



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lawrence
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
January 2018

Mark Your Calendars!
Upcoming Events and Important Dates Ahead*

Sunday, January 7	Reception for Bonnie Blosser (noon) Social Justice Team Meeting (1:15 p.m.) All welcome*
Tuesday, January 9	Executive Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.) All welcome
Saturday, January 13	We serve at LINK* Drumming Workshop postponed to later date (TBA)* Women's Group (2-4 p.m.)*
Saturday, January 20	9:30-3:00 Workshop with consultant Rev. Lisa Presley*
Sunday, January 21	Candice Davis artist Reception 10:30-11:00*

*See body of newsletter for more information on all these upcoming events
Please also note in the Social Justice section the many **Social Justice** events and initiatives scheduled for January*

UUCL serves at LINK Saturday, January 13th

Sign up sheet is in the lobby

LINK (Lawrence Interdenominational Nutrition Kitchen) serves hot nutritious meals in a safe and welcoming environment to families and individuals at no cost.



Every other month the UUCL provides and serves a meal for LINK. We bring 15 or more meat dishes, two vegetarian dishes and one vegan dish. Homemade desserts are also welcome. Fifteen or so volunteers are needed to help serve and clean up. Please come join us as we put our UU principles into action to help our community. Food and volunteers need to be at LINK (basement of First Christian Church on the SE corner of 10th and Kentucky) by 12:30 PM. We serve from 1-2 PM, and clean up is usually finished by 2:30.

If you have any questions, please contact Joe Gant at jomarooki@yahoo.com.

RE Special News from Ann Alexander

Our RE director, Bonnie Blosser, created an excellent curriculum, trained teachers, and kept everything running smoothly! When she announced her leaving, the board talked about hiring options. One option was a half time RE coordinator to continue programs.

Having retired in 2012 from a thirty-year teaching career, I was missing hands on education. I thought, I could do this, I would like to be RE coordinator. Kids, adults, curriculum, art supplies, playing, spiritual practice, and half time, what is not to love?

Luckily for me, the hiring group agreed. I am happy to take the RE coordinator position and serve our beloved community. I have got this covered and look forward to joining all of you this adventure. Please email me at uuclre@gmail.com. Fondly, Ann

~Ann Alexander, RE coordinator

UPCOMING 9:30 SUNDAY TRADITIONAL PROGRAMS



December 31: *Champagne Breakfast.* Come with your children between 9:30 and 10:30 for bacon, eggs, muffins, orange juice [with or without bubbly stuff], quiche, bagels, and more. Everyone invited.

January 7 Making and Keeping Our New Years Resolution: TED talk by David Steindle-Rast and lively discussion following.



January 14 Celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Although best known for his focus on civil rights, Dr. King focused on other social justice issues, including the war in Vietnam and poverty. The Program will present his wide-ranging views.



January 21. Artist Candice Davis will talk about her art



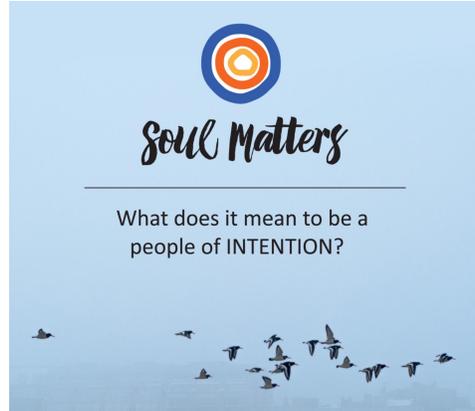
A reception will follow from 10:30 to 11:00. We have been showing her work "Traditions in Oil" upstairs in Founders Hall from January to February 25.

A long-time Lawrence resident, Candice Davis has been painting for ten years and has shown her work in several one-artist shows, as well as with other artists. She is a social worker by profession and a docent at the Spencer Art Museum.

January 28 Jennifer Ball, an economist from Washburn University and a member of UUCL, will discuss the economics of women's issues



11:00 a.m. WORSHIP FOR NOVEMBER



So here we are again, in the month of January with its talk of daring resolutions and its demanding call to “become better.” It’s hard not to buy into it. After all, it seems so well-intended. Who could argue with the goal of self-improvement? And so most of us gladly go along and declare “This is the year I’m going to finally be a better me!”

Do you find yourself still excited about the New Year’s work of striving to become a brand new self? Or do you suddenly notice an internal whisper that says “I long to be pulled in more deeply to the self I already am”? In other words, maybe our real New Year’s work is not about leaping into self-improvement, but about pausing, stepping back and asking “What hunger really has my heart?”

There is, after all, a big difference between becoming better and becoming ourselves. Self-improvement is not the same as self-alignment. Wanting to get from point A to point B is something quite different from longing to find your inner anchor. Goals and intentions may indeed be more distinct than we have thought.

So this month, maybe our most important work is to make room. All around us, there’s going to be plenty of busy talk about being “a people of goals and resolutions.” We are going to get more than enough advice about how to stay focused on a new future for ourselves. But in the midst of it all, may we, as a people of intention, also carve out a quieter place that keeps our attention closer to the present and who we *already are at our center*. May we make space for listening before we leap into the striving. And as we do that, maybe we will discover that this isn’t the year of “finally becoming a better me.” Maybe we’ll decide it’s enough to simply “finally be me.”

January Worship Services

January 7 **The Gift of Starting Over**

Rev. Jill Jarvis and Bonnie Blosser, Director of Faith Development

New beginnings are often forced upon us by life’s inevitable change and loss. But it’s also possible to offer ourselves the gift of starting over, intentionally taking the risk of moving beyond the familiar, safe, and comfortable. In this first service of the new year we’ll say our farewells to Bonnie and bless her journey forward, as we also look toward our own future with creativity and intention.

January 14 **The Promise and the Practice (Martin Luther King Sunday)**

Rev. Jill Jarvis with Worship Associate Chris Brown

This is a turning moment in our faith tradition -- a choice to listen deeply to the stories in our movement that have not been heard, and taken to heart, by all Unitarian Universalists. It's a lamenting of what our UU tradition and congregations have lost by being -- unable or unwilling - to center people of color (or even, at times, to merely include them.) In this worship service offered by congregations across the continent, we celebrate our shared commitment to live into a new chapter in the story of our UU faith.

January 21 **Exploring the Soul and Why it Matters**

Barb Gutsch, Lay Leader, UU Fellowship of Salina.

In his book, *A Hidden Wholeness*, Parker Palmer describes how we live divided lives; with our outside self often hiding our true inner self, in order to achieve success and be accepted. UU Fellowship of Salina's Lay Leader, Barb Gutsch, will talk about what is "Soul" and why it matters, and how each of us can begin to live an undivided life.

January 28 **Heads Up! GA in KC.**

Rev. Jill Jarvis and UUCL Executive Board

Excitement is building about UUA General Assembly coming to Kansas City for the first time ever! This represents incredible opportunities for individual UU's, spiritual seekers, youth, leaders, and local congregations including UUCL. Join us to learn more about what "GA in KC" means for you, and for the future of both UUCL and Unitarian Universalism in our area.

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

Dear Members and Friends of UUCL,

We have an important opportunity coming up, and we want to make sure you all know about it and make plans to attend. The Executive Board will host a workshop on Saturday, January 20, led by Rev. Lisa Presley, Congregational Life Consultant from the UUA's MidAmerica Region, which will be the beginning of our quest to determine the future of our congregation. We hope you will take an active part in the process so you can consider all the options.

I'm sure you are wondering how things will go, so here is an outline:

We will gather at 9:30 with coffee and bagels.

At 10:00 am Rev. Lisa's presentation will discuss the current situation and name the divide; outline options for the congregation going forward (lay led, part-time ministry, full time ministry, interim ministry, or developmental ministry); talk about what will need to change if we opt for not having a minister; and what interim ministry is often about. She will let us know the timeline and how ministerial transitions happen. The most immediate decision the board will need to make will be about whether to seek an interim minister or to return to being lay-led. The bigger underlying questions are some of the decisions about who the congregation wants to be. There's a bifurcated sense of what the congregation should be about, that is often talked about as whether it should be the program or the worship. It's a bigger question of how to organize the congregation, whether to have ministerial services, the relationship of the early dreams of the congregation to the current dreams, and what we might want to be going forward. This will be followed by Q&A.

At noon, we will break for a potluck lunch. Please bring a dish to share.

From 1:00-3:00 pm, Rev. Lisa will lead us in guided exercises and sharing in small groups. Questions to consider might be: What do you appreciate most about the congregation? When have you felt most connected to what holds us close? What is your sense of spirit, soul, god, and your guiding principles? What would you miss the most if our congregation no longer existed?

No decisions will be made at that time as to the future. The purpose of this gathering is to have a chance to hear useful information as well as other people's perspectives. The process will continue in the months after the workshop in various ways as we work to determine what our course will be. If our path is to hire an interim minister to guide us through the next stage, the Board will submit our packet to the UUA Transitions office in March.

Please come and be a part of the process so you can help shape the future of UUCL. There is a signup sheet in the lobby. Childcare will be provided with a reservation.

We will keep the words of our mission in mind while we approach this period of discernment.

- We will LOVE: What would it look like to be part of a committed group of spiritual seekers who are determined to LOVE inclusively, cultivating empathy for other ways of being, making room for them, and learning from them?
- We will NUTURE: What would it look like to more intentionally NUTURE spiritual growth and connection for people of all ages – including raising generations of UUs who see themselves as part of a rich, centuries-old tradition of thinkers and activists and soul-nurturers?
- We will EXPLORE: What would it look like not only to EXPLORE life's big questions – but to do so freely, dropping our preconceived ideas and certainties and exploring together?
- And we will ACT: What would it look like to ACT for justice – beginning in our own hearts and minds, in our families and work, within the walls of this congregation, and then joining hands and joining forces with allies outside our walls to challenge and resist, to show up and speak up?

With Love, Hope and Peace,
Shannon VanLandingham, Executive Board Chair 2017-2018

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

UUCL TO JOIN FOUR UU CONGREGATIONS FOR "BELOVED CONVERSATIONS"

When UUCL made the commitment to display the "Black Lives Matter" banner on our building, we understood that this was only a first step in our work toward dismantling systemic racism. The next step will be an opportunity to participate in a program of facilitated transformative conversations with UUs from Topeka, Shawnee Mission, Kansas City, and Manhattan. "Beloved Conversations" is an experiential curriculum that provides a space to re-form/fuse the brokenness of racism into new patterns of thought and behavior ushering in social and spiritual healing. New ways of being are learned through the actions of conversation and probing dialogue.

10-12 participants from each congregation will meet at Shawnee Mission UU Church for a two-day workshop in early March, followed by eight weeks of follow-up sessions in our individual congregations. Participants will develop skills and habits of an anti-racist mind and grapple with concepts of brokenness and wholeness. Ultimately, participants will be equipped

to lead their own congregations in the work of anti-racism and anti-oppression. At UUCL, our Social Justice Team and Minister will be inviting members who share a dedication to this work, and feel able to commit to the program, to participate in the workshop and sessions. (If you are interested, please contact Barbara Johnston, Social Justice Team Leader, or Rev. Jill Jarvis.)

Beloved Conversations was developed by Dr. Mark Hicks, Angus MacLean Professor of Religious Education at the Meadville Lombard Theological School, and is organized by Rev. Ashley Horan of the Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance. The five participating congregations will jointly need to raise \$4800 to pay the expenses for two professional facilitators and curriculum. UUCL will dedicate the Sunday offering on January 14, Martin Luther King Sunday, as our contribution. Our goal is to crowd-source the remaining funds through UUA's "Faithify." If you're willing to contribute or share the information through social media, here is the link:

<https://faithify.org/projects/bring-beloved-conversations-to-kansas-kc/>

The congregations involved will be the first to directly benefit from this program, as the shared experience of transforming together is the soil from which effective ministry blossoms. Participants will be guided through their own experiences of the spiritual effects of systemic oppression and be invited to witness other participants as they share their own experiences of societal injustice. Although this work is done in our congregations, ultimately the world and those we serve are the true benefactors. Our willingness to engage and deepen our own understandings will allow us to do more effective, well-developed ministry and justice work.

In the wake of globalization and colonization in recent millennia, we as a human family unknowingly (or knowingly!) act out of habitual racism that was performed and perpetuated in the world around us. Half of the richest nation on earth is poor, black men disappear into the prison pipeline at an astonishing rate, militarization has made a sharp increase since the events in Ferguson, MO, and the globe's coastal cities and resources are in imminent peril. Our willingness to confront, communicate about, and heal from these collective traumas matters. And it is necessary to ensure our ability to practice Unitarian Universalism and build the world of our dreams.

Kansas and Kansas City are, oddly enough, currently in the national limelight. The governments and city planners have done such an incredibly bad job that Kansas City is the case study for segregation/gentrification and the current administration is looking to the state of Kansas for advice about how to ruin everything. As a well-developed and already up-and-running system of UUism in this area, it is our duty to organize amongst ourselves in order to be as trained and bonded as possible. Your funds will be used to ignite and engage people in the congregation who are most passionate about racial justice.

DINNERS FOR EIGHT

We have a need for alternates (fill-ins) for our Dinner Parties set up for last weekend in Jan., in Feb. and in March. If you would like to be called and added to a pot luck party should a participant not be able to attend, we would love to set a place for you. Contact Deb@Ks-Russells.com.



FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Please join in a farewell reception for our Director of Faith Development, Bonnie Blosser on Sunday, January 7 at noon, after the Service. We will miss Bonnie for all the love and creativity she has brought to UUCL and its children, youth, and adults.

We also welcome Ann Alexander to her new position as RE Coordinator. (See item from Ann near the beginning of this newsletter.)

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

We have had some changes, as you have read in Ann Alexander's article. She is now our part-time RE Coordinator, which means that she has resigned from her Board positions. The Board appointed Barb Thompson to serve the remainder of Ann's Chair-elect term, and we are currently looking for a replacement for the job of Treasurer. The Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers at the Annual Meeting in May that will include Chair, Chair-elect, and Treasurer. We wish Ann well in her new role, and appreciate all she has done to serve UUCL as a volunteer.

The Board Meeting for January will be held on Tuesday, January 9 at 7:00. Observers are welcome. If you wish to speak at a meeting, contact the Chair and ask to be placed on the agenda. The minutes will be posted as soon as they are approved on the website: <http://uufi.net/minutes-for-executiveboard-2017-2018/> and a hard copy will be posted on the bulletin board in the hallway by the restrooms. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at shannyvan@gmail.com

~Shannon VanLandingham Executive Board Chair, 2017-2018

SOCIAL JUSTICE

MONTHLY COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS: FAITH IN ACTION

Each week, our Sunday collection is given to a community organization that reflects our values and is chosen by our Social Justice Team.

The Community Connection for December has been Headquarters. Headquarters Counseling Center is a National Suicide Prevention Lifeline crisis center that serves people from all over the state of Kansas. Collection donations will be counted at the end of the month, then SJT will be notified of the amount; a voucher completed requesting the check, which will then be either delivered by one of the SJT members, or sent by mail.

The January Community Connection recipient will be the Lawrence Community Shelter. The mission of the Lawrence Community Shelter is to provide a safe shelter and comprehensive programs that set individuals and families facing homelessness on a path to a positive future. With 125 beds, we furnish a safe and secure environment. Our kitchen serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner every day, averaging 5,250 meals each month.

SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM MONTHLY REPORT

JANUARY ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Sat. Jan. 6, 4-6pm, Lawrence Public Library: Mother Nature's Right to Life, a discussion with featured speakers, Joe Spease and Arvella Spease. Co-facilitator, Isabella Ticer - Green

Party Kansas

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2016729628549706/>

SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM MEETING is on **Sunday, Jan. 7**, at 1:15pm, following the reception for Bonnie Blosser. Meeting will be in the Library (basement) and we'll have some snacks or you can bring your own lunch. We invite anyone in the Congregation to come and participate.

People's State of the State Rally will be held again at the Statehouse in Topeka on **January 10**, the event sponsored by Kansas People's Agenda. **COME TAKE OVER THE KANSAS CAPITOL WITH HUNDREDS OF KANSANS!**

Show Solidarity, Demand Change, and set the Legislative Agenda!

11:30am [#KSPeoplesAgenda](https://kansaspeoplesagenda.org) Rally <https://kansaspeoplesagenda.org>

(2nd Floor Rotunda)

The Capitol Opens at 8:00am

Lobby Training 9:30-11am

Rally 11:30am-1pm

Facebook site, <https://www.facebook.com/events/181593839247692/>

The Kansas Coalition for Citizen Participation is organizing the 2018 Lobby Day in Topeka, **Jan. 23**. More information to follow, but to learn how you can join the campaign and take action to increase participation, go to the website, www.letpeoplevotekansas.org



SHINING STAR

Shining Star Volunteer for January! Our "Star" for January is ...Drumroll, please... **Graham Kreicker**. Here is what Barbara Schowen said about him in her nomination. "Graham has been totally devoted and committed to UUCL ever since he joined, about 15 years ago. He is ever on top of things and thinks and plans ahead. He was instrumental and key in our early efforts

to get a minister. He was invaluable as a member of the building committee for the new addition. He was a major organizer of the capital campaign for that addition, and a leader in numerous of our annual budget drives. He is a mainstay of the B&G committee. He is well informed about our UFL/UUCL history and legacy and organized the 50th anniversary celebration of the Fellowship, and the 90th "birthday party" of our schoolhouse. He and Della Hadley inaugurated the formerly annual luncheons for our older, longtime members, and is currently planning a 60th anniversary celebration for later this year. He has served as Chair, Chair-elect, and past chair of UFL/UUCL, and chaired, or was member of, numerous committees, such as membership, finance, and personnel. He is an active and committed member of the Social Justice Team and has been for many years. He lives out his adherence to UU principles and of social justice--going to the Dakota Access Pipeline demonstrations, re-enacting the Selma march, etc. He has been active in regional and national UU activities and recently ended a term as Trustee of the UUA. I know I am omitting much, but I hope this helps describe one of our true "shining stars."

We would not be here if not for all the people who give their time, talents, and treasure for the benefit of all. Please help us recognize, appreciate, and celebrate the many wonderful volunteers that make UUCL a great community. Who do you know that is going "above and beyond" to use their gifts for our congregation? Who are the "Shining Stars" you know that deserve recognition? We have so many fabulous volunteers here, and expect to get lots of nominations, so don't fret if your nominee doesn't appear right away in the Shining Star column in our monthly newsletter on the Shining Star display board. Keep looking ;-)

you for being part of this way to say "Thanks!" to our wonderful volunteers. Click on the link below to nominate someone to be featured as a Shining Star for a month. And THANK YOU for your help! If you have any questions, please contact Brita Calnon at brita.calnon@gmail.com Click here to nominate someone: <https://goo.gl/forms/bTYJk2AVdPSDHUem1>



MUSIC NOTES

The Soul Matters theme for January is "Intention" which, to my mind, is an extremely appropriate way to begin a new year. I admit I make New Year's Resolutions which sometime I keep and sometimes disappear around the first of February. This January is an important month for us all to be intentional in our living, giving careful consideration to ourselves and to all those who surround us.

Music at UUCL is usually quite intentional, as we make a special effort for our music to be appropriate for the message of each Sunday's service. Like New Year's Resolutions, sometimes we succeed and sometimes we fail, but our intention is always there!

Our music for **January 7**, when we will bid Bonnie a fond farewell, will send her on her way with our love. Regrettably, our choral selection for January 14, when we will observe Martin Luther King Day, falls in the category of resolutions at least postponed! We had hoped to present a great number by Rollo Dillworth titled "Stand on the Rock" but our recent choir rehearsal times have been dedicated to Sounds of Season preparation. You will hear that selection sometime later and it will also be part of the I-70 choir presentation at SMUUC in April. Never fear, the music that is presented that day will still be appropriate to the service but will not be as originally scheduled!

January 21 we will reprise the lovely "I Will Be That Peace" by Mark Hayes when we will be hosting Barb Gutch from Salina for a pulpit exchange. And you won't want to miss "Connected" by Brian Tate on **January 28**. This selection is one the UU Musician's Network choir presented at our conference last July and it is lots of fun!

We had planned a **Drumming Workshop for January 13 but it will be postponed** as our wonderful Drumming Leader, Dylan Bassett, will be in Cuba for the first two weeks of 2018 expanding his considerable proficiency in Cuban drumming. We are so fortunate to have someone with his abilities be available to guide our drumming group. More information will be forthcoming when we reschedule.

Our choir has welcomed several new members in recent weeks and we are so glad to have them! The UUCL Music Community welcomes all who would like to share their talents with the UUCL Greater Community. For information, please contact:

Susan Harper, UUCL Music Director, UUCLMusic@sbcglobal.net , 785-830-8487.

ART IN FOUNDERS HALL

Our January show, through February 25, will feature Candice Davis's "Traditions in Oil." The artist will speak at the 9:30 program on January 21. A reception will follow from 10:30 to 11:00. A long-time Lawrence resident, Candice Davis has been painting for ten years and has shown her work in several one-artist shows, as well as with other artists. She is a social worker by profession and a docent at the Spencer Art Museum.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

UUCL Annual Auction is Saturday, April 28.

Mark your calendars and think about who you might invite to join us for this fun evening.

UUCL WOMEN'S GROUP

The UUCL women's group will meet on Saturday, January 13, at the home of Emily Russell, Presbyterian manor duplex G2 (1329 Kasold), from 2-4pm. All are welcome. We'd really like to see some new faces! Make checking us out one of your New Year's resolutions, and bring a friend while you're at it. Bring a snack to share of you wish, but do bring yourself. The welcome mat is out! Call Lynne Bodle, 843-8263 for more information or a ride.

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lawrence
A Welcoming Congregation
1263 N. 1100 Rd.
Lawrence, KS 66047
785-842-3999**

To contact the NewsTeam, please email uflcommunications@gmail.com

Other contact information:

Helping Hands Team

uflhelpinghands@gmail.com

or call UUCL office, 842-3339

This team provides short-term practical assistance, e.g., meals, respite, rides.

Transportation Line

785-842-7529 (to UUCL events or medical appointments)

Pastoral Care Associates: Rev. Jill Jarvis at 816-853-6530 jjarvis1@kc.rr.com or

Deb Russell at email Deb@Ks-Russells.com

This team provides confidential listening for those experiencing bereavement, illness, unemployment, life transitions, aging, loneliness, etc.

Minister Office Hours

Rev. Jill Jarvis' hours tend to be variable. It is best to contact her for an appointment 816/853-6530 or <mailto:jjarvis1@kc.rr.com>

Director of Faith Development

Bonnie Blosser works at her UUCL 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:

Administrative office hours are typically

Monday 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Tuesday 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Thursday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Friday 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Please be sure to call first, [785-842-3339](tel:785-842-3339), if coming out during the week, as doors are kept locked.