



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett
 12 Bethesda Church Road
 Lawrenceville, Georgia 30044
 770-717-7913



Gadding About

February | 2012



In February I will be co-facilitating an introductory training on anti-racism and white privilege for the participants of the UU Allies for Racial Equity Conference in Fort Worth. When leading and participating in workshops like this in the past, people share deeply of their pain, their anger, as well as their frustration and confusion. Their reward for their vulnerability is new friendships, and feelings of profound connection. They leave feeling inspired and filled with a sense of hope and peacefulness. They also gain the skills that give them the courage to take these conversations out into the world and invite others to share their stories and struggles

Vulnerability is an essential requirement for building lasting relationships. Yet, it is not encouraged in our larger culture. Indeed, we are bombarded with messages that encourage people to strengthen the walls that separate us, wear masks that hide our authentic selves, and distract us from being in deep relationship with one another. Many seem to wear "busy" like a badge of honor. Binary messages of us/them, black/white, gay/straight, rich/poor deny the reality of a continuum of possibilities that are more inclusive, creative, and complex. We are quick to condemn people rather than engage in the more challenging work of true dialogue.

This is the work of justice: building relationships. Justice ministry requires learning to be courageous in our vulnerability; crossing borders and boundaries that separate us; and truly humanizing the Other.

It takes a great deal of courage to be vulnerable, and it also requires a supportive space in which to be courageous. At UUCG, we increase our skills, and our courage, through the deeper sharing and vulnerability in our small groups ... book discussions, Compassion Circle, Chalice Circle, religious exploration programs for children, youth and adults, and sometimes in committee meetings and in our worship services. Here we **practice** what we can take out into the world with courage and commitment. When we take our practice out into the world, then we are truly creating a more just and loving world. Then we are Standing on the Side of Love.

On February 12, we will celebrate our Universalist heritage that is rich with stories of living our faith out in the world. Universalism is an important part of the foundation for our imperative to reach across borders and boundaries that separate us so we can love our neighbors as we love ourselves; so we can create the Beloved Community here on earth.

Are there places beyond UUCG where you are reaching across borders? Please send me your stories, pictures, and reflections about those times in your work or your volunteer service that you think represent the spirit of Standing on the Side of Love. On **February 12**, wear your yellow shirt to the **Standing on the Side of Love Celebration** of our Unitarian Universalist commitment to disappearing fear and generating more hope, more love, and more peace.

With a loving heart,

Rev. Jan

Justice

True justice takes place through relationships. Justice ministry requires learning to be courageous in our vulnerability; crossing borders and boundaries that separate us; and truly humanizing the Other, and Standing on the Side of Love.

Sunday Services at 10:30am

February 5: *Justice Means No Harm*

Service Leader: Bob Patrick
 Worship Associate: Paige Varner
 Children's Chapel: Rev. Jan Taddeo
 Youth may assist in the Children's Chapel or attend the service.
Faith Like a River Adult RE class

February 12: *Universalism: Past, Present and Future*

Service Leader: Rev. Jan Taddeo
 Worship Associate: Mark Causey
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Kalen Fristad
 Plate: Standing on the Side of Love
 New Member Recognition Ceremony
 Religious Exploration Classes
 Town Hall and Potluck

National Standing on the Side of Love Day

February 19: *Friends, Enemies, and Dinner*

Service Leader: Bob Patrick
 Worship Associate: June Warfield
 Religious Exploration Classes
Faith Like a River Adult RE class

February 26: *Crossing Borders*

Service Leader: Rev. Jan Taddeo
 Worship Associate: Bob Patrick
 Religious Exploration Classes
 Plate: Chalice Lighter call

Please Note: The office will be closed on February 20-25 as staff attends the Southeast Unitarian Universalist Leadership Experience. Rev. Taddeo will be accessible on the pastoral care phone, 678-558-4834, and Laura de Castro will be checking email and voicemail to the office at 770-717-7913.

Celebrating Our Future

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Town Hall on Covenant Sunday, February 12, 11:45am

In just a few weeks, we will be formally installing Rev. Taddeo as our settled minister! Prior to the March 11 ceremony, your Board of Trustees wants to work with the congregation to develop and adopt a covenant between the congregation and our minister. The Board and Rev. Taddeo have been working on a draft document, and we want to share it with you and invite your input. Please stay after the February 12 morning service for potluck lunch and a Town Hall meeting where we will discuss the draft covenant..

Building and Grounds Work Days Saturday, March 3, 8:00am-12:00pm

At the Installation Ceremony, UUCG will have visitors from around the country. Help UUCG look its best by coming to a special March 3 Building and Grounds Work Day. We'll have clean-up and spruce-up projects for indoors and outside. Coffee and bagels will be available at 8:00 and we'll adjourn by noon. Come for the entire time or whatever works best for your schedule.

Claim Kitchen Items by March 3

The Hospitality Committee plans a thorough clean out of the kitchen in early March. Please stop by the kitchen and look through the items placed on the kitchen table and counter to pick up items you may have previously left behind. Unclaimed surplus items will either be recycled or donated on March 3rd. Thank you.



Mark your calendars for the weekend of March 10 and 11, as we come together to imagine our future with each other and the greater community, and install Rev. Taddeo as our settled minister.

Saturday, March 10

Creating a Vision for Our Future

Facilitated by Connie Goodbread, Mid-South District Executive
Youth 6th Grade and Older are invited to participate
Childcare available, reservations needed by March 3.
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Multigenerational Celebration Potluck Party

Honor our journey and celebrate our vision for the future.
6 p.m.

Sunday, March 11

Morning Worship Service

Rev. Taddeo, Kelley Cody-Grimm, Sr. High Youth
Children's Activity
10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday Potluck

Saturday Night Leftovers Anyone?
noon

Ceremony of Installation for the Reverend Jan E. Taddeo

Children and Youth Welcome!
Followed by Reception
4 p.m.



Standing on the Side of Love Celebration Sunday, February 12

People in our congregation stand on the side of love every day. Teachers, social workers,

psychologists, scientists, engineers, lawyers, doctors, programmers, artists, actors ... so many of you practice "9 to 5 ministry" in the world Monday through Friday. The '30 Days of Standing on the Side of Love' initiative gives us an opportunity to share the ways in which people at UUCG are making a difference, to share the stories of the work that you do, and perhaps consider taking on one or two actions above and beyond what is already on your plate to generate more love and understanding in the world around us.

I would love to hear your stories, and your commitments, to Stand on the Side of Love over the next thirty days. Please send me e-mails with your stories, and I will seek ways to share these on Sunday mornings, in the newsletter, and perhaps we can create a Standing on the Side of Love bulletin board for this month to post stories, commitments and photos. Contact Rev. Taddeo, revtaddeo@uucg.org



Global Soap Project February 25 from 9:00am-Noon

Sr. High teens are volunteering at the Global Soap Project on Feb. 25th from 9-12. Bring permission forms & RSVP to John or Suzanne Nemeth or Donna Donnohue. Chaperones are needed.



Interfaith Children's Movement - Call for Support

This message comes to you on behalf of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta's "Promise the Children" Action Group, with a

request for your help in a specific way....

...And that is to help create a groundswell of support for a new Georgia Juvenile Code, in the works for 5 years, currently being considered by the state legislature. The Children's Code Rewrite (SB127/HB641) will make a HUGE difference in children's lives.

There is a vocal source of opposition emanating from Gwinnett County, and we are thus especially urging Gwinnett UUs to contact, as soon as possible, the county district attorney, juvenile court judges and legislators by phone, email and/or letter to express support for fast action on this legislation.

Easy-to-find contact information, sample letters, and additional background is at <https://groups.google.com/group/promise-the-children-uuca>. On behalf of Promise the Children Action Group at UUCA, thanks for your support!

Borra, Chair, joyborra@bellsouth.net

New Member Signing Ceremony

Sunday, February 12, 9:00am

If you are considering becoming a member of UUCG, please contact Peggy Averyt, mhsaveryt@bellsouth.net, to participate in the next ceremony. Ceremonies take place at 9:45 a.m. in Rev. Taddeo's office.

New Member Recognition Ceremony

Sunday, February 12, 10:30am

All members who joined since November 2011 are invited to participate in a special recognition ceremony during service on February 12. Contact Laura de Castro at Ldecastro@uucg.org by February 9 to participate.

Ready to learn more about UUCG? UU 101 Class

Sunday, February 19, 11:45am

Visitor Orientation, also known as the UU 101 class, is held on the 3rd Sunday of each month, providing a tour of the facilities & information on the congregation and Unitarian Universalism. Lunch is provided. Childcare provided when requested a week in advance. Sign-up online or on the bulletin board by the nametags.

Childcare at UUCG

Our professional nursery staff and nursery volunteers provide free childcare every Sunday morning during worship services. Free childcare is also available for other UUCG events with at least one week notice. Please register for childcare online or call the office at 770-717-7913 or contact Laura de Castro at Ldecastro@uucg.org.



Faith Like a River: Themes from UU History **Sundays, Feb. 5 & 19, Mar. 4 & 18 at 8:30–10:00 a.m. .**

A Lifelong Learning and Exploration Program facilitated by Rev. Taddeo and Steve Perkins, that explores the dynamic course of Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist (UU) history—the people, ideas, and movements that have shaped our faith heritage. It invites participants to place themselves into our history and consider its legacies. What lessons do the stories of our history teach that can help us live more faithfully in the present? What lessons do they offer to be lived into the future? In this introductory program, we will cover four of the sixteen workshops in this curriculum. Participation in all four sessions is preferred, but not required. \$5.00 Supply Fee per person. Childcare available with advance reservations. Register online.

Women's Book Club **February 16 at 7:00pm**



The next meeting of the Women's Book Club will be held on February 16 at 7:00 pm. The Book of the Month is *Dance of the Dissident Daughter* by Sue Monk Kidd. For March 15, the book is *Women of the Silk* by Gail Tsukiyama. Join us for bonding, great discussion and fellowship! You need not be a member of UUCG to participate. All adult women are welcomed!

Leadership Workshop

Saturday., Feb. 11, 10:00am-1:00pm

Members of the Leadership Development Committee will lead a workshop that distinguishes between power and authority, and between leadership and management. We will explore the implicit and explicit expectations of a congregational leader. The learning modalities include small and large group discussions, exercises, and a short video.

This workshop series is designed for past, current, and future lay leaders. The LDC is using the UUA curriculum, *Harvest the Power*, for our training. Participants are expected to make every effort to attend as many workshops as possible. The monthly series will repeat annually.

Each workshop explores an interesting facet of lay leadership in the congregational setting. There are four broad themes that are covered during the workshop series: SELF - personal journey as a leader; COMMUNITY - interaction between leaders and the community they serve; LEADERSHIP - healthy leadership presence and qualities; VISION - leading with purpose and vision.

Participants will find that leadership is not just learning certain models and skills for implementation. Leadership is a spiritual journey of self-discovery and contribution.

Morning refreshments are available. Childcare provided if requested a week in advance. Registrations required and can be made through the website or by contacting the office at 770-717-7913 or email to ldecastro@uucg.org. For more information, contact the committee at leadershipdevelopment@uucg.org.

From,

The Members of the Leadership Development Committee:

- Marina Peed
- June Warfield
- Karen Smith
- Rob Kohl
- Debra Greenwood



Mid-South District Annual Assembly

April 20 - 22, Huntsville Alabama

WILLIAM F. SCHULZ - KEYNOTE SPEAKER

SOME PASSIONS NEVER DIE

William F. Schulz is the President and CEO of UUSC, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, a nonsectarian organization that advances human rights and social justice in the United States and around the world. Previously, he served for 12 years as executive director of Amnesty International USA, until spring of 2006. An ordained Unitarian Universalist minister, Schulz is a former president of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Contact Carleen Dowell, TEACH Trustee at carleen.dowell@comcast for further information.

Invitation to Attend SUUSI this Summer

Looking for a great, affordable vacation for your family, one with lots of adventures and filled with UU friends? Come to SUUSI (Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute). You'll be welcomed warmly and invited into a community of more than 1,000 UU's. Together, you'll create a week of conversation, of reflection, of activity, and family. You'll be challenged intellectually and nurtured spiritually. You can stay up all night dancing or making music, and spend all day communing with nature or enhancing your personal growth. There are special programs for youth, teens and young adults, as well as hundreds of choices for adults, so be sure to bring the whole family. SUUSI is UU summer camp, July 15-21. It meets on the university campus of Radford University in Radford, VA. Our own Rev. Taddeo will be leading the Thursday night worship service to honor the milestones in the SUUSI community including the high school bridging ceremony, and co-leading a workshop, "Message in the Music." For more information, visit suusi.org.



Partner Church News

Partner Church raised its goal of \$500 by December to send school assistance money for the spring term to our sponsored youth, Matild and Zoltan. Thank you so much for your generosity! The lunch we and the Board sponsored in September got us really going and the Give Away the Plate program added a great deal. Our bake sale in November netted almost \$200. This is amazing! This money helps buy uniforms and supplies, and provides travel money for these students to attend high school. It's a tremendous gift to their futures. Thank you, again!

In other Partner Church news, we received information that the International Convocation of UU Women (icuuw.com) will hold their second conference in Romania next October. The ICUUW is a social justice partnering program supported by the UU Partner Church Council and other UU organizations, that partners with international women's support groups. The ICUUW focuses on empowering women through education, health issues, and violence prevention through partnerships with women in the Philippines, India, Africa, and Romania. Membership in the ICUUW is open to any UU congregant who would like to help. The Second International Convocation of UU Women will be held in Romania, Oct. 4-7, 2012. In conjunction with the Convocation, tours of Transylvania and partner churches will be available as well.

Interested in going on a vacation, perhaps to northeast India or the Philippines, for a spiritual and social justice-filled pilgrimage? Perhaps you would like to visit painted monasteries on the Romanian/Ukraine border or explore Budapest? Check the Partner Church bulletin board or the uupcc.org website for tours that are available in India, the Philippines, and Transylvania.

Suggested Donation?

Many events at UUCG ask for a "suggested donation" and that's just what it is meant to be, a suggestion. Some people will be able and willing to donate more, and some will not be able to donate at the suggested level. We strive to make our events inclusive for everyone in the congregation. This is one of the many ways we are modeling an intentional and welcoming community.

UUCG

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Congregation of Gwinnett
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www.uucg.org
770.717.7913

Rev. Jan Taddeo, Minister

RevTaddeo@uucg.org
770-717-7913 or 678-558-4834

Our Minister is in the office Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays. Monday is her day off, and Friday is set aside for writing and study. Appointments suggested. Hours may vary.

Laura de Castro, Administrator

Ldecastro@uucg.org
770-717-7913

Our Administrator is at UUCG on Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays from 9:30am-2:00pm and available from home on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00am-12:00pm. Appointments suggested. Hours may vary.

Paige Varner, President

president@uucg.org

Anna Elliott, Chair of Children and Teens Religious Exploration

replanningteam@uucg.org

Kevin McKinney, Music Director

kdmsoboy@comcast.net

Lydia Patrick, Choir Coordinator

Lydia_patrick@bellsouth.net

The office will be closed February 20-25 as staff attends the Southeast Unitarian Universalist Leadership Experience (SUULE).

Announcements for the March GNUUS are due on February 25. Announcements for the weekly e-newsletter and Order of Service are due on Wednesdays at noon. As the office is closed for SUULE, announcements for the February 24-26 news are due by Wednesday, February 15.

Random Acts of Music and Arts!

In response to popular demand, a new committee, Random Acts of Music and Arts, officially begins activity with their sponsorship of the Brother Sun concert on March 31. Universal Sensation(s) is going to work with that committee, first to support that concert, then to work on a coordinated agenda that will include presenting well-known artists at UUCG with enhanced publicity to make sure we invite as many folks outside of UUCG to attend as possible. Our aim is to show UUCG to the community through our support of the arts. Universal Sensation events will resume after the Brother Sun concert, under the leadership of the new committee, and with a similar format to past events, with new dates and lineups to be announced. Everyone who is interested in volunteering to help the production of the Brother Sun concert or with Random Acts of Music and Arts is encouraged to contact Bill Benshoof, wbbenshoof@gmail.com, cell number 678-778-3301.



Brother Sun Concert

March 31. Doors Open at 7:00pm,
Concert at 7:30pm.

Pat Wictor, Greg Greenway, and Joe Jencks have formed a dynamic new male trio. Their harmonies, as much as their lyrics, tell what they are about: warm as a campfire, stirring as a gospel church, rousing as a call to arms.

Calling upon contemporary songwriting, and informed by the deep roots of gospel, blues, and folk, the trio weaves a tapestry of harmony that is brilliantly fresh and yet familiar. Recommended donation: \$15 with advance reservations; \$20 at the door. Proceeds benefit the artists and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett. Reservations are encouraged. Mail checks to UUCG, Attn: Brother Sun Concert, 12 Bethesda Church Rd., Lawrenceville, GA 30044. (No alcohol will be sold). More on their work at www.brothersunmusic.com.



UUCG Bonanza

May 12, 2012

Best Round-Up of Parties
& Cool Stuff in Gwinnett

**It's time for all to help roundup
donations and outside
sponsorships.**

**Contact Marina Peed at
marinapeed@gmail.com or Bert
Schuster at bertschuster@att.net.**