



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lawrence
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
November 2017

Mark Your Calendars!
Upcoming Events and Important Dates Ahead*

- Saturday, November 4** Men's Group Breakfast, 9:00 a.m. at Munchers*
Saturday, November 11 We serve at **LINK**—please see notice farther on*
Saturday, November 11 Women's Group, 2:00-4:00 p.m.*
Sunday, November 12 Artist Reception (Jan Gaumnitz) 10:30-11:00 a.m.*
Tuesday, November 14 Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Sunday, November 19 Annual Harvest Festival Potluck at noon

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

UPCOMING 9:30 SUNDAY TRADITIONAL PROGRAMS

Sunday, November 5 John Musgrave

Vietnam war hero and anti-war movement hero, John Musgrave of Baldwin City, will speak. The former Marine was featured in the recent Ken Burns documentary on the Vietnam war that was recently shown on PBS. He also was the featured speaker at a recent KCPT TV outreach event at Liberty Hall.

Sunday, November 12 Mia Gonzales

Mia is the Director of Development for the Lawrence Community Shelter

Sunday, November 19 "Guest at Your Table Sunday"

We will learn more about the Guest at Your Table program and of the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and what we can do to help in the US as well as world wide. Guest-at-Your-Table boxes will be distributed, to be filled with coins and the green stuff as you welcome a guest at your table during meals for the next month and returned at the Mitten Tree Celebration on December 17. "Stories of Hope" will be told, and we'll be treated to some Thanksgiving surprises yet to be determined.

Sunday, November 26 "Coping with Health Issues: Medication Doesn't Have to be the Answer"

11:00 a.m. WORSHIP FOR NOVEMBER

Worship Theme for November--

What does it Mean to be a People of Abundance?

When it comes to abundance, our culture and our religion are clearly at odds. Our culture cries, "Accumulate!" Our religion counsels "Appreciate!" The mantras couldn't be more different: The commercials tell us to "Go out and get what you want!" The pulpits plea with us to "learn to want what you have."



So, yes, appreciation is central to this month. Noticing the abundance around us is clearly the work we are called to do. But one wonders if that's enough. It all depends on what you do after the noticing is done.

Sometimes there's a passivity to appreciation that leaves nothing changed. There's a big difference between appreciating the blessing of family and committing to sitting down together for dinner at least three or four times a week. It's one thing to notice the beauty that fills your own backyard; it's quite another to pull yourself out of the rat race so you have time to enjoy it. It helps to have a sermon remind us that our spouse or parent is doing the best they can, but that insight rarely sticks without a commitment to action that helps us truly let go of all the things we wish they were and embrace the limited but wonderful abundance of what they are.

In short, appreciation only gets us part of the way there. Noticing places abundance in view, but only new commitments put it within reach. Without a decision to change our lives, noticing becomes nothing more than nostalgia.

So, what needs to change? Maybe that's the real question this month. What needs altered so you can dance with what is plentiful rather than worrying about what is scarce? What clutter finally needs cleaned up so there is room for new abundance to enter in? What changes will free you from the urgent and allow in the important?

Yes, people of abundance make time for noticing, but they also make tough choices. Choices that, after they are made, don't really feel tough at all.

Spiritual abundance is waiting for us friends. May this be the month we choose it.

Join us for worship in November:

November 5 To Stand on the Threshold Rev. Jill Jarvis

November 12 Pulpit exchange with Rev. Rose Schwab (Minister of Shawnee Mission UU Church)

November 19 HARVEST FESTIVAL AND UUCL 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION Rev. Jill Jarvis

November 26 Ted Wilson

LETTER FROM OUR MINISTER

October 31, 2017

Dear Members of the Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Lawrence,

Yesterday I informed the board of my decision to resign as your minister effective June 30, 2018, about eight months from now.



This has not been an easy decision. As some of you know, during the past several years I've been contemplating when exactly to leave parish ministry. It still feels way too early to leave this calling that I love so deeply. Yet every minister knows that a time must come to move on for the health of the congregation, at the inevitable moment when further progress together finally seems unlikely.

During the past several years, UUCL has struggled with what I can only describe as an identity crisis. Despite a series of well-attended dialogue circles where members shared their experiences and hopes for the future, two years of intensive work on a new mission and vision, a six-month process with a congregational consultant, a weekend leadership retreat with presentations by two Unitarian Universalist ministers, and the congregation's adoption of a three-year strategic plan, UUCL remains a deeply divided congregation. We seem to be stuck in a place of unproductive anxiety. There is still profound if often unacknowledged ambivalence about the 2010 decision, after fifty years of lay leadership, to call a minister. UUCL does not for the most part understand the minister-congregation relationship, which is perhaps unsurprising given that UUCL never went through the usual process of deciding to call a minister.

One member who was instrumental in helping UUCL to call a minister, was quoted in the consultant's report as saying that the move toward ministry was intended "to increase our diversity, to widen our circle and to provide for people that wanted a spiritual aspect a time where they could come and worship or do spiritual activities other than the program." In retrospect, it's clear to me that many members did in fact believe that to be the purpose of calling a minister. The result was that professional ministry was simply added to the already existing fellowship way of being -- a way that had evolved as it did precisely because there was not a minister.

The deep ambivalence has led to an equally deep inertia and, I believe, an inability to see and name the spiritual, emotional, and relational harm caused by failing to confront and courageously move past this divided culture. The actual and opportunity costs to volunteers, leaders, staff, and potential new members of maintaining this status quo are high and ongoing.

My own role in our failure to confront this division is significant, and for that I ask your forgiveness. I often wonder what might have happened if, in 2010 when you decided to call me as your first minister, I had made my acceptance contingent on the congregation going through the usual "start-up" process with an outside denominational facilitator. Would there have been the requisite 90% vote to call if you had all understood the role of both minister and congregation in this new relationship, and the changes that would require? It's a critically important question that remains to be answered.

After nearly two years of thoughtful observation and deliberation with many mentors, colleagues, and denominational consultants, I've come to understand the impossibility of the congregation's finally making the necessary yet hard decisions about its future, as long as I remain in the role of minister. It isn't possible for a minister to effectively serve a congregation that is not united in its diversity as one people. My continuing presence undermines the urgency of your confronting that difficult truth.

When a minister leaves, the normal procedure is to announce the departure in March, to allow approximately six weeks for the board to work with the UUA Transitions Office to hire an interim minister for one to two years. The interim minister is charged with helping the congregation come to terms with its history, discover a new identity, and commit to new directions in ministry in preparation for calling its next settled minister. But in consultation with MidAmerica regional staff, I've made the decision to instead announce my leaving eight months in advance. This will allow you an extended period to discern together, this time with new understanding, your hopes and intentions regarding

professional ministry at UUCL. It's also important that in the search for a new Director of Faith Development in the wake of Bonnie Blosser's departure in December, we are able to let candidates know what to expect concerning UUCL's future related to the presence of a minister.

Regardless of the circumstances or the timing, my leaving UUCL was always going to be a hard and sad decision. I've been in love with this congregation since I first arrived to serve you twelve years ago, and am so grateful for my time with you. Together we've made some major accomplishments that we'll be naming and celebrating in the months to come. I've had the good fortune to work with so many incredible lay leaders, volunteers, and staff members whose kindness, humor, wisdom and creativity have brought joy to my life and to the life of UUCL. We'll have many months to say goodbye, and I hope we'll make time for lots of one-on-one conversations together. I plan to set aside time to be available to any and all of you who'd like to meet with me informally over the coming months, to share memories, express concerns, or begin to process feelings.

I'll be proud to represent UUCL at UUA General Assembly in Kansas City next June -- my last official act as your minister. After that I plan to take several months attending to my own discernment and professional development, with the possibility of doing ministry with Unitarian Universalists in Europe, short-term consulting with American churches, and other interesting options that present themselves to connect with UUs and interfaith partners creating the world of peace, love, and justice that we all seek.

I invite you to join me this Sunday, November 5, when I'll speak more about my resignation and my hopes for the future of UUCL. In closing -- for now -- I offer you this poem with my hopes and confidence, dear UUCL, that you will one day go where you find your beloved -- go where you find yourself.

Going in Circles
by Thich Nhat Hanh

O you who are going in circles,
please stop.
What are you doing it for?

"I cannot be without going,
because I don't know where to go.
That's why I go in circles."

O You who are going in circles,
please stop.

"But if I stop going,
I will stop being."

O my friend who is going in circles,
you are not one with
this crazy business of going in circles.
You may enjoy going,

but not going in circles.

"Where can I go?"

Go where you find your beloved,
where you can find yourself.

Blessings,

Reverend Jill Jarvis
Minister
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lawrence

RESPONSE FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

October 31, 2017

Dear Members,

It is with sorrow and gratitude that we accept Rev. Jill's resignation. There is sorrow that we will no longer have her wise counsel, and gratitude for the gifts she has shared with us for the last 12 years. In the next several months, we will celebrate Jill's ministry, honor what has been, and say goodbye.

As we are saying goodbye to Jill, the Board will begin a search for an acting Director of Faith Development.

The Board has reached out to MidAmerica Region and the UUA Transitions Office who will assist us with questions about ministerial transition. As your Board we look forward to working together to discern the next best steps for the future of our congregation.

We hope to see you in worship on Sunday when Rev. Jill will go into more depth about her resignation and her hopes for UUCL's future.

Shannon VanLandingham
Executive Board Chair



UUCL serves at LINK Saturday, November 11th

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.

Sign up for Dinners for Eight

In November, Deb Russell will be available on Sunday morning for you to sign up for Dinners for Eight. This is a monthly potluck (Jan., Feb., March for starters) where we get to know each other better, make connections and have fun. We take turns hosting this event. Groups of around eight will be randomly assigned. We will consider folks wishing family (children) friendly dinners. Taking a turn at hosting is part of the deal; Denise and I will set up initial teams and hosts...and will phone our first picks for hosts to negotiate their willingness to begin such. Hopefully, this takes off and we can go more than once a month for just three three months, and therefore others will host in rotation the rest of the year. The host contacts their team and arranges the date...suggesting last weekend each month for solidarity and continuity.

See sign up link below.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1vjM__yOP2jpkV3Fz0yZnJlahFH0L7-5NVKi8pg0LP0/edit?usp=drivesdk



Shining Star Volunteer for November!

Our “Star” for November is ...Drumroll, please... Sacipryia Sibilla.

Here’s what Bonnie Blosser said about her in her nomination: “Planning and orchestrating a week-long summer camp is a challenging endeavor but working with Sacipriya Sibilla on our Harry Potter Social Justice camp was a joy. From our very first organizational meeting, Saci had creative ideas that she took complete responsibility for. She designed our camp T-shirts and found someone to screen print them while I was on my leave. She contacted the KU Quidditch team and was instrumental in getting them to our camp Monday to explain, demonstrate and play Quidditch with us. Saci (and her children Gopal and Jahnava) worked several very long days in the 2 weeks before camp. If she saw a need or something creative that would enhance the camp experience, she followed through with something that was far better than I imagined (the brick wall and hand crafted signage are two examples). During camp week, Saci took a key role as one of our Head of Houses, and on Saturday...she was the first to arrive to help with clean up. Saci’s artistry, dedication and hard work for 2 months created a magical Harry Potter Social Justice Camp experience for our children.”

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 ;-). Thank 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>

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Our meetings are monthly on the second Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at UUCL. November's meeting will be on **Tuesday, November 14**. Observers are always 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://uufl.net/minutes-for-executive-board-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 **September** Community Connection was **Kansas Equality Coalition** and the Congregation gave away a total of \$824.80. This will shortly be delivered by one of the Social Justice team members.

The **November Community Connection** is UUSC, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. The UUSC works with 50 grassroots partners in 20 countries and in the U.S. to build a world free from oppression. From our work with women and children held in U.S. detention centers, to providing Syrian refugees humanitarian aid and legal assistance, to mobilizing against climate change, we are working to ensure that human rights are a reality for everyone.

Social Justice Team Monthly Report for October and Upcoming November Events

The Social Justice team and UUCL congregation recognizes the month of October as LGBTQ month!

The Community Connection recipient for October is Parents as Teachers. Parents as Teachers is a FUN and FREE early childhood education program available to anyone who is pregnant or has a child under the age of 3 and lives within the USD 497 school district.

On October 1, several UUCL's went to the Let the People Vote Campaign held at the Lied Center. The program drew a full house of interested participants, and was broadcast in several cities.

Tonganoxie, KS organized quickly to defeat a plan by Tyson Foods, to build a chicken processing plant. A Facebook page appeared and an event on October 3 drew 2-3000 people to Tonganoxie (with at least one UUCL member) to voice their disapproval of the venture, and later Dr. Don Stull gave a presentation on the effect of large poultry plants on communities.

October 28 at the First Presbyterian Church, Justice Matters presented A Night of Hope at 6-30pm.

IndivisibleKC continues sending notice of weekly gatherings at legislators' offices including Sen. Jerry Moran and Pat Roberts, and Rep. Kevin Yoder. IndivisibleKC reminds us to make calls to legislators or write to them as well.

November 4, ACLU invites us to a We the People Tour, Douglas County, at the Lawrence Public Library, Meeting Room C, at 2:00pm, to hear what we're doing to protect civil liberties in our state, meet other ACLU supporters in your area, and learn how you can make a difference in your own community.

LAWRENCE INTERFAITH REFUGEE & IMMIGRANT MINISTRY (LIRIM) is hosting an "Immigrant Advocacy Sunday" on November 5, 4:00-6:00pm, in the Lawrence Public Library auditorium. You're invited to stop in to write letters, make phone calls, and use social media to advocate with for more humane policies in support of refugees and immigrants. Bring your cell phone and LIRIM will provide all the information and materials needed to make your voice heard. For more information, see our Facebook page or contact LIRIMinistry@gmail.com.

Truth Commissions are movement-building spaces that model political education and relationship-building. They will lay the groundwork for the **New Poor People's Campaign**. Please join a conference call on **November 5 from 3-5pm** at this number: 712 770-4700, access code 142545#.

November 7 at Lawrence Public Library, 6pm, Meeting Room B, Kansas Appleseed has planned a meeting for our **Douglas County for Jail Alternatives group** after the City Commission's series of work sessions is complete. This meeting will be open to the public and will serve as an opportunity for us to discuss what happened during the work sessions and how we plan to move forward.

Awake, a Dream from Standing Rock is a film which captures the story of Native-led peaceful protest that forever changed the fight for clean water, our environment, and the

future of our planet. This film is a collaboration between Indigenous filmmakers, Director Myron Dewey, Executive Producer Doug Good Feather and environmental Oscar Nominated filmmakers Josh Fox and James Spione. The film will be shown on Thursday, Nov. 9 at 7pm at Liberty Hall, and on **Friday, Nov. 10, 7pm** at Haskell Indian Nations University Auditorium. Saturday, Nov. 11 will be UUCL's turn to provide lunch at LINK. There is a need for entree dishes including meat and vegetarian selections, as well as desserts.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Bonnie Blosser

Bonnie will return to this space but is currently on vacation. We heard with profound regret of her resignation effective early this next year, but wish her and Aaron well as they embark on new adventures in Tennessee.

JOB OPENING in the UUCL Nursery

Join our nursery caregiving team Sunday mornings from 9:15-12:15. Must be available 2-3 Sundays per month and pass background check. For more information or to set up an interview, contact Bonnie Blosser at ufl.dll@gmail.com



MUSIC NOTES

The Soul Matters theme for November is “Abundance.” I feel so thankful to have such an abundance of talented and willing musicians that make our Music Program successful! Our first choral number of the month will be “Draw the Circle Wide”, a favorite from last year. This moving composition reminds us that “no one stands alone, we’ll stand side by side”. A good message as we face challenges in our lives, from individual challenges to those on a larger scale. Members of our choir were honored to sing with other members of the I-70 choir and in a smaller ensemble last month for the installation of Rev. Rose Schwab at Shawnee Mission Unitarian Universalist Church! It is always very moving to be a part of installations and ordinations and this was no exception. Rev. Rose will be in our pulpit on November 12 and the choir will be singing “Take Down These Walls” which we sang during the installation. It is also a choral number I learned when I was at the UU Musicians Network conference this past summer. Our choir has really enjoyed learning it and I hope you will enjoy it as much as we do. Jason Brown will add his percussive talents!

Our Drumming Workshop in October was a success! Those who attended really enjoyed it and we have scheduled the **November Drumming** for **Saturday, November 18**, from 1:30 to 3:00 or so in our sanctuary. Our leader, Dylan Bassett, is an excellent and enthusiastic instructor in the many aspects of African Drumming. I hope to see you there for this fun and uplifting event. We all need something fun in our lives! Please let me know if you plan to attend so we can be sure to have enough djembes for everyone. Bring guests! Attendees do not have to be UUCL members or friends. No experience or drum required.

Important Note: I have a **new email address** as I had continued difficulties with the old UUCL Music Director address. The new address is : UUCLMusic@sbcglobal.net. I apologize for the inconvenience.

As always, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lawrence for the continued support of our Music Program. 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

Jan Gaumnitz is our featured local artist this month. A reception in her honor will be held on Sunday November 12 between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m. Jan writes the following about her work:

The direction that my artwork would take was set during my childhood on a farm in Minnesota. It has always revolved around nature and my response--interpretation to it. Through the years I have painted on paper and canvas, sculpted in clay and metal, printed photographs on paper and canvas, and printed graphics utilizing collage. Many of these techniques and materials will be included in this exhibit.

Additional Art Happenings

UUCL Member **Celia Smith** will be exhibiting her paintings, prints, and cards (all for sale) at the annual Bizarre Bazaar on Friday, November 24 from 5:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 25 from 9:00 a.m -5:00 p.m. at the Lawrence Arts Center, 940 NH St.

THIRD THURSDAY UUCL MEDITATION GROUP

Beginners, family and friends alike are invited to participate **in the UUCL Meditation Group monthly session from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary.

This ongoing, open group has met at UUCL for over 4 years.

UUCL sessions are offered on a voluntary donation basis; donations are shared with UUCL.

If you have questions about the group or would like more information, please contact **Dale Nimz** at dale.nimz@gmail.com, or **Valerie Roper** at vgracev@sunflower.com .

UUCL MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group meets at Munchers on Saturday, November 4, at 9:00 a.m. Please join us for coffee, pastries, and conversation. For other information contact Bob Burbank, 785-766-8154.

UUCL WOMEN'S GROUP

UUCL Women's Group will meet with Ellen Reid Gold, 506 Pioneer Road, on Saturday, November 11, from 2-4PM. Bring a friend, bring a snack to share if you wish, bring yourself ready for an afternoon of lively discussion and friendship. All are welcome, especially those of you who are new to UUCL and those of you who qualify as "younger". We'd love to become a more diverse group, and new faces are what make for diversity. Contact Lynne Bodle, 843-8263 or mlbodle2@gmail.com for more information or for a ride. See you there!

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.