

United Church of Gainesville

NEWSLETTER

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

JUNE

2011

Larry Reimer & Sandy Reimer
Ministers

Andy Bachmann
Associate Minister

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JUNE SUNDAY MORNINGS AT UCG

Sunday mornings in June there will be worship services at 9:30 and 11:00 EXCEPT FOR Sunday, June 5 when there is one service at 9:30, led by Youth United and celebrating our graduating high school seniors. We will begin one 10am Sunday morning service this year on July 10.



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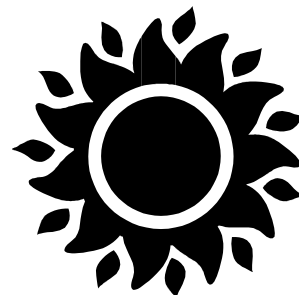
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NEW MEMBERS

New members will join UCG on Sunday, June 12 at both the 9:30 and 11:00 worship services. If you would like to join the church, please sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office – or call Alyson at 378-3500 – and plan to attend our New Members' orientation session on Wednesday, June 1 at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Child care is provided.

In the course of my religious quest, I have discovered that the spiritual journey is not about discovering the truth of the meaning of life, but instead about living as intensely as possible here and now. The idea is not to latch on to some superhuman personality but to discover how to be fully human. True faith, I now believe, should make you more human than ever.

Karen Armstrong in The Spiral Staircase



NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22
FOR "SUMMER EDITION" NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS COVERING JULY - MID AUGUST

What's Happening in June

PNO - Friday, June 10- (Parents' Night Out)! Attention parents; need a night out? Bring your children babies through 5th grade to the UCG church school wing on Friday, June 10th 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 alysnm@ucgainesville.org by June 7th. *Due to life-threatening food allergies, no outside food can be brought in.

New Members – Sunday, June 12- If you have been visiting UCG and are interested in joining, mark two dates on your calendar. First save **Sunday, June 12** as the Sunday new members will be welcomed. Second, hold **Wednesday, June 1 at 7:00pm for a new members' orientation**. Child care will be provided. There are two requirements to join this church. First is an acceptance of the Compact of the church. Second is a willingness to pitch in and share your gifts in this community, because you, the new members, bring new life and new energy to all of us!

UCG Family Outing - Saturday, June 18 - Families, please join us on Saturday, June 18th, at 11:00 a.m., at the Retirement Home for Horses at Mill Creek. We'll feed donated carrots and apples (collected at UCG on Sunday, June 12; see page 9 for more information about this collection). Children of all ages love feeding the horses. We'll meet at Mill Creek (20307 NW C.R. 235A Alachua, FL 32615) and wander the property until the carrots run out! Call Matt Gitzendanner for information or to find out where we are 352-213-4066.

Birthday Collection for Ray Meeks - Ray Meeks, UCG member on Death Row, will be fifty seven years old on June 28. Ray has been on Death Row since 1973, when he was twenty years old. June is one of the two times a year we ask for donations for Ray. He uses the money to buy shoes for his weekly exercise time in the prison yard, as well as pajamas, personal toiletries, and snacks. We use part of this money to send him books and a newspaper subscription. There will be a basket with envelopes for contributions in the foyer throughout the month. If you leave cash, please include your name and address because Ray likes to write thank you notes. Ray also appreciates mail, and he will gladly correspond with you. His address is Douglas Raymond Meeks, 046346/ UCI P-1211-N/ 7819 NW 228 St. Raiford, FL 32026. You cannot send money, books, or any other item to him directly. You can include stamps with a note or a card. Ray's fully story is available in a booklet written by Marj Hauptman, [Why We Care About Ray Meeks](#), which is in the church foyer.

Looking Ahead to July - 20+ Group Game Night - The 20s/30s/40s group will hold a game night at church in July, hosted by Akilah Brown. If you would like to help Akilah plan, email vincea@ucgainesville.org. Watch for more details in the bulletin.



The Seventh Trumpet

Here's what's new in June this year. "Senior Sunday", June 5, will be one service at 9:30, and by the way every middle school and older elementary school student should come listen to our seniors. It's always worth hearing the long view of those who grew up in UCG. After that Sunday, we will continue with two services throughout the rest of the month. I loved having the summer schedule and the church packed with everyone getting a chance to see each other at one service. I loved the chance for a relaxed coffee time when I didn't have to rush back into the second service. But it was too crowded in the Sanctuary last June. Too many people wound up standing. It verged on being unwelcoming. Thus the first new thing about June is **two services from June 12-26**.

The second thing about June is that we'll be receiving new members on June 12. Our theme for June is "A New Way of Seeing". My sermon for that Sunday, "A New Way of Speaking: *The King's Speech*" is my annual reflection on faith and the Academy Award winning film of the year. The film is available for rental. I encourage you to watch it, but even if you don't, the sermon will make sense.

The third thing about June is to remember to gather water from wherever you go this summer to bring to our annual Gathering of Waters services on August 21. Be aware of the gift of water, wherever you are, whether that be Gainesville or on some distant shore. Think of water of peace, power, homecoming or healing, and how your water will become part of the gathered sacred water of our rituals and baptisms. And if you brought back some of that magic water from Lake Yale, it's still magic and still healing!

Sandy and I will take our extended June week-end, with a couple of added vacation days, from June 10 to 20. During that time, we will host our annual Camp Reimer at the Lake for our grandchildren. Then we will be at the beach from July 13-27, followed by some time at the lake and some time celebrating our 45th wedding anniversary on August 6. We return to work on Wednesday, August 10.

Finally, June is a time of coming and going in this church. As you'll note in another article in this newsletter, our wonderful Administrative Assistant Alyson McElwain is moving to Idaho where her husband Greg has been hired by the College of Idaho. Some moves are permanent. Some are just short journeys of summer. When I was about eleven I began noticing how much my friends changed physically over the two months of summer vacation. We were all morphing into true teenagers and young adults. We hardly knew each other or even ourselves for that matter. These changes still happen, perhaps not always as obvious on the outside, but happening nevertheless. It's been said that the church is like a river, you never put your foot in the same water twice. I encourage you to pay attention to these changes, inside, outside, and around you and note how grace rises in them. Maybe most of all, let's not take any one or any time for granted. Pay attention to how precious each day and each person is.

Larry

All Church Band, July 3

Calling all church instrumentalists, no matter how long it's been since you played that instrument nor how recently you took it up. If you made that clarinet into a lamp, unscrew the bulb and put the mouthpiece back on. If you are a beginner and aren't sure of all the notes on a scale, come play the ones you do know.

We're playing our traditional, middle school level arrangement of "Stars and Stripes Forever" at our evening service on July 3. Music will be available in the foyer. Pick up a part and then come at 6:30 on Sunday, July 3 for a rehearsal. It's our patriotic moment of grace.

PASSAGES...

- ◆ We surround with joy and grace Marthe Walters and Eric Lemstrom on the birth of their son Kai, born on Monday, May 9. He joins big sister Mira.
- ◆ We hold in our prayers long time UCG member Bil Shreve who died of heart failure on Tuesday, May 17.

SUMMER OFFERINGS: A MESSAGE FROM ANDY

Summertime is fast approaching, and with that comes a downshift in our youth programs at UCG. We will not be meeting at our regular meeting times for either YU or MSG, but we do have some great summer activities on the calendar to stay connected to each other, and to have a good time in the process!

I will be gone for the better part of the summer, and if you need to get in touch with me, the church office will always have my contact info. But when I return I look forward to hearing your summer stories, as well as getting geared up for another great year of Food 4 Kids and all our youth programs.

Here are our preliminary summer plans: Please note, all plans are subject to change, so be sure to check your mail regularly for postcards, your email for updates, and the church bulletin for up to date information. Please note: for all off site activities, unless it's a drop off event, permission slips are required.

I will see you in August, and want to be sure all youth families, grades 6-12 are invited to our introductory meeting on August 21 at 12:15 in the Sanctuary! Have a great summer! And I'll see you in August!

MSG and YU Summer Plans

June 20th	Tubing the Itchnetucknee Springs
July 16th	Wild Adventures in Valdosta
July 29th	Bowling [either the 28th or 29th depending on the Reitz]
August 12-14th	Camping in Anastasia Park

We also plan to offer a few Dinner and a Movie events, so please, stay tuned!

- ♦ For any MSG questions, please contact Emily Ott (3milyOtt@gmail.com) or Jackie Nettles (jackienettles@gmail.com)
- ♦ For any Youth United questions, please contact Steve Bates (dicknbates@yahoo.com)

Thanks for the Contributions for Ken Bradley's Annuity

In May you contributed \$3943 toward an annuity for Ken Bradley. This is a wonderfully kind and generous response to Ken who so kind and generously takes care of our building year after year. If you wish, you may still make a contribution during the first week in June. Make checks payable to UCG designated "Ken Bradley Annuity."

UCG Bike Share

If you're going to campus or downtown, remember that you can park at the UCG lot and take one of the two UCG bicycles. The office has the combination to the lock and helmets. Try it. Get exercise. Save the earth.

Can You Help

UCG members Chris Fox and Joe Savastano will be in transitional housing for a brief period of time as they leave one apartment and search for another. They need someone to care for two of their three cats temporarily. Details available on their craigslist ad <http://gainesville.craigslist.org/pet/2380219290.html>. You can reach them at 328-5961.

IN VINNY VERITAS

VINCE AMLIN

Small Groups

While summer hasn't even started, fall adult small groups are right around the corner! UCG's excellent program of small groups depend upon your enthusiasm and leadership to provide our entire congregation with opportunities to meet one another in more intimate settings. In small groups we learn more about each other, we have fun together, and we strengthen our community, all while enjoying activities we love. Small groups can meet once or many times; they can meet in homes or at church; they can be focused around spiritual exploration, personal growth and support, the arts, recreation, or just being together. So, if you have an idea for our next round of small groups, please contact me at vincea@ucgainesville.org. Our Small Groups Committee will be meeting soon, and it is great to have lots of wonderful groups to begin with! And email me as well if you would like to help with that planning process by joining the Committee.

Continuing Education

I just returned from my yearly week of continuing education and wanted to say a word of thanks and let you know how important that time is for me. For the last two years, I have used my continuing ed. time to attend the Festival of Homiletics, a yearly conference which gathers many of the best preachers and preaching professors from around the country to teach and preach to about 2000 ministers from many different denominations. Everyday there are 6-8 sermons being offered and about as many lectures on preaching. It is a lot to take in, especially because many are excellent enough to chew on for a whole week on their own. Hearing these great homileticians (that's a word no matter what spell check says!) is an honor and helps me to focus on ways to grow in my preaching here.

In addition to hearing great preaching, this is the third time that I have used the Festival as a time to meet up with friends from divinity school to catch up on each other's lives and hear about the churches they serve. This time with my colleagues makes the week not only a conference but also a retreat, a great opportunity for reflection on the gifts and challenges of ministry. Not least among the lessons I learned while away was a reminder of how truly blessed I am to be in service in this place with you all and with the greatest ministry team since the original disciples (actually, we've got those guys beat.) I so appreciate the opportunity to go away and renew my mind and spirit!

Summer Time-Off

I will be on vacation for two weeks, beginning June 24th and returning July 9th. I am looking forward to some good time with family and will return to lead you in worship in July along with the Board of Parish Ministry! I will also be off July 26-28 and one weekend in August. Have a great summer!

We Need Your Help!

The Annual Ice Cream Social is fast approaching! This fun all-church gathering takes place after our 4th of July evening service. We already have coordinators for this wonderful UCG tradition but we are in need of some additional volunteers to help with set-up, serving, and take-down. Please contact Vince Amlin at vincea@ucgainesville.org or call the church office to volunteer.



A Little Child Shall Lead Them ~ UCG Children's Program

The Children are Growing!

A message from Suzanne Stapleton, Board of Children's Ministry Chair person

UCG's Board of Children's Ministry is growing too. In May, the board welcomed 8 new members, including 3 dads! The group celebrated newcomers and out-going members at a potluck dinner meeting at Suzanne Stapleton's house on May 15th. Look for new faces and energy behind the Children's board this coming year. New board members are Sally Adkins, Jess Archer, Stephanie Bennett, Matt and Ellen Dube, Suzi Kaufman, Helda Montero, Michael Remer, Keri and Chad Trosper. Returning board members, Dom Durante, Rae Gitzendanner, Stacey Barbour-Hoffman, Kay Kiner James, Laura Robertson, Suzanne Stapleton and Kari Ward, are excited by this influx of new energy. We're all thankful for the great leadership offered by Rae Gitzendanner who served as chair for the past two years. We're grateful too for the service of Maureen Cox, Lisa Wolcott Durante and Pam Smith who are moving on.

Summer Activity Time Information

Extended Activity Time for children began Sunday, May 29 and runs through August 14. Parents, please escort your children to their activity time playground after the children's story. On Sunday, June 5th there will be a meet and greet for Jackie Wisor, our new Activity Time Director at 10:45 in the West Wing. June 5th will also be Casey Kumar's last day as our Interim Activity Time Director. Casey will be a camp counselor at Camp Crystal. He has been a great help to us in this transition.



Changes in the Front Office

The most telling part of the hiring of Alyson McElwain to be our Administrative Assistant at UCG four years ago was the reference from the doctor in the clinic in Nashville where she worked prior to moving to Gainesville. When we asked if he would rehire Alyson, he said, "Not only would I rehire her, I would pay her moving expenses to get her back to Nashville!" Each of us in the UCG office would say the same thing today about bringing her back if we possibly could.

Alyson told us in the interview that she was a quick learner. That was an understatement. I think you will all agree that Alyson has not simply worked here. She has had a ministry here. As the first person to greet anyone who comes into the front office, she has been the welcoming presence of UCG. Everyone from folks who rent rooms, to UCG members needing a little information, to the guy who delivered paper from Morgan's Office Center, looks forward to coming to this office in large part because of Alyson.

This office is more than a workplace. We plan together. We eat together. We celebrate special occasions together and experience together the pain of the church's grieving and the joy of its successes. We are certainly excited that Alyson's husband Greg has finished his Ph.D., that he has a great job teaching Philosophy and Religion at the College of Idaho in Caldwell, Idaho. We are certainly glad that they are able now to move on with their lives as they so deeply deserve. It's just that we'll miss Alyson so much! So we send her off with traveling mercies and the trust that where hearts are one we are never fully apart. A piece of her will remain with us, and something of us, we trust, will live on with her.

Alyson and Greg will be moving at the end of July. We will have a formal farewell to her on Sunday morning, July 10.

CHURCH BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

UCC Florida Conference Annual Meeting

This year's Annual Meeting of the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ was shortened to one day because of the upcoming General Synod of the UCC in Tampa this summer. The typical business of the conference was addressed; the budget was passed recognizing that the conference is operating on reserves. The Florida Conference became an Open and Affirming Conference last year and read the names of churches that have recently voted to become O&A as well.

Using the context of the theme for the upcoming Synod 28 in Tampa "imagine what's possible". Florida Conference minister Kent Siladi referred to Isaiah 2:1-5, imagining a transformed world. We can imagine what's possible because God's vision is a vision that is not a private journey –it is a communal walk. Rev. Siladi referred to his trip last year to Zambia and was surprised to see that Christianity was growing there. When asked why such growth, the President of the UC of Zambia said that they had learned how to take the truths of Christianity and apply them to the people and the culture there. The focus was on the African word **Ubuntu** "**I am who I am because of who we all are,**" the stress on the communal and the sense of interconnectedness of all living things. An African proverb says "If you want to walk faster, you walk alone. If you want to walk farther, you walk together." Imagine what would be possible if we began to cultivate that spirit of Ubuntu!

An idea suggested by theologian Phyllis Tickle is that every five hundred years the Church goes through a "rummage sale" in which it cleans out the old form of spirituality and replaces it with new ones. Old ideas are not necessarily done away with; they just lose their pride of place as the dominant form of Christianity. She cites Constantine in the late 4th and early 5th century, the Great Schism of the 11th century, the Reformation in the 16th century and now the Postmodern era in the 21st century. Tickle says that what is giving way right now is Protestantism, in the form that we know it and what is emerging is a new form of Christianity, what she is calling "The Great Emergence" One can only guess whether or not it is tribal form, an individualistic form, a social form or a combination of all of them.

We found this idea to be especially appropriate given that UCC was at retreat likely trying on some version of each the alternatives mentioned by Ms Tickle. We also found this idea useful in that if one accepts that one is in changing times then the context is provided which encourages us to imagine what the Church and our congregation can be. ~ Ron and Mary Nutter; UCC delegates to the Annual Meeting

Compassion in Action

Throughout the year, CIA coordinates outreach collections benefiting the human inhabitants of Gainesville and our greater community. **On Sunday, June 12th, we're taking up a collection to benefit some of our animal friends. We are collecting carrots and apples for the horses at the Retirement Home for Horses at Mill Creek Farm.** Mill Creek Farm is a nonprofit equine sanctuary providing lifelong care to horses retired from government service, such as police patrol or state and federal parks, seized by law enforcement or rescued by Humane Societies. The following Saturday, June 18, we will deliver the donations as a family outing. Children of all ages love feeding the horses. We'll meet at Mill Creek Farm 20307 NW C.R.235A, Alachua, FL 32615) at 11:00 and wander the property until the carrots and apples run out! Call Matt Gitzendanner for information (352-213-4066). Also, don't forget the **Food First Food Collection held the first Sunday of each month (June 5)** to help restock the Gainesville Community Ministries food pantry. Please bring non perishable food items and put them in the cart in the foyer.



Sundays in June

Regular Sunday Schedule

9:15 - 12:15	Nursery & Toddler Care
9:30	Worship with Children's Story
9:45 - noon	Extended Activity Time
10:30	Fellowship Time
11:00 - noon	Worship
11:00 - 12:30	Adult SUMinar - Bagels provided

Sunday, June 5 - Senior Sunday

8:30 - Meditation in the Chapel

9:30 – Worship Service - **Annual Senior Sunday led by Andy Bachmann and Youth United**

10:45 to 11:15 in the West Wing – Parents of elementary schoolers, join us to welcome Jackie Wisor as our new Activity Time Director and get to know her a bit. Child care is provided.

11:00 - Adult SUMinar - **Healthy Eating and Hypnosis** with Ann Harman

Sunday, June 12 - New Members Joining

8:30 - Meditation with Darrell Hartman

9:30 & 11:00 – Worship Service - **“The Kings Speech: Finding Your Voice” with Larry Reimer** - Both services include receiving new members as well as Communion, special music by the adult choir and liturgical dancers

11:15 - Board of Membership - Seminar B

11:00-Adult SUMinar - **Technology and Kids: What's the scoop? With Heather Remer (1 hour)** - Is too much technology going to ruin my kid's brain? Should my baby be watching “Baby Einstein?” Would I know how to recognize if my child is becoming addicted to video games? Heather Remer had some of the very same questions. Join Heather as she presents some surprising facts about technology's effects on children, and then stick around after for an open forum discussion!

Sunday, June 19 - Father's Day

8:30 - Meditation with David Hackett

9:30 & 11:00 – **Worship with Vince Amlin**

11:00 – Adult SUMinar - **Legal Issues for LGBT Couples, the Nuts and Bolts with Mary-Ellen Cross** - Have questions about legal issues that affect LGBT individuals or nontraditional couples? Lawyer Mary-Ellen Cross will focus on estate planning documents (will, health care surrogate, power of attorney, disposition of remains), joint ownership considerations, domestic partnership agreements, same sex marriage and divorce, adoptions and child custody issues. There will be plenty of time for questions.

Continued next page

Sunday's cont'd.

Sunday, June 26

8:30 - Meditation with Sanford Berg

9:30 & 11:00 - Worship Service **“Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue” with Sandy Reimer.** Special music by Salina Briseno

11:00am- Adult SUMinar - **Saving Money and the Environment with Florida Friendly Landscaping with Connie Caldwell** - Florida Friendly Landscaping involves choosing the right plants and planting them in the right place so that they need little or no supplemental irrigation, fertilizer, or pesticides. Come learn how to have a beautiful and environmentally friendly landscape in your yard.

Sunday, July 3 - No Morning Service

6:00 - Hogtown Strutters Rehearsal

6:30 - All-Church Band Rehearsal

6:45 to 8:15 – Nursery and toddler care

7:00pm – Worship - **“Outrunning the Beat” with Larry Reimer** - Children, including rising 4th & 5th graders, may go to activity time after the children’s story. Rising 6th -8th graders remain in the service.

8:15 – Ice Cream Social - bring your favorite ice cream topping to share.

Summer Worship Schedule with one service at 10:00am begins on Sunday, July 10 and runs through Sunday, August 14.

JUNE 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		31	1	2	3	4
		IHN Hosting This Week				
			Council Exec 12pm New Members Orientation 7pm BCM 7pm	BPM 5:30pm Acts Group* 6pm	Lunch Groups 12pm	
5 IHN Hosting ends Food 1st food drive Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:30am Senior Sunday 10:45am Meet & Greet Jackie Wisor	6	7 Budget Summit 1:30pm ONA Committee 6pm BOB 7:15pm	8 CMRB 12pm	9 Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm Acts Group* 6pm	10 Lunch Groups 12pm PNO 5:30-8:30pm	11
12 Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:30 & 11am New Members Horse Farm Collection Crystal Bowl Concert 7:30pm	13	14 SJC 6:30pm CIA 7pm	15 Church Council 5:30pm	16 Men's Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm Acts Group* 6pm	17 Lunch Groups 12pm	18 Family Outing to Retired Horse Farm 11am
19 Father's Day Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:30 & 11am Feral Readers*12pm	20 3rd Monday Project Night 6pm	21	22 Newsletter Deadline 12pm	23	24 Lunch Groups 12pm	25 UCG Sewing Group 9am
26 Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:30 & 11am LifeSouth Blood Drive	27	28 Newsletter Folding 10:30am	29 Hogtown Strutters Rehearsal 7pm	30	1 Lunch Groups 12pm	2

UNITED CHURCH
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8:30 - 4:30

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NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22
FOR "SUMMER EDITION" NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS COVERING JULY - MID AUGUST

LOOKING AHEAD

- ◆ **Sunday, July 3rd**– No morning service. One worship service at 7:00pm followed by an ice cream social. Please bring an ice cream topping to share.
- ◆ **Sunday, July 10** - Begin Summer Worship schedule with one service at 10:00am
- ◆ **Sunday, August 21** - Gathering of Waters services at 9:30 and 11:00am with Potluck brunch between services. Youth groups resume regular schedule.
- ◆ **Sunday, August 21** - IHN Hosting begins
- ◆ **Sunday, August 28** – United Tribes resumes.
- ◆ **Sunday, August 28** – Annual Kick-Off Gathering of All Boards and Committees – 4:00 to 6:30