



GNUUs

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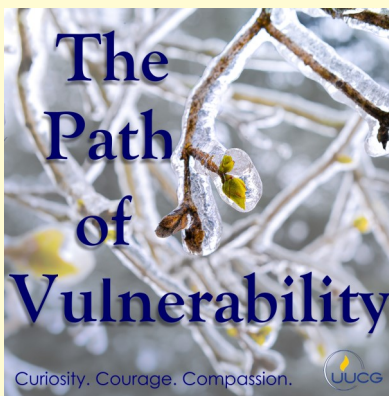
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Through March we will explore The Path of Vulnerability



There is something deeply inspiring about viewing ourselves as capable and strong. But there's a shadow side too. In pursuit of being our best and most powerful selves, we often fear leaning into vulnerability. It becomes the thing we need to protect ourselves from. But it is a protection that betrays. There's a big difference between breaking and being broken open. Yes, leaning into vulnerability is frightening. But often, it also unlocks a door, allowing grace to drift in.

When we're finally honest about the fears and burdens we hide, in that leap of courage, we discover that telling our truths doesn't just make us feel weak or exposed; it opens our eyes. We become able to see that others hide their pain and fear too. And with that, the faceless crowd becomes a sea of fellow travelers. All of us connected. All of us aware how much kindness is needed, even when the other's pain is not easy to see.

It's all about understanding that vulnerability isn't weakness but a softer form of strength.

Events This Month

- Mar 1...Yarns from the Heart+
 - Mar 2.....Gwinnett Interfaith Alliance+*
 - Mar 4.....Property Work Day*
 - Mar 5...Food Bank Donations*
 - Mar 5.....Congregational Conversation*
 - Mar 10.....Death Dinner Party*
 - Mar 11.....Sewing with Sherree*
 - Mar 12.....Spiral Scouts+
 - Mar 12.....Belief Exploration+
 - Mar 15..Yarns From the Heart+
 - Mar 15.....Board Meeting+
 - Mar 16.....CUUPs Gathering+
 - Mar 18...Green Team Meeting+
 - Mar 18.....Sylvan Sanctuary*
 - Mar 22.....Book Group+
 - Mar 26.....Good Trouble*+
 - Tuesdays.....Choir Rehearsal*
 - Sundays.....Sunday Tarot+*
- *in person
+via Zoom
For details visit uucg.org

Did you Gnow?

- Wombats are the only animal whose poop is cube-shaped. The animals then stack the cubes to mark their





Worship in March Sundays at 11:00am

Theme:
The Path of Vulnerability

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

March 5: Online and In Person ***Luminescence: Shining Forth***

In this annual Luminescence holiday service, we celebrate the light we carry within and beyond. As we emerge from the spiritual hibernation of pandemic times, we explore what new insights guide us through the vulnerabilities of life.

Join us in person or via Zoom
Reverend Jan Taddeo (she/her), Service Leader

March 12: Online and In Person ***Blessing of the Plow***

This service is based on an old world ritual called the Charming of the Plough. It was held at the beginning of the planting season when soil would first be tilled or turned; calling on the divine in all its forms and asking blessings on the land and the crops. See more...

Join us in person or via Zoom
Bob Patrick (he/him), Service Leader

March 19: Online and In Person ***The Earth's Vulnerability is Our Vulnerability***

In the TV series, *The Handmaid's Tale*, the theocratic takeover of the United States is rationalized in part by the growing effects of climate change on human reproduction. What are real vulnerabilities we do and may experience as climate chaos increases here and around the globe.

Join us in person or via Zoom
Reverend Jan Taddeo (she/her), Service Leader

March 26: Online and or In Person ***The Power of Vulnerability***

As Unitarian Universalists we can, if we choose, open ourselves up allowing our vulnerability to show. When this happens beloved community steps in to hold onto us.

It's good to be held in compassion.
Join us in person or via Zoom
Lydia Patrick (she/her), Service Leader

Looking Ahead

April Theme: The Path of Resistance

After Hour: Sundays at 12:30pm

1st Sunday, March 5

- ◇ Congregational Conversation

2nd Sunday, March 12

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

3rd Sunday, March 19

- ◇ Family Faith Development
- ◇ Sunday Tarot

4th Sunday, March 26

- ◇ "Good Trouble": Faith in Action
- ◇ Family Games





Gadding About

by Reverend Jan Taddeo (she/her)



In case you missed the notification, I will be retiring from active ministry at the end of June, 2023. This news comes as we embark on

The Path of Vulnerability as our program theme for March. This can feel like a very vulnerable time for the congregation. Uncertainty is a vulnerable place to live!

I think my own experiences of vulnerability have been valuable in opening my heart wider and increasing my sense of connection with people in my life. It takes great trust to be vulnerable with another person, to share our fears, our dreams, and our foibles. It can also feel quite vulnerable to speak our truth, especially in circles in which there are many diverse perspectives.

My most recent experience of vulnerability was participating in the Faith and Abortion Panel at the Baitul-Ata Mosque in Norcross. Circumstances were such that some of the panelists lined up for this event had to cancel at the last minute, leaving me as the only female-identified person on the panel. We sat on the men's side of the mosque and the room was full. I didn't check-in with the women on the other side of the building prior to the event, so I had no idea how many, if any, women were there watching.

I was there to represent Unitarian Universalist tenets and views on abortion. I shared about our OWL program, and our commitment to providing factual, useful age-appropriate information about our bodies,

reproduction, contraception, and so forth. I shared my own experience of having had two abortions when I was a teen. I took a leap of faith to share honestly, knowing that many in the room did not share our values and our commitments to body autonomy and reproductive freedom.

Often during the two hours on the panel, I became self-conscious of my bare legs ... I had forgotten the setting I would be in and I didn't wear leggings, scarf, or socks (oh my toes were so cold). I was aware that sharing that space with me were two male clergy who likely considered me a murderer – or considered my health care providers as murderers.

My Warrior training has taught me to “take my seat” in all that I do. To sit up straight, with confidence, and speak with the clarity of my convictions. I reminded myself of this over and over and over again during that two hours. Each time checking my posture, taking my seat again and again, and knowing that I was speaking the core values of our UU faith that I know saves lives in many ways and forms. In the end, it was a very rewarding experience, and the conversations following the panel discussion were rich, energizing, and educating. I know I touched minds and hearts with my words and my presence, and my vulnerability.

I'm curious about what makes you feel vulnerable, what the experience of vulnerability is like for you, and how you manage that experience. Maybe you would like to contribute to our Words of Wisdom? this month to offer your own story of vulnerability. If so, please email wowisdomeditor@gmail.com for information about scheduling your story to our Words of Wisdom? blog site.

With an open heart...
Reverend Jan



Stewardship Opportunities

It takes all sorts of caring to create a supportive community.

Click each link for more information

[Give Time](#)

[Give Money](#)

[Give Materials](#)

We are also in need of items to revitalize our childcare rooms ([see our wishlist here](#)), and volunteers for both Hospitality and Childcare.

Contact info@uucg.org for more information.



From the Board

Congregational Conversation on March 5

Rev. Jan's retirement marks not only the end of an era, but a new chapter for our community. Reverend Jan has put a great deal of thought and practice into making our beloved community strong and organized. We have a unique set of leaders, a governance model, and covenants that will help in finding our way forward.

On March 5th, we plan to have a dialogue and presentation of what to expect as we open a new chapter. **Please join us at 12:30 after the service.**



This Quarter's Give Away the Plate Recipient:

[Chattahoochee River Keepers](#)

Ministry: Radical Welcome

Refuge Restrooms

Refuge Restrooms is a web application that seeks to provide safe restroom access for transgender, intersex, and gender non-conforming individuals. Users can search for restrooms by proximity to a search location, add new restroom listings, as well as comment and rate existing listings.

UUCG is proud to have added ourselves to their database and to provide safe places for humans to do human things regardless of their gender.



“Hospitality means primarily the creation of free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. It is not to bring men and women over to our side, but to offer freedom not disturbed by dividing lines.”

- Henri J. M. Nouwen

News from the Front

by Bill Benshoof, Lay Minister for Radical Welcome

When you see me greeting visitors near the front door before Service, carrying an offering plate during Service, or carrying coffee into the Sanctuary after Service, that is a bid for your attention. It means no one volunteered, and these roles are so important that I will do them myself until someone offers to help me.

These roles are so important that they have job descriptions and checklists. Through our actions, as well as our words, we deliver the message- "YOU are welcome here." I'll provide a brief overview of these roles:



~ Being a **greeter** involves arriving early, welcoming folks in the door, and helping visitors to sign the book and make their name tags.

~ Being a **beacon** involves helping folks get whatever worship materials and assistance in getting seated, closing and opening the Sanctuary doors, and collecting the offering.

~ **Hospitality** enables folks to enjoy our "Call to Connection" with beverages and snacks after Service, as well as helping with potluck preparation once a month.

Just sayin'- It's not hard.

Email info@uucg.org and let us know which Sundays you would like to claim as your own "helping out" Sunday.

Interdependent Web of Life

New series on the Interdependent Web of Life to begin this month. The UUCG Green Team is pleased to announce that we will be rolling out a new program/series entitled “Our Place in the Web of Life”.

Over the past several months a small team of nature-loving UUCG members have been busy adapting and updating this curriculum from the UU Ministry for Earth. The revised series will be offered in three sessions of three hours each on **selected Saturdays Noon-3PM**.

The **first session will be March 25 and will be offered in-person AND on-line**.

Look for registration information on the UUCG website in the next few days.



Property Beautification Day



Our next Saturday Outdoor Beautification Day will be **Saturday, March 4, 9AM-12PM**. Watch for more information on things to do between now and then.

Workday Reflection

by Xoe Kelly (she/her), Lay Minister for Green Space

As an animist that acknowledges the spirit residing in all things, it's not hard for me to see the land we live upon as having its own form of being. I talk to my home and the woods behind it as I would the other members of my family. Likewise, I have become intimately acquainted with the Spirit of UUCG through the years of worship and ritual done there. Since joining the Green Team and attending regular Beautification workdays tending to the property I feel I am giving back to that loving entity that has held safe and cared for me and my family. Now, I can't say that waking early on a Saturday to go rake leaves or spread mulch (especially in less than ideal weather) has been effortless, but knowing that I might have the company of friends from the congregation urges me out of bed despite not being a morning person. Even on days that I have the grounds all to myself, I still get the same deep satisfaction within my soul because I have offered my time and skill to my beloved community - one that includes our Blue Boat and the Land that embraces it. As the weather warms and life begins to emerge again, there will be much to do to care for our property. My hope is for others who enjoy lending a hand to join me sometime on the first Saturday of the month and perhaps become more connected with that UUCG Spirit that I have come to know.



Spiritual Spring Cleaning

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

Here we are on the cusp of spring. As this season of renewal approaches, we prepare to move forward from the season of hibernation. We continue to emerge from the dimness and uncertainty of the pandemic period into the light (and uncertainty) of our new reality.

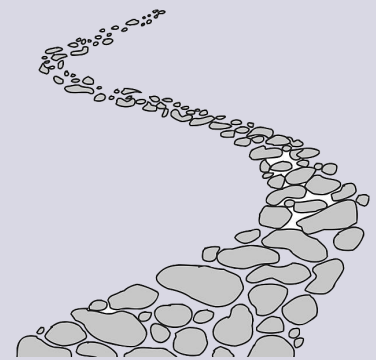
The world is changing. (Although there is never really a time that that *isn't* the case, the changes we are facing in this moment feel radical and new.) With what energy will you greet the new realities that face us? What fortifies you for the work – and the *living* - ahead? How will you shine your light forth into the world?

I have [reflected before on the concept of Spring Cleaning](#), which I find to be a powerful and restorative practice, and an even more powerful metaphor. In conversation with Elna this week, she reminded me of something essential: *the first step to spiritual spring cleaning is to be vulnerable.*

We invite you to join us throughout this month for Worship Services and programs as we navigate this Path of Vulnerability together.

Faith Development Resources

Explore The Path of Vulnerability throughout the month with the Faith Development Resources shared [here](#).



Luminescence
 A service to celebrate the light in each of us
 Join us
Sunday, March 5, 2023
at 11:00am ET
 in person or via Zoom

Worship Service
Blessing of the Plow




Sunday, March 12
at 11:00am
 We invite you to bring any of the following:
 some soil, some seeds,
 a garden tool,
 a cracker

What is the first thing that comes to mind when someone mentions death?
 What questions do you have about death?
 Join us for a conversation about how we die, how we mourn, and how we care for and remember our dead.



Friday, March 10 at 7:30pm
DEATH DINNER PARTY

SPRING EQUINOX RITUAL
Saturday, March 18
at 6:00pm
 hosted by
 UUCG CUUPs and Sylvan Sanctuary





UUCG Book Group

Selected Title for

March:

The Red Tent

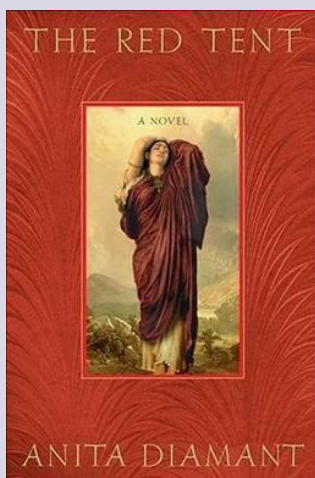
By Anita Diamant

Book Group Meeting:

Wed, March 22 at 7pm

Her name is Dinah. In the Bible, her life is only hinted at in a brief and violent detour within the more familiar chapters of the Book of Genesis that are about her father, Jacob, and his dozen sons. Told in Dinah's voice, this novel reveals the traditions and turmoils of ancient womanhood—the world of the red tent. Dinah's story creates an intimate connection with the past. [\[See more\]](#)

All who have read the book are welcome to attend.



Ministry: Connecting Within

Let's Talk About Potlucks at UUCG

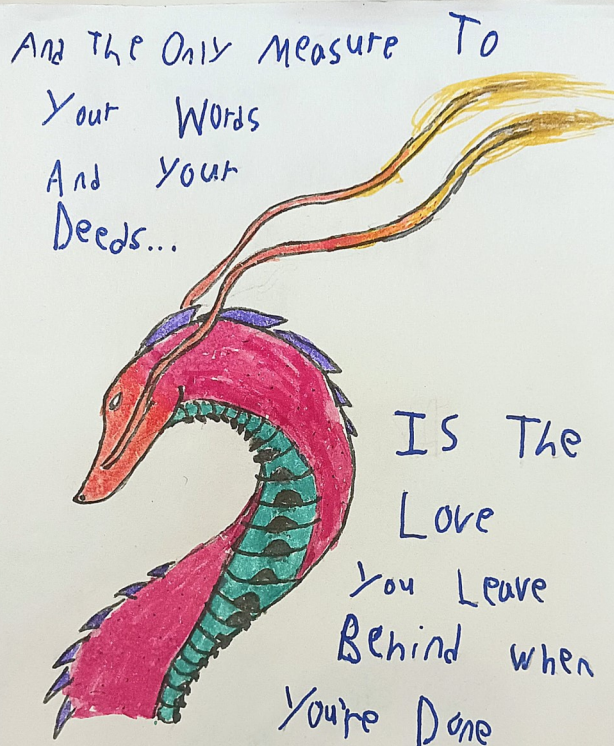
Submitted by Lisa Kiel (she/her)

On March 5th, we will be hosting a Potluck lunch at UUCG to coincide with the Board's monthly Congregational Conversation. Our Board has a system that monitors the COVID risk in our area and determines when it's safe for our community to gather and to eat together as the family we are. We all wish that COVID had never happened, that we didn't have to follow so many guidelines or wear masks, but learning a few new rules to keep ourselves safe is a small price to pay for the opportunity to share a meal together.

Potlucks, like everything else post pandemic, are a little different. We will ask you to wear a glove on the hand you use to handle the serving utensils and to wear a mask while you go through the serving line. We'll set up tables where folks can spread out and eat, and when you're finished eating, we ask that you mask up again. All of these precautions can help us all stay healthy. If you attended a retreat at the Mountain lately, you'll be familiar with these routines.

What's not different at our Potluck? The joy of being able to spend time together! So, please **put March 5th on your calendar for Potluck Sunday** and bring a dish for our communal table. Let's have a good turn out for food and fellowship and show support for our Board by attending the Congregational Conversation at the same time.

And speaking of Potlucks, **we still need folks to join our Hospitality Team**. This team is so important for hosting our luncheons and providing coffee, drinks and snacks on Sunday mornings. If you are coming into the building, please consider joining this team. This is a great way to support our community and help create a welcoming environment. With joy!
Lisa



Lay Minister of Connecting Beyond

by **Barbara Stahnke (she/her), Lay Minister for Connecting Beyond**

As Unitarian Universalists, in general, we do not evangelize but prefer to live out our values in the wider world. We currently have activities in place to provide charity in our community, like our work with Corley Elementary and the donations to the Lawrenceville Ministry Co-Op.

Below, Lydia Patrick has an article about how the donations are working right now. She also is looking for some more volunteers to support this work. Some of us continue to Donate to El Refugio, the shelter and ministry for immigrants in detention. Some of you may wish to complete education on organizing skills through the Side with Love Campaign. (see graphic at right) - you can register [here](#). Consider living our values in the wider community advocating with the Gwinnett Interfaith Alliance and Gwinnett Remembrance Coalition. I always invite questions and interest. bstahnke@comcast.net



Spring 2023 Skill Up Series
HOW TO TALK ABOUT HARD THINGS

FEB. 19 Facilitation: Leading Gatherings with Grace
- Rev. Cathy Rion Starr & Elisse Ghitelman

MAR. 19 Evaluation is an Act of Love
- Sarah Berel-Harrop

APR. 23 Facing the Apocalypse With a Smile
- Rachel Myslivy

MAY 21 What Do Impacted Communities Need - How Would I Know? - Rev. Michael Crumpler

MONTHLY on Sunday
1 pm PT
2 pm MT
3 pm CT
4 pm ET

sidewithlove.org/skillups



We Need Your Help...

Submitted by Lydia Patrick

This year we have a unique and wonderful opportunity to serve food outreach for two local groups. The Lawrenceville Foodbank and Corley Elementary School. Even months our food donations go to The Lawrenceville Foodbank. Odd months our snacks and drink donations go to Corley Elementary through the Nothing but the Truth Snack Ministry in Lawrenceville. We have volunteers through March 2023. We need more folks starting in April and throughout the remaining months of the year.




LAWRENCEVILLE FOOD BANK
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
TO RECEIVE AND DELIVER FOOD DONATIONS
ON SUNDAY BETWEEN 9AM & 6PM
CONTACT LYDIA PATRICK FOR DETAILS

ALL DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED HOWEVER, WE APPRECIATE THINGS THAT ARE GLUTEN FREE, SOY FREE, NUT FREE, VEGETARIAN AND VEGAN AS WELL.

UUCG Foodbank Volunteers

Lawrenceville Food Bank\Nothing But the Truth Volunteer Sign Up

LP Lydia Patrick Contact


































Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up. Your job will be to be available at the church to receive Foodbank Donations on the **1st Sunday of the month** you sign up for. This 2022-2023 year we are partnering with the Lawrenceville Food Coop and Nothingbutthetruth146.org.

This QR code will take you to the SignUp Genius link where you can sign up to help collect the food and deliver it. Helping is so easy. Just park your car in the church parking lot on 'your' Sunday. Leave your trunk open and folks will deposit their donations in your trunk before and after church. The signup genius has instructions for where and when the donations can be delivered. Thank you! It takes all of us to effect change!

	Yarns from the Heart	Knitters and crocheters gather to create prayer shawls and baby blankets for members and friends and the wider community. This group is open to all fiber artists.	1st and 3rd Wednesdays 7:00pm	Online, Email For access
	Gwinnett Interfaith Alliance	Monthly meeting of the Gwinnett Interfaith Alliance. Planning for events of the Alliance and networking with faiths representing Gwinnett county.	March 2 7:15pm	In-Person and Zoom:
	Property Beautification Day	Monthly projects to benefit the building and grounds. All skills and abilities are welcome.	1st Saturday 10:00am	In-Person
	Food Bank Dropoff	We gather donations for the Lawrenceville Co-op food bank.	1st Sunday of even-numbered months	In-Person
	Congregational Conversations	Discussions centered around Unitarian universalism and our specific congregation. All are welcome.	1st Sunday 12:30pm	In-Person and Zoom: 565-460-176
	Family Faith Development	guided exploration of our themes for parents and children to engage together.	1st and 3rd Sundays 12:30pm	In-Person
	Tarot Sundays	A discussion about all things Tarot and a Guided Meditation inspired by the weekly topic.	1st, 2nd, & 4th Sun. at 5pm online, 3rd Sun at 12:30 in person	Zoom: 978-9585-2363
	Mindfulness and Mediation	Two Hands Sangha is a Buddhist Meditation Community. All are welcome to attend this program.	Every Sunday 6:00pm	In-Person and Online via Facebook Live
	Covenant Choir	Choir gathers to rehearse for performance on Sunday mornings during Worship Services.	Every Tuesday 7:00pm	In-Person
	Death Dinner Party	Join us for conversation about how we die, how we mourn, and how we care for and remember our dead.	2nd Fridays 7:30pm	In-Person
	Sewing with Sherree	Join us for easy sewing projects and fun! Bring your fabric and machine if you got one! All skill levels are welcome.	2nd Saturdays 8:00pm	In-Person
	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 Zoom: 896-987-304
	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	Zoom: 956-757-31773
	CUUPS	The Oak Grove Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) of UUCG is open to anyone in the UUCG community.	March 16th 7:30pm	Zoom: 400-036-556
	Green Team Meeting	All who are interested in environmental issues are welcome.	3rd Saturday 9:30am	Zoom: 926-1783-0455
	Spring Equinox Ritual	Sylvan Sanctuary is the Mother Grove of the Druid Order of the Three Realms. They host ritual celebrations 8 times throughout the year.	March 18th 6:00pm	In-Person
	Book Group	All who have read the book are invited to attend.	4th Wednesdays 7:00pm	Zoom: 144-736-833
	Good Trouble	We invite you into discussion about an issue that we (community, society, world) are facing, and specific ways that you can get involved in working for change.	4th Sundays 12:30pm	In-Person and Zoom: 145-984-149

Nurturing Connections

March 2023

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	30	31	