



GNUUs

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February Theme: The Gifts of Justice & Equity



Justice and Equity. These foundational principles are essential for fostering a fair and inclusive society and are among the core values of our UU faith. When we take a step back to see the systemic implications of our individual choices and actions, we are engaging with the concepts of Justice and Equity.

If we explore them through the lens of our congregational mission, it might look something like:

- What does equity truly mean in a given circumstance or situation? (Curiosity)
- What action can I take to further the cause of justice? (Courage)
- How can I effect justice and advance equity in the situations I encounter in my daily life? (Compassion)

These are challenging questions, and as UUs we are called to engage with them, to seek answers and take action that will make a positive impact on the world we inhabit. And we cannot do it alone - achievement of these goals requires a commitment to working together in community.

Shared values, common goals, strong commitment. These are elements at the heart of our UU congregations and communities. UUCG looks forward to exploring The Gifts of Justice & Equity throughout this month together! [Find resources to explore here.](#)

Events This Month

- Feb 3.....Property Work Day*
- Feb 3.....Magical Arts and Crafts*
- Feb 3.....Imbolc Ritual*
- Feb 4...Food Bank Donations*
- Feb 4.....Congregational Conversation*+
- Feb 7....Yarns from the Heart+
- Feb 11.....Spiral Scouts+
- Feb 11.....Belief Exploration+
- Feb 11.....Abundant LUUV Walk^
- Feb 17...Green Team Meeting+
- Feb 21.....Yarns From the Heart+
- Feb 21.....Board Meeting+
- Feb 25.....Good Trouble+*
- Feb 28.....Book Group+
- Tuesdays.....Choir Rehearsal*
- Thursdays.....Music Night*
- Sundays.....Tarot Sunday+

*in person

+via Zoom

For details visit uucg.org

Did you Gnow?

Frogs can hear both in the air and below water. They do not have external ears; the eardrums (tympanic membranes) are directly exposed or may be covered by a layer of skin and are visible as a circular area just behind the eye.





Worship in February Sundays at 11:00am

Theme: *The Gifts of Justice
and Equity*

Join us via Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/565460176>

February 4

The Gifts of Justice and Equity: Reconnecting with Our Hearts

What stories do we each carry about hearing a “summons” or a call to help make the world, our community, and our families even a little bit more just and equitable? When have these moments touched your heart, broken you open to a new way of being?

Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones (she/her), Service Leader

February 11

Equity and Justice--When Love Is the Center

Equity and justice are legal and social terms that help us view how we do things systematically. What does love have to do with them, if anything? Love is a personal feeling isn't it? Does it belong in a discussion of equity and justice?

Bob Patrick (he/him), Service Leader

February 18

“All of Us Need All of Us to Make It”: So Many Ways to Engage!

“All of us need all of us to make it,” writes Rev. Julián Jamaica Soto. So what do we do if our life circumstances limit the ways we can connect with the work for justice and equity? How do we figure out “what is ours to do” in any given moment? Let's explore the many paths to building a beloved community--we are truly in this together!

Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones (she/her), Service Leader

February 25

Justice and Equity in an Emergency

We consider how we can serve justice and equity by tending to our own safety and the safety of others.

Bill Benshoof (he/him), Service Leader

Looking Ahead

March Theme: The Gift of Transformation

Faith Formation Hour Schedule Sundays at 12:30pm

1st Sunday, Feb 4

- Congregational Conversation
- Potluck Lunch

2nd Sunday, Feb 11

- Spiral Scouts (pre-registration required)
- Belief Explorers

3rd Sunday, Feb 18

- Sunday Tarot

4th Sunday, Feb 25

- “Good Trouble”

Visit [the Calendar](#)
at www.uucg.org for details





Rediscovering the Joy of the Journey

by Reverend Nancy Palmer Jones (she/her)



“Oh, I love your necklace!” I hear whenever I’m wearing one of my rainbow-colored chalice pendants.

“Thanks so much! It’s the symbol of

my religion, Unitarian Universalism!” I never pass up a chance to tell more people about us.

“Uni-what?” is almost always the reply.

“Unitarian Universalism,” I say again with a laugh. “I know, it’s a lot of syllables!” And then I launch into an enthusiastic version of my “elevator speech,” the shortest, clearest description I can come up with for our beautiful, complicated faith:

“We believe that every person and everything is born with beauty and worthy of respect, and that we’re all connected, so what we do matters. This means we’re called to work for justice for everyone, and for the earth and all its creatures. And it means we can have people of all races, genders, sexual orientations, abilities, and beliefs in the sanctuary on a Sunday morning.”

For years now, I’ve used this link between Unitarian Universalism’s First Principle (the inherent worth and dignity of all) and the Seventh (the interconnected web) to name why justice work is the logical and inevitable result of our two core beliefs.

Lately, though, I’ve begun to wonder if this logical connection is really enough to keep us going on the journey to creating all-inclusive Beloved Community. There’s just so much pain and suffering in our lives and in our world, whether we’re feeling it directly or

indirectly. All different kinds of trauma—generational, familial, societal—have been exacerbated by the pandemic, by fear-driven polarization, by hate speech, acts of violence, and war.

It’s dis-heartening, to say the least; it can crumple our hearts, bodies, and spirits. The motivation of the mind—“I know this is what I should do”—simply can’t cut through our disillusionment and our despair.

So this month, as we look at “The Gifts of Justice and Equity,” I want to return to the “Liberating Love” (January’s theme) that’s at the core of who we are and why we’re called to this work. Let’s remember what justice and equity feel like in our relationships, in our encounters large and small. Let’s reconnect with “The Joy of the Journey” (the first title that Karin Lin and I tried on for our book *Mistakes and Miracles*). Let’s savor the beauty in the people we meet and relish the expansiveness of what we learn when we join in helping to heal the world. Let’s look for the gifts in the work itself and rediscover how it makes us feel alive!

I’m so glad to be on the journey with you!

With Love at the center,
Rev. Nancy

WE ARE:

ALL CONNECTED

STRONGER TOGETHER

LOVE’S HANDS IN THE WORLD

CALLED TO CREATE JUSTICE

**RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE
ANOTHER AND THE EARTH**

 UUA.ORG/IMAGES

Rev. Nancy's Welcome Celebration and Covenanting Service



Welcome Celebration

By Jen Garrison (she/her)

On January 5, 2024 we celebrated and welcomed Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones into our UUCG family with a lively party! Many of our founders, long-time, and newer members & friends joined us to celebrate a new chapter in our UUCG history. We enjoyed good food, music and company. There were many lively conversations throughout the room and at tables as we enjoyed our meal together. Rev. Nancy greeted many of us personally with her smile and energetic spirit. It was a great night, and a wonderful way to begin a new chapter here at UUCG. We formally welcomed Rev. Nancy with a Covenanting Ceremony during the Worship Service on January 21, and **her first service in the pulpit will be on February 4.** Please join us as we welcome Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones!





Message from the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that in December two new AC units were installed at UUCG. The previous units served us well for a very long time, but one had finally given out and the other was close behind. In November, the congregation voted to move forward with the work, and the exact language of that adopted proposal was:

“The Board of Trustees of UUCG proposes to take out a loan from the UUCG Endowment Fund for \$20,000.00 in fiscal year 2023 as a means of funding the replacement of two of the three HVAC systems, including the replacement of two gas furnaces with heat pumps.”

The language was very specific, as the intention was to have this important and necessary task align with our core values: to make our sanctuary a green space. We are so grateful for the congregation's support, and we are proud of our bold community.

However, as often happens with even the best laid plans, we had some complications.

The electrician who was preparing the electrical boxes for the HVAC work informed us that UUCG does not have enough power to the building to support the full heat pump systems. We have 400 Amps into the building. Between the 120A water heater, the kitchen appliances, etc., the new systems would overload the power supply. Apparently, this a common conundrum: the heat pumps require a lot of amperage, especially with the heat strips that are needed for those "extreme" cold days. To install and fully utilize the heat pumps, UUCG needed to have additional electrical work done, which was not budgeted.

We had other conditions to consider, as well, such as the current nonfunctioning AC being required to be replaced per the contract with our rentals; and we had few opportunities where the building is essentially empty to have work done. This left us with a few options:

Move the project forward using high efficiency furnaces, which would have less environmental impact than the current furnaces, but it would

commit UUCG to gas furnaces for at least another 20 years.

Only replace the AC units with comparable AC units, and deal with the heating issues when the furnaces require replacement.

Replace the AC units with the "heat pump" units as AC only. Then, when the congregation is ready to upgrade the electrical system, we would be positioned to transition to the full heat pumps and remove gas furnaces.

In keeping with the intent of the adopted proposal, we chose Option #3. Should UUCG transition away from gas furnaces later, it will not require replacement of the newer AC units. We felt this option gave the congregation the most flexibility to accomplish UUCG's long-term goals of reduction of CO2 emissions, and met the short term needs of sufficient heating/cooling within the given budget.

Notably, the project did come in under budget! The remaining funds will be held in reserve while we explore the cost of additional electrical work.

We thank everyone who has worked with us on this project. In particular, we acknowledge the contributions of Doug Beers and the UUCG Endowment Fund; Terry Welsher and Georgia Interfaith Power & Light; Christiana McQuain and the UUCG staff; and especially congregant Ian Van Sice, whose expert advice guided us in the process, including the selection of the best vendor to complete this work.

If you have questions or comments, please email board@uucg.org or feel free to speak with any of our Board Members in person.

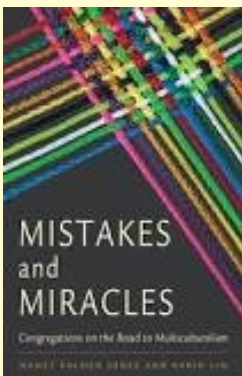
- Dan Kelly
On behalf of the UUCG Board of Trustees



Congregational Conversation

Sunday, February 4th at 12:30pm

This month we will explore the question, “**How will we expand and strengthen our multicultural/multigenerational inclusivity and engagement?**”



An excerpt from Rev. Nancy’s book *Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism* will provide the foundation for our discussion. (If you are interested in purchasing a copy, [please reach out to Christiana](#). If you are interested in borrowing a copy, there are some available in the Treehouse Room library at UUCG.)

Facilitated by *Candice Carver (she/her)*
and *Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones (she/her)*



2024 Pledge Drive Update

Pledge Drive goal: \$135,000

Current amount of Pledges received: \$113,816

The Pledge Drive is officially over, but there is still time to submit your Pledge Form if you haven’t already done so. We value every financial gift. We invite you into visioning what we can create when we join our resources together, in a spirit of generosity and stewardship.

This is *Our* House. Welcome Home.



Stewardship Opportunities

Click each link for more information

[Give Time](#)

[Give Money](#)

[Give Materials](#)

We are especially in need of

- Childcare Volunteers
- Facilitators for Faith Development
- New Walkie Talkies for Security (see [our wish-list](#))
- Zoom Managers for Sunday Worship (can be done from home!)

Building Facts

The labyrinth was first built in 2004, renewed in 2014, and renewed again in 2023. Thanks to all who have tended it in the past and all who will walk it in the future.

This Quarter’s Give Away the Plate Recipient

[Youth Villages—Georgia](#)

[Learn more...](#)



Raise the Roof!

We are looking for some volunteers! As the congregation knows, we have experienced issues with our roof leaking over the last two years. We have made great progress in addressing those leaks, from replacing gutters to installing new boots around the pipes. However, we have plenty more work to do!

Our next ROOF PARTY WORKDAY™ © (patent pending) will be on Saturday, February 17th, 8:30 am – 1:30 pm. This is weather permitting, but current forecasts bode well!

If you are

- 1) unafraid of heights,
- 2) physically able to climb an extension ladder and do light manual labor,
- 3) willing to get a little dirty, and
- 4) looking for a fun group to hang out with on January 27th,

please reach out to Dan Kelly at darkscreenwriter@gmail.com to volunteer.

We appreciate the tremendous gifts that each and every one of you bring to our community, and we thank you for your support in this endeavor.

- Dan Kelly
On behalf of the UUCG Board of Trustees

Congregational Photo 2024

Click image to enlarge



UUCG Staff Hours

Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones *Minister*

email: revnpj@uucg.org

phone/text: 678-558-4834

office hours:

by appointment Tuesday afternoons, Thursday afternoons & evenings, one Saturday each month

Christiana McQuain *Coordinator of Family Ministries*

email: cmcquain@uucg.org

office hours:

Tuesdays 9:00am-4:00pm;

(on-site) Fridays 9:00am-2:00pm;

most Sundays 8:30am-2:00pm

Available for communication outside of these hours, but please be patient in anticipation of a reply

Aline Harris *Office Administrator*

email: aharris@uucg.org

office hours:

(remotely) Tuesdays 10am-1pm,

(on-site) Fridays 10am-1pm

& most Sundays 11am-noon

Michael Parker *Choir Director*

email: choirdirector@uucg.org

office hours:

(on-site) Tuesdays, 1:00pm-

6:00pm, by appointment

Available for communication outside of these hours, but please be patient in anticipation of a reply

Becca Parker *Choir Director*

email: choirdirector@uucg.org

office hours:

on-site most Sunday mornings

LaTreisha McKey *Bookkeeper*

email: bookkeeper@uucg.org

office hours:

available for communication on Monday evenings, 5:00-8:00pm



Why Serve on the UUCG Board?

By Maryjane Stout (she/her)

Every committee and team at UUCG is in recruiting mode these days. We're each asked to give of our time, talent, or treasure. We need your help to run our cherished faith community and its programs. Do what you're comfortable with! Maybe you want to start small – join the Hospitality Committee. Have a passion for our environment? Join the Green Team. The opportunities are numerous.

If you've been on a committee or two, been a UU for a few years, and been a member of UUCG for at least one year, perhaps you're ready to step up, to give more. Consider serving on our Board of Trustees. The Board is vested with the care and administration of UUCG and its business affairs. It meets monthly, often via Zoom, with the amount of work and study between meetings varying from year to year.

I served on the Board for two years. I found it both gratifying and challenging. I grew; I stretched. I learned more about the governance of UUCG and its relationship with the UUA. I learned about the structure of nonprofit corporations, expanded my leadership skills, and improved my ability to listen mindfully and compassionately.

My experience is in line with that of others. According to GrowthForce.com, aside from developing leadership skills, nonprofit board members increase their emotional intelligence, becoming better listeners, more empathic, and more appreciative of different experiences. GrowthForce also says that, by serving on a nonprofit board, "you can gain or improve your ability to make decisions, think critically, and solve problems as a part of a greater ability to plan strategically for future success." These skills can serve your career and your personal relationships.

I'm proud of what the Board accomplished during the two years I served. You, too, can feel that sense of pride in a job well done!

Board Positions

Initially, Board members are elected as at-large members. After serving and observing for a few months, you volunteer for a specific position: Treasurer-elect, Secretary-elect, or President-elect-elect. You serve in "elect" mode for a year, then step into the primary role. What other role can you think of where you have an entire year to learn the job? You're needed as a Secretary if you have word processing skills, or as the Treasurer if you have basic Excel skills. Nothing advanced! You can improve as you go. (The President-elect-elect serves a year before becoming President-elect.)

At the start of the program year (July), the Board holds a weekend retreat.

If the thought of joining our Board appeals to you, reach out to [Peggy Averyt, Nominating Committee Chair](#), for more information, this month. The Committee determines the nominees.



Hefty ReNew PROGRAM

Check this list for the many hard-to-recycle plastics that can go in your Hefty® ReNew™ orange bags. All items must be clean, dry and free of foil lining:



PLASTIC PACKAGING - NO FOIL LINING

- See-through chip bags
- Snack food bags
- Plastic pet food bags
- Fresh/frozen vegetable & fruit bags
- Salad bags
- Shredded cheese packages
- Cheese stick packages
- See-through granola & energy bar wrappers
- See-through candy wrappers
- See-through stand up pouches
- Pudding cups
- Yogurt tubs
- Butter/Margarine tubs
- Sour cream tubs
- Dry mix liners (cake, powder mixes)
- Cereal box liners
- Cookie/cracker box liners



PLASTIC BAGS & WRAPS*

- Plastic air pillow packs
- Plastic bubble wrap
- Plastic grocery bags
- Plastic food wrap
- Food storage bags



FOAM PRODUCTS

- Foam cups, plates & bowls
- Foam to-go boxes
- Foam packing peanuts
- Foam egg cartons
- Foam block packaging



PLASTIC DINNERWARE

- Plastic straws and stirrers
- Plastic utensils
- Plastic colored cups
- Plastic plates and bowls
- Rigid plastic clear glasses



The following items ARE NOT accepted in the orange bags

NO



NO batteries or electronics



NO food, liquid or coffee grounds



NO cans, glass or plastic bottles



NO 1, 2, or 3 plastics



NO paper, cartons or boxes



NO medical products or hazardous waste



NO hoses, tubes or rope



NO foil or aluminum

*Please include plastic bags & wraps if store drop-off recycling programs are not available locally.



- January 6
- February 3
- March 2
- April 6
- May 4
- June 1
- July 6
- August 3
- September 7
- October 5
- November 2
- December 7

2024 Notes from the Green Team

Our Brainstorming Breakfast on January 6 was a morning of fellowship and ideas. Xoe Kelly reviewed what we had accomplished the past year:

- one session of the Web of Life curriculum
- a screening of The Biggest Little Farm
- replanting the labyrinth with native plants
- helping to replace the AC units in the building with heat pump

We then moved to **ideas for 2024**; waste and the waste stream were recurring topics. Hannah Schultz from Georgia Interfaith Power and Light (GIPL) was our consultant for the morning, and she suggested that we take a **tour of the West Rock Recycling Center** in Marietta to see what happened to the things we throw away. Waste will also be a focus of the **Web of Life curriculum** presented this year. There may even be a **trip to Scraplanta** to deliver and pick up art supplies that are no longer needed. And because we had an instance of dumping in the back of our parking lot that required hazardous waste removal, the topic of cameras and signage came up once again.

The specifics of cleaning up along one mile of Bethesda Church Road were discussed with the idea that we take part in **Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful's Adopt-A-road program**. After they approve our choice of road, we need to schedule four clean-up sessions per year. They will provide bags, trash pickers, and safety vests for us and let the count know that trash bags are ready to be disposed of.

GIPL offers a **legislative letter writing campaign to save the Okefenokee Swamp from mining activity** as presented in Georgia House Bill 71. Hannah also suggested that we screen Sacred Waters, a film about the unique importance of the Okefenokee Swamp. And although HB 71 did not get to a vote last year, it could come up again in 2024. Be sure to find out who your local state representatives are!

“Republican Rep. Darlene Taylor of Thomasville has persuaded a bipartisan group of 90 fellow lawyers to co-sponsor House Bill 71, which would prohibit the state from granting mining permits along Trail Ridge on the swamp’s eastern boundary.

Whether Twin Pines will be allowed to mine on 773 acres (312 hectares) is completely up to Georgia state officials, as the federal government relinquished any permitting authority over the Twin Pines project following a rollback of environmental regulations under President Donald Trump.”

- [apnews.com March 14, 2023](https://www.apnews.com/March-14-2023)

And our **UUA Action of Immediate Witness concerning the Police Training Center in Atlanta** (Stop Cop City), and their lack of environmental impact statement, was on the table as well. More letter writing and other activities as needed.

Bruce Leonard, a newer church member, presented an original artwork, Butterfly Effect as a visualization of spiritual connection to greenspace work peace. **International Peace Day is September 21, 2024**. Bruce strongly feels that a community event is needed.

GIPL is having a **Green Team Summit Saturday, February 3, 2024**, 10:00 AM -4:00 PM at the Oak Grove Methodist Church, 1722 Oak Grove Road, Decatur. Rooted in Resilience will present speakers and workshops from 10:00 am -4:00pm.

See you on the next Beautification Day!!

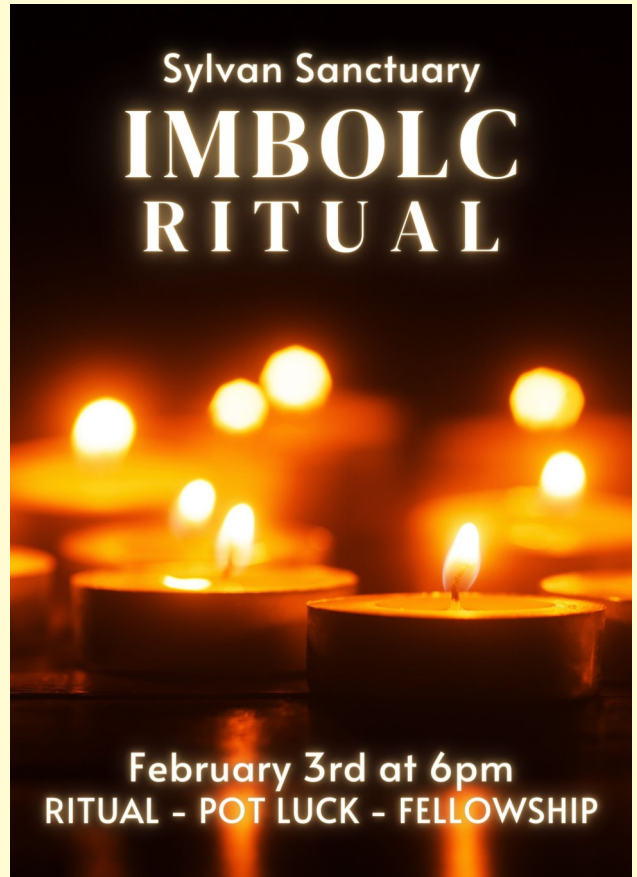
Imbolc Ritual

February 3rd at 6:00pm

Imbolc is said to be from an old Irish word that means “in the belly,” referring to the pregnant ewes who were about to give birth to their lambs. During this time we celebrate the turning of Winter to Spring. In addition, this is also the time to honor Brigid, the goddess of fire, the sun, the hearth, smithcraft, healing, poetry and fertility among many other things.

The Sylvan Sanctuary Druids’ Imbolc Ritual involves a bit of preparation. We bless our Brigid’s Mantles the night before the ritual by leaving them out to collect the dew of the morning. This is called a Brat Bhríde, it is then blessed at the ritual by many hands and worn for personal protection and health throughout the year. Please join us for ritual and pot luck afterwards. As always ritual attire is not required. Please bring a dish to share, a donation to the Monthly Lawrenceville Co-op Food Drive, a wand or staff, and a noise maker.

Come be Curious, Courageous, and Compassionate with us as we strive to be a radically welcoming sanctuary in a green space, and foster spiritual growth as we joyfully nurture connections and community within our walls and beyond.



Magical Arts and Crafts

February 3rd at 3:00pm

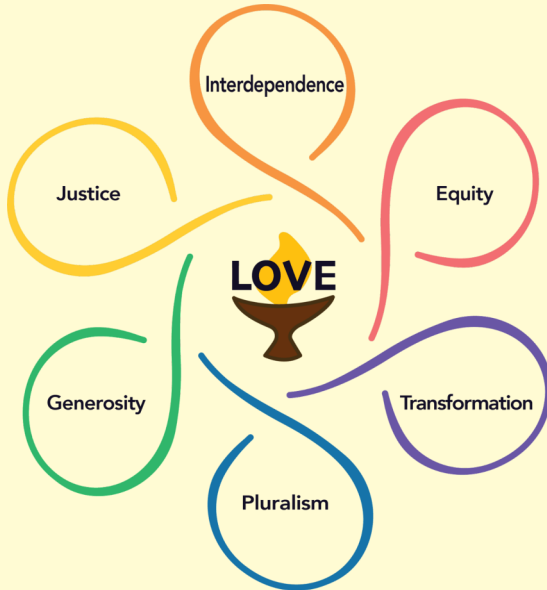
Join the UUCG Oak Grove CUUPS Magical Arts & Crafts as we make herbed salts & butter, bring your favorite herbs and a few jars for the salts. Materials will be provided but it’s best to also have your own if you have a special herb you want to use. Dried herbs will be available, fresh if it’s available. Various salts such as Sea Salt, Pink Salt and Rock Salt will be available as well. Only unsalted butter will be available, if there is time a demonstration on how to make homemade butter in a blender or food processor will take place. Various molds for the butter will be available as well.



Tending the Flame

Notes from Faith Development

by Christiana McQuain (she/her), Coordinator of Family Ministries



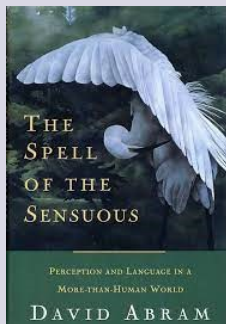
In advance of this year's General Assembly in June, there is a lot of conversation about the proposed changes to Article II of the UUA bylaws - naming our values, in the place that currently enumerates our Principles. I am excited about this proposal because it offers us (all Unitarian Universalists) an opportunity to explore - both within our congregations and more broadly for ourselves - how we articulate with language and with our actions what it means to be UU. How do we live into these shared values every day? How do we intentionally hold love at the center of all we do? This month we are exploring The Gifts of Justice and Equity. What a beautifully rich theme to dig into! You can find the [Faith Development Resource Pages here](#) if you are interested to engage

with media content, activities, and Spiritual Practices related to the theme.

Belief Explorers

February 11th at 12:30pm

Written as a means of providing conceptual tools for environmental activism, **The Spell of the Sensuous** by *David Abram*, explores our estrangement from the more than human world. Using examples from multiple cultures, it takes us on a lyrical and evocative journey where we see how the character of our perception and means of communication affects our experiential engagement and reciprocity with the world around us.



Beginning this month in Family Faith Development (R.E.) we will be exploring the proposed articulation of UU Values through a new curriculum, LEGO ValUUES (similar to the UU LEGO Sources curriculum that the kids loved so much when we engaged with it online in 2022). This program invites families to explore the Values through story, discussion, LEGO builds, and art. I am very excited to offer it following Worship Services through the spring on first and third Sundays on-site at UUCG, supplemented by at-home activities on even weeks.

Please [register for Faith Development](#) if you are interested in receiving these resources directly to your email, and [reach out to me](#) (Christiana) if you are interested in facilitating any of these sessions.

(It's LEGO! What's not to love?)

Yours in faith and covenant, Christiana

Message from the Lay Minister

By Lisa Kiel (she/her), Lay Minister of Connecting Beyond

It's a New Year, and if you've been coming to UUCG in person lately, you've probably noticed a positive, excited atmosphere. Our new part-time minister, Rev. Nancy, is in the building! We are turning a new chapter together here at UUCG, and we need absolutely everyone, because each and every one of us brings unique gifts to our eclectic congregation! We are being blessed with new comers as well as the return of folks we haven't seen in a while. Potluck lunches are bringing everyone together to socialize, and programs like Covenant Group and Transgender Inclusion in Congregations are in full swing. There's a lot to be both thankful for and excited about! This is a great time to be part of our community as we navigate this transitional period and begin to reimagine our future together!

As the Lay Leader for Connecting Within, it's my job to oversee and help organize the groups and teams here at UUCG that help us connect with one another. Sometimes, that connection involves finding folks to support others through difficult times with practical things like meals, rides to appointments, help with tasks or home visits for those unable to get out and about. A lot of these types of needs are communicated to our congregants by emails from our Care Circles program. These Care Circles are determined geographically to help us find those nearby that need our help! You're going to be hearing more about Care Circles in the future as we are updating our program and exploring ways to make accessing the Circles as easy as possible. I encourage you to keep an eye out in your emails for any needs that arise in your Circle.

Because UUCG is such a deeply caring community, we have a Pastoral Care Team here that is available to all of us by phone every day from 9 am to 9pm. This team of caring associates are trained to listen and companion folks through difficult times or even just difficult days.

There are times when we all need a bit of extra support or someone to just talk to. Perhaps, you're facing a move, a work conflict, an upcoming surgery or the loss of a friend or loved one. This team holds all conversations in confidence and in compassion. Please don't hesitate to call thinking my problem isn't an emergency or isn't that important. The Pastoral Care Team is here for all of us, and it is a wonderful resource! So, stop right now and enter (770)217-7848 into your phone's contacts where it's handy if you need it. When I look at UUCG I see a lot of caring and compassionate folks willing to help and support others, and I also see programs we can utilize better so needs don't fall between the cracks. I am thankful to be part of such a loving community.

With gratitude,
Lisa

New Group Spotlight!

Music Night is a great opportunity for musicians of all skill levels to meet up for weekly jam sessions on Thursday nights at 6:30 in the UUCG Sanctuary. There is practice time for folks learning an instrument and time for anyone wanting to practice with the newly formed band that will be performing in the Worship Services on 4th Sundays when our choir is given a much deserved break! Even if your musical talent is being a part of the audience, you are more than welcome to show up and enjoy this new group!

Questions? Please speak with Ian Van Sice or Ginny Andino. Or email info@uucg.org

D&D for Youth

D&D youth group for ages 8-16 is finally here! The initial gathering will be on Friday, February 23rd. Registration is open now.



What is Social Connectedness and Why is it Important?

Article from the CDC

The Power of Connection

“When you feel like you belong and have the support and care you need, as well as the number, quality, and diversity of relationships you want—this is what’s known as social connectedness. People with meaningful social connections have:

- Less stress and better sleep.
- Better overall health that can lead to a longer life.
- Healthier habits and behaviors.
- Better quality of life and a sense of belonging.”

[Read more](#)



Ongoing Connecting Within Opportunities:

Chalice Circle - monthly meeting set by members

Book Club - meets online every 4th Wednesday from 7-9 pm

Yarns from the Heart - meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday online at 10 am

QUUest - meets every 1st Friday at 6pm in person and every 3rd Friday at 7 pm online

Spiral Scouts - meets every 2nd Sunday following Sunday service

Music Night - meets every Thursday night starting at 6:30

Spring Covenant Groups now in session. New groups coming in fall 2024

Transgender Inclusion Workshop now in session.



UUCG Book Group Selection

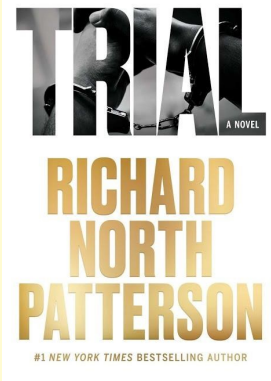
Trial by Richard North Patterson

Meeting Wednesday, February 28 at 7pm

“In a propulsive narrative that culminates in a nationally televised murder case, *Trial* explores America’s most incendiary flashpoints of race.

A Black eighteen-year-old voting rights worker, Malcolm Hill, is stopped by a white sheriff’s deputy on a dark country road in rural Georgia. His single mother, Allie, America’s leading voting rights advocate, restlessly awaits his return before police inform her that Malcolm has been arrested for murder. In Washington D.C., the rising, young, white congressman Chase Brevard of Massachusetts is watching the morning news with his girlfriend, only to find his life transformed in a single moment by the appearance of Malcolm’s photograph. Suddenly all three are enveloped in a media firestorm that threatens their lives—especially Malcolm’s.”

[\[See more\]](#)



Atlanta Pride— Save the Date

The dates have been set for Atlanta Pride—
October 12 and 13.

UUCG will collaborate with UUCA to host an
informational table. What we need now are
volunteers to work the table. Contact Barbara and
Candice at connectingbeyond@uucg.org



[Click here for 30 Days of Love](#)



Let's Carpool to Join Abundant LUUV for the Walk to Their New Home!

In the true Black Church tradition, the Abundant LUUV congregation, led by the Reverend Duncan Teague, invites all Atlanta-area Unitarian Universalists to join them as they walk from their current rental home to their new home less than a mile away on Sunday, February 11, at 3:00 p.m.



The walk begins at their first home, the Hammonds House Museum (503 Peoples St., Atlanta 30310), and moves with joy to Abundant LUUV's new rental space in the Sankofa United Church of Christ sanctuary at 1187 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd. SW, Atlanta 30310.

Please join Rev. Nancy, Barbara Stahnke, and other UUCG folks on February 11th, after service, as we carpool to show up for this growing congregation!

[Register to be a driver or to ride along here:](#)



Interfaith Prayer for Peace

By Barbara Stanke (she/her) Lay Minister for Connecting Beyond

On December 17, 2023, I represented UUCG at an Interfaith Prayer Event sponsored by the Gwinnett Interfaith Alliance (gwinnettinterfaithalliance.org). This event, held at Temple Beth David in Snellville, had Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, and UU faith leaders leading prayers for peace. I share with you the remarks and prayer I presented. I also am sharing pictures from the event which also offered an opportunity for connection and fellowship.



“Hello, I am Barbara Stahnke, Lay Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett. I come here today in support of calls for Peace and Care. Peace and care for all of our siblings on the planet and specifically for the peoples of Israel and Palestine. Christians, Jews, and Muslims, people of all faiths. My faith tradition, Unitarian Universalism (UU), calls for respect and understanding of everyone’s spiritual path. Today, I bring that call for respect and understanding to this prayer for peace.

The Unitarian Universalist faith tradition is congregational in nature and each congregation reflects the local interpretation of spiritual growth and knowledge.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett is guided by national, democratically selected principles that we agree to support and live out in our daily lives. These principles include Generosity, Interdependence, Justice, Pluralism, Transformation, Equity, and our core principle of Love. This time in our world calls for all these principles to be lived out in our lives with each other, our interactions with the wider world, and our interactions with our inner hearts, minds, and spirits.

In my role as Lay Minister, I am trusted by my congregation to Connect to the Wider World. This event, an Interfaith Gathering around Peace, is something most in my congregation support. I say “most” because, as in all human interaction, some might distrust and distort this important peace-building work. Peace begins with each human interaction because of our interdependence



with the earth, each other, and ourselves. Why do I support and show up for this event? Many others are not here. My Generous heart knows that they might not have heard of the event and would be here if they knew. My Equity Heart knows that the time demands are not equal for everyone during this time of year. My Interdependent heart knows that some believe that there is only one right way, and this is not it. My Justice-seeking heart knows that sharing power moves us towards peace but that many are caught in the pursuit of power over others. (cont. on next page)





(cont. from previous page) My Pluralist heart knows that honoring and respecting each other is necessary for our Interdependent world. We need each other in all ways and always this is transformational. The teachings of each of our faith traditions support and embrace Love as a core value. We come together with our highest value – Love. We must continue to remember to love ourselves; Love our family, friends, neighbors, and adversaries. If we cannot love our adversaries at first, we can pray for them. Pray for our and their best self to come forward at each point of decision. Pray for their wellness. Pray for their healing toward peace.”

I now lift these words, adapted from a prayer for peace by Rev. Feargus O’Connor

Eternal Spirit, we pray for peace for the people of Palestine, Israel, and wherever in the world war, strife and discord afflict and divide people. We pray for a just peace everywhere, for the fair resolution of all grievances, disputes, and wrongs, and that just ordering of the world which opens the way to true reconciliation and lasting peace.

We pray for all victims of war, those maimed in body and spirit, their families, and all who suffer pain, loss, and sorrow caused by bloodshed and war.

We pray for the United Nations and its agencies, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and all international humanitarian bodies helping to care for people and laying down the foundations for enduring universal peace.

We pray for all peacemakers and bridge builders who act and campaign for international peace. May they never lose heart and be ever mindful of the justice and rightness of their cause.

We pray for each other that we may stay courageous, curious, and compassionate locally. May our support for each other lead to the building of bridges here today that will spread ripples beyond these walls.

Blessed Be. “

All are welcome at Gwinnett Interfaith Alliance events.



Save the Date

Save The Date!

**OUR HOUSE
IN FULL**

Bloom



27 APRIL 2024
3PM-7PM

**UUCG
ANNUAL
AUCTION**



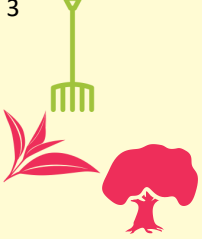
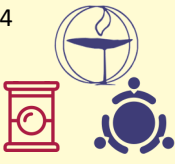



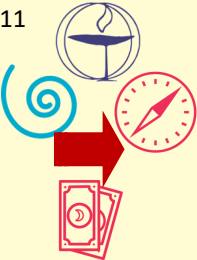












Nurturing Connections



	Music Night	All are welcome to jam with any instruments you've got, including voice.	Every Thursday at 6:30pm	In-Person
	Property Beautification Day	Monthly projects to benefit the building and grounds. All skills and abilities are welcome.	1st Saturday 10:00am	In-Person
	CUUPs	The Oak Grove Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPs) of UUCG is open to anyone in the UUCG community.	February 3rd 3:00pm	In Person
	Sylvan Sanctuary	Sylvan Sanctuary is the Mother Grove of the Druid Order of the Three Realms, a community of Druids walking personal paths. All are welcome.	February 3rd 6:00pm	In-Person
	Food Bank Dropoff	We gather donations for the Lawrenceville Co-op food bank.	1st Sundays	In-Person
	Congregational Conversations	Discussions centered around Unitarian universalism and our specific congregation. All are welcome.	1st Sunday 12:30pm	In-Person and Online via Zoom: 565-460-176
	Yarns from the Heart	Knitters and crocheters gather to create prayer shawls, baby blankets and other fiber gifts for members and friends of UUCG and the wider community. This group is open to all who knit and/or crochet.	1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 10:00am	via Zoom Email admin@uucg.org
	Spiral Scouts	An all-gender scouting group that focuses on nature-based learning and activities. We are open to children ages 3-12.	2nd Sundays 12:30pm	In-Person
	Belief Explorers	A group of Unitarian Universalists and others who are interested in exploring the sources of world faith traditions. All are welcome.	2nd Sundays 12:30pm	In-Person and Online via Zoom: 896-987-304
	Tarot Sundays	A discussion about all things Tarot and a Guided Meditation inspired by the weekly topic.	2nd and 4th Sundays 5:00pm	Online via Zoom: 978-958-52363
	Abundant LUUV Walk	The walk begins at their first home, the Hammonds House Museum and moves with joy to Abundant LUUV's new rental space.	February 11th 3:00pm	Offsite, Register to carpool
	Green Team Meeting	All who are interested in environmental issues are welcome.	3rd Saturday 9:30am	Online via Zoom: 926-178-30455
	Board Meeting	Open to the congregation at large. If you have something to discuss that you would like added to the agenda, please email board@uucg.org at least three weeks ahead of time.	3rd Wednesdays 7:00pm	Online via Zoom: 956-757-31773
	Book Group	All who have read the book are invited to attend.	4th Wednesdays 7:00pm	Online via Zoom: 144-736-833
	Good Trouble	We invite you into discussion about an issue that we (community, society, world) are facing currently, and specific ways that you can get involved in working for change.	4th Sundays 12:30pm	In-Person and Online via Zoom: 145-984-149

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
				1 	2	3 
4 	5	6 	7 	8 	9	10
11 	12	13 	14	15 	16	17 
18 	19	20 	21 	22 	23	24
25 	26	27 	28 	29 