



GNUUs

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Welcome to the Month of the Path of Belonging

Just saying the word “belonging” conjures up the primal hunger to be included; the longing to be let in. No one likes standing outside the circle. No one likes leaning against the locked door listening while everyone is laughing inside. From our very first moments, belonging is the thing we seek. It is the promised resting place.

But our own belonging is only the beginning.

“Enter, rejoice, and come in” is no gentle invitation. “Today will be a joyful day” when no one is left outside the circle of belonging. Circles that keep others out also keep the air out. No one inside a closed circle truly sings.

It’s all one big reminder that the true blessing of belonging is not that you get to come inside the circle; it’s that you get to participate in expanding it. We only grow when the circle does

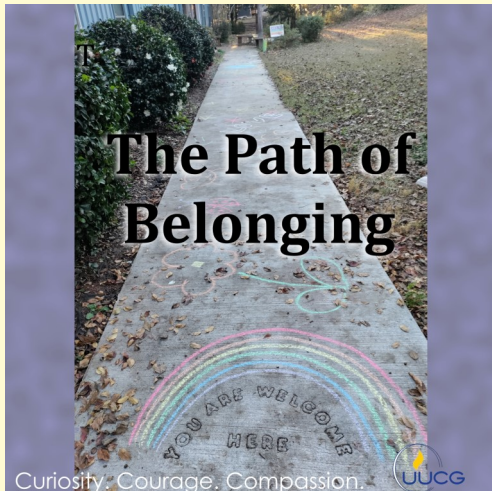
Events This Month

- Sept 4...Food Bank Donations*
 - Sept 7...Yarns from the Heart+
 - Sept 9.....Full Moon Ritual+
 - Sept 10.....Property Work Day*
 - Sept 11.....Spiral Scouts^
 - Sept 16-18.....Congregational
Retreat^
 - Sept 21..Yarns from the Heart+
 - Sept 21.....Board Meeting+
 - Sept 24.....Sylvan Sanctuary+*
 - Sept 28.....Book Group+
 - Sept 28.....Vision Journaling+
 - Tuesdays.....Choir Rehearsal*
 - Sundays.....Tarot Sunday+
- *in person
+online
^offsite

For details visit uucg.org

Did you Gnow?

- ‘Q’ is the only letter that doesn’t appear in the name of any US state.
- You can’t hum if you hold your nose
- You probably just tried to hold your nose and hum...



Curiosity. Courage. Compassion.





Worship in September Sundays at 11:00am

Theme: *The Path of Belonging*
Join us via Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/565460176>

Sept 4: Online and/or In Person ***The Voice Under all Silences***

We explore the role of our radical welcome and the longing to belong of those newcomers who take the leap of faith across our threshold. We consider how these define some questions of ultimacy that are part of our faith journey.

Join us in person or [via Zoom](#)
Bill Benshoof (he/him), Service Leader

Sept 11: Online and/or In Person ***The River that Connects All Beings***

We welcome our friends from the Gwinnett Interfaith Alliance to join us for our annual Water Ceremony. Please bring a small amount of water that represents something of your spiritual journey over the last year ... beginnings, inspirations, playfulness, vulnerabilities, abundance, transformation, losses, clarity, peacefulness.

Join us in person or [via Zoom](#)
Rev. Jan Taddeo (she/her), Service Leader

Sept 18: Online and/or In Person ***We are One When We are All Together & We are One When We are All Alone***

Exploring our connections when we are scattered and unique. There will be balloon animals. :)

Join us in person or [via Zoom](#)
Sherree Bailey (she/her), Service Leader

Sept 25: Online and/or In Person ***Bootstraps and Barriers; Boundaries and Belonging***

The peculiarly American “bootstrap mentality” encourages us to rely only upon ourselves, erecting barriers between the Self and the wider world. When attempting to belong to a community, we must first escape that mentality and demolish those barriers- but what happens when they’re gone?

Join us in person or [via Zoom](#)
Elna Brynstedt (she/her), Service Leader

Looking Ahead
October Theme: The Path of Courage

Faith Development Sundays at 12:30pm

Faith Development for Adults
in September:

9/4 - Labor Day Weekend - No
Program

9/11 - Food and Fellowship on
Ingathering Sunday

9/18 - Treading the Path of Be
longing

9/25 - Good Trouble:
Reproductive Justice
and Bodily Autonomy

Be sure to join us for our
Annual Water Ceremony

We welcome our interfaith neighbors from the
Gwinnett Interfaith Alliance. Please help share what
being UU is all about.

Water Ceremony

Sunday Morning 11:00 am

Sept. 11, 2022

RSVP for lunch here: tinyurl.com/2enc2z5c

We invite you
to bring water
to add to our
communal bowl



Stay for
fellowship and
lunch following
the service



Gadding About

by Reverend Jan Taddeo (she/her)



Drum roll, please.....
Announcing the themes for our 2022-2023 program year, each represented as part of the path we are walking together:

- September: The Path of Belonging
- October: The Path of Courage
- November: The Path of Change
- December: The Path of Wonder
- January: The Path of Finding Our Center
- February: The Path of Love
- March: The Path of Vulnerability
- April: The Path of Resistance
- May: The Path of Creativity
- June: The Path of Delight

Have you ever wondered where these themes come from? They develop through a collaborative process among the congregations that subscribe to the Soul Matters resources for worship, small groups, faith development, and several other programs. The resources they provide are rich and inspiring, and provide prompts for individuals and groups to dive deeper into their own wisdom on various themes. If you feel inspired by one of the upcoming themes to offer a reflection in worship, in our newsletter, or on the Words of Wisdom blog, please contact Christiana McQuain or Bob Patrick and they will support you in this effort.

This month we embark on the Path of Belonging. Isn't this the path we are all

travelling? It isn't enough to "fit in" ... to leave a part of ourselves behind to "get along." To belong, we need to welcome the whole self – both the easy to love parts and the parts that are still evolving and growing, with all the pain and angst that can bring. In a faith community, we all need to serve the path of belonging. Together we create the container in which people can feel supported in learning, growing, and living in community.

So my question to you is, "How are you serving the path of belonging at UUCG?" There are so many opportunities, both on Sunday mornings and beyond. You could sing in the choir, serve as a Beacon or Greeter, support worship as a Zoom Manager or A/V Tech. You might serve the path of belonging by serving on the Pastoral Care Team, the Worship Team, or the Faith Development Team, or serving as a facilitator for our Faith Development and Religious Exploration programs, or offering your time to provide child care or help with setting up Sunday hospitality service.

We currently have a few people doing a lot of things to keep our programs vibrant and engaging. Congregations serve the path of belonging by inviting everyone to have a role in creating the community ... spreading the "church work" among many allows for more people to gather, grow, share, and serve. The more people who participate in serving our programs and activities, the more ideas, creativity, and wisdom grows, and, there is less "burn-out" among volunteers.

Please click [here](#) to fill out this survey to let us know the ways in which you would enjoy serving the path of belonging at UUCG. Everyone who fills out the form will receive a small gift from me!

In our shared faith...

Reverend Jan

New Shared Choir Director Position

Dear People,

I want to begin by saying, **“I’m not leaving UUCG!”**

My teaching contract for the upcoming school year was not extended and so my employment at St. Martin’s Episcopal School came to an end officially on July 30th of this year. When I took the position of choir director at UUCG, it was with the idea that this part-time position would be ‘in addition to’ not ‘as a substitute for’ my income as a teacher.

As it happens, I have been offered a position as a staff singer at an Episcopal congregation in Highlands, NC. A position which only requires that I be in attendance regularly on Sunday morning. No other days are required on a regular basis (excluding of course Christmas and Easter Week). The compensation they offer for this position is

comparable to the income I received in my teaching position at St. Martin’s.

When I was offered the possibility of this position, I was up in Highlands having lunch with my wife, Becca. She and I talked through how this might be able to work. As we talked, Becca came up with the following solution (I’ve always thought she was incredible and I am so lucky to have her in my life!):

“Why don’t we share the position? You could go up to Highlands each Sunday and sing, I could conduct the choir and see that the anthems are performed as you rehearsed them on Tuesdays and give any additional support on site on Sunday’s. Since you are only called on Sunday’s to be in Highlands regularly, you can still administer the choir program at UUCG, select the music, collaborate with the Worship Committee and Rev. Jan, send out the emails, and run choir rehearsals on Tuesday as well as taking full advantage of the rest of the choir program for any special events that they might need you for that don’t fall on Sundays.”

I thought that this was an amazing idea and so after many conversations with Rev. Jan, Becca, representatives of the choir (Doug, Barbara, and Lydia), the Board and leadership of UUCG, there has been a new letter of agreement drawn up that creates a shared Choir Director position that Becca and I will accept. The two of us will be held responsible for how the program work gets done in an official capacity. The official start date for all this will be September 1st, 2022. September 4th will be the first Sunday that Becca will be in front of the choir on a Sunday, and I will begin my additional service to the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands, NC.

We will work over the next few weeks and months to iron out any challenges that might come up, and I ask for your grace and assistance as we do.

See you on Tuesday!

--

Yours In Music,
Michael Parker



Scraplanta

By Xoe Kelly (she/her)

As summer starts winding down, we come to a time of the year when it becomes necessary to clear out the clutter that has accumulated in our homes. Some things that remain unused or in good condition are easy to let go of - no more effort than a trip to the thrift store. But what about the other stuff that takes up space? Board games and puzzles missing pieces or that really nice wall calendar from a few years back, that would certainly not sell at Goodwill and would eventually be thrown out? If you are like me and look for the usefulness in various items and are reluctant to pass them down the materials pipeline to be recycled or worse, end up in a landfill, then you may be drowning in a pile of good intentions with no way to lessen the load. The good news is that an organization has developed to help deal with this dilemma.

Scraplanta Creative Reuse, an Atlanta area nonprofit with the vision to empower people to create beautiful works of art from discarded materials, is asking for donations of all sorts of useful items to repackage and sell at discounted prices in their soon-to-be-open retail space located at 2130 Henderson Mill Road in the Briarcliff Village Shopping Plaza. Not only will they help to get those supplies into the hands of makers, their new building will provide a gallery and classrooms to serve the local arts community. On their website is a wonderful visual representation, the Periodic Table of Reuse, to inform people of the kinds of things that they accept that organizes materials into categories, such as Paper, Wood, Fine Arts, Craft, Oddities, to name a few. It even details such things that they will not take for reasons of hygiene, safety, or limited space, like E-waste, Furniture, Stuffies, or Glass/Dishes. Frequently, they post dates/times they'll be open for collection and hosting volunteers tasked with sorting donations and prepping the store for business.

Visit their website www.scraplanta.org or follow on Facebook www.facebook.com/scraplanta for more details on how, when, and where to unload your unwanted, but still useful resources and clear your living space and your conscience at the same time.



GREEN TEAM PROPERTY WORK DAY!

September 10th
9AM TO 4PM

CALL TO ACTION!

- Removing lawn debris from around the building.
- Organizing cabinets inside.
- Removing shrubs that block signage.
- Cleaning up trash and debris along the road.
- Spreading mulch on pathways.
- Remove overgrowth on walking path.



Faith Development and Programs Schedule

All of the programs listed below are offered at **12:30pm on Sundays, following the Worship Service**. Please register [here](#) to receive information and resources, even if you are unable to attend in person.

Programs for Adults and interested Teens:

1st Sundays – UU Writers: a workshop-style program that invites you to explore our monthly themes through writing.

Find this month's resources [here](#).

2nd Sundays – Belief Explorers: Our beloved group that gathers monthly to discuss a variety of texts and theologies.

(online via Zoom)

Send an [email](#) to be added to the mailing list, or just show up to the [Zoom on second Sunday](#)

3rd Sundays – Creativity Matters: an opportunity to explore our monthly themes through the creation of art, journaling, poetry, and music.

Find more information and this month's resources [here](#).

4th Sundays – Good Trouble: Topical discussion and opportunities to put our faith in action in the movement for social justice.

Find more information about each month's session [here](#).

Programs for Children, ages 6 -12

Beginning in October:

We are seeking a team of volunteers to facilitate Children's RE. If you are interested in joining this team and inspiring our youngest UUs, please [email Christiana](#)

1st Sundays – Religious Exploration (RE): An exploration of the monthly theme through story and activities. (These sessions will be held outdoors, weather permitting.)

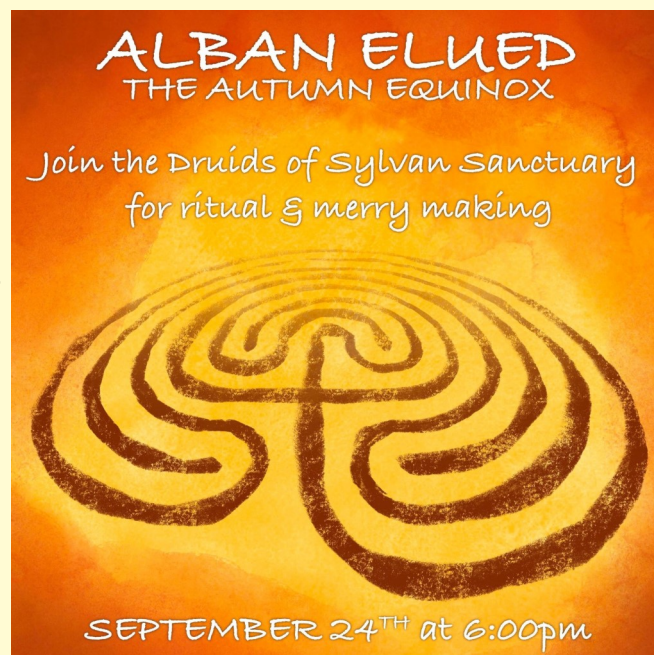
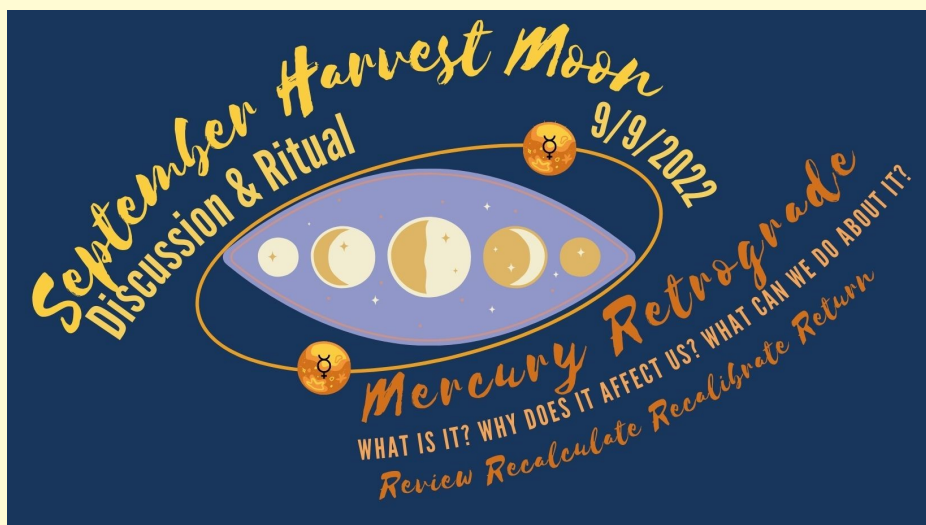
2nd Sundays – Spiral Scouts (by registration only)

For more information and to register, send an email to info@uucg.org

3rd Sundays – Religious Exploration (RE): An exploration of the monthly theme through story and activities. (These sessions will be held outdoors, weather permitting.)

4th Sundays – UU REcreation: A gaming gathering for families with a focus on fellowship and fun

Find more resources, games, and activities for living you UU Faith beyond Sunday mornings [here](#).





Rekindling the Fires of Love and Commitment

Submitted by Carol Pinto (she/her) Photos by Elna Brynsted (she/her)

Our fall congregational retreat is less than a month away! **Join us Friday evening Sept. 16 through Sunday morning, Sept. 18 at The Mountain.**

Saturday night we'll get together for music and entertainment. Got a guitar, or a flute, a violin, drums, shakers, banjo, or even a kazoo? Bring 'em along! We may even have a drum circle! And maybe a talent show, if we have enough takers. You could play a song, read a poem, do some tricks, or whatever you like. We'll kick off the weekend with s'mores around the firepit and then sign up for activities for the weekend. Those will include hikes, a farm tour, and arts and crafts. The next day, if you feel more like relaxing and enjoying the view, that's fine too!

The Mountain Learning & Retreat Center is on top of Little Scaly Mountain, near Highlands, NC. It's a favorite among UUs and a wonderful place for regathering and re-energizing.

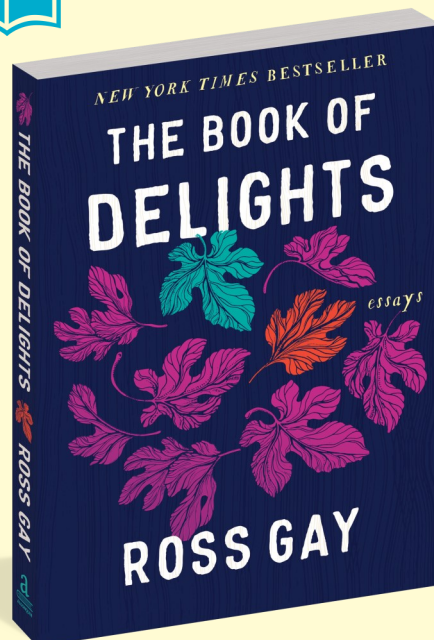
Families can stay together and individuals can share a room or have their own room, although single rooms are limited.

Register here: <https://www.themountainrlc.org/upcoming-events>

Scholarship funds to make it affordable are still available. Talk to Rev. Jan. Accessibility and Covid protocols are top concerns to make the retreat fun and comfortable for everyone.



The Book of Delights Ross Gay



**Book Group Meeting
September 28th 7pm**

The winner of the NBCC Award for Poetry offers up a spirited collection of short lyric essays, written daily over a tumultuous year, reminding us of the purpose and pleasure of praising, extolling, and celebrating ordinary wonders.

[[See more](#)]

SAVE THE DATE: Monday, September 19



UU Congregation of Gwinnett

UU the Vote Day of Action

Race to November!

#VoteLove #DefeatHate

www.uucg.org



Corley Elementary

Submitted by Jen Garrison (she/her)

Hello UUCG Members and Friends. We have been supporting Corley Elementary students and staff for several years with various needs, including an Appreciation Day for teachers. This year, the counseling staff at Corley have requested that we collect stretchy leggings and sweatpants, in extra-small, small and large sizes for all genders. We are aiming to collect these clothing items in October and November, so the children will be ready once winter sets in. It's hard to believe now, but that need is arriving quickly! Please consider donating to this cause. Please contact Jen Garrison at 1blonde.violin@gmail.com or 470-519-6937 if you have any questions. Thank you for your time and effort towards filling this need for the students of Corley Elementary. They to date do not have a PTA, and are a Title 1 school, so the need is certainly there. Thank you for your support!

Teacher Treats for Corley Elementary

Submitted by Peggy Averyt (she/her)

In addition to collecting stretchy leggings and sweatpants for the clinic to dispense to students who have accidents at school, we have been asked to purchase individually packaged treats for the teachers and staff for their Oct. 20 Teacher/Parent conference day. The teachers and staff will be working very long hours on this day, and the treats we purchase will be available for them in the Faculty Workroom throughout the day. Corley Elementary has a large staff, so a donation from \$1 to \$20 would be appreciated. The UUCG Corley Support Team (Peggy Averyt, Carol Pinto, and Jen Garrison) will purchase these snacks using your donations. Let's show them how much we appreciate all that they do by providing lots of good snacks. Look for the envelope at the back of the sanctuary in which to place your donation.

SACReD

Spiritual Alliance of Communities
for Reproductive Dignity

SACReD Curriculum Coming This Fall!

Reproduction is a sacred responsibility, and prayerful decisions to have children, to not have children, or to end a pregnancy can be equally moral.

SACReD congregations live out on a daily basis practices that support the work of parenting and the healthy growth of children in sane, sustainable, nurturing communities.



Reproductive Justice

Submitted by **Barbra Stahnke (she/her)**

The message I received from the Dobbs decision, as a white, cis, heterosexual female of economic stability and without children is “I am not equal.” My privilege was showing as I didn’t immediately connect to those as likely to be the most harmed by this decision...namely pregnant people with limited means. I didn’t immediately connect to the ongoing reproductive harm caused by the lack of health care access for ALL people. During the past month, I have attended two different learning sessions about Reproductive Justice with some other members of UUCG; I want to give a brief overview, and then I look forward to ongoing discussions with all of you.

One was a day-long online Operation Save Abortion workshop. I learned at this workshop that there are people who have not experienced reproductive freedom (despite Roe) because there was no reproductive justice here in the United States of America for a long time. I learned there are folks in the Reproductive Justice movement who have been fighting this fight ongoing since Roe v. Wade was decided. Their efforts were to ensure access to reproductive care through advocacy and services as well as education. I learned that we don’t want to start from scratch and think we are helping; we need to identify the people who have been doing the work for a long time and support that work. I learned much more than just this – but I wanted to give a summary.

I also attended an Online Webinar series from the UUA Side with Love Campaign. This series reiterated some of the same learnings. It also gave some resources and tools which we can use to GIVE, EDUCATE, ADVOCATE, WITNESS and SERVE. If you would like to read the Uplift Action Reproductive Justice Guide you can get some information and be ahead of the work. Some of the things we need to think about as individuals and community: Risk Tolerance, Power Mapping, Resources, etc. Below are some ideas - not a fully-fledged out plan- **that I need YOU to help me with.**

Where should we give? I know where I am giving ARC of the Southeast. Wherever your giving goes, consider your values. ARC of the Southeast has been living out Reproductive Justice for years and helps with a southern style.

How can we educate? I need some folks who are willing to understand and converse with other faiths to understand the issues around reproductive justice. We have an intersection of interest with the Gwinnett Interfaith Alliance. We have loads to learn (and maybe unlearn) including: “SisterSong defines Reproductive Justice as the human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities.” SisterSong is a laudable organization to contribute to as well – they have trained some of our UUA leaders in Reproductive Justice.

How can we Serve, Advocate and Witness? – Let us learn about the issues around Reproductive Justice so that our Advocacy, Witness, and Service do not harm. Here is the place where we need to remember – there are folks who have been doing this work for years. We need to ask them how we can help.

What are your ideas? **How would you like to connect beyond our walls on Reproductive Justice?** Reach out to bstahnke@comcast.net with those ideas.

This is a human rights issue. “...Every person, of every identity and experience should be able to make decisions about their own bodies at every point of their lives.” Pg. 10 of the Uplift Guide.

Save the Date

Submitted by

Barbara Stahnke (she/her)

Our annual Water Ceremony will be held on September 11, 2022. As part of our community-building efforts, the Lay Ministers are supporting this as an Interfaith Event. We will be inviting members of the Gwinnett Interfaith Alliance to attend this worship service either Live or Hybrid. We will be enjoying food, beverage, and conversation after the service on-site. We are hoping that many members will be able to attend in person to share our community’s spiritual celebration of coming together with our wider community. Please mark your calendars now so that you don’t miss one of our most important UU worship services of the year.

Nurturing Connections



Food Bank Dropoff September 4 10am-1pm
Front Porch at UUCG



Tarot Sundays every Sunday at 5pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 978-9585-2363



Mindfulness and Meditation Every Sunday 6pm
Sanctuary and Online via Facebook



Covenant Choir Gathering every Tuesday at 7pm
Sanctuary



Yarns From the Heart September 7 10am
Email admin@uucg.org to be added to the email list and receive the Zoom link



Full Moon Ritual September 9 7:30pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 933-1676-4508



Property Work Day September 10 10am
Onsite



Spiral Scouts September 11 12:30pm
For children ages 3-12 and their families. Preregistration is required



Congregational Retreat September 16-18
The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center



Yarns From the Heart September 21 10am
Email admin@uucg.org to be added to the email list and receive the Zoom link



Board Meeting September 21 7pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 956-757-31773



Sylvan Sanctuary Ritual September 24 6pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 528-297-2479



Book Group September 28 7pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 144-736-833






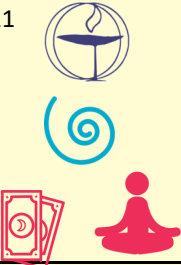


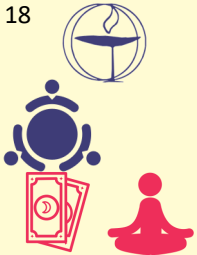


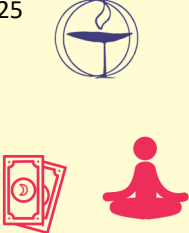



Vision Journal Workshop September 28 7pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 998-7138-6950

Visit our Calendar Online for more information and links to our Zoom rooms.

For all of the Zoom events, go to <https://zoom.us/join> (or call 646-558-8656) and enter the Meeting ID

September 2022

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 