



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

Gwinnett News for Unitarian Universalists



Gadding About

September is the time when the leadership of the congregation turns attention to our annual pledge drive. In October every member and friend is asked and encouraged to make a financial pledge to support the shared ministries of our beloved congregation. It takes all of us pitching in together to keep our vibrant programs running, maintain our buildings and grounds, and continue to move towards our vision.

Money is a subject many people find difficult to talk about. There can be a lot of emotions tied up in our relationship with money. The lessons we learn about money start at a very young age ... probably every single person has some story they could tell about what they learned about money from family and friends as a child.

Money and church can be an even more complicated conversation. For people raised in a faith other than Unitarian Universalism, or who were not churchd at all, they may not know how we manage money in our faith tradition. Perhaps people hold assumptions that we receive money from our Unitarian Universalist Association, or from other sources, but this is not so.

Unitarian Universalists own their congregations. This means the members of the congregation, in collaboration with staff, make the big decisions about our buildings and grounds, our programs, and our staffing. We are also responsible for providing the funds for the commitments we make and the programs we create. This is a covenantal act... part of our sacred promise to do the work of the church responsibly. Most of the Unitarian Universalists I have conversations with believe that money can be used for great good in the world. Having money can certainly make many aspects of life easier, more comfortable, and less stressful. Paraphrasing songwriter Susan Werner, when they have plenty and then some, UUs are often quite generous in helping others to have plenty and then some too.

Most Unitarian Universalists I speak with enjoy being generous, especially if their generosity is directed towards something that makes an important difference in their lives ... like fostering spiritual growth and nurturing connections, and making the world a more welcoming and green place. My hope is that our vision to create such a place, and our sacred covenant to do the work of the church responsibly, will inspire a new level of generosity so we can move into 2017 confident that we can meet our commitments to one another for the responsible stewardship of our sacred space and our shared ministries.

Many, many members of UUCG give generously of their time, their talents, and their treasures. Perhaps you would like to share with the congregation why you give so generously. Starting in September I'll be asking people to share their stories of generous giving during the worship services, on posters in the building, and in other ways. Please send me an e-mail or a text if you would like to share your story of what inspires you to generously support UUCG. I can be reached at revtaddeo@uucg.org or 678-558-4834.

With a grateful and joyful heart,
Reverend Jan

September 2016

Sundays at UUCG

11:00 am Worship Service

10:00 am Religious Exploration
Programs

Theme: Love Makes a Bridge

Sep 4: *Crossing the Great Divide*

Lydia Patrick, Service Leader
Rae Haynes, Worship Associate
Plate: Together Baton Rouge

Sep 11: *Building Bridges, Crossing Waters*

Rev. Jan Taddeo, Service Leader
Toby Lyles, Worship Associate

Sep 18: *Generative Connectivity*

Rev. Jan Taddeo, Service Leader
Devon McQuain, Worship Associate
Third Sunday Potluck Luncheon
Visitor Orientation (UU 101)
New Member Classs (UU 102)

Sep 25: *Love Makes a Bridge*

Rev. Jan Taddeo, Service Leader
Sherree Bailey, Worship Associate
Guest Choir Director: Don Milton
Town Hall Meeting after service

Oct 2: *Our House*

Rev. Jan Taddeo, Service Leader
Carol Richardson, Worship Associate

*Plate contributions September 11-25
are shared equally with
International Rescue Committee Atlanta
www.rescue.org.*

*On September 4, the plate is shared with
Together Baton Rouge.*



Announcements for the October GNUUS are due by September 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.

Spiritual Growth

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Faith Development: *Love Makes a Bridge*

The upcoming year of programs based on our overarching theme, *Singing the Journey*, promises to be thought provoking, engaging, and inspiring. Register your family today to participate in all that we will be offering in the upcoming year. Visit www.uucg.org and select "Learning-Religious Exploration-Register" to signup online or pickup a printed form from the Religious Exploration bulletin board in the foyer. September 4 at 10:00am is a time of Fellowship Conversations. Our September programs on Curiosity, Courage and Compassion are based on theme *Love Makes a Bridge* and begin on September 11.

- Courage: The Spiritual Practice of Companionship, facilitated by the Pastoral Care Associates
- Curiosity: To Whom we Share our Gifts, facilitated by Give Away the Plate
- Compassion: Partnering to Meet the Needs of a Community, facilitator TBD

September Rotation:

- Adults – Curiosity (9/11), Compassion ((9/18), Courage (9/25)
- Teens – Courage (9/11), Curiosity (9/18), Compassion (9/25)
- Tweens – Compassion (9/11), Courage (9/18), Curiosity(9/25)
- Early Elementary – Chalice Children
- Nursery thru Preschool – Childcare



Book Club

September 27 at 7:00pm in Library at UUCG

After its summer break, the Book Club resumes in September. 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.

From the UUCG Youth Group

In August, we had a successful and exciting Youth Group Lock-In. While we were small in number, we were mighty in voice!

- We built tall monuments of marshmallows and spaghetti, and we were successfully able to best even the hottest of lava.
- The Youth and Advisors discussed some events for the upcoming calendar, including visits to Six Flags, a Buddhist Temple, the Hindu Temple in Lilburn, and a big party.



- We were able to decide on a “totally tubular” mission statement for our group involving some goals we would like to achieve for ourselves.
- We’re fairly close to deciding our what our service project will be this year, and we’ve already got some great ideas planned for events like the PRIDE parade and the Bake Sale. We invite all teens to join us at our next Youth Group meeting on the third Sunday of the month, and we look forward to hearing your ideas!

Your UUCG Youth Group Leaders,
Amanda Murray, Heather Robalik, Josh Sims & Brendan Strallow



The Seekers at UUCG on September 18 at 12:30pm

The Seekers, formerly the UUCG Bible Study, is a group of Unitarian Universalists and others who are interested in exploring the great religious books and texts of the world. We have no prescribed theology and honor each person’s spiritual path toward enlightenment, comfort and reason. There are no “experts” in the group to interpret religious texts for us. Each person shares his or her own interpretation of a particular text without fear of condemnation or ridicule. And the best part of the group is that none of these “rules” were set down - they evolved organically. We invite you to join us if you have an interest in theological writings and would like to share your views in an open, accepting environment. We meet the third Sunday of the Month in the Laboratory. Grab a plate from the potluck and come on down. We meet for about one hour. Contact person: Debra Greenwood debra404@gmail.com



Family Night at UUCG September 10, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Families of all sizes, including people of all ages, are invited to gather for fun and fellowship on the second Saturday of each month. Bring food for your family and enjoy fellowship over dinner. Bring games, toys, movies, crafts, or other activities to contribute to the fun! A relaxed time to build connections and friendships across generations. Hosts Amanda and Steve Perkins.



Chalice Lighter Call brings \$3,319 for UUCG

UUCG was selected to receive funds from a Chalice Lighter Call for Contributions to help fund our Choir Director as a permanent position. This reflects our commitment to creating a high quality music program under the direction of a professional choir director as we grow our vibrant, multigenerational worship program. Friends from the Southern Region donated \$3,319 to UUCG. Thank you for your generous contributions. You can continue to give to UUCG by visiting www.uucg.org, select "Give" in the upper right corner. Scroll down to the

"Donate" button. Or, place cash or checks in the offering bowl on Sunday.



Endowment Fund News

We are pleased to welcome Rob Kohl to begin serving a 3 year term as a member of the UUCG Endowment Fund Board of Trustees. Rob is a former Finance Chair for UUCG with a long history of interest in the financial viability of UUCG. We will greatly appreciate his input in ensuring a solid stewardship of the nearly \$60,000.00 that now resides in the Endowment Fund. If you have

questions about how you can contribute to the fund, please pick up a Funding the Future brochure in the church lobby or talk to Dave Averyt, Doug Beers, Amy Guildroy, or Susan Peterson-Hazan, the other UUCGEF Board members.



Please Re-Register Kroger Plus Cards

A new program year is starting at Kroger and all cards have to be re-enrolled for participation. Participants get to keep all of their Kroger points, fuel discounts & benefits too. Last year, Kroger gave nearly \$400 to UUCG and this could increase if more people participate.

- Register at www.KrogerCommunityRewards.com or call 800-576-4377, select option 4 to get your Kroger Plus card number.
- Select "My Account" to login and add UUCG (19343). Click on confirm.
- Verify enrollment by finding UUCG on the right side of your information page.

A Message from the UU Service Committee

In a world where two-thirds of actual recyclable products still find their way into landfills or incinerators, it's important for all of us to take small steps that make a difference every day. And with the opportunities for sustainable shopping at The Good Buy, you can even take those steps in vegan footwear!



Put Your Money Where Your (Vegan, Fair Trade, Handmade) Shoes Are: Take a look at the cool Cardinal Red Joggers, but with a tree planted for every purchase means you can't go wrong whichever one you choose.

Be Shaded, Not Shady: Fashionable sunglasses made with eco-materials and 100% UVA/UVB protection make hearts sing even on the hottest of August days. The Mariposa pair is beautiful and the Copper & Blue Aviators are a true classic. Every pair you purchase means Blue Planet donates a pair to one of the 285 million people in the world who are visually impaired.

Reuse, Reduce, Recycle Your Shopping Bag: Enough plastic is thrown away every year to circle the earth four times. Commit to the zero-waste lifestyle with the Reusable Chico Shopping Bag. Chico even has Reusable Produce Bags and as part of their zero-waste program, all products can be returned for recycling.

Community Connections & Auction



Community Connections

If you want more opportunities for fellowship, there are many opportunities remaining from the 2016 Auction. Just make a generous donation to UUCG and write the name of the Auction event of your choice on your check or visit www.uucg.org and select "Register for Events".

- **Memorial Hike on the Cherokee Trail.** In honor of Karl Adams we will hike the base trail (about 5.5 miles) around Stone Mountain. Wear sturdy shoes and appropriate clothing for the weather. Organized by Jan Taddeo. Saturday date TBD.
- **Self-Discovery Creative Workshop.** Join Reverend Jan and Christiana in

the Playhouse room at UUCG for a hands-on workshop that will allow you to access your intuition via the creation of a personalized deck of cards, using the process of SoulCollage® as described by Seena B. Frost. Saturday, November 05, 2016, 10:00am - 02:00pm.

- **Cookie Exchange.** Ally is hosting a fun holiday event for all ages. Come to the UUCG kitchen to bake a variety of Christmas cookies and exchange with others. Children welcome. December TBD.
- **Family Bowling Night.** Join the Taddeos for a fun family time at "Stars & Strikes" in Dacula. Two (2) hours of bowling, with shoes and snacks provided. Please indicate how many in your party. December 3 from 4-6pm.
- **Recital.** Join Barbara and Bryan in the UUCG Sanctuary for an evening of classical music and tea. Barbara will be playing her flute and Bryan will be on the piano. Sunday, February 05, 2017, 03:00pm - 05:00pm.
- **Plarn Waterbottle Workshop.** Wonder what to do with all those old plastic bags? Janet Hazzard has offered to teach a workshop at UUCG on how to make plastic yarn (plarn) from recycled plastic grocery bags. Sunday, October 23 at 12:30pm.
- **A Walk in Harbins Park.** Join Wally for a lovely 6 mile walk through Harbins Park. The park is located in Dacula and offers a mostly level, shaded but unpaved trail rated as moderate. Date: Fall 2016
- **Ebenezer Church Service & Mary Mac Tea Room.** Debra and Ida are hosting a visit to a church service at historic Ebenezer Baptist Church where both MLK Sr. and MLK Jr. preached. After the service you will continue on to Mary Mac's Tea Room for a nice luncheon. Date: September or October 2016.
- **Tarot Party.** Sherree and Daniel are hosting a Tarot card reading and discussion at UUCG. Get a reading or bring a deck and learn basic reading techniques. September 9 at 7:00pm
- **Passover Seder.** Join the Hlava family for a very special African American Passover Seder Dinner. April 16 2017 at 5:00pm.

Visitor Orientation

UU 101 Sept. 18 at 12:45pm

CURIOUS – 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 Sept. 18 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.

Beyond Our Walls

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A Message from the Social Justice Committee

While we usually meet after the service on the first Sunday of the month, we'll meet on Sunday, September 11, because of Labor Day. Please join us. Everyone is welcome.

Steve Babb invites everyone to attend the diverse community meetings at Snellville Methodist, the first Thursday of the month, 7-9 pm. He has attended several times and would like us to develop something similar. If you go, please let someone from the Social Justice Committee know what you learned.

Carol Richardson delivered approximately 44 donated backpacks to Corley Elementary. Two boxes of miscellaneous supplies for Art classes were also collected and delivered. Thank all of you who donated. Your generosity is appreciated.

Put October 2 after the service on your calendars. Mr. Greg Davis will speak about the Opportunity School District proposal to be voted on statewide in November. Child care will be available, and lunch will be provided by the Social Justice Committee. This is of special importance to parents of children in public school.

On September 20 at 9 p.m. on GPB a Ken Burns documentary will air - Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War tells the story of two Unitarians who helped hundreds of people escape Nazi Europe. The correlation is being made with today's emerging Islamophobia and how UUs can stand up for Muslims in our communities. The Social Justice Committee hopes to set up a showing at UUCG and will invite Muslims to attend to discuss the film with us afterward.



Framing Issues with a Racial Equity Lens

September 24, 10:00 - 1:00

A World Trust program facilitated by Rev. Taddeo

Belief systems, which inform policy and law, can contribute to and perpetuate injustice. This injustice rests on unconscious and conscious beliefs about who matters in society and who does not. In order to make right what is inherently wrong, collective action is required. This program provides examples of how injustice is perpetuated through the media and court systems. By working with art, film clips and other activities participants will learn the importance of framing

an issue with a racial equity lens and practice it.



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, hoist, 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

Playing with Ancestors!

Journaling (Spiritual) Journey

Dulcimer: Play Like Never Before

Story Gathering--Beyond Genealogy

"Play is training for the unexpected." Marc Bekoff

Science and Spirituality

Zip-lining for Play or Challenge

Play in the Peace Garden



"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

Building and Grounds

Infrastructure

As many of you have noticed, we have a gully in our parking lot. We are also experiencing the failure of the middle heating and air conditioning (HVAC) unit. The other issue with the dead tree at the back of our property that has the potential to cause damage to our neighbor's (the apartment complex) property has been revealed to be multiple trees as well as trees from the neighbor's property. We have received quotes on the repairs; we will definitely be discussing these issues at the Town Hall meeting on the 25th of September. The board did vote that we would go ahead and make the repairs to the parking lot if our financial situation allows; it does look like we may be able to afford this repair – and this is the most important one for safety and welcome. The two working HVAC units appear to be handling the cooling as long as everyone takes careful responsibility with following the directions on the thermostats. We are in conversation with the apartment complex about the trees. Please stay tuned for more updates.



Growing a Beloved Community

Barbara Stahnke, President

Today I write with Gratitude for the membership of our beloved community. At the beginning of summer, I put out the call that UUCG was short on our budget income goals. I described the shortfall in specific income sources and asked you, the members, to take action. I want

to report that many members are current on their pledge, some members paid their pledge early, and some members gave support that they might have for other income like the auction or special fundraisers. One member gave additional support income for themselves and for another member who maybe could not afford to give additional support. We are in a good financial place due to all of your response. Thank you for your response.

The board has set our goal this year to make sure we remain responsible to the mission and vision of UUCG. We want to explore questions about church leadership and governance in relationship to our faith development to better serve the mission and vision. We have developed a series of questions that we will be discussing in relationship to also reading chapters of "Growing a Beloved Community". We will continue to do the work of the Board of Trustees yet we will prioritize these conversations as the board feels these will help us grow into our UUCG vision. Our discussions will be informed by the work of the ministries of UUCG.

Each month after the board meeting, we will be identifying a quote or statement that best describes what we have identified as a guidepost for hopefully being ready to put together a strategic plan. These will be posted on the Board of Trustees Bulletin Board. Please check the bulletin board regularly for updates on our progress, finance updates and minutes. Please note that all members may attend board meetings as observers, or can request time on the board agenda for visiting member concerns. Board meetings are held on the Second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm.



Save the Date
Town Hall Meeting
September 25, 2016
after service

UUCG

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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.

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 12-3:30pm on
Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
Appointments suggested.

Christiana McQuain, Program Assistant

cmcquain@uucg.org

Coming in 2017, Choir Director
to be determined

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



ReUUse Yard Sale

UUCG will hold it's annual yard sale on Friday, September 30 and Saturday, October 1 from 9:00-2:00 both days. This is a community event in two ways. First, it brings the community outside our doors into our building and introduces us to people who might not otherwise venture inside. Secondly, it requires

the assistance of our internal community to make it happen; yes, volunteers are needed. Please contact Karen Smith if you are able to work Friday or Saturday of the sale OR during the week to sort and set-up.

CLEAN donations may be dropped off at church following the Sunday service of September 25 until 4:00pm, as well as during the week prior to the sale. We are not able to accept large furniture or used car seats.

Drop off hours week of September 25:

- Sunday: 1:00-4:00 pm
- Monday: 1:00-5:00pm
- Tuesday: 4:00-8:00pm
- Wednesday: 1:00-5:00pm
- Thursday: 1:00-5:00pm

Volunteers are needed to help sort and price items during these times, as well as set up road signs for advertisement. Let us know what works for you.



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.*