



# NEWSLETTER

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WHOEVER YOU ARE  
WHEREVER YOU ARE  
ON LIFE'S JOURNEY  
YOU ARE  
WELCOME  
HERE

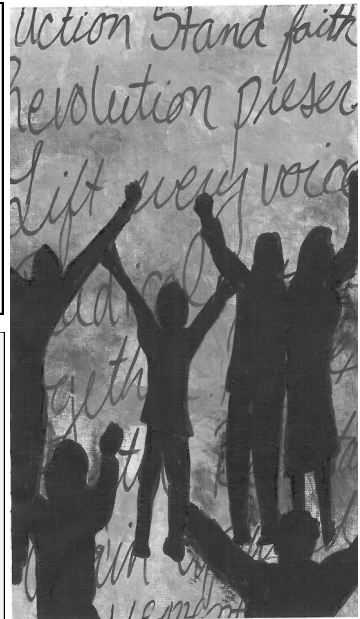
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Justice January Worship Theme:  
*"Rise Up!"*

The prophetic voices of the past, speaking through the Bible's characters, Amos, Micah, Obadiah, and many others ring out with truth in our time too. The voices are insistent, the clarion call to rise up like the day, unafraid, full of light, ringing in the new year, insistent on justice, peace, and equality. Our worship will challenge us to answer the call to proclaim release to captives, relief to the oppressed, and blessed relief for the poor. Join us for Justice January as we "Rise Up" together!

**CALL TO THE WINTER CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**Sunday, January 24th at 10:20am in the Sanctuary**  
**Child care & chocolate provided, please attend!**  
**Agenda: Vote on Final 2016 Budget & Three-Year-Plan Update**

**Supplemental Enlistment Campaign under way**  
**see page 2 for more information.**



"Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream!" - *Amos 5:24*

# *What's Happening in January and beyond...*

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## **Supplemental Pledge Campaign Underway**

It is time for us to vote to approve our 2016 UCG Proposed Budget at the Winter Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 24. Many of you have pledged to support UCG's work and life with your financial giving. Thank you for your commitment to this beloved congregation!

**Our pledge campaign has fallen short of what is needed** for us to fund the important work that we are about as a congregation, and now it is time for us to WAKEN to the possibilities for UCG's important work in this new year! **WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT! Our shortfall stands at \$62,182.00.** If each of us who have already pledged would add just \$22/month to our pledge for 2016, we would reach our goal. Some of us will not be able to do this, and some of us will be able to contribute more.

**There are pledge cards in the foyer.** You may drop it off in the church office, mail it back to UCG or go to [www.ucgainesville.org](http://www.ucgainesville.org) to make your supplemental pledge. This pledge card indicates the amount that you are adding to the pledge you have already made for 2016. If you have not yet pledged, it is **NOT TOO LATE!** Thank you for your support!

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**Small Groups Registration** - We have over 30 groups ranging from spiritual exploration to personal growth, book groups to fellowship and arts events. These groups meet one or more times between February and June, and they are one of the best ways to get involved and get to know others at UCG. Pick up a small groups brochure and register for the groups you'd like to join **by January 24.**

**Mommy Reads and the Impact on Families: See it yourself on January 17** - Recently the Florida Women's Reception Center allowed us to record five mothers and grandmothers talking about their feelings about Mommy Reads and describing the moments when their children received the package in the mail. We are going to share these very special impressions with the congregation on January 17 in the Sanctuary between the services. In addition Berit Brink, Dotty Faibisy, and Kari Shattuck will each speak for on what volunteering for Mommy Reads means to them. Don't miss this rare opportunity to close the loop and see the incredible impact that our program has on families.

**January Fellowship Sunday is "JAM and BREAD" day on January 17!** - Come and bring your favorite bread (GF and regular) and your favorite jam or jelly (homemade or store!) to share! Please LABEL your creation and stand nearby to talk about them and to allow others to sample and marvel at the deliciousness! This is a great way to meet new friends! If you attend the 9:15 service, stay after for Fellowship Sunday/Jam and Bread Day and if you attend the 11:15 service, come around 10:30 for Jam and Bread Day/Fellowship Sunday. Enjoy fellowship with UCG friends and guests!

**Lively Arts invites you to attend the "Just For Fun Musicale " at 2:00PM, Sunday Jan. 17** in the UCG Sanctuary. UCG musicians of all ages will play a variety of chamber music selections from Twinkle, Twinkle to Shostakovich. All are welcome.

**Fair Trade Coffee & Chocolate & Tea Sales on January 17** - Coffee is \$8.00 per bag and chocolate bars are \$4.00 each, 2 for \$7.00 or 3 for \$10.00. We now accept credit cards for your purchase. If you purchase using your card, please consider adding the % of sales fee that the Square charges to your total (a cheat sheet will be available at the table!) Thanks!

**Sign up continues for our Annual Oxfam Fast** - Our UCG fast, however known, begins after lunch on January 20. **We gather to break the fast at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 21st in Reimer Hall,** when you may contribute the money you saved on food to Oxfam. Sign up to bring soup, salad, bread, juice, or fruit and 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. Please help us to raise \$5000 so that UCG can be one of the Oxfam100. If we can raise at least \$5000 for Oxfam every year for three years in a row, we will be able to vote on where we would like our donations to be spent. Thanks for your support of the important cause.

## *What's Happening, cont'd .....*

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**A group of UCGers will be marching in the MLK parade on Monday, January 18.** Contact Katherine Henderson for more information. [kkhenderson@gmail.com](mailto:kkhenderson@gmail.com)

**Adult Winter Party – January 30** - Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> from 7-11 for our annual Adult Winter Party. We'll have live music from Fast Lane, a local band that plays R&B, Funk, soul, blues, rock, pop, disco, and DANCE!!!! Bring a potluck dish to share and your dancing shoes. Tickets will be on sale in the courtyard on Sundays, in the office during the week, and at the door. **We also need help to make the party happen!** Party planners decorate, organize the potluck and bar, and do basic clean up. Please sign up or contact Vince Amlin at [vincea@ucgainesville.org](mailto:vincea@ucgainesville.org) to help make this party happen.

**Women's Overnight - Registration continues for "Places in the Heart" - Saturday, February 13, 10:00 am to Sunday, February 14 at 12:00 pm, Episcopal Conference Center, Live Oak, Florida.** The cost includes the program, supplies, facility charges, three meals and a motel-type room with two double beds and a private bath: **\$144 for a single room; \$101 for a double room; \$88 for a triple room** (note that two of the three women in a triple room will share a double bed). If you are willing to stay in a comfortable **cabin** with 8 other women, **the cost is only \$78 for the weekend.** You will have a bunk to yourself with no one sleeping above or below you – and share a large tiled bathroom with the other women in your cabin. If you need financial aid, **you can request scholarship assistance on your registration form**, which reduces the cost of a double room to \$71, a triple room to \$58, and a cabin room to \$48. We are unable to provide scholarship assistance for single rooms. **The deadline to register is Wednesday, January 27 at 4:00pm.** Please contact the church office if you have any questions about the registration process.

**It's not like THIS every Sunday!** - A very special opportunity to experience being UCG at our finest will be happening on **January 31** at both services! Do join us for this exciting and surprising day!

**Join UCG - On Sunday, February 21, we will welcome new members** at the 9:15 & 11:15 services. Joining UCG is always a sacred time. You bring who you are to us, and we in turn offer ourselves to you as a sacred trust. We confirm our connection with communion. **New member orientation is Thursday, February 11 at 5:30 p.m. in Reimer Hall.** Child care is provided. Please call the church office or sign up on the bulletin board by the office on Sunday morning. Let us know if you need child care as well.

**Retreat Committee** - Our annual All Church Retreat is coming up April 15-17! Retreat takes lots of creativity and elbow grease. If you would like to help make the magic happen by serving on our Retreat Committee in some form, please contact Lisa Goldstein ([lisag@ucgainesville.org](mailto:lisag@ucgainesville.org)) or Vince Amlin ([vincea@ucgainesville.org](mailto:vincea@ucgainesville.org)). People of all gifts and skills are needed!

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## From Shelly.....



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One of the joys of each new year's arrival is the chance to take stock of one's life. We may look back with gratitude as well as lean forward in anticipation.

As we are in the midst of our supplemental pledge campaign, I am thankful that as I was growing up, my parents and my home church taught me to give a percentage of my income to the work of my congregation. My parents gave 10% and taught me to do the same. My first memory of knowing I was an important part of the work of my church is being about 7 years old and getting a \$1.00/week as an allowance. My dad gave me that \$1.00 in dimes and helped me understand what my tithe (10%) meant. Like most families then and now, we had many financial challenges, but my dad modeled the behavior he taught me. He wrote a check for his tithe every week, too.

When I was in college, it was harder to keep up the practice when at my job I only made \$50.00/week, but by then, it was a habit, like paying for anything else I valued in my life: 10% to the offering. With time and experience, pledging/ giving a percentage of my income to the work of the church also became a spiritual joy as well because when I pooled my limited resources with the resources of others, then together we were able to manifest what we believed in.

I say it a lot-- *money manifests mission*. It felt empowering back then, and every Sunday since then, to make that decision about the money I had. Of the many financial priorities in my life now, giving to UCG is top. I believe in what we do here and I support it with my tithe.

There are many financial priorities in our lives and even at best, not unlimited money. It is challenging to choose between the priorities because for various reasons, *all* are important to us. I know and trust our church family. As we come ever nearer to achieving the financial goal we set for ourselves at our congregational meeting in October, I know we will make UCG as close to the top of the priority list as we can, each and every one of us.

Thank you for your partnership in the good work we do in this world. In this new year, we are supremely blessed!

## Our Special Thanks

The ministers express their profound gratitude to the Board of Parish Ministry, the Board of Children's Ministry, the Lively Arts committee, and the many other volunteers who worked to keep running smoothly the many moving parts that make up the Advent/Christmas season at UCG! From November 23 when the entire facility was transformed by decorations and lights, to the Christmas craft fair and children's pageant, to the Lessons and Carols services, to the Christmas Eve services (when over 700 people came through our doors to our three worship services), through the beautiful and meaningful Board of Parish Ministry-led worship service and yummy brunch on December 27 when the decorations carefully returned to their sleeping places until next year-- everything was wonderfully and successfully done. And of course, none of it happens without the loving presence and support of the entire congregation! Thank you for all you do all year, and for giving us a much-needed Sunday off after the Advent/Christmas season! Love from Shelly, Andy, and Vince

### The UCG 3-Year Plan for 2016-2019: What's Happened and What's Next?

**The Survey:** We thank the 353 folks who completed the 3-Year Planning Survey in November. With approximately half of the congregation responding, we believe the results are representative of who we are and what areas of our church's life we should expand upon in the next three years. Just one result from the survey - the top four answers to question #3 (Which of the following best describes your spiritual identity?) were: Liberal Christian – 52%, Other – 15%, Agnostic – 14%, and Traditional Christian – 9%. Thanks again to Taylor Stein for putting the survey together, and to Taylor and Sara Magnuson for keeping track of the SurveyMonkey submissions and for generating clear summaries of the results. These summaries are available to church members in the main office, and have been sent to all board and committee chairs.

**The 3-Year Plan:** A CMRB subcommittee of Barbara Rienzo, Erick Smith, and Shelly Wilson has reviewed the survey results and come up with three suggested priorities for the 2016-2019 3-Year Plan based on the areas most chosen by church members in the survey. The process used to formulate these priorities will be presented to Church Council in January, and at the Congregational Meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Soon after that the congregation will join in helping to envision specific steps for each priority, leading to the final 3-year plan that will hopefully be approved at the May congregational meeting.

To my UCG community,

Most of you know that I was convicted 10 years ago for crimes I committed as a result of my mental illness. After being incarcerated in the county jail and a state prison I began 14 years of probation. 5 years after my original conviction I experienced another mental health crisis that put me back in jail. I received an amazing level of support from UCG during the process that ensued. I'm now asking my UCG community for your support again.

The judge that presides over the county's Mental Health Court, the Hon. Denise Ferraro, has indicated that she will consider me for Early Successful Termination of my probation. This would significantly improve my quality of life as I have no civil rights and I'm very restricted in my travels beyond Alachua County's borders.

I need your help by attending the hearing where Judge Ferraro will begin her deliberations. Two of the main things she said she will take into consideration are my stability and my support network. The members of UCG have been huge in the re-stabilizing of my life and form a significant portion of my support network. Most of those involved in the criminal justice system have no support network at all. My having such a large community of folks ensures that not only do I have plenty of people to rely on in a crisis, but, more importantly, to help prevent crises from arising at all.

The hearing will take place on Wednesday February 3rd at 1:30 PM in courtroom 1C of the Criminal Justice Center, 220 South Main Street. Parking is available in the city's downtown garage located 2 blocks east.

Thank you for considering this, Sam Harris

# Sundays in January

## REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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9:00 - 12:30	Nursery & Toddler Care
9:15 & 11:15	Worship
9:30 - 10:20	United Tribes - after the children's story
10:15	Fellowship Time
10:20 - 12:15	Children's Activity Time
10:15	Middle School Group & Youth United

### Sunday, January 17 - Fellowship Sunday

8:15 - **Meditation in the Chapel**

9:15 and 11:15 - **Worship** - Shelly Wilson

10:15 - **Fellowship Sunday - "Jam & Bread Day"** - Courtyard & Reimer Hall

**Mommy Reads Impact on Families**—Sanctuary

**Women's Overnight Registration** - Seminar A

**Adult Small Group Registration** - Courtyard

**Fair Trade Coffee & Chocolate sales** - Courtyard

**Visitors Coffee** - Library

10:45 - **Adult Seminar - Leaving Your Legacy** in the West Wing - Join Reverend Donald Stoner, former National Director of Planned Giving for the United Church of Christ, in a seminar which explores what the term "legacy" means to us and describe ways to leave our assets to our families, church, or charities. He will introduce concepts such as lifetime gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts and provide UCG members with some practical tips for planning their legacies. This Seminar will build on the recent presentation by attorney Sam Boone, Jr. titled "Introduction to Preparing a Will."

**Tally Rally Training** - Seminar B

11:15 - **Friendship Group** - Room 8

12:30 - **UCG Young Adult Lunch** - meet at the Fountain

2:00 - **Lively Arts "Just for Fun Musicales"** - Sanctuary

### Sunday, January 24 - Adult Small Group registration ends

#### Winter Congregational Meeting

8:30 - **Meditation in the Chapel**

9:15 - **One Worship Service** - Andy Bachmann

10:15 - **Women's Overnight registration** - Seminar A

10:20 - **Winter Congregational Meeting** - Sanctuary

12:30 - **Picnics in the Park\*** - offsite

### Sunday, January 31 - Priority Sunday

8:30 - **Meditation in the Chapel**

9:15 & 11:15am - **Worship** - Shelly Wilson, Andy Bachmann & Vince Amlin

10:15 - **Fair Trade Coffee & Chocolate sales** - Courtyard

*\*Pre-registered Adult Small Group*

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### **Passages:**

*Blessings and best wishes to:*

- ◆ Kristen Stone & Jasmine Angelini-Knoll who were married on December 19, 2015 by Vince Amlin
- ◆ Alexis Rodriguez & Doug Richey who were married on December 19, 2015 by Shelly Wilson

*We surround with love and prayers*

- ◆ Will Dougherty on the death of his mother Elizabeth on December 27, 2015
- ◆ Gladys Lamason on the death of her husband Bob Lamason on January 1, 2016

# JANUARY 2016

Sun	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<b>17</b> Worship 9:15 & 11:15am Friendship Group 11:15am Fair Trade sales ASG Registration Women's Overnight Reg. Tally Rally Training 10:45am YA Lunch 12:30pm Chamber Music Concert 2pm	<b>18</b> Church office Closed - MLK Day	<b>19</b> PFLAG 7pm Alzheimer/Dementia Support 7pm	<b>20</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline 12pm</b> Oxfam Fast Begins after lunch Church Council 6pm	<b>21</b> Oxfam Dinner 6pm RJTF Noon	<b>22</b> Morning Prayer 8am Lunch Groups 12pm	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Worship - one service at 9:15am Congregational Meeting 10:20am	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Retreat Committee 5:30pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Noon Yoga & Meditation	<b>29</b> Morning Prayer 8am Lunch Groups 12pm	<b>30</b> Winter Birding* 8am Adult Winter Party
<b>31</b> Worship 9:15 & 11:15am Fair Trade sales * Pre-registered Adult Small Group	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Seminar Committee 6pm	<b>3</b> Council Exec 1pm YU/MSG Officers 6:30pm	<b>4</b> Newsletter Folding 10am FFPIDD Lunch 12pm BPM 5:30pm Web Presence* 5:30pm	<b>5</b> Morning Prayer 8am Pulitzer Book Group 10:30am Lunch Groups 12pm	<b>6</b>

## Youth Calendar

**Jan. 17-** MSG- Let's Talk about TED with Rachel Howard. MSG will watch a TED talk and discuss it's implications on us as a family of faith!

**Jan. 24-** YU will share some of their insights from our Mystery Trip before breaking off to discuss it as a group. MSG will then play games, led by Yo'.

**Jan. 31-** YU/MSG Visioning for who we want to be as a youth group, followed by group participation in the Priority Sunday service at 11:15 am. (If youth attend the 9:15 am service, that is fine, too)

### Coming right up!

Our Confirmation Program for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders starts on February 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 pm. If you would like your 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grader to participate in our program but did NOT receive an information letter from the church office, please contact Andy at [andyb@ucgainesville.org](mailto:andyb@ucgainesville.org)

UNITED CHURCH OF  
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8:30 - 4:30

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**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 26**  
**FOR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**

## Looking Ahead:

- ◆ **February 7-12** - Labyrinth in the Sanctuary
- ◆ **Wednesday, February 10** - Ash Wednesday services at noon and 7:00pm
- ◆ **Thursday, February 11** - New Members Orientation
- ◆ **Saturday - Sunday, February 13-14** - Women's Overnight
- ◆ **Sunday, February 21** - New Members Join
- ◆ **Sunday, March 8** - Time and Talent Sunday
- ◆ **March 13 – 24** - All Church Retreat Registration
- ◆ **Thursday, March 24** - Maundy Thursday service
- ◆ **Sunday, March 27** – Easter Services at 8:00, 9:15 and 11:15am
- ◆ **April 15 - 17** – Annual Church Retreat at Warren Willis Camp, Fruitland Park, FL
- ◆ **Saturday, May 21** - Annual UCG Helen Aller-Oster Memorial Golf Tournament

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 26**  
**FOR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**