



Gadding About

In the outgoing message on my voicemail I invite people to tell me one thing they love about their life. I got this idea from a personal growth and development exercise in which about 70 participants formed two lines facing each other. We had 3 seconds to tell each other one thing we loved about our lives, then quickly move to the next person and repeat the exercise, without repeating what we said before. We did this again and again until we had shared one thing with

everyone in the group. I learned that I had much to love about my life. I find that even on my darkest days when nothing seems to go well or I'm feeling the pain of life more than the joy, remembering even one blessing can shift my outlook; I invite others to share one thing they love about their life in the hopes it will shine light in dark spaces.

There is much that I love about my life: I love being a minister, and being YOUR minister. I love being a Unitarian Universalist, and serving our larger faith. I love gadding about at the UUA General Assembly with thousands of Unitarian Universalists from around the globe to learn, sing, worship, stretch, grow, and struggle together; and, I love that I recently shared this experience with 13 people affiliated with UUCG. I love that my faith journey keeps taking me deeper into meaning-making and becoming a better person. I love that I am sharing this journey with so many kindred spirits.

Maybe you can see how quickly one can name dozens, or even hundreds, of things there are to love about life. Family, friends, nature, music, art, medical "miracles," science, helping hands, a child's laugh, rainbows, and so much more. Over the course of this month I invite you to reflect more deeply on the blessings in your life.

Our worship services in the month of July will explore the concept of blessings from different angles. Whatever your relationship with the idea of blessings, you are likely to find ideas that resonate, concepts that challenge, and opportunities to receive, give, or be blessings. I hope for you some reflective time this summer.

I will be away on study leave and vacation from July 4 through July 24, returning to the pulpit on **August 7 for our annual Ingathering and Water Ceremony**. As you engage in summer activities, I invite you to reflect on the milestones of your spiritual or physical journeys over the course of the past year. Everyone is asked to bring a small container of water to share in this special UU ritual. The water you bring may be symbolic of many aspects of your journey such as these:

- East: New beginnings, birth, creation, inspiration, curiosity
- South: Emotions, trust, faith, passion, playfulness, vulnerability, courage
- West: Abundance, harvest, maturity, strength, transformation, compassion
- North: Clarity, wisdom, death, silence, peacefulness, connection

Blessings,
Reverend Jan

July 2016

Sundays at UUCG

11:00 am Worship Service

10:00 am Religious
Exploration Programs

Theme: Blessing

July 3: *Blessings of Interdependence*

Rev. Jan Taddeo, Service Leader
Lorena Griffin, Worship Associate
(No 10:00am program this week)

July 10: *Blessings and Curses*

Bob Patrick, Service Leader
Devon McQuain, Worship Associate

July 17: *Nine Waves of Blessing*

A Service of Compassionate Presence
Paige Varner, Service Leader
Sherree Bailey, Worship Associate
Third Sunday Pot-Luck
Visitor Orientation (UU 101)
New Member Class (UU 102)

July 24: *Be a Blessing*

Denise Burkart, Service Leader
Evan Varner, Worship Associates

July 31: *Man in the Moon*

Miriam Patrick, Service Leader
Carol Richardson, Worship Associates

August Theme: *Return Again*

Aug. 7: *Ingathering & Water Ceremony*

Rev. Jan Taddeo, Service Leader
Karen Smith, Worship Associate

*Plate contributions in June are shared
equally with*

*International Rescue Committee Atlanta
www.rescue.org*



Announcements for the August GNUUS are due by July 25.

Announcements for the weekly e-newsletter and Order of Service are due on Tuesdays at noon. Send announcements to "announcements@uucg.org". Contact Ldecastro@uucg.org to subscribe to newsletters.



Religious Exploration: Discussions on Conferences Attended

Sunday mornings in July at 10:00, the Leadership Development Committee (LDC) will be hosting programs for teens and adults about what our congregation members learned at leadership conferences they attended over the past year. Programs are held in the Playhouse. LDC recognizes that every member and attendee of our church is a leader in some way. You're invited to learn about choices we've made as a congregation and how our leadership is impacting our future. The Nursery will be open for childcare for ages 0-7. We are seeking volunteers to supervise activities on the playground.

July 10, Attending General Assembly: The Inside Story: Congregational members who recently attended the UUA's General Assembly will come together to share their GA experiences. This will be a chance to hear how members made their choices to attend GA, what was most special to them while attending, and how they'll carry what they learned about themselves and the larger UUA community into their (and our) futures. Facilitator: Terry Welsher of the Leadership Development Committee.

July 17, Who are we as a Small Congregation?: Sara Heath will be reporting on what she learned last November at the Columbia University conference, "Change, Organization, and Generosity in Smaller Congregations." Over this past winter, Sara has shared what she learned with the Board of Trustees (BOT) and the LDC. Now is your chance to hear what she learned! Topics covered at the conference were the processes congregations go through when change happens, how to use teams in congregations to accomplish goals, and ideas about to approach stewardship. The conference was led by the Congregational Consulting Group (CCG). The BOT and LDC have been reading books written by members of the CCG to help in planning our governance structures at UUCG. These include Dan Hotchkiss' book, *Governance and Ministry*, and *Not Your Parents' Offering Plate: A New Vision for Financial Stewardship* by J. Clif Christopher.

July 24, Understanding Covenant: This past March, Barbara Stahnke, James Riddlesperger, Sara Heath, and Denise Benshoof attended "Conflict, Change, and Community" at Greenville Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in South Carolina. Connie Goodbread of the Congregational Life Staff for the Southern Region of the UUA led the seminar. Connie has studied extensively with Peter Steinke, author of the classic congregational organization book, *Healthy Congregations: A Systems Approach*. Understanding the systems and patterns created in congregations by the experiences and talents we each bring to our church family is a large part of what Connie teaches. Our conversation at UUCG will use parts of Connie's program about why we choose to be in Covenant with each other, and how that affects our approaches to conflict and building community within churches.

July 31, Applying Our Leadership Covenant: Barbara Stahnke, Viki Andino, Sherree Bailey, Denise Benshoof, and Rev. Jan Taddeo attended "Thrown into the Deep End: The Leadership Swim," at UUCA this past May. Connie Goodbread, and Rev. Kenn Hurto, also of the UUA's Southern Region Congregational Life Staff, asked the questions: "How is covenant the center of our faith and how do we practice covenantal leadership? How do leadership and faith development go together?" In light of these questions, we'll be exploring our own Leadership Covenant and how it impacts our leadership and membership choices at UUCG.

Registration is now open for the 2016-2017 Program Year. Look for paper copies on the Religious Exploration bulletin board in the UUCG foyer or visit www.uucg.org and Religious Exploration from the Learning menu to register online.



Southern Region



Mid-South Chalice Lighter Call Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett Lawrenceville, GA



June 2016

Dear Mid-South Chalice Lighters,

This Chalice Lighter call goes out to assist the [Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett](http://www.uucg.org) in Lawrenceville, Georgia.

The UU Congregation of Gwinnett (UUCG) seeks Chalice Lighter funding assistance for their recent hire of their first compensated Choir Director. The congregation is committed to creating a high quality music program under the direction of a professional choir director and sees this as essential to growing their worship program to be the vibrant, multigenerational gathering space they dream of.



UU Congregation of Gwinnett in worship

Individual and congregational contributions to the UU Congregation of Gwinnett will be a gift to support growth at UUCG as well as the overall growth of Unitarian Universalism across the Southern Region. Chalice Lighters, please give generously! Congregations, please consider holding a special offering to share gifts with the UU Congregation of Gwinnett!

How to contribute (please note, this information is new for this call!):

Online contributions may be made via the UUCG website at this link: <http://www.uucg.org/index.php/about-us/stewardship/finances/181-on-line-donations> (or visit www.uucg.org, select "Upcoming Events" and then select "Donate").

Check contributions should be made payable to "UUCG" (with a memo line notation "Chalice Lighters") and mailed to UUCG, 12 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville, GA 30044. The closing date for this call is August 15, 2016.

Questions? Please contact Southern Region Administrator, Jessica Curren, jcurren@uua.org or 877-216-2986.

Thank you for your generous support of the Southern Region Chalice Lighter Program!

In faith,

Maggie

Maggie Lovins, Congregational Life Staff, UUA Southern Region



International Rescue Committee Atlanta

Give Away the Plate recipient of the Third Quarter of 2016

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) responds to the world's worst humanitarian crises and operates in many parts of the world, helping to restore health, safety, education, economic wellbeing, and power to people devastated by conflict and disaster. In the United States, the IRC resettles thousands of refugees every year. The Atlanta office helps people who have fled danger, persecution, and deprivation against incredible odds to rebuild their lives in America. We're giving locally: the Atlanta IRC, located in Decatur, which offers many volunteer opportunities, depends on financial support from the community.



UUCG Endowment Fund Gifts

The UUCG Endowment Fund, Inc. is pleased to announce that they have made a grant of \$800 to UUCG for the delegates to General Assembly in June. The funds were made available due to an increase in investment earnings in the UUA Common Endowment Fund in Boston during 2015.

Our fund also continues to grow thanks to donations from our supportive membership – mostly through Birthday Club donations – made with a dollar for each year you have celebrated. A recent gift has been received honoring Sue-Ann Soloway's birthday.

Finally, thank you to Nick Elliot who completed a 3 year term on the Endowment Fund Board in June. Look in the August GNUUS for news on filling the Board position. For more information about the Endowment Fund, please see the "Funding the Future" publication on the front table.



Support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee The Good Buy and Equal Exchange

- Adventure Bound! Document your travels with our handy, pocket-sized recycled paper journals and recycled newspaper colored pencils.
- Get Packing! This roll-top backpack folds down to fit just the right amount of travel necessities. Available in indigo denim and waxed ash gray.
- Gear up! Make sure your checklist includes recycled and bamboo sunglasses, chemical-free bug-repellant, non-toxic sunscreen, and natural-rubber flip flops. Shop our complete summer collection for more seasonal favorites.



SMALL FARMER:	CLARA HUAMAN SANTA CRUZ	<i>Through our Fair Trade partnerships with co-ops, small-scale farmers like Clara gain crucial market access they wouldn't have otherwise. The co-ops are democratically run by the farmers, so that together they decide how to invest in their communities.</i>
CO-OP INFO:	CACVRA was formed in 1969 by indigenous farmers. Originally a coffee co-op, CACVRA has diversified to also become a producer of high quality organic cacao.	
LOCATION:	Apurimac Valley of Peru	

Like our chocolate?
Try pairing it with our coffee!

RECOMMENDED PAIRING:
 Organic Love Buzz
 Organic Very Dark Chocolate





Wizarding Camp Gets Wonderful Reviews!

Two More Opportunities: July 11-15, 2016; 10:00am - 2:00pm

Order of the Owl Wizardry Camp is a Hogwarts experience for ages 7-14 to enjoy a week of otherworldly games, spellbinding crafts, enchanting dance moves, wizarding classes, & magical memories that will last a lifetime! Cost per camp is \$125, UUCG member \$100. Two opportunities remain: July 11-15, or July 25-29. Each camp day is from 10am-2pm. To register, email 1692productions@gmail.com or call Julie at 770-241-9805.

Backpack Drive for Corley Elementary: July 10-August 7

Before we know it, it will be time for the classroom again for the students of our partner school, Corley Elementary. For the second year, we are collecting new and gently-used backpacks for grade school children whose parents have very limited resources. So catch the "Back-to-School" sales early, and pick up a backpack - or 2 or 3! Our goal this year is 30 packs. Donation bin will be outside of the Lounge. For more info: joannw55@live.com.



COME PLAY

Southern Unitarian Universalist Fall Institute

OCT. 2-7, 2016 at THE MOUNTAIN, Highlands, NC

"Play keeps us fit physically and mentally. Those who play rarely become brittle in the face of stress or lose the healing capacity for humor... Play energizes us and enlivens us... It eases our burdens. It renews our natural sense of optimism and opens us up to new possibilities." Stuart Brown, MD

You are invited on a creative quest to better understand how, at this stage of life, we Play. Come for a colorful autumn week as we explore Creative Play in many forms: games, arts, conversations, stories and life-styles, expanding your comfort zone in the safe haven of The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center.

"The playing adult steps sideward into another reality..." Erik H. Erikson

David Novak, award-winning UU storyteller who started with the Disney Institute, is a Key Presenter, weaving his creative skills with ours to "bring out the best in us."

Mindy Simmons, well-known UU musician from SUUFI and Florida, brings her playful approach to music inspiring us to sing, dance, hoot, and enjoy ourselves and each other.

Other presenters, also accomplished in their creative and exploration skills, will beckon us to break our chains, bust out of our boxes, and venture into playfulness!

Typical of SUUFI, the schedule balances Mind and Body. Short morning sessions link to week-long endeavor in hands-on, thought-provoking, and heart-felt pursuits. Solitude and sharing characterize this week-long retreat. Community emerges as insights deepen.

"It is a happy talent to know how to play." Ralph Waldo Emerson

Sign up at www.TheMountainRLC.org
 \$25 discount for early registration before August 1
 4-Day \$375, 5-Day \$465, 6-Day \$560

SUUFI 2016 WORKSHOP CHOICES

"Creative people are curious, flexible, persistent, and independent with a tremendous spirit of adventure and a love of play." Henri Matisse

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Creating Meaningful Worship | Gimme More Music & I'll Play too! |
| Collage | Play in the Kitchen! |
| Memory Photo Book | Hike to Glen Falls |
| Drumming | Learning is Playing & Play is Learning |
| Seasonal Arrangements | Tell Me How... on Computer or Smartphone |
| Beads and Craft | Exploring Highlands Nature Hike |
| Music 4 the Kid in Us | Volunteering = Play @ The Mountain |
| Making Walking Sticks | Science and Spirituality |
| Playing with Ancestors! | Zip-lining for Play or Challenge |
| Journaling (Spiritual) Journey | Play in the Peace Garden |
| Dulcimer: Play Like Never Before | |
| Story Gathering--Beyond Genealogy | |

"Play is training for the unexpected." Marc Bekoff

"CREATIVE PLAY"

at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center at 4300' elevation in Highlands, NC.

A participant's review:

"The Southern UU Fall Institute (SUUFI) at The Mountain in the Blue Ridge Mountains provides a variety of workshops and activities which inspire, inform and entertain. In addition to the content presentations, discussion groups, creative opportunities, and nature explorations, the retreat site includes an outdoor labyrinth and farm which provides produce for the dining hall. In addition to the planned events, there are many opportunities for fellowship or relaxing in a rocking chair on the deck overlooking Blue Valley. All of this is at an elevation of 4200 feet, which provides incredible views - including 4 states visible from the top of the tower and in this rural area, the night sky is brilliant with stars and constellations!"

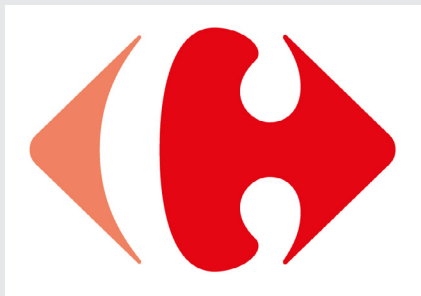
Sign up at www.TheMountainRLC.org
 \$25 discount for early registration before August 1
 4-Day \$375, 5-Day \$465, 6-Day \$560



Memorial Service for John Duktig August 14 at 2:00pm at UUCG

The memorial service for John will be August 14 at 2:00. In lieu of flowers, Karen requested donations to Atlanta Wild Animal Rescue Effort (AWARE). There is a Donate link on the site at <http://www.awarewildlife.org/> where one can either donate directly or adopt an animal in John's name. Mail checks to:

AWARE
 4158 Klondike Road
 Lithonia GA 30038.



Plugging in With Passion

**Sunday, August 7
10:00am and 12:15pm**

Join us on August 7th to kick off the new program year with an informative event. "Plugging in with Passion" will provide an opportunity to talk directly with representatives from various committees and groups to learn about offerings and activities throughout UUCG. Come and discover the many avenues available for deeper engagement in congregational life. Event offered before and after service.



UUCG Store Open
Anniversary t-shirts & more at:

<https://shop.spreadshirt.com/shopuucg>



My Year of Polity as Spiritual Practice Barbara Stahnke, President

As I reflect on this past year in preparing for my coming year, what I learned about myself, my faith and our community in simple statements:

1. I am almost always late because I want to do everything and be everything. (This is being written late and submitted late.)
2. I have come to love UUCG more through my work as president. (I want to Rick Roll you all (just ask me if you don't get the internet reference).
3. I have come to appreciate and be frustrated with my faith in different ways; the ultimate humanity of this faith is why this is important. It reflects the realities of life universal.
4. I love the willingness of this community to come together and work through difficult issues with diverse people – we get frustrated and upset – we come back at it and try again.
5. We work hard – play hard – dream hard. This leads to deep feelings of disappointment and fear that it won't work. Thirty five years and we are still going strong as a community. Since the 50's Unitarians and Universalists have worked to combine our faiths, struggling to make it work. Since the founding of this country, we have been a faith that understands American Ideals and works to make them manifest in our country.

Some things to actually do better on in the coming year:

1. Actually do that journaling thing.
2. Re-read my notes from meeting sooner than right before the next meeting.
3. Keep moving us forward to truly live our vision and mission in our community and the larger world.
4. Keep showing up...you guys ROCK!

With faith that we can make it through anything together.
Barbara Stahnke, President of the Board of Trustees.

New UUCG Website Now Online

As of July 1st, our new website is up and running! Please take some time to visit our new "virtual front door" at www.uucg.org. You may browse the calendar, register for events, read columns and essays written by your fellow UUCG members, access the "Words of Wisdom?" daily devotionals, learn about what's new and what's coming up, and discover (or rediscover) exciting ways to connect with your friends at church. Christiana welcomes any and all feedback about the usability and accessibility of the new site. Feel free to drop her a note with any praise, questions, or concerns at cmcquain@uucg.org.



Join a Covenant Group!

Covenant Groups are small groups of 8 to 10 people who meet twice a month for 4 months. People explore our monthly themes through guided discussion that draws out the meaning in our personal stories and deepens our connections in the congregation. Four groups start in mid-August. Register for the group you prefer:

- 1st/3rd Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
- 2nd/4th Wednesdays at 7:00 pm
- 1st/3rd Thursdays at 10:00 am
- 1st/3rd Saturdays at 10:00 am.

Go to www.uucg.org and click on the “Register” button. Contact Rev. Taddeo, Bill Benshoof, or Carol Richardson if you have questions.



Book Club

August 23 at 7:00pm in Library at UUCG

The Book Club will be taking a brief summer break in July. We will resume our regular monthly gatherings on the fourth

Tuesday of the month beginning on August 23rd at 7PM discussing *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. From two of our most fiercely moral voices, a passionate call to arms against our era’s most pervasive human rights violation: the oppression of women and girls in the developing world.

With Pulitzer Prize winners Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn as our guides, we undertake an odyssey through Africa and Asia to meet the extraordinary women struggling there, among them a Cambodian teenager sold into sex slavery and an Ethiopian woman who suffered devastating injuries in childbirth. Drawing on the breadth of their combined reporting experience, Kristof and WuDunn depict our world with anger, sadness, clarity, and, ultimately, hope.

They show how a little help can transform the lives of women and girls abroad. That Cambodian girl eventually escaped from her brothel and, with assistance from an aid group, built a thriving retail business that supports her family. The Ethiopian woman had her injuries repaired and in time became a surgeon. A Zimbabwean mother of five, counseled to return to school, earned her doctorate and became an expert on AIDS.

Through these stories, Kristof and WuDunn help us see that the key to economic progress lies in unleashing women’s potential. They make clear how so many people have helped to do just that, and how we can each do our part. Throughout much of the world, the greatest unexploited economic resource is the female half of the population. Countries such as China have prospered precisely because they emancipated women and brought them into the formal economy. Unleashing that process globally is not only the right thing to do; it’s also the best strategy for fighting poverty.

Visitor Orientation

UU 101 July 17 at 12:45pm

CURIOS – If you are new to Unitarian Universalism or just new to UUCG, this class should answer some of your questions. **COURAGEOUS** – Join us in the library on third Sundays immediately following the service.

COMPASSIONATE – We hope the information and discussions will help you on your spiritual journey.

Childcare and lunch provided. Sign up on the bulletin board by the nametags, visit www.uucg.org and select “register”, call the UUCG office at 770-717-7913, or just drop in. For more information, contact Peggy at membership@uucg.org.

New Member Class

UU 102 July 17 at 12:45pm

If you have taken UU 101 and feel ready to move on to the next step, please join us. UU 102 meets in the Lounge. Childcare will be available and lunch provided. Sign up is available by selecting “register” on the www.uucg.org website, through the office at 770-717-7913, or through email to membership@uucg.org. After completing UU 102, you are eligible to become an official member of UUCG at an upcoming signing ceremony.

Signing Ceremony

If you are considering becoming a member of UUCG, please contact membership@uucg.org, to participate in the next ceremony. Ceremonies take place quarterly in the Pastor’s Parlor. Next ceremony is August 21 2016.

UUCG

Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Gwinnett
12 Bethesda Church Road
Lawrenceville, GA 30044
www.uucg.org 
770.717.7913

Building Open

Sunday: 9:30am-12:30pm
Tuesday: 10:00am-3:30pm
Friday: 10:00am-2:00pm
By Appointment: 770-717-7913

Staff

Rev. Jan Taddeo, Parish Minister

RevTaddeo@uucg.org
Office: 770-717-7913
Cell: 678-558-4834

Our Minister keeps flexible hours.

Friday is her Sabbath day.

Appointments suggested.

Rev. Taddeo will be on vacation and study leave from June 15 - July 24.

Laura de Castro, Administrator

Ldecastro@uucg.org
Office: 770-717-7913

Our Administrator is in the building on Tuesdays, Fridays and 3rd Sundays and available through email on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Appointments suggested.

Christiana McQuain, Program Assistant

cmcquain@uucg.org

Kevin McKinney, Choir Director

kmckinney@uucg.org

Board of Trustees

Barbara Stahnke, President

president@uucg.org

Ben Lower, Vice President

vp@uucg.org

Steve Smith, Treasurer

treasurer@uucg.org

Ally Perras, Secretary

secretary@uucg.org

Board Members at Large

Sara Heath

James Riddlesperger

Theresa Waldrop

Phoenix Lastinger



Lughnasad Celebration: The First Harvest

Saturday, August 6, 2016 6-8pm

Come and celebrate this half of the year that first began with Brigid at Imbolc, fulfilled now with Lugh at his festival of the first harvest. We gather to celebrate what we are enjoying of life's harvest. This ritual is open to the public and led by members of the Sylvan Sanctuary Grove of Druids. Ritual begins at 6:00 with shared snacks and fellowship afterwards. Ritual attire is welcome but not required.



CUUPS Gathering on July 16

CUUPS will meet on July 16th at 7 pm to explore the element of fire.



Save the Date: Ingathering August 7, 2016

11:00am Worship Service

Annual Ingathering & Water Ceremony

Rev. Jan Taddeo, Service Leader

Karen Smith, Worship Associate

As you engage in summer activities, you are invited to reflect on the milestones of your spiritual or physical journeys over the course of the past year. Everyone is asked to bring a small container of water to share in this special UU ritual. The water you bring may be symbolic of many aspects of your journey such as these:

- East: New beginnings, birth, creation, inspiration, curiosity
- South: Emotions, trust, faith, passion, playfulness, vulnerability, courage
- West: Abundance, harvest, maturity, strength, transformation, compassion
- North: Clarity, wisdom, death, silence, peacefulness, connection



Curiosity. Courage. Compassion.

*We are a radically welcoming sanctuary in a green space.
We foster spiritual growth as we joyfully nurture connections
and community within our walls and beyond.*