

# The JOURNEY

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Lauderdale

**December 2013**  
**Volume 54, Number 11**

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**January 2014 Issue**  
**Deadline**

**Sunday December 15, 2013**

Submit articles to:

**submission@uucfl.org**

**Editor**

Gary Ladka

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A Center for  
Liberal Religious Thought  
and Social Action in  
Fort Lauderdale

**Unitarian**  
**Universalist**  
Church of Ft. Lauderdale

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\*Established in 1958\*



## "Developing a Path to Spiritual Maturity" Adult Religious Education Series with Rev. Gail

Continues on Tuesdays December 3 and 10 at 7:00pm  
Educate Yourself on page 5

**LifeNet4Families Workday**  
**Saturday December 7 at 8:45am**  
Work your way to Page 6



LifeNet4Families  
Cooperative Feeding Program



**All Church Holiday Party**  
**Saturday December 7 at 7:00pm**  
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**Third Friday Vespers Service**  
**Friday December 20 at 7:00pm**  
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**Labyrinth Cafe Concerts Presents**  
**Sam Pacetti with Brian Tate**  
**And Special Guest Opener Michael Jordan**  
**Saturday December 21 at 7:30pm**  
Strum Your Way to Page 7

**Christmas Eve Special Service**  
**Tuesday December 24 at 6:00pm**  
See Back Cover



## Strengthening the Tribe Campaign Continues!

You Need the Church  
The Church Needs You  
Find Our Shared Strength on page 2

Unitarian Universalist Church of Ft Lauderdale  
Mission Statement:

To come together as a caring community and sanctuary  
for seekers of spiritual growth, truth, and meaning.

FREEDOM, REASON  
ACCEPTANCE + LOVE



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH OF FT. LAUDERDALE

## President's Message



Early in November, your board of trustees spent a Sunday afternoon on a retreat together. Rev. Gail presented material that will help us be clearer and more productive in our role as a board. We also spent time increasing our understanding of how to best recruit and support the many volunteers that are so vital to the life of our church community. Finally, we reviewed the wishes and suggestions that emerged during discussions at our "strengthening the tribe" all church luncheon on October 20. What follows is an overview of those wishes and suggestions which seemed to organize themselves around four general themes or goals.

First: to attract and keep young adults and their children.

Suggestions for achieving this goal:

Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, young representation in all Sunday services, youth oriented events before and after church, rename from "church" to "community", "fellowship", or "congregation", use our beautiful grounds for youth oriented activities and activities or events for children

Second: to grow our congregation:

Suggestions for achieving this goal:

Make sure every Sunday service is conducted with visitors and newcomers in mind. Fewer hymns, more choir and more recorded music, ads in community publications.

Third: to have more visibility in the community.

Suggestions for achieving this goal:

Flyers about us to handout at community events, free concerts, drum circles, and other events.

Fourth: to become more financially solvent:

Suggestions for achieving this goal:

Attract members through advertising and through community events, apply for grants.

As I look over these goals and ideas I've come to realize that there is a larger mission or dream that informs all of them. In other words, why do we want to grow the congregation? The answer is that we want to achieve these goals in order to continue to be a viable and vibrant Unitarian Universalist church. We want to continue to be here and to be a liberal religious haven for ourselves and for the people we hope will find us in the future. We cherish our home church and our dream is that it will continue to thrive and prosper in the years to come.

We your Board of Trustees are grateful to those who participated at the all church luncheon for providing us a sense of what members of the congregation consider important goals for the future

You most probably have ideas to add to this discussion. Please feel free to see or call any board member and have that conversation. In addition, we plan to provide another forum opportunity during which we can continue to share our ideas and aspirations with each other.

***Victor Garlock***

## Strengthening the Tribe

If you have not received your Strengthening the Tribe 2014 Stewardship campaign brochure and pledge form, please see Rev. Gail, Gary Ladka or Ken Beier at the church or visit the home page at [www.uucfl.org](http://www.uucfl.org) for printable versions of these items. We are hoping for a strong 2014 program year at the church, and we need your support to make that happen. We ask that you give careful and meditative thought as to how much UUCFL means to you and how much it will mean to future seekers of our faith here in Ft Lauderdale as you consider your pledge and your part in making our collective dreams possible for the church. Please turn in your pledge forms to Rev. Gail, Gary or Ken or by mail to the church as soon as possible. Thank you for your generosity.



***The Stewardship Committee***

## ***Rev. Gail's Space***

### **Experiencing Holiday Colors**



The primary colors we usually associate with the Christmas portion of our holiday season are green and red. Both of these colors likely have filtered down through the ancient Celtic Yule holiday. Some of these traditions likely also go back at least to the Roman holiday of Saturnalia where people brought greens into their homes during the winter. Finland and the Lapps likely also contributed to the mash up of colors and holiday customs we now experience.

However, I want to look at red and green and one other color - blue - that we don't usually associate with the positive aspects of holiday revelry from a little different perspective. Despite knowing intellectually that not everyone has great memories of holidays past or will necessarily be looking forward with great anticipation to the one coming up, most of us get caught up in the craze of over buying, over decorating, over eating and maybe over drinking and wonder why it just isn't working for us.

So lets think about those colors. Green is the color of the trees and wreaths but it is also the color associated with jealousy and envy and those are certainly emotions many of us feel at this time of year. We may think everyone has more money to spend than we do. We may assume that everyone has somewhere more exciting to go than we do. We may be envious of those who have the resources to get home for the holidays. When I talk to people about these kinds of things, I find the envy is often based on misconceptions.

When I think about red and the holidays, I go first to Santa's traditional suit, but we also associate red with anger and the holidays can cause a lot of us to get angry. A store can be out of something we want. Someone doesn't get us a present we think is comparable to the one we found for them. We can literally get angry from the stress of trying too hard to have a good time.

The color blue is often associated with being depressed or down. We have the blues we say. Holidays can be very painful experiences for lonely people and for those who are grieving the loss of a beloved. This is especially hard when it may be the first holiday without the loved one.

So my hope is that as we prepare for our Holiday Church decorating party, the Yule Ritual, Holiday Vespers and the holiday concert and all the holiday themed services coming up, we keep in mind that at every occasion someone is feeling green, red or blue and that we will have empathy and compassion for them at this season of joy, peace and good will. Don't max out your credit cards this season, max out your compassion.

Blessings,  
***Rev. Gail***

## **Sabbatical Rising**



Yes, it is coming, I really am going on sabbatical this year, but don't worry, I will still be connected. Is it even possible to really disconnect anymore? They have wi fi in the Amazon rain forest. A friend of mine actually sent me an email once from a cyber cafe in Katmandu. I am largely going to try to organize a couple a long term writing projects that I have been dabbling with for years. I also hope to attend some workshops on my current passions of Shamanic sound healing and Kirtan chanting. I am going to check out a couple of UU sponsored trips including one that is tour of Alaska staying with members of various UU groups. Anything can happen. I have, at the Board's request, broken the time off into three segments. The first segment will be from Jan. 24 through April 4 and will be the longest one. I will be back for the spring holidays of Passover and Easter and likely for Flower Communion Sunday. The Sunday Service Committee and I have got great services with some UU ministers and some other local liberal ministers lined up for you. There will also be some lay services. I have ministers on call for emergency pastoral emergencies and rites of passage. We will all be developing new skills. The church thrived during my last Sabbatical and I came back with lots of new energy and ideas. A couple of years of golden times followed. Hopefully, that will happen this time as well.

***Rev. Gail***



Director of Religious Education (DRE) - Susan Dirgins-Friend  
Phone (954) 424-1910  
Email tiredmomofbob@aol.com

I am conflicted. I read the recent UU World magazine article that talked about how we need to not be just a place for folks to find an individual religious experience, but that we should be at the forefront of trying to make changes in the world. The article talked about how community for community's sake is not enough, and we need to make our church communities more responsible for the community at large. This was, of course, my interpretation of the article, which could be completely wrong, but that is how I read it. I found myself thinking "well, that is a good idea, but much of the time, many folks in our little community are just getting through the week". I am involved in doing mercy work, and I try to commit as much time as I can to justice work. Justice work is harder of course, because one often works really hard on projects only to see little or no result. Mercy work is easy; you give a hungry person food, and they are not hungry any more, at least not today. So, back to the UU World. I agree that we need to be out there doing more. The problem is, our community is made up of individuals, many of whom are in need of justice or mercy work themselves. Sometimes people really are looking for some sort of spiritual solace, awakening, or touch point. If you think about it, if each individual in the world was really living a totally moral, concerned life instead of the lives we actually do, the world would be pretty awesome. No more 99% vs 1%. Nice idea, but we are not there yet. So, I am imploring those of you who can, get more involved in both justice and mercy work, but, I am not sure that we can beat ourselves up because our folks are looking for an individual religious experience and a sense of community. I have been studying the Apostle Paul lately and when I read the article, I thought, "Hey, the UU World must have the Apostle Paul writing for them." Paul did not give a whit for the early Christians' individual faith experiences. He was concerned that everyone was behaving morally in his Christian communities, and that the focus was on the spreading of the good news. It was all about the community, not the individual. This may have been part of the reason Paul is such a figure of controversy. I get the feeling that he did not have a lot of friends!! Anyway, like I said, those of you who can, get out there. Work at the food bank, a local school or homeless shelter. Get involved in Bold Justice (I just met the new organizer for our church, Greer, and she is delightful), or one of the many things that Lore and Bob Bender are always finding for folks to do. Let us as individuals move our congregation toward the goal, as individuals, working together. But, if you come for the service, a meditation or the music, maybe that is ok too.

Love and Blessings  
*DRE Susan*

December Children's Religious Education Schedule	
<b>Sunday December 1, 11AM</b> Prepare for Holiday Service	<b>Sunday December 29, 11AM</b> Kwanzaa Service Kids are in Church
<b>Sunday December 8, 11AM</b> Prepare for Holiday Service	
<b>Sunday December 15, 11AM</b> Holiday Service Kids are in Church	
<b>Sunday December 22, 11AM</b> Holiday Movie	



### Vesper's Celebrates the Holidays!

Please join us for our December Vespers service on Friday evening, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7PM in the MPR. Larry Wilkner will be presenting a service which features readings, poetry and music that celebrates the winter holidays. We will also enjoy an enhanced holiday wine and cheese social time afterward. If you are looking for a way to end your week or kick off your weekend, join us to relax, listen, meditate, and connect with your UUCFL friends.



Info or questions, DRE Susan Dirgins-Friend  
(954) 424-1910 tiredmomofbob@aol.com

### Developing a Path to Spiritual Maturity Class Series Continues

Even if you missed the earlier sessions, please join us for the remaining gatherings of our class on Spiritual Maturity. Expanding on this year's dual themes of Strengthening our Tribe and Developing Spiritual Maturity, Rev. Gail is using the ideas of the Perennial Philosophy and a set of Perennial Practices to take attendees on a journey that could take you to a deeper place in your life.

The sessions and topics being covered are:

Dec. 3 - Cultivating Spiritual Intelligence

Dec. 10 - Expressing Spirit in Action

We are asking for a donation of \$10 per class. If you having financial challenges, just talk to Rev. Gail about a scholarship in return for some volunteer contributions to the church. Please join us on these upcoming Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. You will learn some new skills and make some new friends. Call Rev. Gail at 954-288-4245 for more information.

*Rev. Gail*



### Music Notes

Do you feel as if time is passing faster every week. Can it really be time for the December music program?

We have invited Alfredo Tamburrino, flutist to begin the holiday music on December 1. He has chosen a lovely program for prelude, offertory, and postlude.



The wonderful UUCFL choir will join their voices in joyous Christmas selections on December 8 and December 24 at the annual Christmas Eve service.

Perhaps you have missed hearing Charlie play the organ in recent weeks while he has been recovering from shoulder surgery. We hope to welcome him back this month. I think I can safely say that Charlie is fond of Christmas music and will probably be heard playing some of the Ancient Carols that he enjoys and we enjoy hearing along with other familiar Holiday songs. The organ is particularly fitted to this special music.

Bill Cox has also promised to practice, practice, practice to play for one prelude. Go for it, Bill. Now how about some other brave musicians willing to share their talents. We would love to hear from you. Speak to Dot to schedule a part of any service to which you can contribute. If you enjoy hearing special musicians such as Jeremy Miller on violin and others, contributions to the David Fisher Memorial Music Fund are always welcome. That fund pays for hiring these talented professional musicians.

Hope you had a Thankful Thanksgiving. We all look forward to Christmas celebrations rich with familiar hymns and fun songs.

*Dot Muise, Director of Music*

### ChildNet Adopt-a-Wish Program Returns to UUCFL

At a time of year when so many children are dreaming of what Santa Claus will bring them for Christmas, children in foster care are simply hoping someone will remember them this holiday. You can help make wishes come true.

We will be receiving wish lists from children here in Broward County along with their age and gender, and we are asking you to pick one item on their list or to use your imagination and choose your own special gift to be presented to your child for this magical season. Please bring in all gifts in by Sunday, December 15.

We had such a wonderful time with this program last year providing a whole vanload of toys not to mention the priceless smiles on children's faces. Sign up in the Sanctuary, or contact me at 954-670-3664 to find out more. Let's fill lots of little hearts with joy this holiday.

*Lore Bernier*





LifeNet 4 Families  
Cooperative Feeding Program

### LifeNet 4 Families/Cooperative Feeding Update

Join us on Saturday December 7 at 8:45 at the Cooperative Feeding Program for our monthly workday. We usually work in the pantry, filling shelves, making food boxes, and whatever else needs to be done. Sometimes we work in the kitchen or dining room, serving the clients or helping to prepare the lunch. This is a great way to have fun while helping others. The annual holiday distribution of food boxes has been taking place at our church in November, and will happen again in December. It has run smoothly and many folks are getting their much needed food. We are now hosting regular distribution of fresh vegetables and fruits on Tuesdays at the church. Anyone who has need can come and get these fresh fruits and veggies; you do not need to be a food stamp client, or have a Lifenet card. Please let anyone you know that may have food insecurity about this great opportunity.

Info: DRE Susan (954) 424-1910 tiredmomofbob@aol.com

*Susan Friend*

### Men's Group Forming

A number of men in our congregation are interested in starting a men's support group. The primary purpose of a support group is for members to give voice to personal joys, sorrows and concerns that can only be spoken in a trust-based environment of compassionate listeners. The group is a means for men to form more meaningful and supportive relationships with each other.



**MEN'S GROUP**

The plan is to meet at the church every Monday, except the second Monday of the month from 7 PM to 8:45 PM. We will begin meeting as soon as there are at least eight men willing to make a commitment to meet for 10 sessions. (We may wait until after the first of the year if people have commitments over the holidays). Our maximum group size will be 12 men.

Once we begin meeting, enrollment will be closed for the 10 sessions. After 10 sessions, members may choose to continue, but enrollment will be opened as space becomes available.

There will be no fee for membership, but we will pass the basket at each meeting for donations to the church. In addition, the group will likely find other ways to be of service to our church community.

To enroll or ask questions, please contact me at: vicgarlock@gmail.com or 954-563-7769.

*Victor Garlock*



### Don't Miss the Annual Holiday Party!!

Make sure that you are at church on Saturday evening, December 7 at 7PM for our holiday gathering. We will be having supper, making ornaments, decorating the tree, singing, dancing and enjoying each other's company. We will have a potluck supper where a ham will be provided, and you will bring the salads, sides, and desserts. DRE Susan has a sign up sheet, so sign up to bring your holiday specialty. This is one of our best intergenerational activities, and a nice way to spend an evening with friends. Please invite friends, family and neighbors and let them experience our community.

See DRE Susan to sign up to bring food. Info or questions tiredmomofbob@aol.com or 954-424-1910

*Susan Friend*



## Labyrinth Cafe Concerts Presents Sam Pacetti Saturday, December 21 at 7:30pm

(Due to unforeseen circumstances, John William Davis is unable to make it (sad face); We are fortunate to be able to present Sam Pacetti...the adorable and amazing Brian Tate will be accompanying Sam on bass... and Sam has personally chosen Michael Jordan to open the show!)  
www.sampacetti.com

Sam Pacetti is one who brings it all together. A fingerstyle guitar wizard. A deft songwriter, capable of haunting depth and wry humor in the space of one song. An impassioned and ecstatic vocalist, as well as a mesmerizing live performer, seamlessly melding head-spinning guitar pyrotechnics and raw emotion into one breathtaking package. Tradition and innovation neatly balance in Sam Pacetti's music, the whole infused by a relentless intelligence intent on musical and philosophical synthesis. Martin Simpson, Richard Thompson, Joni Mitchell and Merle Travis are touchstones to Pacetti, and while there are strong elements of the American primitive school of guitar wizardry throughout his work, there is a powerful raw emotionality evident as well - an earthy sensuality more reminiscent of a Greg Brown or a red-dirt blues master than of a musical academician.



Brian Tate "plays the bass and he is a man of few words. But words don't take us where we need to go when it comes to the bass. Brian will take you there." Brian also curates the Tuesday night Downtown Jazz Series at The Corner.

These days it's hard to do something new with just an acoustic guitar, but that's what Michael Jordan is all about. Placing the instrument flat wise across his lap, he combines alternate tunings with tapping techniques and percussion on the body of the guitar creating sounds that defy the formal approach of playing the acoustic. His use of haunting harmonics and his unique voice, coupled with reflective heady lyrics, build a wall of sound like no other, at times giving the aura of a full band. During a performance, Michael will quite often switch between lap style and formal positioning of the guitar, providing a dynamic wide-ranging experience for viewers, spanning from blissfully beautiful to maniacal rants to catchy hooks. Whether he's street performing or playing a big stage be prepared to be amazed, shocked, uneasy and hugged at the same time.

Reservations requested but not required: Contact Susan at OzWoman321@aol.com or 954-478-8637 \$20 at the door, plus non-perishable item for our local Cooperative Feeding Program (canned meats, beans, fruits, vegetables, peanut butter, dried milk, pasta, rice, cereal, baby food and baby formula); advance reservations: \$17, checks (made out to Artist) received in the UU church office no later than Wednesday before Saturday show.

We're once again offering a season pass which includes admission to all remaining shows, as well as premium reserved seating and a Labyrinth Cafe T-shirt (designed and printed by Virginia and Erik, Labyrinth Cafe volunteers) - it's a wonderful way to support the UU church, our performers and the continuation of live, original music!

Please visit [www.labyrinthcafe.com](http://www.labyrinthcafe.com) for further details and the artists' websites, and our Facebook page to give us a thumbs-up, which will then keep you informed of upcoming concerts - see you soon!

***Susan Moss, Coordinator, Labyrinth Cafe Concert Series***

### Coming CUUPS Events



Saturday December 14 we celebrate our Moonpath CUUPS Yule Ritual. We gather at 7:30 PM for ceremony and extravagance. Come join in this Slavic Honoring of the Dark Time of the Year with a special guest appearance by Elrick the Apothecary.

Thursday Evening Study Groups continue with a different topic each week. We might not meet December 26 but we will figure that out later. Watch for announcements online at [www.MoonpathCUUPS.org/coming.htm](http://www.MoonpathCUUPS.org/coming.htm).

***Kip, Resident Pagan***

### Money Skills

Money Skills is a free online financial literacy course for teenagers.

See [www.moneyskill.org](http://www.moneyskill.org).

Here is basic

education in money

management that is not taught in Florida high schools. Allen Giese of Northstar Financial Planners,

[www.northstarplanners.com](http://www.northstarplanners.com), who advises us on our Endowment investments,

set himself up as a local contact for this program for UU kids. Email Allen

at [allen@northstarplanners.com](mailto:allen@northstarplanners.com) or call 954-693-0030.



UU Florida Southeast Cluster

STANDING ON THE SIDE OF

LOVE

Expand your UU and Facebook horizons by joining the new UU Southeast Cluster page to stay informed about activities of the Cluster which encompasses participating congregations from the Treasure Coast to the Virgin Islands

Visit this page and click "Like" to join  
[www.facebook.com/UUFloridaSoutheastCluster](http://www.facebook.com/UUFloridaSoutheastCluster)



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
 ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS



UUA INTERNATIONAL



### UUA President Peter Morales attends the 8th World Assembly of Religions for Peace: "Welcoming the Other"

As I attend the Religions for Peace World Assembly in Vienna, I can't help but feel deep pride as a Unitarian Universalist. There are more than six hundred religious leaders here from all over the world—Muslims, Christians, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists and Sikhs. There are even smaller groups like Zoroastrians and Jains (at only four million). We UU's are probably the smallest group here—and yet we are in no small part responsible for the existence of this body. The first president of the UUA, Dana Greeley, played a critical role in the founding of this organization. Our Japanese partners, the Rissho Kosei-kai, were also part of founding Religions for Peace. It was a joy to see these good Japanese colleagues again and share a meal with them..



What is perhaps most striking at this conference is how easily and naturally all these people—from every part of the world and from virtually every religious group—can work together. These are leaders committed to making their religious traditions agents of peace and harmony in the world. They unanimously reject hatred and violence.

Once more I am impressed by how the great struggles in the world today are not really between different religions and cultures. The conflicts are among the reactionary elements of the world's religions and cultures. Progressive Jews, Muslims, Christians and others have learned how to draw upon their deep traditions and yet to also appreciate other traditions as well.

During the conference I served on a panel at a workshop dealing with education for peace. In my brief remarks I drew upon our own UU tradition, going back to Sophia Fahs and before, of pioneering the teaching about other religious traditions in a respectful way. I went on to add my own conviction that we need to move beyond the cognitive teaching about other faiths to an interpersonal and experiential encounter with other faiths in their cultural contexts. Our fledgling learning service efforts in the College of Social Justice is a fine example of this.

Religion, alas, is still used to justify unspeakable violence. Such violence makes news. Here in Vienna, a vital global effort that we UU's helped to create uses religion as a means to spread understanding, compassion and peace. Cooperation is quiet. Appreciative understanding is silent. They do not make big news. However, when we finally get to the point where the world has learned to live in harmony and peace, enlightened religious leaders like these good people here in Vienna will have done much to make such a world possible.

What a humbling privilege it is to be here as a representative of our faith.

*Peter Morales*

President Unitarian Universalist Association

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TBA

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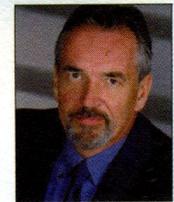
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**December Birthdays**



- CATERINA TURNER 12/2
- AMY LADKA 12/3
- PIERRE CLAROS 12/4
- TAYLOR MATTIS 12/12
- BILL COX 12/13
- JERRY WALTZ 12/15
- STEPHEN LANGE 12/16
- RONNIE VAN SICKLE 12/18
- JIM GIBLIN 12/24
- SAVANNAH FRIEND 12/29
- ANNEMARIE JAMESON 12/30
- KIMANI SALIM PEARCE 12/30

Please Patronize and refer the above Friends and Members of the Church as they support the us with their advertising. Make sure you tell them you saw their ad in The Journey.

If you would like to see your birthday announced here and in the cUUrIOUS cUUrIer email newsletter, please contact the office to make sure we have your updated information in the computer

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Unitarian  
Universalist  
Church of Ft. Lauderdale

# December Calendar



<b>1</b> •9:30am - UU Sisterhood	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> •7:00pm - Spiritual Maturity Class with Rev. Gail (see page 5)	<b>4</b> •6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> •7:30 pm CUUPS	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> •8:45am - LifeNet4 Families Workday (See page 6) •4:00pm Occupy/ Labor Outreach •7:00pm - Annual Church Holiday Party (See page 6)
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> •7:00pm - Board Meeting	<b>10</b> •7:00pm - Spiritual Maturity Class with Rev. Gail (see page 5)	<b>11</b> •6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b> •7:30 pm CUUPS	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> •7:30 pm CUUPS Yule Celebration (See page 7)
<b>15</b> • Journey Submission Deadline •ChildNet Gift Deadline (See Page 5) •9:30am - UU Sisterhood	<b>16</b> •7:00pm - Sunday Services Committee	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> •6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> •7:30 pm CUUPS	<b>20</b> •7:00pm - Third Friday Vespers Service (see page 5)	<b>21</b> •7:30 pm Labyrinth Café Concert (See page 7)
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> •7:00pm - Welcoming/ Membership Committee	<b>24</b> •6:00pm - Christmas Eve Special Church Service	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b> •7:30 pm CUUPS 	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>Happy New Year</b> 	Every Sunday : 11:00 AM- Church Service and Children's Religious Education	Religious Education Events See special calendar on the RE page 4	Visit our on line calendar for late-breaking events <a href="http://www.uucfl.org">www.uucfl.org</a> and click "Coming Activities"	

Unitarian  
Universalist  
Church of Ft. Lauderdale

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Minister Phone: 954-288-4245

E-mail: uucfl@aol.com

Website: www.uucfl.org

Sundays Service & Children's  
at 11 am: Religious Education

The JOURNEY



Sunday Morning Services at 11 am

DECEMBER 2013

**December 1 - Advent and Adventure** - The season of Advent is about waiting and one thing we are always waiting for is to see the next adventure life will bring us. Rev. Gail will reflect on what an adventure really is and how one can change us completely. Alfredo Tamburrino will be gracing us with his skills on the flute.

**December 8 - Good Will and Blessings to All** - Rev. Gail will look at two of the terms often associated with this season. Along with peace on earth, the concept of good will to all humans is found in the Gospel of Luke. "God, bless us every one" is the phrase attributed to Tiny Tim in Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." We surely can't love everyone or even like everyone but can we have good will toward everyone and bless them?

**December 15 - Holiday Service** The young people in our Religious Education program along with our Director of Religious Education, Susan Friend, will present a memorable service of cheer and merriment for the holiday season

**December 22 - Old, Old, Old Christmas** - Rev. Gail and her friend and colleague, John Ross will look at some of the extremely ancient legends and traditions that appear in some of the symbols and stories of the Christmas season. Learn about the contributions of ancient shamans, Zoroastrians and others that underlie the stories we think we know.

**Christmas Eve Service - Tuesday December 24 at 6:00 pm**

A hybrid service including traditional readings, carols and commentary and a skit based on "A Charlie Brown Christmas" presented by UUCFL thespians. Our wonderful choir will be singing. There will be cookies, punch and holiday fellowship on the patio afterwards.

**December 29 - Kwanzaa** - Rev. Opal Murray and friends bring us another take on this African-American holiday that makes it universal.

**January 5 - Adventures Of A Drama Queen** - Rev. Gail will share some of her experiences at total immersion drama festivals where "the play's the thing" at least twice a day.

