

Ordination Service for Sandra L. Reimer
Sunday, February 22, 2009 - 6:00pm

** Please stand if you are able.*

WELCOME – Rev. Andy Bachmann, United Church of Gainesville

PRELUDE

“Ashoken Farewell” - Catherine Berg, piano, and Larry Reimer, trumpet

“Another Train” – Women’s Ensemble: Tracy Bachmann, Jamie Baldwin, Salina Briseno Kiker, Judy Parsons and Angie Stewart

**“Twelve Gates to the City” (Traditional Spiritual, arr. by Larry Shackley) -
Choir: Judy Parsons, director; Tane’ DeKrey, accompanist**

PROCESSIONAL – “Sinfonia” (D. N. Johnson)

Brass Ensemble: Mark Burlingame and Tim Martin, trumpet; Rachel Kirk and Brian Stevens, trombone; Catherine Berg, piano

Moderators of the United Church of Gainesville, including

Bob Atkins, Catherine Berg, Sanford Berg, Barbara Beynon, Anne Casella, Mike Chance, Fonda Davis Eyler, John Eyler, Ann Gill, Fred Gregory, Tricia Gregory, David Hackett, Jack Hauptman, Bill Hoppe, Tony Miller, Linda Myrick, Mary Nutter, Barbara Rienzo, Joan Rothrock, Marianne Schmink, Stan Smith, Linda Stevens, Bill Zegel and Carole Zegel

Clergy, including

Lama David Bole, Resident Teacher, Gainesville Karma Thegsum Choling Study and Meditation Center

Rev. Pam Braid, United Church of Christ, Chaplain, Southeast Volusia Care Center, Halifax Health Hospice of Volusia/Flagler

Rev. John Clements, American Baptist minister (retired), UCG member

Rev. David Dean, United Church of Christ, Chaplain, UF Presbyterian Disciples of Christ Student Center, UCG member

Rev. Dr. Glenn Dickson, Presbyterian minister

Rev. Meredith Garmon, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Gainesville

Rev. Dr. Raymond Hargrove, Northeast Regional Conference Minister, Florida Conference, United Church of Christ

Rabbi Shaya Isenberg, P’nai Or of Gainesville

Rabbi Michael Joseph, Temple Shir Shalom, Gainesville

Rev. LoraKim Joyner, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Gainesville

Rev. Walter Kalaf, United Methodist minister (retired), UCG member

Rev. Marciah McCartney, Unity of Gainesville

Rev. Martha McInnes, United Church of Christ, Director of Gainesville Interfaith Hospitality Network, UCG member

Rev. Eve McMaster, Emmanuel Mennonite Church

Reb. Bahira Sugarman, P’nai Or of Gainesville

Rev. Dr. James Wagner, Assistant Professor of Bioethics, UF College of Medicine, UCG member

Rev. Debrah Zuercher, Disciples of Christ, Chaplain, Shands Hospital, UCG member

CALL TO WORSHIP – Trish Thoburn

Eternal Spirit, the One who calls to each of us
and sets us on your paths of faith and service,
Make strong in our hearts what unites us;
build bridges across all that divides us.
United make us rejoice in our diversity,
at one in our witness to your peace,
Together, a rainbow of your glory.

~adapted from Br. David Steindl-Rast, of the Buddhist Catholic Spiritual Center

***OPENING HYMN – “You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”**

Brass Ensemble and Catherine Berg

You have come down to the lakeshore, Seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy, But only asking for me to follow.

**Refrain: O Jesus, you have looked into my eyes;
Kindly smiling, you’ve called out my name.
On the sand, I have abandoned my small boat;
Now with you, I will seek other seas.**

You know full well my possessions, Neither treasure nor weapons for conquest, Just these my fishnets and will for working. ~ Refrain ~

You, who have fished other waters; You, the longing of souls that are yearning; As loving Friend, you have come to call me.

**Refrain: O Jesus, you have looked into my eyes;
Kindly smiling, you've called out my name.
On the sand, I have abandoned my small boat;
Now with you, I will seek other seas.**

OUR COMMON MINISTRY - Rev. Larry Reimer, United Church of Gainesville

SCRIPTURE READING – adapted from 1st Corinthians 12: 4-26 in *The Message* by Eugene Peterson – Sandra Chance, David Thaler, Jenny Dorley, Christoph Seubert, Emma Kirk, Ben Casella, Mary Ellen Cross, Ginny Reed, Larry Turner, Heidi Stein, Darrell Hartman, and Rachelle DeGraff

CHOIR - "We are Travelers On a Journey" (Sacred Harp, setting by Craig Courtner; lyrics by Richard Gillard) - Judy Parsons, director; Tane' DeKrey, piano; Cindy Martin, flute

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SCRIPTURE – 1st Corinthians 13: 1-7, 13 – Erick Smith and Diana Tonnessen

MUSIC – "The Gift of Love" – UCG Hogtown Pickers: Andy Bachmann, David Evans, Jack Nettles and Ned Stewart

Though I may speak with bravest fire and have the gift to all inspire,
But have not love, my words are vain as sounding brass and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess and striving so, my love profess,
But not be giv'n by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

The congregation joins in on third verse, with women echoing the men.

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| Men: Come Spirit come | Women: Come Spirit come |
| Men: Our hearts control | Women: Our hearts control |
| Men: Our spirits long | Women: Our spirits long |
| Men: To be made whole | Women: To be made whole |
| Men: Let inward love | Women: Let inward love |
| Men: Guide every deed | Women: Guide every deed |

**Men: By this we worship
Men: And are freed.**

**Women: By this we worship
Women: And are freed.**

THE CALL TO THE MINISTER AND TO THE CHURCH – Andy Bachmann and Larry Reimer

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THE RITE OF ORDINATION – Rev. Raymond Hargrove

Greeting - Grace to you and peace from God, who is and who was and is to come and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness. The Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ greets you in name of Jesus Christ who is the head of the church. To God, who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE - Joan Rothrock

Joan's remarks followed by: Therefore, the United Church of Gainesville, after carefully considering Sandy Reimer's call to ordained ministry, respectfully requests that the Florida Conference order Sandy to the ministry of the Christian church, consistent with scripture and with the traditions of the church universal and according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FLORIDA CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON CHURCH AND MINISTRY – Rev. Pam Braid

The Florida Conference has reviewed the request of the United Church of Gainesville. We have prayerfully examined Sandy concerning her fitness for ministry in Christ's church. We are pleased on behalf of the United Church of Christ to authorize the ordination of Sandy Reimer into the Christian ministry.

Sandy Reimer, servant of God, we invite you to come forward as a sign of your consent to receive ordination. *Sandy comes forward*

The United Church of Christ affirms its belief in God, the Eternal Spirit, and acknowledges as its sole head, Jesus Christ.

It looks to the word of God in the scriptures and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world.

It claims as its own the faith of the historic church, expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the insights of the reformers. With the understanding that God is still speaking, that God has yet more truth and light to break forth from God's holy word, the United Church of Christ affirms the responsibility of the church in each generation to make this faith its own, in the reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God.

In accordance with the teaching of Jesus and the practice prevailing among Christians, it recognizes the sacraments of baptism and holy communion.

The United Church of Christ welcomes all people, whoever they are, wherever they are on their spiritual journey, calling every member to witness to the gospel and to participate in the work of the church in the world.

It seeks to undergird the ministry of all its members by nurturing faith, by calling forth gifts, and by equipping members for Christian service.

Raymond - Ordination is the rite whereby the United Church of Christ, through its conferences and associations, in cooperation with the person and with a local church of the United Church of Christ, recognizes and authorizes that member, whom God has called to ordained ministry, and sets that person apart by prayer and the laying on of hands.

By this rite, ordained ministerial standing is conferred and authorization is given to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ.

SCRIPTURE – adapted from Isaiah 55 and Luke 2 - **Ron Nutter,**

Moderator of the Florida Conference

Hear these words from the prophet Isaiah:

I heard the voice of the Holy One saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me!"

How wonderful it is to see a messenger coming across the mountains, bringing good news, the news of peace!

"The Spirit of God is upon me, because the Holy One has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, heal the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to those who are bound."

ORDINATION VOWS – Raymond Hargrove and Sandy Reimer

Sandy Reimer, before God and this congregation, we ask you:

Are you persuaded that God has called you to be an ordained minister of the church of Jesus Christ, and are you ready, with the help of God, to enter this ministry and to serve faithfully in it?

I am.

Do you, with the church throughout the world, hear the word of God in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, and do you accept the word of God as the rule of Christian faith and practice?

I do.

Do you promise to be diligent in your private prayers and in reading the scriptures, as well as in the public duties of your office?

I do, relying on God's grace.

Will you be zealous in maintaining both the truth of the gospel and the peace of the church, speaking truth in love?

I will, relying on God's grace.

Will you be faithful in preaching and teaching the gospel, in administering the sacraments and rites of the church, and in exercising pastoral care and leadership?

I will, relying on God's grace.

Will you seek to regard all people with equal love and concern and undertake to minister impartially to the needs of all?

I will, relying on God's grace.

Do you accept the faith and order of the United Church of Christ and will you, as an ordained minister, act in Christian concern for the welfare of all people?

I do and I will, relying on God's grace

***ACCLAMATION – Pam Braid**

Leader - People of God, sisters and brothers all, you have heard the promises that Sandy Reimer has made. Do you desire to ordain Sandy Reimer into the full work and ministry of the United Church of Christ? If so, please say, *We do*.

People- We do.

Leader - And will you support Sandy Reimer in the work and ministry of the United Church of Christ? If so, please say, *We will*.

People - We will.

LAYING ON OF HANDS – Raymond invites clergy to come forward.

As the clergy come forward to participate, Tane will play the hymn through one time and then please join Rick in singing it three times.

HYMN – "Spirit of the Living God" – Rick Johnson, song leader

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Raymond - The laying on of hands is the symbolic act whereby the church in every age recognizes God's call to ministry in the lives of faithful women and men and asks the Holy Spirit to confer on them gifts for ordained ministry.

PRAYER – Raymond

Eternal God, in wisdom you govern all things, and from the beginning you have chosen faithful people to serve you in ministry, calling some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip all your people for the work of ministry and for the building up of the body of Christ.

Now bless and sanctify by your Holy Spirit, your servant, Sandy Reimer, whom we, in your name and obedience to your will, by prayer and the laying on of hands, ordain to the ministry of the church, committing to her the authority to preach your word, to administer the sacraments, and to exercise the responsibilities of pastor and teacher.

Bestow upon Sandy the power of your Holy Spirit, confirming what we do.

Let the same mind be in her that was also in Christ Jesus. Enable her to nourish your people in the faith of the gospel. Fill her speech with truth and her life with purity.

Increase the faith of Sandy in you, strengthen her in the day of trouble, and prosper her words and her works that she and the church may love and serve you, that your name may be glorified and your truth exalted, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

DECLARATION – Pam Braid

In the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church, and by the authority of the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ, I declare you to be ordained into the Christian ministry.

PRESENTATIONS –

Pam presents certificate

Then Andy and Larry do other presentations.

*BENEDICTION – Rev. Sandy Reimer

Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage.

Hold fast to that which is good. Render no one evil for evil.

Strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak,

Heal what is broken, honor all people,

Love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!

Amen! Blessed be!

*"ALLELUIA"

*HYMN - "When the Saints Go Marching In" – UCG Hogtown Strutters:

Keith Berg, drums; Sanford Berg; clarinet; Tane' DeKrey, piano;

David Evans, banjo; Paul Gader, saxophone; Alan Hill, bass;

Rachel Kirk, trombone; Jack Nettles, guitar; Larry Reimer, trumpet;

Brian Stevens, trombone; and Mary Anna Evans, song leader

Oh when the saints go marching in; oh when the saints go marching in,
Oh Lord, I want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in.

Oh when the band begins to play

We leave the stage after the second verse, going down the side aisle and into the Friends of Music room. Sandy, Raymond, Andy, and Pam – the other clergy follow us out – followed by the Moderators – and Sandy's family.

Oh when the light begins to shine ...

Oh when the dream begins to live ...

Oh when the saints go marching in

Sandy Reimer's robe is a gift from the United Church of Gainesville in honor and celebration of her ordination and her stole was made by Angela Hoppe.

You are invited to a reception in the Fellowship Hall of the United Church of Gainesville following the service. Printed directions are available on the

downstairs table in the Auditorium lobby. Special thanks to the Reception coordinators: Barbara Beynon, Anne Casella, Sandi Chance, Fonda Davis Eyles, Reisa George and Joan Rothrock.

Please sign one of the memory books, created by Allison LeBaron, that are in the courtyard outside the Fellowship Hall. If you are not able to attend the reception, Ann Gill and Leslie Sahler will each have a memory book that you can sign just outside the auditorium doors.

Thanks to Wayne Nagy for overseeing the sound tonight; to Lisa Goldstein and Alyson McElwain for their work with arrangements and programs; to Kathy Funke and our Lively Arts Committee for coordinating the music; to the Congregation-Ministry Review Board for their help with the memory books, programs and greeting; to the Board of Parish Ministry, for their teamwork with arrangements and creating the worship center, guided by Angela Hoppe and Doug Whalen.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the forty days and six Sundays of pilgrimage toward the celebration of Easter. We have two identical services this **Wednesday, February 25, at noon and at 7:00pm.** The Sanctuary will be set up with stations for reflection and meditation that allow each person to discern their call and their spiritual practice for their Lenten journey. The silence, the piano music, the candles, and Communion all enfold these services with grace. Child care is provided in the evening from 6:45 to 8:15pm.

~ Next Sunday, March 1 ~

Lenten Worship Theme: Melodies of Grace

8:30am Meditation in the Chapel with Mark Burlingame

9:30 & 11:00am Worship - "Forgiveness: A Way of Life, a Path of Faith, a Particular Song of Grace" – Sandy Reimer. The worship service will include a scene from the documentary film, "The Power of Forgiveness" by director Martin Doblmeier, which won Best Documentary in the Sun Valley Spiritual Film Festival, 2007.

9:45 United Tribes for children ages 3 to 5th grade

11:00 Adult Seminars

MSG for middle schoolers

12:15pm YU for high schoolers

Twenty Something +/- meet for lunch