third, bring a dessert to the reception following the concert.

Margee Rymal, UCG member who often fills in at the office, is coordinating housing and food for the reception. If you are able to host a student, call or e-mail the office info@ucgainesville.org and let her know.

As you probably heard Sandy or I mention any number of times, we toured Florida with the Gettysburg College Choir, singing in churches and staying in members' homes. Those were formative experiences of our lives. This concert and hosting students is an opportunity to both give and receive. We hope you'll be part of it.

Larry

A Great Way to End Your Week – Men's Lunch Group

If you haven't been before, or if you've simply allowed Men's Lunch Group to slip from your calendar, this is a renewed invitation to a great way to end your week. It's a drop-in BYOLunch with no agenda. In the course of a typical lunch conversation you will have learned something (not necessarily accurate or true), laughed, and made a connection with someone you might not have otherwise known so well in your life. Give it a try, Fridays at noon in the fellowship hall.

Call to Artists However Known

We are currently looking for interested artists to show their work in the UCG 'Art in The Library' for 2012. Please contact Susan Torgerson James at allette21@yahoo.com or 352 332-5984 if you are interested.

Yellow Tape at UCG

A church member called to Board of Business's (BoB) attention that the "cow path" cut-through from the courtyard to the sidewalk just outside seminar C had developed some hazardous roots. In fact these roots were hazardous enough to cause said church member to trip and do a face fall into the dirt. BoB pondered the many options available and asked Erick Smith to plant some spiky plants to fill in the gaps thus closing off the short cut. The yellow tape is in place for a while to encourage you use the beautiful archway when entering and exiting the courtyard.

THRESHOLDS

. . . . SANDY REIMER

Last year, I began this page by saying it really feels like a threshold time! And it was, but little did I know that this year I'd be saying we are really on a Threshold this year, not only the threshold of the Lenten season, but also on the threshold of a new Retreat at a new Retreat site.

Our Retreat theme this year is **Both Sides Now!** The theme reflects the continuums of change and continuity, of being open to the new and also honoring our traditions, of our flexible foundations and our shifting perspectives, as we embrace the welcome of this new Retreat center. **The dates are Friday, April 27 to Sunday, April 29. The site is Warren Willis Camp**, located just north and slightly west of Leesburg, in Fruitland Park. Driving time is about 1 and ½ hours using I 75.

The Retreat Committee met on Sunday, January 22 on site to have an extensive tour of the camp and to begin our planning. We are all very **excited** about this new location.

So what will be familiar in this new setting?

- the basic outline of our program schedule
- great activities for children and youth
- the same quality and quantity of child care
- wonderful workshops for adults
- basketball and volleyball courts
- a lake with a dock (the dock is larger); a nature trail area
- opportunities for creative expression, spiritual focus, fun and laughter, fellowship and intergenerational connections, an opportunity to meet new folks, and time to relax and enjoy being outdoors
- motel rooms for adults without children are very similar to Lake Yale and are located in the beautiful Life Enrichment Center, a short distance across the road
- the cost will be about the same, and possibly a little less for some age groups

And what will be different?

- bathrooms and lodging for families with children are greatly improved including newer tiled bathrooms!
- meeting areas and outdoor space for children and youth is greatly improved
- almost all Retreat activities will take place in a central location near the activities and lodging for families, children and youth
- huge swimming pool with two water slides
- tent and RV sites have good bathrooms/showers plus there is a screened pavilion with a refrigerator and sink that everyone can share
- frisbee golf and 9 square
- a large dining hall with round tables that seat 8
- a willingness of the staff to accommodate most dietary needs
- the camp will provide our evening snacks
- morning coffee located in or very close to lodging options
- a small chapel and labyrinth located near the adult motel rooms
- and remember **we are accepted as we are and we are all welcome at Warren Willis!**

The camp is undergoing a major construction renovation of their former dining hall area, their fellowship hall, and their large meeting rooms, so this year we will be accommodating those renovations that are not complete by having all of our large group sessions and Variety Show in the chapel, a large room with a stage area and movable chairs.

Thresholds, cont'd.....

What happens next?

- save the week-end and plan to come!
- you will be able to see pictures of the camp and the facilities at worship on Sunday, March 4 and Sunday, March 11.
- more information including cost will be printed in the March newsletter and available on Sundays, March 4 and 11 in an information booklet

Registration is earlier this year: Sunday, March 18 and March 25 – and weekdays at the church office between 9:00 and 4:00, March 19-23 and March 26 to 30.

Retreat Committee members:

Coordinator -	Sandy Reimer
Adult Programs -	Vince Amlin
	Barbara Beynon, Jeanne-Marie Ritter, Ben Wise, Heather Remer, Bill Hoppe
Registration -	Lisa Goldstein, Susan McNeil, Carolyn Von Zabern, Phoebe Papadi
Friday Check-in -	Becky Johnson
Family Orientation -	Salina Briseno, Doug Kiker
Child Care -	Shay Smith, Jackie Wisor, Joyce Henry-Hettell
Preschool -	Jean Epling
Elementary -	Christine Denny
Youth -	Andy Bachmann, Rachel Craft, Beth Dovell, Jackie Nettles, Emily Ott
Snacks -	Sue Hartman, Sue Littell
Coffee -	Kaydie Vistelle
Variety Show -	Shanna Johnson
Pool Liaison -	William Dougherty
Cartographer -	Edo Carter
On-site Liaison -	Ellen Louis

Retreat is not just where you are; Retreat is who you are with!
~ Retreat is not the buildings; Retreat is the people ~

PASSAGES:

- ◆ Margaret Lewis Wise, daughter of Ben and Alston Wise, was baptized on Sunday, January 29 by Rev. Andy Bachmann and Rev. Vince Amlin. Our love and joy surround Margaret and the Wise family.
- ◆ Former UCG member, Thelma Young moved to a retirement home in Newtown, Pa. about 10 years ago to be closer to her son. Thelma died last week at the age of 89. While at UCG she continued her profession as a social worker throughout her 70's and was very much involved in issues of justice and compassion. She died peacefully of heart failure at the Friends Retirement Village. Her son Brian thanks UCG for the joy and care she experienced here. Those wishing can donate to a Quaker foundation that provides grants to Friends Village residents who can no longer meet their monthly expenses. Checks can be made payable to: Friends Home and Village - Parry Assistance Fund, c/o Friends Home, 50 S. Congress Street Newtown, PA 18940.

A MESSAGE FROM ANDY

We had a wonderful Mystery Trip the weekend of January 13-15, with 17 youth participants and 4 adult chaperones. We picked citrus, learned about farm workers justice issues and how our immigration policies affect the children of undocumented people, AND spent the night sleeping in the shark exhibit at Sea World. It was action packed, and a great time!

Looking ahead there is some great stuff on the agenda. One of the highlights coming up is our Confirmation Sunday, when 7 young people from UCG will join our church. I certainly hope you can join us in worship on the 12th of February to help us welcome them in as official UCG members!

Also coming up is an option to participate in a Conference wide youth event. March 2-4, the United Church of Christ is calling us to the waters! The Peace River Canoe Trip is an opportunity for us to mix and mingle with UCC youth from all over the state. The cost is \$60 and if your son/daughter is in 6th-12th grade, they are welcome to participate! Contact me, or your continuity people for more information about the Peace River Canoe Trip.

Here are the calendars for February

MSG

- 2/5 TBA
- 2/11 Confirmation overnight for the participants in our Confirmation program
- 2/12 Confirmation Sunday! Come on out and celebrate with us the newest members of the church!
- 2/19 Craft Day-Lenten Journal Making
- 2/26 TBA

Peace River Canoe Trip? March 2-4. Cost is \$60. For more details, check your email or contact your continuity people!

Youth United

- 2/5 TBA. Our scheduled guest speaker, Rabbi Michael Joseph has had to re-schedule. He promises we will set a new date!
- 2/19 Dinner and a Movie at UCG. We will talk about Food and Body issues, as they all relate to our self worth, our self respect and our responsibility, in light of the farmworkers movement and our recent viewing of Food Inc.
- 3/2-4 Peace River Canoe Trip? March 2-4. Cost is \$60. For more details, check your email or contact your continuity people!



IN VINNY VERITAS

VINCE AMLIN

A Spiritual Mix-tape for Lent

Certain songs can immediately transport us back in time to the seasons when they played continuously on our turntables, 8-tracks, Walkmans, or iPods or even to specific moments when their music merged with the events of our lives in indelible ways. Boyz II Men's "End of the Road" puts me right back on stage in my 6th grade talent show, while Nirvana's *In Utero* album reminds me of the moody middle school years that followed. For our Lenten worship theme, "Psalms: Songs for the Journey," we will be exploring the power and beauty of that ultimate biblical mix-tape, the book of Psalms. With 150 songs to choose from, Psalms, is a monster playlist of poetry for any mood:

Hopeful- "Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning." (Psalm 30, NRSV)

Despairing- "My heart is a blob of melted wax in my gut. I'm dry as a bone, my tongue black and swollen." (Psalm 22, *The Message*)

Meditative- "I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; my soul within me is like a weaned child." (Psalm 131, NRSV)

As in our own time, the songwriters of ancient Israel used their craft to express their deepest (and sometime darkest) emotions. We'll explore the way their songs harmonize with ours. Join us as we take on some of the "greatest hits" as well as some more obscure "deep cuts," in our search for continued and renewed meaning in these ancient hymns.

Thanks for an Amazing Winter Party

Thank you to all who helped make this year's Winter Party one of the biggest and best! Special thanks to our Winter Party Committee: Rachele Amlin, Will Dougherty, Doug Kiker, Lisa Manfredi, Janet March, Jeanne-Marie Ritter, Olga Sang, Tom Stevens and to their amazing chair, Winny Ruffino!

Taizé in Chicago

On Memorial Day weekend 2012, I will lead young adults (18-35) to Chicago for the Taizé "Pilgrimage of Trust." Brothers from the Taizé Community in France will be living in Chicago this spring and sponsoring this weekend of worship and workshops in the Taizé tradition. **First information meeting will be February 21st at 6pm.** Contact Vince Amlin at

Wanna Party? Join the Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee meets once a year and helps to plan and carry out all UCG's great parties. 4th of July Ice Cream Social? That's us. Gathering of Waters Brunch? You betcha. The Winter Party with amazing soul music from Little Jake and the Soul Searchers? Uh huh. You too could help plan any or all of these exciting events. Just come to our yearly meeting, Tuesday February 28th at 6pm. For more information or to RSVP contact Vince Amlin at vincea@ucgainesville.org

~ A Little Child Shall Lead Them ~
UCG Children's Program ~ Director, Heidi Stein

Calendar

2-5-12	Guest Artist Studio Percussion
2-12-12	Big Event Purim Festival
2-19-12	President's Day - Extended Activity Time
2-26-12	Begin Psalm's Choices Activity Rotation
3-4-12	Pow Wow/Patti Cake Camp Out



A Note from UCG Member Amy Rixx

Amy Rixx, a UCG member who grew up in this church, was accepted at Chicago Theological Seminary and began her studies there in September. She joined UCG through our confirmation program when she was in middle school, was an active member of the high school group, attended worship regularly, and participated in many church programs, including helping to chaperone some UCG youth events and trips while Amy was a student at FSU. Andy, Larry, Vince and I are very excited that Amy has chosen to go to seminary, and I've asked her to give us occasional updates on how she's doing. She recently sent us this note:

"After a two week vacation in Florida, I am back in Chicago for another round of classes at Chicago Theological Seminary!

The break has done me good. Seeing old friends, familiar faces and places; allowing myself time to take a breather, relax and catch up on sleep has been much needed. This past semester of graduate school has been intense and challenging and simply fantastic. I have read and studied the origins of not only Christian thought, but also Jewish thought, the Hebrew Bible and I even took a class on Pastoral Care. I have read texts from theologians I absolutely disagreed with and also texts from theologians whose thoughts on God, spirituality, humanity, and the universe have opened my eyes to new dimensions of truth and wonder.

While at times I've questioned what I've gotten myself into, I am more and more convinced that Chicago and Chicago Theological Seminary is the right place for me to be. I may not be certain of my destination, but I am certainly enjoying the journey as it unfolds! With the start of this new year, I'm hoping to make more of an effort to settle into my new home and really explore the city. I just hope the weather cooperates!"

UF and SFC Students at UCG – There IS a Free Lunch!

Hi Students. Look for Natalie Saltmarsh at the fountain in the courtyard the following Sundays, February 12, March 18 & 25 and April 1 & 15, at 12:15 to go out together for a free lunch. It's a great opportunity for connection and discussion. Fun, food, and a measure of meaning thrown in. Who could ask for more?

Theism, Reason & Faith: In Conversation with the "New Athiests"

A series of four faculty presentations offered by the Christian Study Center, 112 NW 16th Street, Thursdays, 7:00-8:30 pm – February 2, March 1 and 29, and April 12. On the Friday after each lecture there will be a lunch time book discussion of the collection of essays called *God is Dead - and I Don't Feel So Good Myself*. UCG member Fred Gregory will be leading three of these discussions on March 2, March 30 and April 13. See www.christianstudycenter.org/forum for more information.

Time and Talent Fair Coming March 11

Last year's UCG survey showed that participating in a board or committee was a great way to get better connected with fellow UCGers. **The Time and Talent Fair on March 11 from 10:15-11:30** is your chance to identify which one is the best fit for you. All boards and committees will be on display in the Memory Garden and their members will ply you with treats and pitches to get involved. Whether it's working with children and youth, helping organize our finances, or reaching out to others through service and social justice, participating in a UCG Board is a place to showcase your talents and provide a service to the entire congregation. Come, join in the fun and help make UCG continue to be the special place you want it to be.

Here's a list of UCG's Boards and what they do to help you prepare for Time and Talent:

Board of Adult Programs— Provides opportunities for enrichment and connection by offering seminars that contribute to spiritual, personal and intellectual growth.

Board of Business— Enables UCG to meet its mission by providing stewardship for UCG programs, staff and resources.

Board of Children's Ministry—Builds a spiritual foundation for the children of this church, nurtures and supports UCG families, creates a sense of peer community for the children of the church, and provides opportunities for children to act in Christian concern for the larger community while valuing diversity of religious practices.

Compassion in Action—Provides opportunities for UCG members to become active and engaged in diverse and valuable outreach activities that benefit our local and international communities.

Endowment Fund Trustees - Promotes awareness of and gifts to the Endowment Fund and to responsibly manage investments.

Interfaith Hospitality Network - Provides lodging and food, hope and encouragement in a safe and friendly environment for families who are temporarily homeless.

Board of Membership

Welcomes visitors and new members by introducing them to UCG and helps facilitate their integration into the church community.

Board of Parish Ministry—Supports the ministers by providing a dynamic, organic environment for the worship services and serves the spiritual nurturing of the congregation through the sharing of our gifts, creativity and wisdom.

Social Justice Committee—Identifies social justice issues, educates the congregation, and provides opportunities to act in Christian concern.

High School Team & Middle School Team - Provides safe and fun opportunities that create a foundation for personal growth for UCG youth through connecting with others, seeking self understanding and exploring their own spirituality and sense of God however known.

Lively Arts - Coordinates for the arts – choral, instrumental, dance – at Sunday worship. All interested dancers, singers and instrumentalists are invited to offer their talents.

Cont'd next page

Time and Talent, cont'd

The Kairos Committee - Volunteers who call upon UCG members in time of crisis or transition to provide an extra measure of care and concern.

Open and Affirming Ministry Committee- works with the ministers and congregation to promote a safe spiritual environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning people both within our UCG community and, as a model of spiritual inclusiveness, in the wider community.

Fellowship Committee- plans and hosts all-church fellowship events throughout the year, including the Winter Party, 4th of July Ice Cream Social, Gathering of Waters Brunch and others.

Small Groups Committee- solicits and organizes our program of adult small groups twice a year, helping our congregation to grow smaller as it grows larger.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Winter Congregational Meeting

Thanks to all of you who supported our democratic process by participating in the Winter Congregational meeting on January 29. We approved the budget revised by Board of Business following our extended enlistment campaign. Geoff Dahl explained that it is bare bones and has no allowance for pledge shortfall. Additional fund-raising may be necessary later to cover needed building repairs and replacements such as a new roof. Additional pledge donations are always welcome.

Sandy, Larry, Andy and Vince presented a proposal for using a congregational approach to ministerial transition when the Reimer's decide to announce their retirement. This approach allows ample time for planning, processing and weaving the old with the new to affect a smooth transition to new leadership. It focuses on our strengths and calls us to use our considerable talents to help chart our future. The approach was adopted by congregational vote as outlined with the understanding that many details will be worked out along the way.

A copy of the UCG Congregational Transitional Approach, as well as an excerpt from [The Elephant in the Boardroom: How to Think About and Create a Succession Plan for Your Church](#), which has been a resource in developing this process, are available electronically and in paper copy through the church office.

Sally Simonis, Moderator

ONA Committee

On behalf of the Open and Affirming (ONA) Ministry Committee, I would like to thank the members and friends of UCG for their support and participation in ONA's fund-raising events and other Pride events last year, including the Decades Dance, Pride Parade, and Pride Sunday Service. All of the events were extremely successful and well attended and I thank all who helped to organize, work, or attend the events. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank the subcommittee (Nancy Wilkinson, Larry Ligamare, Ellen Louis, Will Dougherty, Luis Pedreira, Kathy Funke, Ann Gill, Ruth Smith, and Sue Littell) who worked tirelessly to research, develop, and launch a Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) support group in our home town. I am very proud of the work that this group of dedicated individuals accomplished in a relatively short period of time. I am also thrilled to announce that PFLAG Gainesville held its first support meeting on January 17, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. at UCG. During the meeting, the need in Gainesville for this type of support group became very clear. If you would like to be a part of this very important initiative, PFLAG Gainesville meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. With this group, UCG has found yet another way to reach out to the Gainesville community and possibly save lives, or in the least, to provide support, comfort, and make connections to many in need. - Bill Hutchinson, ONA Committee Chair

Sundays in February

Regular Sunday Schedule

9:15 - 12:15	Nursery and Toddler Care
9:30	Worship with Children's Story
9:45 - 10:45	United Tribes
10:30	Beverages and Fellowship
10:45 - noon	Children's Activity Time & MSG - Middle School Group
11:00 - noon	Worship, Adult Seminars

Worship Theme: "To a God Unknown"

February 5 - Food First Food Drive

8:30 – Meditation in the Chapel with Mark Burlingame

9:30 and 11:00 – Worship -Vince Amlin

11:00 - Adult Seminar—Success, Happiness, and Love with Matthew Tenney - Is there a "secret" to success that can also help us live happier, more meaningful lives? In this seminar, Matthew shares the inspiring story of turning his biggest failure into the most important experience of his life, where he discovered true happiness and success, and that Christ-like Love is the key to both. Learn why leading authorities on success agree that Love is the key to true success, and how the simple practice of mindfulness can help us achieve it.

11:00 - Friendship Group - Room 8

5:00 - Winter Dreaming* - Chapel

5:30 - Youth United—Fellowship Hall

February 12 - New Members and the 7th & 8th grade confirmation class join

8:30 – Meditation in the Chapel with David Hackett

9:30 & 11:00am - Worship– Andy Bachmann. Both services include the Adult Choir

11:00 - Adult Seminars

Mommy Reads with Rachelle Amlin, Karen Johnson and Becky Johnson - Mommy Reads is a new UCG service opportunity that helps women at Lowell Correctional Institution connect to their children by reading and recording stories in their own voices. We will be joined by Peggy Cole of Trinity United Methodist Church who started the Mommy Reads program there. We will discuss how Mommy Reads will work at UCG, and if time permits, some of the larger implications of the high rates of incarceration in the United States.

Spiritual Practices Panel - Wayne Teasdale, author of *A Monk in the World*, writes: "As the barriers separating the religions and cultures of the world are collapsing, a new model is merging, an intermystical, inter-spiritual paradigm that permits people from various traditions, or from no tradition, to explore the spiritual dimensions of any religions. More and more people find themselves rooted in one tradition while seriously investigating another." This panel of UCG members, Darrell Hartman, Mary Fukuyama and Mark Burlingame, will share how they integrate a spiritual practice from another tradition into their lives.

10:30 - Art in the Library Reception with Kandy Penner

12:00 - New Member Potluck - Fellowship Hall

Campus Ministry Lunch with Natalie Saltmarsh. Meet in the Courtyard.

12:15 - High School Team—West Wing

5:00 - Winter Dreaming - chapel

7:00 - Crystal Bowl Concert - Sanctuary

**Pre-registered Adult Small Group*

cont'd next page

Sundays in February

February 19 - Annual UCG Book Sale

8:30 – Meditation in the Chapel with Darrell Hartman

9:30 and 11:00 Worship “A Cloud of Unknowing” - Larry Reimer. Music by the Hogtown Pickers.

11:00 - Adult Seminars

An Exploration in “Upcycling” with Heather Remer - Milk jugs into lunch boxes, washers and bits of metal into business card holders, old feed barrels into composters! Don’t throw that junk away! Upcycle it! Upcycling involves taking what some might call junk and repurposing it into something with real value. Come learn and share ideas for ways to reuse things around your home. We will be learning from each other so feel free to bring items or pictures of items you’ve repurposed!

Science and Spirituality: A Contemporary View with Fred Gregory - In different ways both science and religion address the mystery of our existence. We'll explore how results from modern physical science and new attitudes among people of faith come together to enhance both science and spirituality.

10:30 - Patticake Play Date - offsite

11:00 - Friendship Group - Room 8

Noon - Feral Readers* - Library

12:15 - Middle School Group - West Wing

4:00 - Spiritual Awakening Book Group*- offsite

4:30 - Sunday at the Movies* - offsite

5:00 - Winter Dreaming* - Chapel

5:30 - Youth United—Fellowship Hall

February 26 - Lenten Worship Theme - “Psalms: Songs of the Journey”

8:30 – Meditation in the Chapel with Ann Gill

9:30 and 11:00 Worship “Their Songs, Our Songs” – Vince Amlin.

11:00 - Adult Seminars

Honey Bee Losses and Pollinator Decline: Canary in the coal mine? with Malcolm Sanford - This seminar will discuss concern over recent loss of honey bees reported in the press. Malcolm will look at aspects of honey bee and general pollinator decline and compare them with what has historically been the case. The discussion will focus on the general health of honey bees and what is being done to ensure that these and other pollinators will continue to provide vital pollination services in the future. Malcom’s book, *Storey’s Guide to Keeping Honey Bees*, will be available for those who might be interested.

Goal Setting and Vision Boards with Tim Smith– Rescheduled from January - Have you felt disorganized about your future? Do you want to achieve your goals and dreams faster? In this seminar we will explore how to set realistic, measurable goals, and turn them into a vision board to create our future. We will learn how our past is a beacon that has led us to our present, our present is the opportunity to create our future, and our future is filled with unlimited possibilities. Dare to dream and see it come true in this dynamic process!

12:15 - Mommy Reads Orientation - Seminar A

5:00 - Winter Dreaming* - Chapel

6:30 - Play Reading Group* - Offsite

March 4 - IHN Hosting Begin

8:30 – Meditation in the Chapel

9:30 and 11:00 Worship “Three Psalms in a Fountain.” Psalms 1, 24,131 - Larry Reimer. Music by the Hogtown Strutters.

11:00 - Friendship Group

Noon - IHN Steering Committee

5:00 - Winter Dreaming* - Chapel

5:30 - Youth United

6:30 - Play Reading Group* - Offsite

FEBRUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	30	31	1 Council Exec 12pm New Members Orientation 7pm BCM 7pm	2 BPM 5:30pm Confirmation 7pm Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm	3 20th Century Fiction* 10am Lunch Groups 12pm	4 Women's Overnight begins
5 Worship 9:30 & 11am Friendship Group 11am Women's Overnight ends Winter Dreaming* 5pm YU 5:30pm	6 Rock Climbing 101 7pm	7 ONA Committee 5:30pm Narrative Improv* 6:30pm BAP 7pm	8 CMRB 12pm BOM 6pm New & Noteworthy Book Group 7:30pm	9 Confirmation 7pm Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm	10 Lunch Groups 12pm PNO 5:30pm	11 Hand Building with Clay 9am Bread Making* 9:30am Confirmation Overnight 6:30pm
12 New Members & Confirmation join Worship 9:30 & 11am Art Reception 10:30am New Members Potluck 12pm HS Team 12:15 Winter Dreaming* 5pm Crystal Bowl -7pm	13 Rock Climbing 101 7pm	14 Budget Summit 1:30pm SJC 6pm Narrative Improv* 6:30pm	15 Church Council 5:30pm	16 Choir Rehearsal 7:15 pm CIA 7pm Dances of Universal Peace 7:30pm	17 Lunch Groups 12pm	18 Spring Birding* 8am
19 Annual Book Sale Worship 9:30 & 11am Patticake Play date 10:30am Friendship Grp 11am Feral Readers* 12pm MS Team 12:15pm Spiritual Awakening* 4pm Sunday Movies* 4:30 Winter Dreaming* 5pm YU 5:30pm	20 President's Day Office Closed 3rd Monday Project Night 6pm	21 Narrative Improv* 6:30pm PFLAG 7pm Taize in Chicago 7pm Alzheimer/ Dementia Support 7pm	22 Ash Wednesday Services Noon & 7pm Newsletter Deadline 12pm	23 Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm	24 Lunch Groups 12pm	25 Hand Building with Clay* 9am Bread Making* 9:30am Living in the Light of Death* 9:30am Supper Club 6:30pm
26 Worship 9:30 & 11am Winter Dreaming* 5pm Play Reading* 6:30pm	27 Great Courses: Comparative Religions* 7:30pm	28 Narrative Improv* 6:30pm	29 Newsletter Folding 10am Contemplative Prayer* 6pm Comfort Food* 6pm How to Meditate* 7pm Functional Fitness 7pm	1 BPM 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm	2 Lunch Groups 12pm 20th Century Fiction* 10am POW WOW Camp Trip	3 Mommy Reads 7:45am Hike at Goldhead State Park* 9am



Youth United Mystery Trip January 13-15, 2012

**A trip to Sea World
which included
sleeping by the
shark tank**



**But first, an
opportunity to
glean oranges
in Apopka,
Florida**

UNITED CHURCH OF
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NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22
FOR MARCH NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

LOOKING AHEAD

- ◆ **Sunday, March 11** Annual UCG Time and Talent Fair when UCG members sign up for boards, committees and other volunteer opportunities or the coming year.
- ◆ **March 18 - 30** Retreat Registration
- ◆ **March 18 - 23** Labyrinth in the Sanctuary
- ◆ **April 5** Tenebrae Service
- ◆ **April 8** Easter Sunday Services at 8am, 9:30am & 11:00am
- ◆ **April 27-29** Annual UCG Retreat at Warren Wills Camp

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22
FOR MARCH NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS