



United Church of Gainesville

NEWSLETTER

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

NOVEMBER 2011

Larry Reimer & Sandy

Reimer

Ministers

Andy Bachmann

Associate Minister

Vince Amlin

Associate Minister

Lisa Goldstein

Editor

UCC's Mission 1

This November, we support the United Church of Christ's Mission 1, a program based on hunger action!

Through our Mission 1 giving we hope to TRIPLE our donation to the Gainesville Community Ministry food bank through our Food First Sunday offering on November 6!

On November 6th we also hope to write 111 letters to our state representatives and members of Congress on behalf of **Bread for the World**, an advocacy group working for hunger related issues.

We also hope to DOUBLE our attendance at our Oxfam Break-fast supper and fundraiser on November 17th! Please help us bring hunger issues to the forefront this holiday season!

Holiday Outreach Opportunities

- ❖ Food First Collection
- ❖ Letter Writing Campaign
- ❖ Clothing Drive
- ❖ OXFAM Fast
- ❖ Christmas Angels & Home Van Socks
- ❖ Christmas Mini Grants

See page 6 for more information

Enlistment Update

Our pledge drive to fund the 2012 budget ends Sunday, November 6. If you have not already, please return your pledge card by US mail, through private e-mail to Jill Cunningham, Church Accountant at jillc@ucgainesville.org, or to the collection plate as it passes by you in church. To date we have received \$520,439 which is 77% of our goal.

Remember some of the reasons that led you to UCG, and keep those in mind as you complete your pledge card. Then think of the way that UCG has become an important part of your life, and return your completed pledge card before November 6.

Thanks for helping UCG achieve the pledge commitments needed to move forward in 2012.

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Labyrinth in the Sanctuary November 13th - 17th

See page 5 for times

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.

Oxfam Fast

begins November 16 and ends on November 17th with a shared meal at the church to break the fast.

See page 2

Thanksgiving

Dinner at UCG on Thursday, November 24.

See page 2.

Advent Begins on Sunday, November 27

I have never been especially impressed by the heroics of people who are convinced they are about to change the world. I am more awed by the courage and faithfulness of those who struggle to make one small difference after another. ~Ellen Goodman



What's Happening in November ²

- ❖ **CIA committee supported event: "Bringing Water to San Pedro de Casta", Friday, November 4th, 7-10 pm in the Fellowship Hall** - An event to raise funds for a badly needed Irrigation System in this remote village high in the Peruvian Andes. A grassroots effort inspired by volunteer work by UCG member Carol Barron & Beth Karbe. Please join us for an evening of food, wine, non-alcoholic drinks, music, a beautiful slide show of their volunteer experience, and a multi-cultural Silent Auction. **\$35 donation at the door, fully tax deductible.**
- ❖ **Parents Night Out - Friday, November 11- 5:30-8:30pm** - PNO is for parents of babies through 5th graders. The kids go to the UCG church school wing where they eat pizza, 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 **by Tuesday, November 8** to lindaj@ucgainesville.org. Pizza and apple wedges* are provided. *Due to life - threatening food allergies, we ask that no outside food be brought in.
- ❖ **Art in the Library** - The November exhibit features work by members of the Journey Daybook group, an Adult Small Group that met in the spring. The journal pages being exhibited are personal reflections of each individual's internal and external journeys through life. Join them for an artist reception on Sunday, Nov 13 at 10:30 am.
- ❖ **Visitor's Lunch - Sunday, November 13** - If you've been visiting and would like to get to know more about UCG, come to a visitors lunch Sunday, November 13, at 12:15 in the Fellowship Hall. Larry, Sandy and Vince will be there to answer questions. The lunch is free. Child care is provided, but we must know if you need it. Please sign up on the church bulletin board or call the church office.
- ❖ **20's & 30's Group November Potluck!** If you are in your 20's or 30's, come enjoy good food and fellowship, **November 18, 2011 at 7:30pm at UCG.** Bring your favorite dish to share! Any questions, please contact Suzy Robertson at suzyr@ufl.edu.
- ❖ **Annual Oxfam Fast for World Hunger - Wednesday, November 16 and Thursday, November 17** - Through this annual fund raiser we donate money to programs fostering self-reliance and community leadership helping people overcome the root causes of poverty. Our UCG fast begins after lunch on November 16th. We gather to break the fast at **6:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 17th** in the Fellowship Hall, when you may contribute the money you saved on food to Oxfam. Your level of fasting is up to you and all age groups may participate. Sign up on Sunday, November 6 & 13. You will be asked to bring soup, salad, bread, juice, or fruit. Please bring your own bowls, plates, cups, and utensils. Childcare with pizza and fruit will be provided from 6 to 8 p.m. Please sign up if you need childcare. If you are unable to attend but would like to contribute, drop off or mail your funds to the church. Make checks payable to UCG and designate it for OXFAM.
- ❖ **Thanksgiving Luncheon - UCG style, Thursday, November 24 at 1:30pm** - Join us for a great meal with all the fixin's right here at UCG. Why spend all day in the kitchen preparing the endless list of family favorites when you can bring one dish, and relax with your friends in the Fellowship Hall? The price of \$5 for ages 12 & over, \$3 for 5-11, and free for children under age 5 covers the cost of turkey and beverages. Each family is asked to bring a covered dish to serve at least 8 people. Sign up on Sundays, November 6, 13 & 20. Volunteers are needed for the following tasks: Set up at about noon on Thanksgiving Day, and take down and cleanup after the meal. If you are interested in helping, contact Cathy Keathley at cathykeathley@gmail.com or 377-3888.

Upcoming Events

Lessons and Carols Update: Lessons and Carols rehearsals started on October 27 then with the Kick-Off lunch followed by the first sectional rehearsals on October 30. If you were unable to attend these first two practices, it is not too late to participate. An attendance policy is in effect requesting no more than 3 absences; if more than 3 absences are accrued, participation is dependent on approval from the choir director, Tane` DeKrey. With prior request, child care can be provided. We hope to see you as we have fun while deepening the celebration of Advent.

	<u>Sunday</u>		<u>Thursday</u>
Nov	6- 12:30 13- 12:30 20- 12:30 27- 12:30	Nov	3- 7:15 10- 7:15 17- 7:15 24- none
Dec	4- 12:30	Dec	1- 7:15 8- 7:15

The final rehearsal is TBA. The Lessons & Carols services are on Dec. 10 at 7:00pm and Dec. 11 at 11:00am and 7:00pm.

Lessons and Carols Reception - We look forward to our festive **holiday reception following the evening Lessons and Carols service** on Sunday, December 11. We need five volunteers to make this event happen. Email Vince Amlin at vincea@ucgainesville.org if you are willing to help.

The All Church Band will play its medley of sing-a-long Christmas carols at both worship services on December 18. If you do now or ever have played a band instrument, please pick up music in the foyer which will be available mid November and plan to participate in this great UCG tradition.

It's time to start planning this year's Winter Party

Winnie Ruffino has generously volunteered to coordinate this year's Winter Party. We are looking for a group of people who like to host, to decorate, to do graphic art for tickets, to serve refreshments and beverages and to help find a great band so that we can fest and boogie into the night. We will be meeting a few times prior to the event, planned in January. We have wonderful information from prior years that will help make our job easier. Just say you will be part of the team that hosts one of the best gatherings of the year. Sign-up to help outside the office.

Women's Overnight 2012

"Do-be-do-be-do-be-do: The Elusive Quest for Balance"

Saturday, February 4 at 10:00am to Sunday, February 5 at 12:30pm

Episcopal Conference Center, Live Oak, Florida

Bring a little balance to your life by reserving these dates for our annual women's overnight: a time to laugh and reflect, sing and be silent, walk and talk, breathe and pray, as we connect with one another and with a sense of our own lives. Come to be nurtured by the beauty of nature and sacred space, great food, the comfortable facilities, and the company of kindred women.

We were able to reserve more space this year: 37 motel rooms plus 2 cabins. Our goal is to accommodate all UCG members whose registration is complete by 4:00pm on Tuesday, January 17. **Registration forms will be available on the website, at the church office and by email beginning Wednesday, January 4. Watch for complete details in the December newsletter.**

The Seventh Trumpet



I want to catch you up on where we are with our facilities. About ten years ago the house owned by Chester Yates on the corner of NW 17 St. and 6th Avenue became available. Chester had always said that the church would have first option on that house. When he died, his son showed it to us, we began to consider it, and then the family decided that Chester's grandson would live in it while he went to grad school. We discovered at that time we had space on our grounds to build the West Wing, which accommodated our needs.

This year the Yates family approached us again. The grandson finished grad school (ten years later!). We formed a property task force chaired by Tony Miller who, along with Carol Barron, Heidi Stein, Mike Myers, Steve Bates and all the ministerial staff walked through the house. It was built in 1946. Its stone construction makes it a historical landmark in Gainesville, and we would not be able to tear it down if we simply wanted to expand onto the property. There are also significant neighborhood and zoning restrictions upon how we might use it. On top of that, little has been done to upgrade wiring, plumbing and other infrastructure of the house since it was built. Carol Barron estimated that it would easily cost us \$100,000 to make it usable for any capacity. The asking price was \$200,000. The task force recommended against purchase even if it was offered at a much reduced price.

We will stay aware of properties adjacent to UCG and evaluate their suitability as they become available. In the mean time we will begin to think of how to meet the needs of our growing church school.

Meanwhile, I asked Bob Taylor, UCG member and architect who designed the sanctuary, what we might consider if we needed expanded worship space in the future. Bob said that standards for public meeting rooms such as our sanctuary would allow us to increase our sanctuary size by about 25%. We could do this by expanding the sanctuary into the current retention area to the east toward the parking lot..

There are no plans for a new building program in the works at any level at this time. I just wanted you to know the kinds of possibilities that exist.

Meanwhile, nobody has figured out how to do anything about parking other than to consider being ready to purchase the house adjacent to the east end of our property on 5th Ave. should it become available. It would be a huge amount of money for probably less than a dozen parking spaces. Lots to consider here. It's still true that we typically do not walk any farther to church from our parking places on side streets than we do from our cars to the stores at the mall. However, this whole issue is open for discussion.

Meanwhile, the Board of Business is prioritizing our spending for safety concerns, painting and roofing the sanctuary, and replacement of valuable items such as the air conditioning units.

I just noticed that three of the last four paragraphs begin with "meanwhile." I think this means that many things are going on at once. Most importantly, we need to keep our budget healthy so we can meet these new needs with vision. If you haven't already done so, send in your pledge card. Thanks everyone.

Larry

We Welcome our Newest Members

Jessika Blersch
 Jess Campbell
 Rachel Craft
 Lisa Debroux
 Lindsey Dhans

Bob Filippi
 Mickey Howard
 Andy Ingram
 Jose Jaimes
 Frances Pierce

Luther Pierce
 Suzy Roberston
 Jeff Shapiro
 Melissa Varady
 Alston Wise

THRESHOLDS

... SANDY REIMER

I'm amazed that it's November already and we're in the midst of our new worship theme "**Saints and Heroes.**" On **Sunday, November 6**, in recognition of All-Saints day, we will remember our own UCG members who died since November 2010. We'll read their names, ring the bell, and hold them and their families in prayer.

The **Labyrinth** will be set up in the Sanctuary on **November 13-17**, the same week as our Oxfam fast. The Labyrinth is an ancient circular walk with a single pathway that leads you to the center and back out again. Ted Runions and Diane Farris generously share their Labyrinth, a replica of the labyrinth in the medieval cathedral in Chartres, France, with us during November and during Lent each year. To walk the Labyrinth is to take a journey to your own spiritual center and then back out into the world. The Labyrinth will be open for walking at the following times:

Sunday, November 13 from 3:00 to 6:00pm

Monday, November 14 from 8:30am to 5:30pm

Tuesday, November 15 from 8:30am to 5:30pm

Wednesday, November 16 from 8:30am to 8:00pm - *from 5:00 to 7:00, there will be music, readings and prayers as you walk. Child care is provided. If you are fasting for Oxfam, this is a great way to spend part of the dinner hour in reflection.*

Thursday, November 17 from 8:30am to 4:00pm

Advent begins on Sunday, November 27 at the end of Thanksgiving week-end. The Advent season marks the four Sundays prior to Christmas, and our UCG Advent traditions are rich, diverse and meaningful. I hope that you will make space in your life to participate in the preparations, the worship, the music, the crafts, the sharing, and the giving as we celebrate the wonder and hope that shine in this season. Our Advent worship theme is "Keep Awake." **Adult and Family Advent Reflection booklets** will be available in the Sanctuary foyer beginning Sunday, November 27. We'll be lighting the first candle of the Advent Wreath that Sunday. And the Board of Parish Ministry, with the help of volunteers, will **decorate the Sanctuary and the courtyard** for the season.

I will offer **Advent Contemplative Prayer** in the Sanctuary on Tuesday evenings – November 29, December 6 and 14 – from 6:30 to 7:30pm. There is still room for participants, so please e-mail the church office **by November 16** if you are interested and able to be present for those three sessions. And if you need child care, please let me know that as well by November 16.

Note that the **Children and Family Craft Fair** will be on **SATURDAY morning, December 3** and the **Children's Christmas Pageant** is on **Sunday, December 4 at the 9:30 service only.**

Update on Retreat: The Retreat Committee is convening on Sunday, November 13 at 2:30pm to begin plans for our 2012 Retreat, April 27-29 at Warren Willis Camp. Save that date – more details in January.

As the season of Thanksgiving approaches, I like to remember the words of Elton Trueblood: *I find that the one thing which I want to put into practice in my own life is the conscious and deliberate habit of finding someone to thank.* Gratitude becomes a spiritual habit as we offer unexpected thanks to those whose paths cross ours each day. So I thank each of you for the commitment you offer to UCG, for the kindness and support you give to me and to our entire staff, and for the grace it is for me to be here with you.

PASSAGES

- ❖ Our blessings shine on Shay Hudleston and Brian Smith who were married on Saturday, October 8 at the amphitheater at Paynes Prairie. Sandy Reimer and Larry Reimer officiated.

NOVEMBER NOTATIONS: MESSAGE FROM ANDY

November begins the holiday onslaught and this year I really hope that you can find a way to participate in at least one of our many outreach offerings. There is something in there for everyone, from every level of giving. You could participate by simply donating that can of chicken noodle soup in your pantry that has been collecting dust for the past 8 months, or giving one dollar to pay for a mylar blanket to be given to a local homeless person. You can help out by simply writing a letter to a member of congress, encouraging them to remember the needy in our country and in the world, or by bringing in that old ski jacket you never use anymore. I certainly hope you will join us for the OxFam fundraiser and break-fast potluck! There are a wide variety of offerings, and our hope is that you will find one way to participate in UCG's giving to the needy this holiday season.

Our youth groups are getting into the swing of giving as well. MSG will be doing their own collection for Food First, and will also be giving their own money as a donation to OxFam this year. How cool is that? Both groups will meet and discuss the issues surrounding the hungry in our world, and both groups have committed to doing something about it. I am always so encouraged by the passion and giving of our young people.

Here are the calendars for our youth groups this month:

MSG - (Middle School Group) - meets every Sunday at 11am

Nov. 6	Walk & Talk
Nov. 13	Games at JJ Finley
Nov. 17	OxFam Fundraiser and Break-Fast Supper
Nov 19	MSG Football Parking
Nov. 20	God, However Known with Andy
Nov. 27	no group; Thanksgiving!

YU - (Youth United) - meets 1st & 3rd Sundays at 5:30pm

Nov. 6	YPT practice and dinner and a movie at UCG
Nov 17	OxFam Fundraiser and Break –Fast Supper
Nov. 20	Defining Success and Chili Lunch Prep



****** *Holiday Outreach Opportunities For All* ******



- ★ **November 6- Food First!** Help us TRIPLE our regular donation to the Gainesville Community Ministry Food Bank with a donation of non-perishable food items
- ★ **November 6-** beginning at 10:30 in our Fellowship Hall we will have stationary and letter templates for **writing letters to members of Congress** on behalf of Bread for the World
- ★ **November 13-** We are doing a **ONE TIME clothing drive** for gently used cold weather clothing for the children at Rawlings and Metcalf Schools. Remember, some middle school children are as big as you!
- ★ **November 16-17 OXFAM fast and fundraiser.** Join us at 6 pm on Thursday, November 17th to break your fast and raise some funds for OXFAM. Please sign-up, starting November 6th.
- ★ **Nov. 6 & 13—Purchase a Mylar blanket for our homeless brothers and sisters.** For a \$1 donation, you can provide a blanket for a person in our community. All blankets will be distributed through the Home Van.
- ★ **November 27, December 4- Pick and Angel from our Angel Tree** and purchase a Christmas Present (between \$15-30, please) for the 4th and 5th grade students at Duval Elementary, or children in the Children's Medical Services program. You can also stuff a tube sock (also available on the Angel Tree) with non-perishable food items and hygiene products to be given away through the Home Van. **ALL PRESENTS AND SOCKS WILL BE COLLECTED AND DISTRIBUTED ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11!**
- ★ **Beginning on Sunday, November 20 we will have applications available for our annual Christmas Mini-grant giveaway.** Every year we give mini-grants to friends and neighbors in our community who are particularly hard hit this holiday season. All mini-grants are between \$50-200. Applications are available in the church office, and will be accepted until Sunday, December 4th. If you know someone who could use some extra financial assistance this holiday season, please come fill out an application!

IN VINNY VERITAS

VINCE AMLIN

As a few of us set up the tents for our booths at the Pride Festival, a family who had participated in that morning's Breast Cancer Walk passed by on the way to their car. When they got about 5 yards away, the teenage daughter did a double take and exclaimed, "It's a church?!?!?" (Yes, her voice used that exact punctuation.) Her family stopped and turned to look at our tent and its banner and t-shirts clearly reading "United Church of Gainesville." They came over and talked with us and expressed their gratitude and excitement that there was a church in Gainesville welcoming to all people. (The even greater news is there were at least 5 churches at Gainesville's Pride Fest this year!) The young woman who had brought her family over stood with her mouth open for most of the minute or so they talked to us. She picked up our brochures and began to read them as they walked away. Here it was only 9:30am on the day of the parade, and I already knew that all of the work and resources that had gone into our Pride preparation had been worth it.

We are a congregation that often evokes double takes, and I'm certain this is not the first time someone has seen UCG being UCG and gasped, "It's a church?!?!?" What better reason to have people ask than our proclamation that God loves all people. On Pride Sunday, after a fantastic service, we came out of the sanctuary to find colorful chalk illustrations all over the sidewalk. There were rainbow colored bodies and here and there the words "I Corinthians." Our United Tribes had been studying the passage from I Corinthians 12 which begins, "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." This passage, which reminds us of the responsibility to embody God in the world, was the one Sandy preached on earlier in the month to describe how our diverse community works together as a body (and is part of a still larger body). Beside those colorful chalk bodies on Sunday, the kids had also written an answer to the young woman's question from the day before. "It's a church?!?!?" In rainbow sidewalk chalk: "WE ARE THE CHURCH!"

Thanks to all who made our Pride celebration so meaningful and special!

From UCG member Rachel Kirk

Our own Rachel Kirk, a UCG college student at Grinnell College, was selected to be part of a social justice leadership training by the United Church of Christ. Here's a little bit about her experience:

In September I had the opportunity to attend a training event in Seattle called Justice Leaders Engaging and Developing. Justice LED is a curriculum developed by Justice & Witness Ministries of the UCC to give individuals a theological and socio-cultural foundation for work to promote social and environmental justice. The event I attended was specifically for UCC young adults.

After undergoing an abbreviated version of the training, we visited Pilgrim Firs Conference Center, the site of the new UCC Environmental Justice Center, and attended a celebration to recognize its opening. This is one of four UCC centers that provide a space for education on a specific justice issue. Eventually Pilgrim Firs will house workshops that teach a curriculum similar to Justice LED but that deals specifically with the issue of environmental justice. I enjoyed meeting young adults from across the country with

Spring Small Group Ideas Needed

Our Winter/ Spring semester of small groups are right around the corner. UCG offers over 20 small groups each semester on a wide variety of topics, and almost all of them are led by members of our congregation. Spring groups can happen anytime between February and June. Small groups can range from one-time fellowship opportunities to long-term support groups or spiritual exploration and take place at the church, in homes, and around Gainesville. **If you have an idea for a group you would like to lead, contact Vince Amlin at vincea@ucgainesville.org.**

~ A Little Child Shall Lead Them ~

UCG Children's Program ~ Director, Heidi Stein

It's that time of year again for the Annual Children's Christmas Pageant and we are SO excited! This year promises to be just as fantastic as the previous years, and of course there will be a few surprises thrown in to keep all attendees intrigued and on their toes! For those of you that haven't experienced the "UCG Family Christmas Pageant However Known" yet, this would DEFINITELY be the year to attend! The kids have a blast putting it on for their friends and families, audience participation is integral to a successful performance, plus we can guarantee you've never seen anything like it!

For you parents, please keep a few dates in mind, as they are key to having a Pageant that's smooth sailing:

Nov. 6th = The children will be working on their costumes. We're keeping the parts for each grade the same as in the past; Pre-K are our manger animals, K-1 are our angels and sheep, 2-3 are our Wise People and 4-5 are performing the main character parts. Shay will also be assigning parts to the older grades and sending home scripts at this time, so keep an eye out for those.

Nov. 27rd = Dress Rehearsal!! Please, please try to have your child(ren) come to church on this day, the more kids that participate in the dress rehearsal correlates directly to how smoothly things will run on Pageant day!

Dec. 4th = PAGEANT DAY!!! This year the pageant will only occur during the 9:30 service, and all classes will be seated together. Please arrive no later than 9:15 and bring your child(ren) to the West Wing for check-in before you head in to the Sanctuary to await the performance.

Children's Christmas Craft Fair Saturday, December 3

Yes, you read that right! The Children's Craft Fair will be on a Saturday this year from 10am to Noon. This is a UCG annual tradition and great fun for all. As always, there will be many crafts to choose from, and this year, with an extra half hour for creativity, your children's masterpieces will be better than ever.

The Craft Fair is for all United Tribes children accompanied by a parent or other adult. Childcare will be available for children 3 years or younger. A suggested donation of \$5 for the first child and \$3 for each additional child, per family, will help us cover the cost of supplies.

Schedule

11-06	Pageant Preparations – Make costumes get parts.
11-13	TBA
11-20	TBA
11-27	Pageant Dress Rehearsal
12-4	Christmas Pageant
12-10	Christmas Craft Fair & Lessons & Carols
12-11	Lessons and Carols



Baptism Offered in November

We are offering baptism on Sunday, November 13 at the 9:30 and 11:00am services. If you or anyone in your family is interested in being baptized, please contact the church office by Tuesday, November 8.

Christmas and Shameless Product Promotion

If you have not already flooded your friends and relatives with Sandy and Larry's book The Long Winding Journey Home, their collection of sermons including Humor Sundays, film reviews, and retreat stories, consider it for Christmas presents. It's available through Amazon or any other online bookseller.

Sundays in November

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REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:15 - 12:15	Nursery & Toddler Care
9:30	Worship with Children's Story
9:45 - 10:45	United Tribes - after the children's story
10:30	Fellowship Time
10:45 - noon	Children's Activity Time
11:00 - noon	Worship; Adult Seminars; Middle School Group

Worship Theme: Heroes and Saints

Sunday, November 6 - Daylight Savings Time Ends - Fall back one hour

8:30—Meditation in the Chapel with Barb Rienzo

9:30 & 11:00 - "Pathfinders as Heroes" – Sandy Reimer. Both services include remembrance of UCG members who have died since our last All-Saints services, with prayers and a ringing of the bell.

11:00 – Adult Seminars

Unemployed However Known - Join UCG members Scott Winzeler, Stephen Bottomly and others who recently went through periods of unemployment in an informal seminar to explore avenues of support available to those of us going this form of transition..

Partner with PFLAG to Make a Difference with Ellen Louis and Larry Ligammare - Ellen and Larry will lead a discussion of Gainesville's coming PFLAG Chapter (Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians and Gays). We'll have a brief discussion of what brought us to this juncture and ask for participant input on how we can begin to shape this group to best serve our community. We'll also invite all to join us at the community-wide Organizational Meeting scheduled for Monday, November 14, here at UCG.

11:00 - Friendship Group - Room 8

12:30 -Lessons & Carols rehearsal

5:30 - Youth United - Fellowship Hall

7:30 - Crystal Bowl Concert with Cindy Bergbower in the Sanctuary

Sunday, November 13

8:30am—Meditation in the Chapel with David Hackett

9:30 & 11:00 - Worship "Hungry Heroes" - Andy Bachmann. Both services include baptism.

10:30 - Art in the Library Reception with Journey Daybook Group

11:00 – Adult Seminars

OxFam: Exploring the Issues of Hunger and What We Can Do About It with members of the Social Justice Committee

Do You Really want to get Your (Grand)kids a Telescope for Christmas? with Chuck Broward - This holiday season turn your kids and grandkids on to the night sky the right way. Select the best holiday gifts for your budding astronomer without spending a fortune on merchandise that just doesn't work.

12:15 - High School Team - West Wing

12:30 - Lessons and Carols Sectionals

12:15 - Visitor's Lunch—Fellowship Hall

12:30 - Friends over 50's Group* - offsite

2:00 - Spiritual Awakening Book Group* - Library

2:30 - Retreat Committee - West Wing

Sunday, November 20

8:30am—Meditation in the Chapel with Ann Gill

9:30 & 11:00 - "Beyond Negative Thanksgiving – (No more being told to be thankful that at least you didn't break both legs)" – Larry Reimer. Service includes a procession of all UCG moderators, a liturgical dance (not by the moderators) bringing forth the gifts of the earth, and a brass ensemble.

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Sunday's Cont'd

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10:30 - Patticake Play Date - offsite

11:00 - Adult Seminar

Field Trip: Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery with Peggy Bowie

Family Saints and Heroes with Ron and Mary Nutter

11:00 - Friendship Group - Room 8

12:00 - Feral Readers* - Library

12:15 - Middle School Group - West wing

12:30 - Lessons and Carols Rehearsal

2:30 - Sunday at the Movies* - offsite

5:30 - Youth United—Fellowship Hall

Worship Theme: Advent - Keep Awake

First Sunday in Advent, November 27

8:30 - Meditation in the Chapel with Mark Burlingame

9:30 & 11:00 - "My Song in the Night," - Sandy Reimer. Both services include the lighting of the first candle of the Advent Wreath and an anthem by the adult choir. Advent Reflection booklets available in the foyer.

11:00 - Adult Seminar

Your Spiritual Personality Type with Vince Amlin

Noon – Board of Parish Ministry will oversee the decoration of the Sanctuary and Courtyard for Advent and Christmas. Volunteers welcome and needed!

12:30 - Lessons and Carols Rehearsal

Boards & Committees

If only Congress could operate more like UCG! - Moderator Sally Simonis

Thanks to all of you who supported our democratic principles by participating in our Fall congregational meeting on Oct. 2. Our 2012 budget was proposed and adopted by unanimous support. By the time you read this I hope we have completed a successful Enlistment campaign and are on to all the wonderful ministries that our financial offerings support. Jerry Hill and Nancy Dana, our Council members at large, presented two By-Law changes which passed after much spirited discussion. These changes were proposed as part of the work we are doing under our current 3 year plan to strengthen our organizational structure and make it more effective for the larger church we have become. The complete text of our By-Laws as well as minutes from the congregational meeting are available in the church office. Our church governance is transparent and relies on your heart-felt and active participation.

Interfaith Hospitality Network News:

UCG has successfully completed our fifth and final hosting of 2011. Kudos go to our IHN committee members and congregation for supporting this ministry, helping families in transition. The downtown IHN office relays that our guests have been quite content while housing at UCG, which reflects on the warm welcome that UCG volunteers offer. Thank you for that!! Enjoy a respite from IHN for the close of the year, yet look for recruiting for our January hosting to start in early December.



NOVEMBER 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>31</i>	<i>1</i> ONA 6pm All Saints Service 7pm	<i>2</i> Council Exec 12pm BAP 7pm BCM 7pm	<i>3</i> BPM 5:30pm Lessons & Carols rehearsal 7:15pm	<i>4</i> Office Closed– UF Homecoming No Lunch Groups	<i>5</i> Cedar Key Kayak Trip* 9am Gators vs Vandy 12:21pm ONA Football Parking TBA
<i>6</i> Daylight Savings Time ends Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:30 & 11 Friendship Group 11am L&C rehearsal 12:30 pm YU 5:30pm Crystal Bowl concert 7:30pm	<i>7</i> Divorce Support Group* 6pm	<i>8</i> Budget Summit 1:30pm Discernment* 6pm SJC 6:30pm CIA 7pm BOB 7:15pm	<i>9</i> CMRB 12pm BOM 6:30pm New and Noteworthy Book Group* 7:30pm	<i>10</i> In Search of Real Happiness* Noon Lessons & Carols rehearsal 7:15pm	<i>11</i> Lunch Groups 12pm Parent's Night Out 5:30-8:30pm	<i>12</i> Hawthorne Trail Bike Ride 9am
<i>13</i> Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:30 & 11 Art in Library 10:30am HS Team 12pm Visitor's Lunch 12:15pm L&C reh. 12:30pm 50's + group 12:30pm Labyrinth 3-6pm	<i>14</i> Labyrinth 8:30am-5:30pm Divorce Support Group* 6pm	<i>15</i> Labyrinth 8:30am-5:30pm Discernment* 6pm Alzheimer/ Dementia Support 7pm	<i>16</i> Labyrinth 8:30am-8:00pm Newsletter Deadline- Noon OXFAM fast begins Church Council 5:30pm	<i>17</i> Labyrinth 8:30am-4:00pm OXFAM Dinner 6pm Lessons & Carols rehearsal 7:30pm	<i>18</i> Lunch Groups 12pm 20's & 30's Potluck 7:30pm	<i>19</i> Birding on Paynes Prairie* Gators vs Furman MSG Football Parking TBA
<i>20</i> Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:30 & 11 PattiCake 10:30am Friendship Group 11am MS Team 12pm L&C reh. 12:30pm Sunday Movies 2pm YU 5:30pm	<i>21</i> Divorce Support Group* 6pm 3rd Monday Project Night 6pm Waking Up *7pm	<i>22</i> Discernment* 6pm	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> Office Closed Happy Thanksgiving UCG Thanksgiving Dinner 1:30pm	<i>25</i> Office Closed No Lunch Groups	<i>26</i> UF vs FSU BCM Football Parking TBA
<i>27</i> Advent Begins Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:30 & 11am BPM Decorate for Advent/Christmas 12pm L&C rehearsal	<i>28</i> Waking Up *7pm	<i>29</i> Discernment* 6pm Contemplative Prayer* 6:30pm <i>* A Pre-registered Adult Small Group</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>1</i> BPM 5:30pm	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> Children's Christmas Craft Fair 10am – 12pm

UNITED CHURCH OF
GAINESVILLE

1624 NW 5th Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32603

Phone: 352-378-3500

Fax: 352-378-0501

E-mail: info@ucgainesville.org

Hours: Monday- Friday

8:30am - 4:30pm

www.ucgainesville.org

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DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

LOOKING AHEAD AT THE UNITED CHURCH OF GAINESVILLE:

- ❖ **Tuesdays, Nov. 29, Dec. 6 & Dec. 13** - Advent Contemplative Prayer from 6:30 to 7:30 in the Sanctuary. Contact the church office by Nov. 16 to register. Child care available.
- ❖ **Saturday, Dec. 3** – Children and Family Christmas Craft Fair from 10am - noon in the Fellowship Hall.
- ❖ **Sunday, Dec. 4** – Children’s Christmas Pageant at 9:30 Service; YU Chili Lunch
- ❖ **Saturday, Dec. 10** at 7pm and Sunday, Dec. 11 at 11am and 7pm – Lessons and Carols Services. Reception follows the Sunday evening service.
- ❖ **Sunday, Dec. 18** – All Church Band plays at 9:30 and 11:00 services
- ❖ **Sunday, Dec. 18** – Blue Christmas Service at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary
- ❖ **Saturday, Dec. 24** – Candlelight Christmas Eve services – *Note new times* - at 4:30pm, 7:30pm and 9:30pm
- ❖ **Sunday, Dec. 25** – Merry Christmas! No Sunday services at UCG
- ❖ **Sunday, January 1** – One Worship Service at 11am in the Sanctuary
- ❖ **Sunday, January 29** – Winter Congregational Meeting
- ❖ **February 4-5** – Women’s Overnight
- ❖ **Sunday, February 19** – UCG Book Sale - start collecting your items now. Contact Ellen Louis n.ellen.louis@gmail.com if you have donations. Not yet accepting donations at church.
- ❖ **April 27-29** – Annual UCG Retreat

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