September 4, 2015

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## This Sunday, September 6

***9:30 a.m. Traditional Program For Labor Day Weekend:***
***"Union Perspectives on Kansas Public Education"***
***Lynne Renick***

Lynne will introduce a panel including Laurie Folsom, President of Lawrence Education Association, and Jeff Plinsky. LEA Negotiator, and H. J. Heistand, Director, Prairie Fire University.

***10:30-11:00 a.m.*** .
***Coffee and Snacks in Founders Hall***

***11:00 a.m. Worship Service: "For Just Such a Time as This"***
***Rev. Marlin Lavanhar (recorded) from the Service of the Living Tradition at UUA General Assembly 2015.***
***With Worship Associate Lara Wilson***

One of the most talked-about sermons at this year's General Assembly was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Marlin Lavanhar, Senior Minister of All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa. During Rev. Lavanhar's tenure, All Souls has grown by 80%, and become very influential in the Tulsa community. In this sermon, he asks us to consider why is it that some people feel they have to be spiritually closeted in UU congregations. Our religion is built on a cultural foundation that values people appearing to be self-initiating, self-reliant, and empowered. But how do we grow a church culture where people feel comfortable admitting their deepest fears and longings, and where their own spiritual journeys are affirmed?

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# REPORT FROM OUR CHAIR

### *The Promises and Challenges of 2015-16*

I have just completed my second month as the Executive Board Chair and these two relatively quiet summer months have provided me with valuable opportunities to learn about the current activities of our amazing teams and committees as well as about the many ways our individual members contribute to this unique and wonderful congregation. As summer winds down and our children and youth

return to school, we can look forward an eventful and productive year – one that is in keeping with our UUA 2014 designation as a Breakthrough Congregation. With our significant accomplishments and potential in mind, I have chosen to focus this month's comments on four aspects that have contributed to our present accomplishments, our potential for growth and our ability to make meaningful difference in the lives of our members and in this world. These are our successful stewardship campaign, the recent work of our innovative DLL and RE team members, the work of our Minister in multiple areas of relevance to our congregation, and our need to move forward as we seek to define and implement a new Mission and Vision.

This past spring, we stepped up as congregation and exceeded our previous year's annual pledge amount by 14% - thus realizing our 2015-16 annual stewardship goal without the resources of a "cushion account" for the first time in 8 years! And, although our goal was to fund 80% of the full budget via pledges, this year 83% of budget will be from pledges. During our harmonious annual meeting, the annual budget was passed unanimously.

On September 20th, Bonnie Blosser, our hard working and talented Director of Lifelong Learning and the members of the Children's Religious Exploration Team will be implementing an exciting new multi-age curriculum, Spirit Play. On August 22nd, I had the opportunity to participate in a truly informative and engaging Spirit Play workshop for RE teachers that was led by Bonnie and Ashley Strand, our Children's RE Team Leader. Families will have an opportunity to learn about Spirit Play at our Fall RE Rollout and Breakfast at 9:00 am on September 13th. And, if you have not had a chance to visit our RE wing, please do so. The rooms have been assigned new functions to best match the needs of our nursery care for infants and toddlers and the children's (preschool, elementary, and middle school) and youth's RE programs. The considerable effort that Bonnie and the Lifelong Learning teams are making to ensure that both the arrangements and aesthetics of the RE rooms are in keeping with their new purposes is very apparent!

The work of our Minister, Jill Jarvis, has been significant in a number of areas of importance to our Fellowship. Rev. Jarvis has been instrumental in initiating collaborative relationships with other nearby

UU congregations such as the UU Fellowship of Topeka and First Unitarian Universal Church of Wichita. This, in combination with Jill's extensive work with the larger interfaith community, has provided the UFL with a voice and visibility in the larger community has opened important opportunities for us to be part of a larger force for social justice.
The availability of pastoral care to our membership has been strengthened because Jill has provided the extensive training, support, and supervision of our dedicated Pastoral Care Associates, who have significantly increased the access of our members to the availability of ongoing caring, a listening presence, and hope in times of need. Finally, Jill has continued to build a vibrant and highly collaborative worship program that meets the diverse spiritual needs of our members, effectively represents Unitarian Universalist to the public, and offers a welcoming place to those looking for a church home.

Our Mission, Vision Task Force (MVTF) assembled for their first meeting on September 9, 2014. Under the very capable leadership of Rebecca Gant, the MVTF has held numerous events to ensure that each of our concerns, questions, hopes, dreams, and aspirations for this Congregation could be expressed as well as documented and shared with the whole congregation (e.g. History Day, a presentation from and dialogue with the Rev. Phil Lund, a MidAmerica UUA consultant, on the trends in the wider Unitarian Universalist/liberal religious landscape, several Town Meetings, a World Café, presentations at the Program, and others). Most recently, the MVTF assisted the Board in arranging to bring a UUA MidAmerica Regional consultant, Patricia D'Auria who conducted telephone interviews with some of our members and reviewed multiple UFL documents, including those that emerged from the work of the MVTF. Ms. D'Auria met with the Board, our Minister, and the MVTF on the evening of May 8th and held open meetings with congregational members and friends in the morning and afternoon of May 9th. Her thoughtful and thorough report was recently received and shared with the membership.

These events and activities have provided each of us with multiple opportunities for the challenging work of both expressing ourselves so that others might understand our perspective and to listen deeply so that we could hear and understand the perspectives expressed by those

who hold views which differ from our own – particularly views that are different from those we hold most dearly. It is now time to shift our efforts away from our differences and towards the challenging but profoundly rewarding work of moving forward together. It is time to build a deeper understanding of what it means to be in relationship with professional ministry, to draw upon our appreciation and affection for each other, to ground our work on our Seven Principles, and to recognize our common goals. As we turn our attention to discovering together how to fashion our own version of a Beloved Community, the opportunity to articulate our mission and vision awaits us.

*Barbara Thompson*

## *Executive Board Update*

Our Executive Board is scheduled to meet on the Monday evening following the second Saturday of each month during this 2015-16 Fiscal Year. Hence, our next meeting is scheduled for **September 14th at 7:00 pm** in Founders Hall, and, *as with all Executive Board meetings, UFL members are invited to attend*. Our October meeting will deviate from the usual schedule and will meet on **October 5th.** We will then return to our typical schedule and meet on **November 16th, December 14th, January 11th, February 15th, March 14th, April 11th, May 16th, and June 13th**

**A DRAFT** copy of the Executive Board Agenda will be posted on the Board Bulletin Board in the lobby hall no later than one week prior to the Board meeting - although it is a DRAFT format right up to the meeting date and time. Physical copies of the Approved Executive Board Minutes will be placed in the vertical file hanging near the Board bulletin board. Approved Executive Board Minutes will be emailed to those who want to receive them that way.

Additionally, the Board has created an ***Executive Board Notebook*** that is available for members to review and can be always be found on the cabinet to the left side of the door in Founders Hall as you enter from the stairs. On Sunday mornings, a copy of this notebook can be made available on the side counter in the lobby on the ground floor, or at other times and locations in the Fellowship by request. The notebook is organized by the months of our current fiscal year. Each month's section will include: (a) the Executive Board Approved Agenda ***or*** the most current DRAFT Executive Board Meeting Agenda at least one week prior to meeting (Note: Agendas are

approved at the Board meeting); (b) the Approved Board Meeting Minutes (Note: The DRAFT Board Minutes are provided electronically to the Board members after the meeting for their review, suggested amendments, and final approval; and (c) all other documents distributed at the Board meeting. Thus, the July section of the notebook is complete, the August section includes the approved agenda and a document reviewed at the meeting, and the September section includes a draft agenda.

## *UFL serves at LINK Saturday, September 12th*

**Sign up sheet is in the lobby**

If you have any questions, or cannot get to the sign up sheet, please contact Joe Gant at 832-1030 or jomarooki@yahoo.com.

## *Friendly Faces and Welcoming Spirits Needed!*

Do you remember your first time visiting UFL? We hope you were you greeted warmly and given all the information you needed to share your time with us. Would you like to help give others the the experience of "radical hospitality"? The ushers and greeters are looking for a few more people to help make our congregation as welcoming as we can be. The tasks are not difficult, and the new acquaintances made are priceless! If you are interested, please contact Rebecca Gant at rkgant@hotmail.com or let someone at the Welcome Table on Sunday morning know you are interested. Support and mentoring will be provided.

## *Fourth Annual Leadership 101*

On **October 9-10** the UFL Leadership Development Team will offer its fourth Leadership 101. The seminar will run from 6-9:00 on Friday night, and 8:30-4 on Saturday (delicious meals included!). As in the past, the seminar will be taught by graduates of Midwest Leadership School and those who have served in leadership positions at UFL. It will give participants a practical introduction to the governance of the Fellowship, a chance to participate in problem-solving activities and to develop leadership skills applicable in all areas of life. Everyone who attends will have an opportunity to take the *Myers-Briggs Type Indicator* and learn from Jeff Lewis how their preferences influence their interactions with others.

Until recently the UFL has relied upon casual apprenticeship to recruit future leaders through their service on committees, the Executive Board, and task forces. With the growth in membership and programming over the last decade, it has become urgent that members learn more of the "operating instructions" so that they have a better idea of how things work and where they might enjoy volunteering. Our Fellowship has had a strong tradition of volunteer leadership since its founding in 1957. That leadership needs to be grounded in a spiritual practice that reflects our seven principles and draws upon the talents of all our members. As new leaders emerge, older leaders can share their expertise through the annual leadership training. Good governance begins with understanding how we can work together with mutual respect and support. Only in this fashion can we successfully grow and change.

If you are interested in attending the seminar, please send a note to mailto:uflleadership@gmail.com or register online at http://uufl.net/leadership-101/ so we can include you among the class members.

If you have questions about the seminar, contact Rebecca Gant, Jeff Lewis, Shannon VanLandingham, Valerie Roper, Bonnie Blosser, Barb Thompson,

## *Join a Cooking Team and/or Become a Guest Chef for a Wednesday Night Dinner This Fall*

Join a cooking team for one of our Wednesday night dinners this fall and/or consider signing up as a Guest Chef for one of the dinners! Our community dinners will occur on Sept 16 & 30; Oct. 14 & 28; Nov 11; Dec. 2 & 16. You will find the sign up forms for cooking teams and Guest Chefs in the foyer on the side counter beginning this Sunday. The Program Council will be serving the first dinner on Wednesday, Sept 16th

These Wednesday evenings will also include Adult Religious Exploration classes, our Youth Group meetings, Choir practice, and Child Care. A $5.00 donation for adults and youth (age 15 and above) for the dinner will help cover the costs of food and Child Care for the evening.

### *Chalice Circles Coming This Fall!*

Purpose: Chalice Circles are small groups designed to develop and strengthen relationships, explore issues of meaning and purpose, and intentionally cultivate a culture of welcoming in our congregation.

Chalice Circles will consist of 5-10 people and meet October through May. Facilitators will choose the meeting times and place (not Sunday morning, and typically in homes, not at the Fellowship), and participants will sign up for the group time that suits them.

Spaces will be intentionally left open to accommodate and welcome newcomers to the groups. Each Circle will disband at the end of the year. In the fall registration will open again and new Circles will form. In this way, over the course of several years, participants will develop deeper relationships across the congregation and not just with the same 10 people. All groups will have the same topics which include- Compassion, Trust, Boundaries, Spiritual Experiences, Resilience, Aging, Blessings, etc. provided in the book, Soul To Soul.

Childcare will not be provided by UFL, but groups or individuals may handle it as they wish.

Registration will open in September and groups will start meeting in October. Watch the announcements and weekly emails for more information or contact Shannon VanLandingham at shannyvan@gmail.com, or Martha Burbank at marthahere58@aol.com. The new brochures will be available at the Welcome table and registration forms will be in the foyer soon.

## SOCIAL ACTION-JUSTICE TEAM NEWS

### *September Community Connection: Lawrence Action Network for Diversity (L.A.N.D.)*

The Lawrence Action Network for Diversity is a local, community-based organization that promotes and defends immigrant rights through advocacy, education, and alliance building in Lawrence. L.A.N.D. organizes in Lawrence to protect immigrants' rights and supports efforts for a comprehensive, compassionate immigration reform.

## *Social Action and Justice Team Meeting Saturday, Sept. 5 at 10:00 a.m.*

The Social Action and Justice Team (SAJT) will meet this Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. in Founders Hall at the UFL. Individuals who are interested in becoming a member of this team and joining in this important work are very welcome!

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## *UFL Green Sanctuary*

The UFL Green Sanctuary (UFL-GS) Program began its *building awareness phase* this summer with 2 UFL services.

Currently, the UFL-GS program "Agenda" for 2015-2016 is being discussed and volunteers and environmental strategists are invited to join in our the conversation at the next SAJT-Green Sanctuary meeting to be held in September.

**Current and Proposed UFL Agenda items:**

1. Westar Energy Rate Increase proposal & Kansas Corporation Commission
http://m.ljworld.com/news/2015/aug/17/kansas-regulators-urged-ok-deal-hiking-westars-rat/
2. FreeState Prairie Park - Grand Opening in August & future projects
3. Lawrence & Kansas as EcoTourism Destination: Trio of Lawrence Fountain Gardens; Kaw Valley Farm Tour & Prairie Restoration Tours are possible projects
4. Green Sanctuary Fundraiser - A Talent Show
5. UFL Kids grow their own Bucket Gardens - and followup after Harry Potter environmental project

*Contact: Joyce Pearl Jones, Green Sanctuary Leader - 314.262.1089 - ecogardentourism@gmail.com*

## *Green Sanctuary Takes on Westar Proposed Rate Hikes*

"*Speak up or Pay up!*" is the message UFL Green Sanctuary team heard at the Topeka rally this summer regarding
***Westar Energy's*** *Proposed Rate Increase* for all Kansas customers.

**Economic Impacts**: At the rally, Barbara Johnston, Joyce Pearl Jones and Doug Underwood heard speaker Rabbi Moti Rieber (Kansas Interfaith Power and Light) talk about the injustice of this proposal for **solar energy users** especially because the rate increase is for "residential **fixed** *monthly customer charge*".

**Richard Mabion,** Kansas City Kansas Sierra Club Board member and NAACP President, spoke about the effects this rate increase would have on low income & senior citizen residential customers on a fixed income.

Green Sanctuary actions: addition to attending the rally and the organized comments meeting (attended by Marci Francisco); a SAJT member drafted a protest to the increase that was sent on to the Kansas City Kansas commission with UFL signatures.

**Settlement Results:** according to Steve Boyd, KCC PR, The Kansas Corporation Commission made a settlement with Westar in August. Small Commercial customers will have a rate increase, as well.

There will be no rate increases for medium or large size businesses. This will rate change will probably take place by October 2015 - dependent upon the signing of the order, Boyd reported.

Most households would see their bills increase between $5 and & $7 per month, according to a Lawrence Journal World article.

According to the American Council for Energy-Efficient Economy the *average monthly customer service fees* charged by *other* utilities nation-wide averages between $5.00 and $10.00.

**After the Topeka rally the solar energy increase has been delayed until October and will be considered as a separate item.**

*Joyce Pearl Jones & Barbara Johnston - Green Sanctuary Team*

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## *Free Screening and Discussion--Dark Side of the Full Moon*

Please join us for a free community screening of the documentary Dark Side of the Full Moon. Visit www.darksideofthefullmoon.com for more information or to view the trailer.

**Sunday, September 27 from 3-5:30**
Lawrence Arts Center, 940 New Hampshire

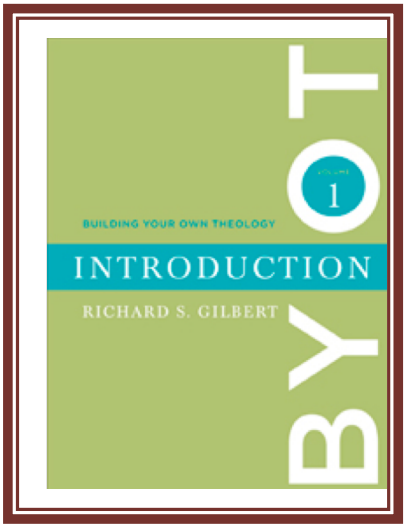
Dark Side of the Full Moon delves into the unseen world of maternal mental health in the U.S. It will uncover the disconnect within the medical community to effectively screen, refer, and treat the 1.3 million mothers affected each year, giving a face and voice to the countless women who have suffered in silence.

Stay after the movie for a discussion of local efforts and information from local sponsors. UFL generously donated funds to help bring this film to Lawrence. As a co-sponsor of the event, UFL will host a booth to talk to attendees about our Social Action and Social Justice efforts.

Please contact Sara Vancil at saravancil@hotmail.com for more information or for questions.

# LIFELONG LEARNING NEWS

## Adult Enrichment classes this fall at UFL:




### Building Your Own Theology

*Did something happen today that moved you or did you move through a routine day? The earth made one complete rotation and provided you with sunshine to work or play and darkness for you to sleep and renew - how did you spend these last 24 hours? Are there any big questions stirring in your heart right now? Whether you are new to UFL or have been attending for years, your personal unique life journey has shaped your beliefs and who you are right now. Are you the same person you were 10 years ago? What is your work in this world? Were the choices you made today a genuine reflection of your values?*

*This fall Deb and Curtis Russell will facilitate this timeless and popular "Building Your Own Theology" series on Wednesday evenings! In this adult enrichment class, participants will examine their fundamental religious beliefs, values and convictions that inform and direct the way they choose to live their lives. Over the course of 10 sessions, the class will present 5 tasks that will encourage participants to come to their own understanding of human nature, ultimate reality, history, ethics and religious meaning. The registration is found at http://uufl.net/adult-entrichment/*

**"Simply Pray"**
Join us as we explore prayer through in class readings and quotes followed by discussion. No book to buy or homework assignments! We will seek to discover a way to employ prayer that fits our individual beliefs and meets our personal needs. Each persons practice may be different, but we can work together to help each other find the path that is best for them. The group facilitated by Ann Alexander, will meet October 28 and November 11.

**Seeking additional Adult Enrichment classes?**
Share what brings you joy! Do you have an idea for a single class? Would you like to facilitate a movie or Ted Talk viewing followed by discussion? Would you be interested in organizing a reading group? How about leading an art class, music, craft, writing, upcycling projects or gift making, tech assistance, adult coloring as meditation? Adult Enrichment classes are as much fun to lead as they are to take! Let's fill our Wednesday evenings with refreshing options that nurture us all! Contact Bonnie Blosser, DLL at ufl.dll@gmail.com with a class idea you would like to lead!

## Children's Religious Exploration – Sunday's at 9:30 a.m.

It will be several more weeks before we see the leaves on the trees in Lawrence change but big changes are happening right now at UFL in our Children's Religious Exploration Program!

***Attendance at the parent/family orientation during fall "Roll Out" will be critical this year!*** While I shudder to say this morning is mandatory, there are *major changes* to structure of our Sunday RE classes. In order for your child(ren) …and thus your entire family… to comfortably and successfully move through these changes, please plan to join us **September 13th from 9 a.m.- 10:30 a.m.** for fall RE "Roll Out". We will begin with a nutritional family breakfast followed by an orientation to our new method of religious exploration, introductions and a tour of our new Spirit Play Center. *If you have questions about what RE will be like this year, this morning is for you!*

**Spirit Play – ages 4 through 5th grade (unless enrolled in OWL)**
In a 'one room schoolhouse', Montessori based environment using current children's literature, myths and religious stories, this year's religious exploration classes will ***begin promptly at 9:30*** with an engaging 'story in a basket' that presents the morning's lesson. Spirit Play lessons will take our children through each of Unitarian Universalism's 6 sources this

year. September 20th will be our first introductory Spirit Play lesson "The Flaming Chalice" followed on September 27th with "The Sources General Lesson". Beginning in October and running through April, each month's lessons will focus on one of the 6 UU sources. As the leaves on Lawrence's numerous trees turn orange and yellow in October, UFL children will explore source #1: the experiences of wonder and awe, as we introduce the spirit of love and mystery that some people call God. Wondering questions asked after each story, entice the children to personally process their thoughts and feelings of the morning through individual 'work' stations around the classroom. Options include: yoga, mandala coloring, painting, sculpting, beading, further reading, a finger labyrinth, the story baskets themselves and several more.

**Middle Youth – grades 6-8**

Currently we have very few 6th through 8th graders that attend UFL, so if you have one of our 'endangered' youth in your family, please mark the following dates on your family calendar: September 20th, October 4th, 18th, November 1st, 15th, December 6th, 20th. On these Sundays, MY will watch and discuss selected "Twilight Zone" episodes by Unitarian Rod Serling. Topics to be covered include: bigotry, conformity, racism and greed. In addition, I have one parent who has generously offered to be present and facilitate game playing on 'off' Sundays. Remember MY friends are always welcome to join this class on Sunday mornings!

| Sunday Date | Title of Twilight Zone episode | Subject for discussion |
|---|---|---|
| September 20 | The Monsters are Due on Maple Street | On the dangers of prejudice and hysteria |
| October 4 | The Eye of the Beholder | On prejudice and social conformity |
| October 18 | The Howling Man | On evil |
| November 1 | To Serve Man | On visitors from outerspace and speciesism |
| November 15 | The Obsolete Man | On censorship and the dangers of totalitarianism |
| December 6 | A Most Unusual Camera | On greed |
| No classes until January | | |

**OWL – Grades 4 & 5**

Register online now at http://uufl.net/our-whole-lives-owl/ ! The eight week series begin with **a mandatory parents meeting on Sunday September 20th at 9:30 am**. Cost is $40 for UFL members, $60 for non-members but these lessons are priceless. OWL classes will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am in the Beatrix Potter Room.

## Youth – 9-12th grades

Youth meetings will once again be at UFL *on Wednesday evenings* that include a meal (what teen can turn down good food?!) Brita and Paul Calnon are looking forward to another great year together! Will the youth group be planning another service trip for the spring or summer? What will topics will the youth explore together this year? If you have a high school youth, put **6:30 pm Wednesday September 16th** on your family calendar!

## YOGA Sundays – classes begin Sunday September 13th!

Please join Krissy and Annemarie for yoga at the UFL
every Sunday from Sept 13-Dec 6 (no class Nov. 29). Three donation based classes will be offered as follows:

**Kids yoga** (30 minutes)
Let's have some fun exploring yoga postures, breathing and meditation techniques, creative play, and more with kids of all ages. (4:00-4:30)

**Yoga for all** (1 hour 15 minutes)
Beginning to advanced yogis find peace, stillness and happiness while increasing flexibility, strength and balance through the exploration of yoga postures, breathing techniques and philosophy. (4:45-6)

**Meditate and Breathe** (1 hour)
Find peace and stillness within yourself. We will explore restorative yoga postures, yogic breathing techniques, sutra meditation, mantra meditation, guided meditation and yogic and Buddhist philosophy as tools for disciplining the mind, reducing stress and anxiety, and feeling great. (6:15-7:15)

## CONTACT INFORMATION, OFFICE HOURS AND DEADLINES

**Helping Hands Team**:
uflhelpinghands@gmail.com
or call UFL office, 842-3339
*This team provides short-term practical assistance, e.g., meals, respite, rides.*

**Transportation Line**: 785-842-7529 *(to UFL events or medical appointments)*

**Pastoral Care Associates**:
Rev. Jill Jarvis at 816-853-6530
jjarvis1@kc.rr.com or
Valerie Roper at 785-979-8339, or
vgracev@sunflower.com
*This team provides confidential listening for those experiencing bereavement, illness, unemployment, life transitions, aging, loneliness, etc.*

**Deadlines** *Newsletter items*:
ufl_newsletter@yahoo.com, Mon. at noon.. *Announcement items*: Wed. evening, email: ufloffice@sunflower.com.

**Minister Office Hours**
Rev. Jill Jarvis' hours are normally Mon, & Wed. from 1:00-5:00 p.m. but summer hours are more variable. It is best to contact her for an appointment 816/853-6530 or mailto:jjarvis1@kc.rr.com

**Director of Lifelong Learning**
Bonnie Blosser works at her UFL office and from home Sunday through Wednesday Contact her at ufl.dll@gmail.com or call 785-318-6030 for an appointment.

**Administrative Office Hours:**
Monday 12:30-5:00 pm, Tuesday 8:00-12:00 noon,
Wednesday closed
Thursday 8:00-12:00 noon
Friday 12:30-5:00 pm
Please be sure to call first, 785-842-3339, if coming out during the week. The doors are usually locked unless we expect you.

**Deadlines:** Announcements for Sunday Orders of Service due **Wednesday noon** *Send items to ufloffice@sunflower.com*
Newsletter articles due **Monday at noon**.
*Send items to ufl_newsletter@yahoo.com*

**The Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence**
***A Welcoming Congregation***
1263 North 1100 Road | Lawrence, Kansas 66047
785.842.3339 http://uufl.net