



NEWSLETTER

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Vince Amlin - Associate Minister, Lisa Goldstein - Editor

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

JUNE 2016

HAPPENING IN JUNE	2
FROM SHELLY	3
UNITED TRIBES	4
BOARDS	5
SUNDAYS	10
CALENDAR	11
SHARED JOYS	12

SUMMER WORSHIP THEME AND SCHEDULE

"SONGS OF SUMMER"

- ♦ **June** - worship services at 9:15 and 11:15am
- ♦ **July 3** - no morning worship service. There will be an Independence Day service at 7:00pm, followed by an ice cream social
- ♦ **July 10-August 14** - one service each Sunday, at 10:00am
- ♦ **August 21** - return to two services at 9:15 and 11:15, Gathering of Waters

Remember to Gather Water

Wherever you are this summer – at a special moment, gather a small amount of water to bring to our Gathering of Waters services in August, our annual “re-gathering” as a church community at summer’s end.

Happening this month...

- ♦ **Parents’ Night Out - Friday, June 10**
- ♦ **New Members - Sunday, June 12**
- ♦ **YU & MSG Dinner and a Movie - Sunday, June 12**

“And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer.”

— *F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby*

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22
FOR “SUMMER EDITION” NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS COVERING JULY THROUGH AUGUST 14

What's Happening in June

PNO - Friday, June 10- (Parents' Night Out)! Attention parents: need a night out? Bring your children, babies through 5th grade, to the UCG church school wing on Friday, June 12 from 5:30 to 9:30 where they can play, eat pizza*, watch movies, and have fun with our child care staff. The cost is \$11 for the first child and \$6 for each additional child. RSVP to summerh@ucgainesville.org by June 8th. *Due to life-threatening food allergies, no outside food can be brought in.

Birthday Collection for Ray Meeks - Ray Meeks' birthday is June 28, 1953 making him 63 years old this year. He has been on death row since 1974, making him the second longest survivor of death row. Every year we receive contributions for Ray at Christmas and in June for his birthday. He uses our gifts to get snacks from the canteen. He can buy shoes, pajamas, sweatshirts, etc. The prison also allowed the inmates to purchase MP3 players, and they can buy tracks to download for \$3-4 each. Of course these MP3 players require batteries as well. The prison system recently approved purchase of puzzles, which he is very excited about. We also use this money for magazine subscriptions and books. Ray loves to receive cards and notes, and he has a new address. Douglas Raymond Meeks #046346, Union Correctional Institution, PO Box 1000, Raiford, FL 32083. Drop him a note.

Youth United and Middle School Group, save the date for "Dinner and a Movie," on Sunday, June 12 with Emily Ott. Watch your email and the bulletin for time, location and movie! See you there!

Other Church News

All Church Band, July 3- Let's Strike Up the Band Y'all. The All Church Band will once again be playing "Stars and Stripes Forever" at the July 3 service. Anyone who now plays or has ever played a band instrument is invited to join. Music will be available in the foyer of the church beginning June 12. Rehearsal is at 6:30 pm on July 3, the day of the service. ~ Larry Reimer

We Need Your Help! - The Annual Ice Cream Social is fast approaching! This fun all-church gathering takes place on July 3 this year, after our 4th of July celebration 7:00 PM service. We need coordinators for this wonderful UCG tradition as well as additional volunteers to help with set-up, serving, and take-down. Please sign up on the sign up sheet outside the office, contact Sara at saram@ucgainesville.org or call the church office at 378-3500 to volunteer.

Summer Office Hours - The church office hours from Monday, June 13 to Monday, August 15 will be **9:00am to 4:00pm.** Regular office hours, 8:30am to 4:30pm, resume on Tuesday, August 16.

Our 15th annual United Church of Gainesville's Helen Aller Oster golf tournament was held this year on Sunday May 22 at Ironwood golf course. The first place team winners were Mike Chance, Mark Chance, Justin Chance and Andrew Howard. Julie Wright won the putting contest and longest drive contest for women. John Howe won the closest to pin contest. Geoff Dahl won the longest drive for men contest. The UCG golf winners are posted on our UCG golf plaque which is hanging in the church library.

Please hold in prayers a UCG group who will be traveling to Ireland on a Spiritual Pilgrimage. It will be led by Shelly June 16– July 2.

From Shelly



The Three Year Plan is ALIVE!

With the enthusiastic affirmation at the Congregational Meeting in May, UCG has begun to live into the 2016-2019 Three Year Plan for our community life together. The plan has three main foci:

1. Spiritual growth and formation
2. Connection and Health Promotion, and
3. Environmental, Racial, and Economic Justice

At the Congregational Meeting, too, the slate of new Board/Committee chairs and Church Council leaders was affirmed with joy and gratitude for their willingness to serve. Their first gathering, the Leadership Summit, happened immediately after the Congregational Meeting, and the agenda for that meeting was to begin interacting/brainstorming/being guided by the philosophy and vision of this new Three Year Plan. The leaders began asking important questions: how will each Board/Committee, each organization or program, each and everything we do as UCG, arise from the priorities of spiritual growth, connection/health promotion, and justice for Earth, persons of all diversities, and economic backgrounds? How will these priorities become part of the fabric of our lives, not just programs we perform?

The Leadership Summit helped us to celebrate our congregation's spiritual yearnings for openness, diversity, growth, and deepening. It helped us to begin examining how we may foster more connection, look after one another in happy and in challenging times, bringing our own resources forward in strategic ways to bring hope and healing to one another. We discussed how our life as a congregation (and as individuals) may grow and change so that our eyes and lives are opened to injustice within and without, and how we may be instrumental in creating spaces and opportunities for redemptive listening and actions.

If you haven't read the Three Year Plan yet, it is on the UCG website (www.ucgainesville.org) under "Resources." As the year unfolds, I invite us all to seek the ways we will, in our various lives and experiences, live into, and out from, these significant directions, as we deepen our spiritual selves, seek holistic health, and work for justice for all.

Updates on Facilities Work

The upgrades to the sound system in the sanctuary are continuing. New microphones are here and working well. New speakers are being installed this week. We are thankful that the UCG Endowment is making these much-needed upgrades possible.

In addition, the wiring and lighting issues in the sanctuary are in the process of being addressed as well. Extenders and different sorts of illumination are being tested as we determine the best solutions to the dimness of our lights! Thanks for your patience as we work through these opportunities for improvement!

United Tribes ~ UCG Children's Program

Keri Trospen, Director

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Children's Programs! We just concluded our 2015/16 United Tribes school year with our second annual Children's Sabbath. It was amazing! I am so proud of each and every child in our program, in awe of their energy, and inspired by their enthusiasm. What a blessing they are to our church!

During our Summer months, Sundays consist of Activity Time fun which means the children have opportunities to play outdoors or indoors with games, art, and snack time. Every Sunday provides new and different ways to experience the friends they have worshiped with all school year in our low-key summer-time format. We hope you'll bring your child to come play with us.

Here are some additional Summer events you'll want to make time for:

- ◆ **Board of Children's Ministry's own Lauren Poe will be leading a creek clean-up on Saturday, June 11, at 9:00a.m. at Hogtown Creek.** Meet at the parking lot of the Elks Lodge (2424 NW 23rd Blvd). Children should bring water shoes, gloves (optional), a bag, and your adult!
- ◆ **Tribal Camp - UCG Summer Tribal Camp**, our spiritual day camp for rising kindergartners through fifth graders, **will be Monday-Friday during the weeks of July 25 – August 5.** Informational brochures and registration forms are available in the front office. You'll want to return your forms and deposit as soon as possible in order to ensure your child a spot. Join the fun!
- ◆ **Parents' Night Out** - Attention parents: need a night out? Bring your children, babies through 5th grade, to the UCG church school wing on the **second Friday of each month, from 5:30pm to 9:30pm** where they can play, eat pizza*, watch movies, and have fun with our child care staff. **The cost is \$11 for the first child and \$6 for each additional child. RSVP to summerh@ucgainesville.org no later than two days before.** *Due to life-threatening food allergies, no outside food can be brought in.

Looking ahead, United Tribes registration and bounce house day will be Sunday, August 28th.

As always, thank you for sharing the gift of your children with our church.

Blessings,

Keri Trospen



CHURCH BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Food 4 Kids

In March, we began the 7th year of UCGs F4Ks program and the first year at Rawlings Elementary School. We were warmly welcomed to Rawlings and still we found it to be a challenging year. Instead of registering 60 children, we registered 160. Although we always had a few children transfer into and out of Duval, at Rawlings, there was a continuous turnover of children.

We were challenged to keep up with the constant changes and numbers of participants, but still, we never lost sight that the prize was to help all we could, no matter how long they were in the program.

This year we will have sent home over 21,500 meals and snacks. We expect that it will be the same next year. UCG has made an enormous difference in the lives of at need children.

We are starting to make plans for next year and will once again ask for your help. We know that the UCG F4Ks program is just as important to you as it is to the volunteers who are able to help weekly.

How can we say thank you? There is no word to let you know how important you are to these children! Thank you!!!

Fall Small Group Ideas Needed

Our Small Groups Committee is currently curating our offerings for Fall 2016. If you have an idea for a small group that you'd like to lead, we want to hear from you! Fall small groups happen any-time between September 12 and December 31. They can meet once or many times, at church or offsite, and can be on any topic or practice that interests you: meditation, bible study, kayaking, peer support, personal finance, current events, service opportunities, or ANYTHING ELSE! Please contact committee chair, Katherine Henderson at kkhenderson@gmail.com if you'd like to lead.

Financial Update

Yes, Gainesville in the summer is a great time: the smell of freshly-mowed grass, the slower pace of UF summer term, and those long-awaited vacations. But while you are enjoying all of this down time, please don't forget your pledge! Having a consistent flow of income helps the church maintain a healthy bank balance while still paying those summer utility bills. Many members use the convenience of their bank's online bill pay to make regular donations to the church. Some members have found the convenience of our eGiving partner Vanco (<http://ucgainesville.org/giving/>), having their donation withdrawn monthly from their checking account or credit card. Others mail their check to the church monthly. However you choose to donate, please accept our thanks for your continued – consistent – generosity! ~ Catherine Cake, Accountant

Prayer Concerns

Deborah Hill - broken leg; Joanne Clark - knee replacement; Curt James - recovering from a fall; Jane Hiers - health challenges; Beth Sugalski - health challenges; Susan Johnson's brother, Jim - leukemia; Lisa Goldstein's sister, Kathy - multiple myeloma; Scott Jackson - leukemia; Lesley LeBaron's son-in-law, Rocco Trimbol - intestinal cancer and vascular blockage; Stephanie Milch - death of her father; Jack Clements - recovering from a heart procedure; Beth Hinrich's step-mother, Mary Lou - recurrence of ovarian cancer and her father, Jim - surgery for kidney stones; Karen Martin - recovering from surgery; Shi Breedlove - recovering from a concussion and from a broken tooth; Wanda Kramer - hospitalized with pneumonia.



"Be _____"
 UCG Retreat
 April 15-17, 2016









Sundays in June

Regular Sunday Schedule

9:00 - 12:30	Nursery & Toddler Care
9:15 - 10:15	Worship with Children's Story
9:30 - 12:30	Extended Activity Time
10:15	Fellowship Time
11:15 - 12:15	Worship

June 5 - Food First Food Drive

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

9:15 & 11:15am - **Worship Service** - Shelly Wilson

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

10:45 - **Adult Seminar** in the West Wing - **Racial Disparity through the eyes of growing up in Archer, Florida** with Lizzie Robinson Jenkins, President, The Real Rosewood Foundation, Inc. Join Lizzie as she shares her experiences: How does a little girl understand the world of Jim Crow? What impact did these behaviors have on family dynamics? How was it possible to cope and arrive at adulthood as a healthy person? What can all of us learn from this sharing? Where do we go from here and how do we get there as healthy people?

June 12 - New Members Join

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

9:15 & 11:15 - **Worship Service** - Shelly Wilson

10:15 - **New Members Reception** - Reimer Hall

Fair Trade Coffee & Chocolate sales - Courtyard

Board of Children's Ministry - Seminar A

7:00 - **Crystal Bowl Concert** with Cindy Bergbower in the Sanctuary

June 19 - Father's Day

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

9:15 & 11:15 - **Worship** - Vince Amlin

June 26

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

9:15 & 11:15 - **Worship** - Larry Reimer

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

Sunday, July 3 - No Morning Service

No Meditation

6:30pm - **All-Church Band Rehearsal** - Sanctuary

6:45 to 8:15pm - **Nursery and toddler care**

7:00pm - **Worship** - Vince Amlin

8:15pm - **Ice Cream Social** - bring your favorite ice cream topping to share and drop it in Reimer Hall before the service begins.

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

JUNE 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Council Exec 1pm Write Your Sermon* 7pm	2 BPM 5:30pm New Members Orientation 5:30pm	3 Morning Prayer 8am Pulitzer Book Group* 10:30am Lunch Groups 12pm	4
5 Food 1st Sunday Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:15 & 11:15 am	6 Handmade Grace* Seminar B	7 Budget Summit 1:00pm ONA 5:30pm Seminar Committee 7pm	8 CMRB 12pm SJC 6:30pm Write Your Sermon* 7pm	9 BoB 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm	10 Morning Prayer 8am Lunch Groups 12pm PNO 5:30-8:30pm	11
12 Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:15 & 11:15 am BCM 10:15am Crystal Bowl Concert 7:00pm	13 Summer Office Hours Begin: 9am - 4pm M-F	14 Small Groups Committee 6pm	15 Church Council 5:30pm Write Your Sermon* 7pm	16	17 Morning Prayer 8am Lunch Groups 12pm	18
19 Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:15 & 11:15 am	20	21 PFLAG 6pm Alzheimer/Dementia Support 7pm	22 Newsletter Deadline 12pm Write Your Sermon* 7pm	23	24 Morning Prayer 8am Lunch Groups 12pm	25
26 Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:15 & 11:15 am	27	28	29	30	1 Pulitzer Book Group* 10:30am Lunch Groups 12pm	2

Joys Shared

A New Column to be Added to our Newsletter - Because a community of faith like UCG shares concerns AND joys, we want to be sure that folks share their good news with each other! We will call this column, **Joys Shared**. Please send in more info so we can dance little happy dances for one another! Here are a few things we learned this month:

- ♦ The League of Women Voters of the United States recently presented **Jane Hiers** a "Certificate of Recognition" for her fifty-year membership in the League. The cover letter, signed by League President Elizabeth MacNamara states: "Your dedication and continued contribution through the years are what make the League one of the most effective and powerful organizations in the country. It is the generous gift of time and other personal resources you've given that creates meaningful change in communities here and throughout the world." Jane previously had been given the Alachua County League of Women Voters 1987 Outstanding Citizen Award for her service in several areas of local community and state-wide concern. Congratulations, Jane!
- ♦ **Lauren Poe** was recently inaugurated as the mayor of Gainesville!
- ♦ Congrats to our high school graduates, **William Hall, Jonathan LaCombe, and Sebastian Seubert!**

Looking Ahead

- ♦ **Sunday, July 3** - No morning service. One worship service at 7:00pm followed by an ice cream social. Please bring an ice cream topping to share.
- ♦ **Sunday, July 10** - Begin Summer Worship schedule with one service at 10:00am
- ♦ **Sunday, August 21** - Gathering of Waters services at 9:15 and 11:15am with Potluck brunch between services. Youth groups resume regular schedule.
- ♦ **Sunday, August 28** - United Tribes Registration
Annual Kick-Off Gathering of All Boards and Committees (4:00-6:30pm)

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FOR "SUMMER EDITION" NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS COVERING JULY - MID AUGUST