



The UUCC Chronicle

October 2019

Worship: 10:00 AM

October 6

Mark's Farewell Service
Congregational Speakers
Deanna Lack, Coordinator

October 13

Indigenous Peoples' Day
Deanna Lack, Speaker
Dylan Eralie, Coordinator

October 20

Mental Health and Community
Dylan Eralie, Speaker
Susie Zuller, Coordinator

October 27

Samhain/Halloween Service
Deanna Lack, Speaker
Dylan Earlie, Coordinator

November 3

Music Service
Ken Sizemore, Guest Singer
Susie Zuller, Coordinator

Reflections: 11:00 AM

Every Sunday after Worship, approximately 11:00 AM; Co-facilitated by Susan Ford and Deanna Lack

Reflections is an informal, non-judgmental, small-group discussion of the sermon topic. Participants share thoughts and insights or just listen. All are welcome.

NOTE: For those who prefer to congregate outside the group, please keep noise directly adjacent to the Reflections group to a minimum. Thank you!

The Commissioned Lay Ministry Program and UUCC



Unitarian Universalist congregations are robust and increasing in numbers to the point that we have a shortage of ordained ministers. The Commissioned Lay Leadership Program helps mitigate this shortage by strengthening lay leaders. Once qualified individuals are identified, they are given special training and mentored experiences to learn to serve their congregations more effectively. Individuals who satisfactorily complete the study and mentoring requirements, are recommended by the Commissioned Lay Leader Committee and then formally receive the title of "Commissioned Lay Leader" (CLL).

The Commissioned Lay Leadership Program requires that candidates be sponsored by a local congregation and supervised by a minister or by a designated committee. In our case, the CLM committee was organized by the worship chairperson, with concurrence from the board. The qualifications for CLM candidate was someone:

- ◆ who is already an active leader within the congregation,
- ◆ who would like to be more effective or assume broader responsibilities,
- ◆ who would give time, effort and thought to the training program, and then to additional responsibilities within the congregation, and

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31 West First Street, Cookeville TN 38501

Deanna Lack, CLM

Traci Craighead, Board President

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- ◆ who would be recognized and accepted as a leader by the congregation after commissioning.

Deanna Lack stepped forward when the Rev. Mark Pafford's time demands proved overwhelming. The congregation was given the opportunity to vote to accept Deanna as our new spiritual leader and sponsor her as appropriate. The congregational leadership and CLM committee agreed to work closely with Deanna and to negotiate, in writing, her expected duties. Also, Deanna will receive feedback from congregational leadership as a part of the CLM educational process.

Come walk with us as you travel your spiritual journey. Show your support for Deanna as she provides guidance and support to the congregation, while learning leadership skills. Are you ready to step up when you are needed? UUCC coming through!



Ten Fun Facts You Might Not Have Known About Me

By Deanna Lack

Susie suggested that I give a sermon in the near future about myself, so that you can get to know your new minister-in-training. I plan to do that in November (I think), but in the meantime I thought I'd share a bit for the newsletter. So here are ten things about my life that you may or may not have known.

1. I'm already ordained, twice. All Jehovah's Witnesses are ordained for door-to-door ministry, and I was a JW from about age ten until around 18 years ago (40). All Witnesses are expected to be ministers, although only men can speak to the congregation. I was a full-time minister for three years, spending 90 volunteer hours going door-to-door, and served "where the need is greater" (meaning Witnesses get to houses less frequently) in Kentucky for several months. You'll hear lots more about my time as a Witness during the sermon I mentioned above. Then, I was ordained to do marriages by Mercy Junction in June this year, when they came to UUCC.
2. I was baptized twice, too, once as a Catholic shortly after I was born, and again as a JW when I was 16. I'm not sure if this makes me extra holy or not. Leaning toward not.
3. I've had an assortment of odd jobs. I did cleaning for a while, sold vacuum cleaners door to door when I was in Kentucky (can you picture it?! I was terrible at it), worked in a housewares store. I was a veterinary technician for 20 years, and I did medical transcription for another 20 (they overlapped). Now I make my living making jewelry, though I think I'm on the verge of a new phase of my life, and I'm not sure where it'll take me. I'm about 60% of the way toward earning my AA in English. What happens after that? No idea. Some day I might figure out what I want to be when I grow up.
4. I get up at dawn and spend about 2 hours every morning in meditation and journaling, and I've recently added a walk with my dog, because I felt like I needed to get out of my head and back in touch with the rest of me. And Bandit likes walks.
5. I identify as bisexual, or maybe more technically pansexual, since my former girlfriend is actually trans and hadn't fully figured that out yet when we were dating. I find it challenging sometimes to be LGBTQ but "not LGBTQ enough." Bi erasure is real and we often do it to ourselves. Maybe that's a sermon.



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Events



First Sunday of the Month Potluck!

Sunday, October 6 @ 11 AM
Sunday, November 3 @ 11 AM

For the Potluck, please bring a cooked dish or a store-bought item or contribute \$3 in the donation tin toward the meal or offer to wash or dry dishes. When you bring food, please bring enough to serve all who wish to enjoy your dish. And EVERYBODY wishes to enjoy your tasty morsels!



Compassionate Communication

1st & 3rd Wednesdays
Wednesday, September 4 @ 6:00 PM
Wednesday, September 18 @ 6:00 PM

Compassionate Communication is an effective tool for resolving differences. This training will aid you in better understanding other people and in having other people better understand you.



Social Justice Committee
Sunday, October 13 @ 11:30 AM



Meditation

Tuesday, September 10 @ 6 PM
Tuesday, September 24 @ 6 PM

Contact Deanna Lack for additional details.

Chalice Circle

Tuesday, October 8 @ 7 PM
Tuesday, October 27 @ 7 PM

Contact Gates Craighead for additional details.



Mindful Movement

Saturday, October 12 @ 10 AM
Saturday, October 26 @ 10 AM

Join us for Mindful Movement and get your weekend started off on the right foot!



Board Meeting

Sunday, October 20 @ 11:30 AM

Current Board members, incoming Board members, and all those interested are welcome!

Ken Sizemore
Sunday, November 3 @ 10 AM

Come join in celebration and community through Ken's folk music sound.



Inside Groups vs. Outside Groups

By UUCC Board of Directors

If you look at the UUCC calendar of events, you'll notice that our space is quite busy. There are Sunday services, of course, but there's also Meditation, Mindful Movement, Chalice Circle, Compassionate Communication, movie nights, etc. Occasionally there's use by organizations or individuals who may not be members/friends of UUCC. Who might these folks be and why is it they're using the UUCC space?

These and related questions have been posed to various Board members recently. The answers have taken years for the Board to develop.

"Inside groups" are those groups usually composed of 50% or more of UUCC members/friends. These groups include Meditation, Chalice Circle, Mindful Meditation, and Compassionate Communication, and movie nights. Periodically, there have been mostly one-time (or the very occasional) events spearheaded by UUCC members. For example, there were the clothing swap and Lambda movie nights. These occasional events allow others to get to know us better. Because inside groups are mostly composed of members/friends who generally already contribute of their time, talent, and treasure, there is no usage fee.

"Outside groups" are those groups composed of less than 50% of UUCC members/friends. These groups have included Upper Cumberland Sierra Club, Upper Cumberland Pride, and Cookeville Community Folk Orchestra. UUCC members/friends may or may not be part of an outside group. Before using the UUCC space, a representative of the outside group must come before the Board to tell us about their group, why they wish to use the space, etc. There are rigorous standards outside groups must meet, and they are given the paperwork before meeting with the Board.

There are contracts that the Board developed over several months with the aid of other UU congregations. Primarily, the



groups agree to abide by the Seven Principles and treat the UUCC space with respect. Outside groups do pay a usage fee to cover costs such as water and electricity.

If you have any questions or concerns about guidelines used to distinguish inside groups and outside groups, please talk with any member of the Board. We respect and desire your input.

Both the guidelines and the contracts are always open to discussion.

Board Highlights

By Susie Zuller, Board secretary

UUCC might become a dinner spot for the LGBTQ+ Upper Cumberland group. Melissa Bean spoke to the UUCC Board of Directors about the possibility of using the UUCC space for what she would like to be a monthly potluck dinner for her outside group and any members/friends of UUCC. Melissa spoke to the Board during their regular monthly meeting on Sept. 15. The discussion included Melissa's vision for LGBTQ+ Upper Cumberland and UUCC working together for future potlucks and maybe a game night. Particulars have not been finalized.

Rochelle Turner presented the potential for UUCC to be a recipient for two grants. Rochelle volunteered to prepare the applications for both grants, which the Board enthusiastically supported. For further information on these grants and/or to volunteer to help Rochelle, please see her.

An outcome of the Board retreat in August was a new hat for the president-elect Charles Zuller as events coordinator. As events coordinator, his role is to be aware of changes (both positive and negative) within the many events occurring at UUCC. Charles reported that what used to be called Morning Stretch is now called Mindful Movement and that Scott Herman has agreed to be a co-facilitator.

Also discussed at the August retreat was the need for UUCC to be in better contact with other faith congregations in the Cookeville area. Ideas are swirling for an interfaith picnic, Sunday services with the Quakers, or even carpooling to Knoxville, Nashville, or Tullahoma UU congregations.

A Commissioned Lay Minister Committee was established. It is

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6. My husband Russ is not a church guy, but he fully supports my work with UUCC and occasionally drops in for service or game night. He works as Assistant District Rep for TN Rural Letter Carriers Union, and travels a lot. I'd love to make an effort for him to get to know some of you better, and vice versa. Let's hang out some time for dinner or games.

7. I'm a nerd. Russ has been playing Dungeons & Dragons and other roleplaying games since he was a teenager, and he is an amazing game master who creates worlds out of his imagination and then lets his friends run around in them and be part of the stories he fabricates. I repressed my inner nerd when I was a JW, but since I moved to Tennessee she is fully off the leash; we play D&D weekly, and I have also done a lot of Renaissance reenactment and Renfaires, which was what got me into making jewelry (Chainmaille) in the first place. It's a lot cooler to be a nerd now than it was when I was a kid.

8. I read my 1000 th lifetime book last year (according to Goodreads) and I read like crazy. I can sit motionless and read for hours at a time, but for some reason I have a heck of a time sitting through a movie, video, or TV show, and will often get up multiple times to go fidget, or have to be doing something like crochet or Chainmaille while watching.

9. I was born and raised in the suburbs of Cleveland, Ohio, and moved to Tennessee to marry Russ in 2005. We'd been friends in an online game for years, and fell in love when we met in person. We were married by a justice of the peace in 2005, and a year and a day later we handfasted (that's the opposite of the way it worked in ancient pagan societies, where couples would handfast as sort of a trial marriage and then decide a year and a day later if they wanted to stay together). When we handfasted was when we had the giant reception, and the whole thing was Renaissance themed. We had friends who did reenactment who did a sword fight to entertain our guests. One of them tripped and cut the guy he was fighting (no permanent damage). But our wedding has gone down in the books as the one someone got stabbed at, and I also enjoy telling people my husband had a runner in his hose (he was wearing tights and poofy Renaissance pants). It was pretty unforgettable. We have talked about renewing vows and throwing another giant party, some day.



10. I'm a poet. After high school, when I wrote a LOT of poetry, I tried getting published (I succeeded in a handful of small publications). At any point in my life, if you'd have asked me what I was "meant" to be, I'd have said, a writer. I got discouraged when I discovered that poetry really doesn't pay and I couldn't make a living at it. But I still write it, and now I'm thinking about trying again, since the publishing world has changed so much since the 90s. Publishing a book is at the very top of my bucket list.

I'd be curious to hear if anything here surprised you!

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composed of Gates Craighead, Janie Finch, and Rochelle Turner. They will help guide Deanna Lack through her CLM journey.

Jenifer Crone, treasurer, reported she will be compiling the third-quarter pledge reports soon.

Gates Craighead, worship coordinator, reported UUCC has speakers but needs volunteers for service coordinator and greeter. If you would like to be a service coordinator or greeter, please see Gates.

Deanna Lack reported that Cassandra Gronendyke volunteered to be the new web development person. She further reported that Remind App is up and going. If you would like to be reminded of a UUCC event via the Remind App, please see Deanna.

The next Board meeting was set for Sunday, October 20, immediately after services. All members and friends are cordially invited to attend.

Notes from Your Board

For UUCC, the Little Congregation that Works
(Home of the Golden Swarm)

Financial Report

<u>August 2019</u>		<u>Jan-Aug 2019</u>	
Income	\$1,351	Income	\$ 13,741
Expenses	\$ 883	Expenses	\$ 11,667

As we save toward the next 6-month rent check, please remind yourself: to succeed as a congregation, everyone must contribute to the best of their abilities. Please invest in each other and in the congregation.

Additional Income

Part of the total income for 2019 comes from use of our building by other groups (\$31), the Kroger Community Rewards Program (\$124), the Fair Trade Project (\$106), and the Amazon Smile Program (\$95). Eighteen families currently support the Kroger Community Rewards Program and twenty-eight customers support the Amazon Smile program. If you have any questions about these programs, please talk to any Board member or consult the posters on display.

Stewardship 2019

We currently have signed pledges of \$17,885 on a budget of \$20,130. Not everyone has been able to contribute as much as planned to this point and our finances are running behind schedule. We need everyone to help, since our budget was based on the pledges made. If you have any questions about pledging or your current contributions, please contact Jenifer Crone, UUCC Treasurer.

UUCC Leadership Opportunities in 2019

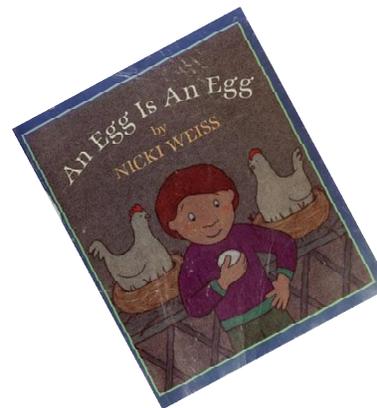
Currently, openings are also available for service coordinators on Sundays, as well as guest speakers. Chalice Circle, Meditation, and Reflections coordinators are always looking for assistance. Take action! Share your abilities with everyone else. Talk with any board member about helping with any position or creating your own niche. Actions always speak lower than

words. Time to get involved with your congregation via joyful service!

Welcome!

Welcome, Traci Craighead, back to the Board to fill the remainder of the 2019-2020 President's term.

Welcome, Ryan Tharp, as a Board member at large!



From the Editor

By Kathy Perdue

When my son was in first grade, he read a book by Nikki Weiss entitled, "An Egg is an Egg." In this book, the author describes an egg that turns into a baby chick, and a baby chick that turns into a

chicken. She describes other happenings, and states, "Nothing Stays the Same. Everything can change." At the end of the book, she tells her child that although her son is a child, he will always be her baby. She ends the book with the lines, "Some things stay the same. Some things never change."

As I type these lines, I think about all the changes in my life—getting older, changes in health, my own children transitioning into their adult lives, potential career changes. I am reminded of Nikki Weiss' book and acknowledge, somewhat fearfully and somewhat excitedly, that things change. Through all the changes that are happening like whirlwinds around me, I take great comfort in the fact that some things do stay the same. One of those things is the love the folks at UUCC have for each other and for the world around them. To the solid, compassionate group of folks I call my UU family, thank you.