



NEWSLETTER

Shelly Wilson-Senior Minister, Andy Bachmann-Associate Minister,
Vince Amlin - Associate Minister, Lisa Goldstein - Editor

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

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April Worship Theme

"Be"

For the month of April we begin a new worship theme: "Be" This theme will also serve as the guiding image for our All-Church Retreat (April 15-17) as it invites a myriad of identities, images, and possibilities. What will BE in your world? How are you becoming, beginning anew, finding new ways to be present?

**There is no
Worship
Service at
UCG on
Sunday,
April 17
All Church
Retreat at
Warren Willis
Camp**

Annual UCG Retreat – "Be _____"

April 15th to 17th - Warren Willis Camp

An information packet and a map with directions are available on the resources tab at www.ucgainesville.org

Important meeting for parents of babies – 5th graders with children's program coordinators and child care staff on Sunday, April 10, 10:30 – 11:00 in Reimer Hall. Please plan to attend this meeting to get a preview of the activities and how childcare works at retreat.

"Don't go on discussing what a good person should be. Just be one."
— Marcus Aurelius, Meditations

What's Happening in April

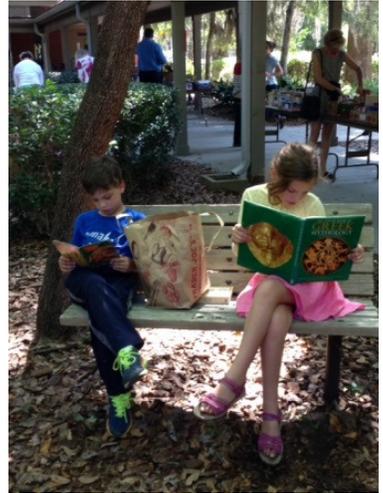
The Second Annual Bed Race

to benefit Family Promise of Gainesville will be held on **Saturday, April 2 from 9:30 am - 12 pm at Santa Fe College Track**. Come to cheer on our champion UCG team, and donate to Family Promise!

Annual UCG Book Sale - Sunday, April 10, 2016 - 10:15 am - 12:30 pm - UCG Courtyard

The annual UCG Book Sale is coming on April 10th and donations are needed! Please bring your gently used books in boxes and bags to UCG Seminar Room C through **Saturday, April 9th**. Fiction, biographies, mysteries and children's books, CDs and DVDs are always popular as well as other categories.

No text books or dictionaries please. All proceeds benefit Mommy Reads and the UCG library. Any leftover books are given to the Lowell Prison Libraries, FOL Book Sale, Habitat for Humanity and the Alachua County Jail. For questions regarding the sale or to volunteer for pre-sorting or at the sale, contact Becky Johnson rjohnson5510@gmail.com or (352) 256-1145



Big Band for Retreat Variety Show All instrumentalists invited



This year instead of a jazz band, I have a full band arrangement for the retreat talent show. It's a great piece, but I'm not announcing the title so it will be a surprise to the audience. Music for every band instrument is in the office. Take a piece and sign the sheet so I know who's playing. **Rehearsal is Thursday, April 14, 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.** This is going to be gangbusters! ~ Larry Reimer

Helen Aller-Oster Memorial Golf Tournament

The annual Helen Aller-Oster golf tournament will be held on **Sunday, May 21 at 1:00pm at Ironwood Golf Course**. The tournament is held in memory of Helen Aller-Oster, a generous church member who loved golf. This event raises money for the Helen Aller-Oster fund which is used for special projects that are not part of the regular church budget. The tournament has a scramble format allowing all players at all levels to play. Beginning players are often on the winning team. The fee of \$45 includes lunch. **Registration runs through Sunday April 26.** Contact Tom Bergbower tombergbower@gmail.com with any questions.

UCG Summer Tribal Camp Registration

This year's Tribal Camp, our UCG spiritual day camp for rising kindergartners through fifth graders, will be Monday-Friday during the weeks of 7/25—8/5. Informational brochures and registration forms are available in the front office. You'll want to return your forms and deposit during early May in order to ensure your child a spot. Join the fun!

Mommy Reads Book Drive

It's time for our annual book drive for Mommy Reads, the program in which UCG volunteers go to the large Florida women's prison near Ocala and allow mothers and grandmothers to read and record books to send to their children. We need books for toddlers through young adults that can fit into a legal size priority envelope. There are two ways you can contribute:

Go to [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) to access the Mommy Read's wish list (top right of the Amazon homepage) and enter UCG Mommy Reads in the wish list search box. There you'll see a list of requested books. Your order will be shipped directly to UCG. Confirmation of receipt is possible, if you list your name and email (or mailing address) in the gift section of the Wish List. To honor your mother with your purchase, simply include your mother's name under the gift section on the wish list.

You can also purchase a book or books yourself, perhaps favorites of your own children or grandchildren, and drop them off at UCG with a note that includes your mother's name. Alternatively, you can also bring your books to UCG on Mother's Day, May 8th, as we'll have a box for book donations available in the courtyard. In either case, if you'd like a card of recognition to be sent to your mother, please include her mailing information with your book donation.

If you have questions regarding your donation or purchase for Mommy Reads, please contact Kari Shattuck at kari.shattuck@warrington.ufl.edu.



Spring Cleaning: Fabric and Yarn

Do you have fabric and yarn sitting in your closet waiting for projects that are realistically never going to happen? The Florida Women's Reception Center prison Crafts with Conviction (CWC) program will put it to good use. The inmate seamstresses in this program make quilts, caps for chemo patients, baby bibs, and ethnic "Dollies without Borders" among many other things. The prison system gives women who are being released open mesh bags in which to carry their belongings. This makes them easily identifiable as former inmates at the bus stations and they become targets for harassment, theft, or worse. The CWC seamstresses also make bags for women that allow them to blend in better as they re-enter society. Specifically CWC will accept donations of:

Any kind or color of yarn;

Fabric to be used in quilting, doll dresses, etc. Bright, primary colors are especially preferred but they will accept any clean fabric except camouflage;

Sheets or other large pieces of fabric that can be used as quilt backing;

Heavier material including things like used draperies to make the bags for departing women.

Canvas is prohibited.

We will be collecting these materials during the month of April. We will have a box in the courtyard on Sunday mornings or you may deliver it to the church office during the week. Contact Karen Johnson (kjredstart@yahoo.com), Becky Johnson (rjohnson5510@gmail.com), or Hannah Norton (Hannah.norton@gmail.com) if you have questions.

From Shelly



Writing the Three-Year Plan

I couldn't believe how many artifacts we had from our amazing Priority Sunday at the end of January! Maybe you were there January 31 when we sat down in the sanctuary for a worship service that was also a vision quest that was also a planning meeting that was also prayer and song. That day, we started with our human resources (you, the gathered congregation), the results of our All-Church Survey distilled into three priorities with three big questions to help us talk about them, and lots of big blank pieces of paper in our "chalk talks." When it was over and we gathered them up, there were posters all over Seminar A with your heart and soul and mind and strength and intention, poured out in writing all over them! There were pictures and notes from the children. From youth and adults there were big elegant scrawls and little scrunchy notations. Some statements had question marks and some had exclamation points at the end and there were lines drawn from one heartfelt contribution to another.

Wow! We were so inspired! The Congregational Ministry Review Board members and Andy, Vince, and I took those chalk talk posters home, put them on walls in Reimer Hall, looked at them on picnic tables in the courtyard, spread them out like big idea carpets for weeks. Then, the writing team got together--John, Deborah, Barb, Andy, Vince, and I and we started to write our first drafts of the next Three-Year Plan. We were literally surrounded by you and what you wrote. And while we work to write it, what you want for our future together sings between us all.

Today when we were working on the refining touches for the Three Year Plan, Andy said, "I think people will read this, and will think, 'Hey, I wrote that part on my poster.' And then someone else will believe they wrote that same part!" That's how deeply you are represented here and how congruent and unified are your visions, as diverse as we are. The evidence suggests that as a church family, we affirm these priorities we have lifted up! We prioritize spiritual growth opportunities in all their variety. We prioritize the strengthening of care, health, and nurture for one another, and we prioritize racial, economic, and environmental justice.

We are so excited for you to receive this Three Year Plan in May--not just because it is good reading, but because it is a declaration of possibility that as we live into it, has the power to transform our lives as a church family and to make a positive difference in our community. I look forward to exploring how we will use our abundance of gifts to weave these priorities into all that we are and into all that we do together and for the sake of the world.

PASSAGES:

Congratulations to:

- ◆ Arwynn Collins & Holly Collins, married on March 14 by Vince
- ◆ Brandon Telg and Lindsey Dhans Telg who were married on March 26 by Vince
- ◆ Rebecca Pethes and Michael Vincent at the birth of Isobel Rose Vincent, born on March 11

PATIENT EXPECTATION

ANDY BACHMANN

We just returned from another fantastic Work Tour with 11 YU's and 5 Adults. We traveled to New Orleans, where we worked through the St. Bernard Project putting the finishing touches on dry-wall. We had a great time visiting the Big Easy and had some powerful discussions along the way. It was a great trip.

This weekend, 12 Confirmands will join Andy, Emily and Yo on their Confirmation overnight to Camp Montgomery. They will then be joining the church on April 10th at the 9:15 service. We hope you will come out to support our newest members as they join our family of faith!

This month, our longtime Youth Leader Rachel Howard and her husband Mickey will welcome their first baby. We are thrilled for them, but with this transition in their lives Rachel figures she'll be a little bit busy with her growing family, so she will be stepping down as our High School Youth Leader. We are so grateful for her years of loving service and dedication to our Youth United crew. She promises she'll keep hanging out with us, which is great. In the meantime, Emily Ott will be transitioning in to be our High School Youth Leader, while Yo'quarius Tucker will remain as our MSG coordinator. Congrats Rachel and Mickey! And we can't wait to meet that baby! And thank you so much for your years of service and dedication to our youth.

I also want to thank you all for your continued support and good wishes following my cousin's recent death. It is still hard to comprehend his passing; he was only 41 years old. He was indeed more of a brother to me than a cousin; as we have spent most summers together at Camp Highlands. Ross was an extraordinary man, and he will be sorely missed by many. I will be traveling to Chicago to help officiate his public memorial service on April 10, forcing me to miss our confirmation Sunday. Please know I would much rather be with you, under very different circumstances, but I do appreciate your support and understanding.

Youth Calendar

April 3 - Retreat planning and prep.

April 10 - Confirmands join the church at 9:15 am! YU Video Pre-shoot and MSG skit rehearsal

April 15-17 - All Church Retreat!

April 24 - Why Environmental Concerns are Important, with Emily Ott

May 1 - Why Environmental Concerns are Important, with Emily Ott

Coming Up!

Senior Sunday on May 22nd at the 11:15 am service.



**Work Tour
2016:
Theology with
your sleeves
rolled up!**



~United Tribes ~

UCG Children's Program ~ Director, Keri Trosper

Welcome to the April edition of all things children at UCG! This year as April begins we've already completed all of Easter. So what will we do with this extra Spring time you ask? We'll begin even more fun preparations for our children's Sabbath which will occur on Sunday, May 22nd during the 9:15 service. We hope you'll help your child to join us for all of the fun!

Sunday, April 3

United Tribes- Instrument Painting

The children will each paint their own instrument which will be used during our service on 5/22. A fun lesson on being loving hosts to those in our church community will accompany the activity.

Sunday, April 10

Activity Time- Behavior Reward Sunday

We will have a special behavior reward surprise that all of the children are sure to love! Don't miss this Sunday!

Sunday, April 17

UCG Retreat! Be sure to register and join us at retreat!

Sunday, April 24

United Tribes- Hosting Nature

This Sunday we'll create some beautiful art to be displayed in the sanctuary on 5/22. The focus will be on taking actions to support our Mother Earth and also on how to be gracious hosts to nature. The children will use elements of nature to express themselves and their love for the Earth through their art.

Sunday, May 1

United Tribes- Choir Experience

We'll have a joyful lesson on our upcoming children's choir song, all about hosting love in our hearts for all people, and exploring ways to share that love with all of the people of our world.

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

Blessings,

Keri Trosper



Other News....



2016 Spring Gathering of the Florida Conference of the UCC

On April 29-30, lay people and clergy from across the United Church of Christ in Florida will gather to worship, deliberate, learn, serve, and celebrate together during the 2016 Spring Gathering at the United Church of Christ Fort Lauderdale. This year's theme is "The Face of Human Trafficking: It's Happening Here!" ... Not only is it happening here, but Florida has been identified as a hub of human trafficking activity, with recent reports citing Tampa, Orlando and South Florida as having some of the highest incidences of human trafficking in the United States. Keynote speakers and workshop presenters at this year's Gathering will expose and explore the many forms of modern day slavery and share a wealth of knowledge on how to identify them, how law enforcement and aid agencies are responding, intervention strategies and much more. Two of our ministers, Shelly Wilson and Andy Bachmann and our next Church Council moderator, Will Dougherty and next moderator-elect Liz Harvey will be there representing UCC in this important meeting.

Pride Awareness Month at UF

Pride Awareness Month is an annual month-long series of events focused on highlighting the culture and lives of the individuals that make up the LGBTQ community at the University of Florida. Each March through April, PAM hosts socials, forums, speakers, and performances aimed at celebrating our community while also increasing awareness, acceptance, and ally-ship. Pride Awareness Month has been going strong for over ten years, and is very unique as one of the largest student-run LGBTQ series of events across the country. As part of PAM, *Queerly Blessed*, being held in Pugh Hall on the UF campus on April 11 from 7:00-9:00, is a panel based on the intersectionality between being queer and spiritual. There will be speakers featured from across the faith spectrum, including our very own Shelly! Please attend!

Save the Date: MAY 15!

On May 15, we will gather for one worship service at 9:15, followed by a congregational meeting. This congregational meeting will be a retrospective on an exciting UCC year with annual reports, the election of new Board and Committee leaders, and the presentation of the new Three-Year Plan for 2016-19. At the conclusion of the congregational meeting, the new chairpersons of Boards and Committees will meet for the first time as a leadership team. This Leadership Summit will be held in the West Wing from 11:15-2:00 and lunch will be provided.

Financial Update

As of the end of March, 25% of the fiscal year has passed. The church has received \$169,083 in Pledge Income, or just a tiny bit shy of 25% of its goal.

Sundays in April

Regular Sunday Schedule

9:00 - 12:30	Nursery and Toddler Care
9:15	Worship with Children's Story
9:30 - 10:20	United Tribes Church School
10:15	Beverages and Fellowship, Middle School Group, Youth United
10:30 - 12:30	Children's Activity Time
10:45 - 11:45	Adult Seminars
11:15	Worship

April 3 - Food First

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

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

10:15 - ***Between the World and Me* Coffee Talk** - Reimer Hall
Fair Trade Coffee, Chocolate, Tea sales - Courtyard

10:45 - **Adult Seminars** - see page 9

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

12:30 - **Young Adult Lunch** - meet by the Fountain

2:30 - **Gospel Jamboree** - West Wing

April 10 —Annual UCG Book Sale

LifeSouth Blood Drive

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

9:15 - **Worship Confirmands Join** - Shelly Wilson & Vince Amlin

10:15 - ***Between the World and Me* Coffee Talk** - Seminars A & B
Board of Children's Ministry—Library

10:30 - **Retreat Meeting for Parents with Babies & Toddlers** - Reimer Hall

10:45 - **Adult Seminars** - see page 9

11:15—**Worship** - Shelly Wilson & Vince Amlin

7:00 - **Crystal Bowl Concert** - Sanctuary

April 17- **All Church Retreat at Warren Willis Camp** – “Be_____”

No Sunday service in Gainesville ~ Come join us for morning worship at 11:00 a.m. on retreat.

April 24

8:30 – **Meditation in the Chapel**

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

10:15 - ***Between the World and Me* Coffee Talk** - Seminars A & B
Fair Trade Coffee, Chocolate, Tea sales - Courtyard

10:20 - **Health Ministry Team** - Reimer Hall

10:45 - **Adult Seminars** - see page 9

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

Looking Ahead...

May 1 - Family Promise Hosting begins

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

9:15 & 11:15 - **Worship** - BPM

11:00 - **Adult Seminars** - see page

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

**Pre-registered Adult Small Group*

April Seminar Offerings

April 3rd

Forage Farm - Anna Prizzia, the co-founder and co-director of a local non-profit named Forage - www.foragefarm.org, will speak to us about this organization. Forage's mission is to support and sustain healthy land, food, and community, which they do through youth programming, outreach events, programs and workshops for the border community, efforts to develop better infrastructure and routes for local food in our area, and by hosting the local seed library, named the Southern Heritage Seed Collective.

April 10th:

Baker Interfaith Friends - UCG member Megan Culligan will tell us about her work at the Baker Immigrant Detention Center. For the past several months, a small interfaith group which calls themselves "Baker Interfaith Friends" has been visiting the center in Mcclenny, Florida, (about 50 miles north east of Gainesville) and providing a presence to those in isolation. We are also sending books and writing letters. Come hear about what we've been doing, and ways you can help detained immigrants that have already served their time for any offenses committed.

April 17th:

No Seminars - All-church Retreat

April 24th:

LGBTs - Forming Families - The Open and Affirming Committee is excited to present its first seminar in a series on LGBT family planning. Rainbow Families: Adoption Options will bring together a panel of experts to discuss the ins and outs of adoption, including foster parenting, state & private adoptions, second-parent and step-parent adoptions. In addition, LGBT parents who have chosen adoption will be sharing their journeys through the process. All are welcome to attend on Sunday, April 24, 2016 from 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.



SPECIAL THANKS to all who organized, made, brought, served, and cleaned up food, helped with the worship service, and were supportive of all UCG efforts at Grace Marketplace on March 24.

Thank you for your dedication and work!

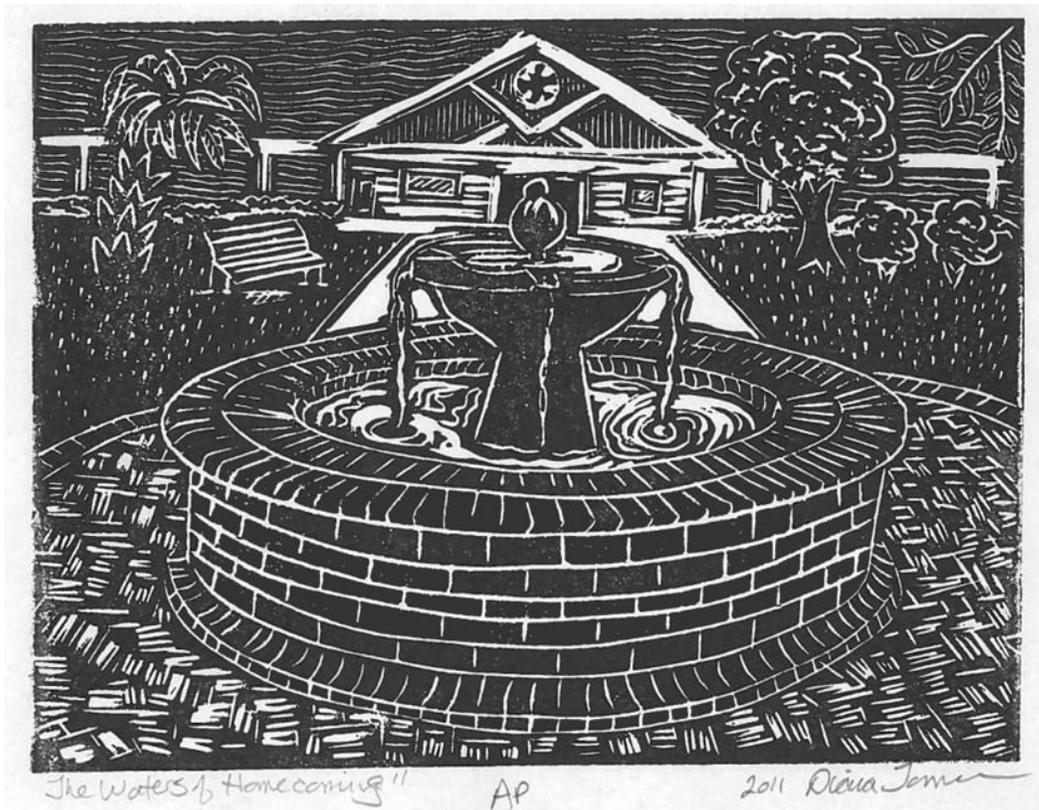
APRIL 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Morning Prayer 8am Pulitzer Book Group* 10:30am Lunch Groups 12pm	2 Bed Race for Family Promise 9:30am
3 Worship 9:15 & 11:15 Fair Trade sales Church Read Coffee Talk 10:15am Friendship Group 11:15am Young Adult Lunch 12:30pm	4 Handmade Grace* 6pm	5 Seminar Committee 6pm	6 Qi Gong* 12pm YU/MSG Leaders 6:30pm Council Exec 1pm SJC 6:30pm Agnostics Anonymous* 6:45pm	7 Yoga/Meditation 12pm FPPIDD Lunch 12pm RJTF 12pm BPM 5:30pm	8 Morning Prayer 8am Lunch Groups 12pm Parent's Night Out 5:30pm	9 Confirmation Rehearsal 11am
10 Annual UCG Book Sale Worship 9:15 & 11:15 Church Read Coffee Talk 10:15am Parents Retreat Meeting 10:30am BCM 10:15 Crystal Bowl Concert 7pm	11	12 Budget Summit 1:30pm ONA 5:30pm CIA 7pm	13 Qi Gong* 12pm CMRB 12pm SJC 6:30pm Agnostics Anonymous* 6:45pm	14 Yoga/Meditation 12pm BOB 6pm Retreat Band Rehearsal 7:00pm	15 No Morning Prayer No Lunch Groups All Church Retreat at Warren Willis Camp	16 All Church Re- treat at Warren Willis Camp
17 All Church Retreat at Warren Willis Camp No Worship in Gainesville today	18	19 PFLAG 6pm Alzheimer/ Dementia Support* 7pm	20 Newsletter Deadline 12pm Qi Gong* 12pm Church Council 5:30pm Agnostics Anonymous* 6:45pm	21 RJTF 12pm Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm	22 Morning Prayer 8am Lunch Groups 12pm	23
24 Fair Trade sales Worship 9:15 & 11:15 Church Read Coffee Talk 10:15am	25	26	27 Qi Gong* 12pm Agnostics Anonymous* 6:45pm	28 Choir Practice 7:15pm	29 Morning Prayer 8am Lunch Groups 12pm UCC Florida Conference Spring	30 UCC Florida Conference Spring Meeting

* Pre-registered Adult Small Group

Looking Ahead at the United Church of Gainesville

- ◆ **May 15 - 10:15** – Spring Congregational Meeting
 - 11:15** - Annual Leadership Summit for all boards and officers in the West Wing
- ◆ **May 22 – 9:15** - Children's Sabbath
 - 11:15** -Senior Sunday
- ◆ **July 10** - Summer Schedule of one service at 10am begins
- ◆ **July 25 – August 5** – UCG Tribal Camp



**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20
FOR MAY NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**