



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

Gwinnett News for Unitarian Universalists



What's Going on at 10:00am on Sundays?



We're so glad you asked! While the age-specific rotation programs are on a hiatus for the time being, there are still offerings available for adults and teens to enrich and enliven your Sunday mornings at UUCG, prior to the Worship Service.

On the first Sunday of each month, the Faith Development Team hosts a guided discussion introducing the monthly theme. Indulge your curiosity, join us and deepen your understanding! What gifts does this month's theme hold for you?

On the second Sundays, Spiritual Practices are introduced. Come with the courage to experience something new, or re-invigorate a forgotten practice. What connects you with spirit?

On the third Sundays, there will be discussions about various ways to get and stay involved in the movement to work toward social justice in our community, our nation, and the world. How can you have an impact? How can your compassion make a difference?

And on the fourth Sundays, beginning in March, the Faith Development Team will sponsor a book discussion based on *The Third Reconstruction*, by The Rev. Dr. William Barber II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, which is the 2016-2017 UUA Common Read.

It is our goal to provide you with inspiration and resources to help you live deeper into your UU faith throughout the week. Come join us at 10:00 on Sunday mornings for fellowship and learning, and opportunities to live into the questions as you search for truth and meaning. Childcare will be available.

This month begins with:

Feb. 5 - Faith Development Forum - Fire of Commitment: a discussion of the things to which we commit our time and treasure, with the following questions to guide us: What was your first experience in committing to a cause? Who influenced you? What are you doing now? What has changed in how you view commitment? How do you renew your spirit?

Feb. 12 - Spiritual Practices -Present Moment Awareness through Trauma Sensitive Yoga, taught by guest facilitator Stacey Beth Shulman, the Curvy Yogini. She is a wonderful, loving teacher for people of all shapes, sizes, ages, and abilities. The practice will be done from seated positions and no one will need to get on the floor! This is especially good for all those of us with physical challenges.

February 2017

Sundays at UUCG

10:00 am Faith Development
11:00 am Worship Service

February Theme: *Fire of Commitment*

February 5: *Something is On Fire*
Rev. Duncan Teague, Service Leader
Carol Richardson, Worship Associate

February 12:
Paige Varner, Service Leader
Lorena Gay-Griffin, Worship Associate

February 19: *Don't Drop the Bomb: Why We Still Need Feminism*
Rev. Charlotte Arsenault, Service Leader
Sherree Bailey, Worship Associate
Potluck Luncheon
UU 101, UU 102

February 26: *Faith, Fear, and Finding the Inner Flame*
Bob Patrick, Service Leader
Tobly Lyle, Worship Associate

February plate contributions are shared equally with Allies for Racial Equity (ARE) Like on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/uuallies>



Announcements for the March newsletter are due by February 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.



UUCG Book Club

Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 7:00pm in the Library

For the next meeting of the book club will be discussing *What is the What* by Dave Eggers

What Is the What is the epic novel based on the life of Valentino Achak Deng who, along with thousands of other children (the so-called Lost Boys) was forced to leave his village in Sudan at the age of seven and trek hundreds of miles by foot, pursued by militias, government bombers, and wild animals, crossing the deserts of three countries to find freedom. When he finally is resettled in the United States, he finds a life full of promise, but also heartache and myriad new challenges. Moving, suspenseful, and unexpectedly funny, *What Is the What* is an astonishing novel that illuminates the lives of millions through one extraordinary man.

We welcome new members and visitors to join us for our discussions each month, whether you have read or finished the book. Light refreshments will be provided.

Imbolc: Stirrings of Spring

February 4 at 6:00pm

Come and celebrate the first stirrings of spring at this seasonal celebration of Brigid, creativity, healing and the beginning of new things. This Imbolc 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. For more information, contact Bob Patrick at robert.patrick59@gmail.com.



CUUPS

February 18 at 7:00pm

Join us for coffee and discussion of the topic of self-identification within paganism. Please come prepared to talk and/or listen to how each person identifies themselves underneath the umbrella of paganism.

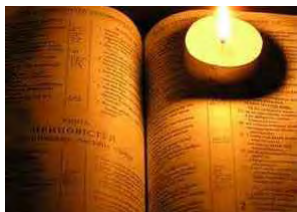


The Seekers at UUCG

February 19 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 with email debra404@gmail.com.





UUCG Benefit Concert

Music Recital at UUCG

Sunday, February 5 at 3:00pm

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. This is a FUNdraiser for UUCG and originally offered at the 2016 Auction. Seats are still available - just make a generous donation to UUCG and write "recital" on your check or envelope or visit www.uucg.org and select "Register for Events" or come and make a donation.



Massage Fundraiser at UUCG

March 16, April 20 and May 18

Sherree Bailey is offering massage services as a fundraiser at UUCG. She'll setup a special massage table in a private classroom at UUCG and ask for a donation to be made to UUCG. Appointments are available at 1, 3, 5, 7 on the third Thursdays of the month now through May. Contact Sherree at sherree.lynn.bailey@gmail.com



Ebenezer Church Service & Mary Mac Tea Room

March 26, 2017

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. This is a FUNdraiser for UUCG and originally offered at the 2016 Auction. Seats are still available - just make a generous donation to UUCG and write "recital" on your check or envelope or visit www.uucg.org and select "Register for Events".



Luck of the Community

UUCG Auction on March 18 at 6:00pm

We'll celebrate the "Luck of the Community" at UUCG's annual Auction on March 18. Donation and sponsor forms are available at www.uucg.org in "Upcoming Events" or use the paper form in this newsletter. The first \$8000 we raise goes to our 2017 operating budget, everything else we raise goes to our capital expenditures. So, please give generously as this will help UUCG replace the air conditioner, repair the parking lot, etc. Come for music, fun, and fellowship. Look for ideas for donations on the back of this month's newsletter. Your party, tutoring, class, or other Auction event can be offered in the location of your choice, including UUCG.

Community Connections & Auction



Passover Seder on April 16, 2017 at 5:00pm

Join the Hlava family for a very special African American Passover Seder Dinner on April 16, 2017 at 5:00pm. This is a FUNdraiser for UUCG and originally offered at the 2016 Auction. Seats are still available - just make a generous donation to UUCG and write "recital" on your check or envelope or visit www.uucg.org and select "Register for Events".



J A P A N

One of the iconic Torii or gated pathways at the Fushimi Inari, Inari Shrine in Kyoto

1-3-2017

Dear Ones at UUCG -

Our trip to Japan has been delightful! So much to see!

Highlights for me so far:

- Kagura Dancers at the Fushimi Inari Taisha - mesmerizing!
- Walking through the Torii (see front of card) and stopping at the many shrines along the way
- Arriving at Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple just in time to sit in meditation as the monks chanted. So grounding!

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Love you all!
Reverend Jan

quality worship services at UUCG. This will be a wonderful opportunity to experience a variety of voices on Sunday mornings. A special sabbatical brochure is available in the foyer at UUCG or download the brochure or video from the website at www.uucg.org to learn more.

Town Hall Meeting: February 26 After Service

All members and friends encouraged to attend a discussion on topics presented by the Board. Look for agenda in upcoming announcements.

Visitor Orientation

UU 101 Feb. 19 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 Feb. 19 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, with next ceremony on February 19.

The Martin Luther King Jr March

The Martin Luther King Jr march down Route 29 in Lawrenceville on January 16th had a great turn out from UUCG, JoAnn Weiss and Steve Babb organized our participation. We were 26 supporters in all, with a good showing from youth and adults. The weather was much better than last year and we had the marching band from Berkmar in front of us whole way. They were great and so were we! See photo below of some of our group waiting to start the trip.



Peoples Inauguration March

On Friday January 20th, a few of us from UUCG joined in the Peoples Inauguration march which ended up at the Atlanta City Hall. We missed the rain on that day and it actually got quite warm at times. No signs for us, but there were plenty in the crowd. We met Rev Jan and Russ along the way and some other UUs were there as well. Chanting and drumming with speeches later rounded out the event.





Auction Donation & Sponsor Form

Luck of the Community

The next UCG's annual Auction will be held on March 18, 2017. We are looking for Activities, Parties, Services, Lessons, and/or Excursions that help build connections at UUCG. Do you have a talent, a service, an activity you enjoy, something you would like to share with others in the UUCG community? Be Creative and have fun!

Sponsor / Donor to be listed as: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I/We will sponsor the UUCG Auction at the sponsorship level indicated below:

Gold (\$1,000) Rainbow (\$500) Shamrock (\$250)

PLEASE USE A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH DONATED ITEM

Event (Party / Service / Lessons / Entertainment) Certificate or gift card will be provided

Name of Event: _____

Description: _____

If your donation is an event, do you know the date? ___ yes ___no

Date: _____ Time: _____ Total number of tickets or guests: _____

Location: _____

The Auction Item Committee will review all donated items to ensure the auction has a wide assortment of services, and events that are popular with bidders. The committee may group some donations to create more valuable auction items.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett (UUCG) is a nonprofit, tax-exempt religious organization. Donations are tax deductible in accordance with the US tax code.

Donation information must be submitted by March 1

For any questions, please contact Ally at secretary@uucg.org

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Corley Elementary School

Corley Teacher Appreciation Event

UUCG will again be sponsoring a Teacher Appreciation event for our partner school, Corley Elementary. We will provide snacks for them on Feb. 23 during their early release day for parent/teacher conferences. If you would like to help, please donate at least \$5 that will be used to buy fruits, cheeses, veggies, dips, salty, and sweet treats for the teachers and staff. Donations can be given to Peggy Averyt or put in an envelope that will be hung in the hallway at UUCG.



NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA | 2017

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Assembly 2017

Registration Opens March 1

Check out the uua.org/ga website for everything you need to know for GA2017. Registration Opens March 1 for:

- Housing
- General Assembly (GA)
- GA Choir
- Pre-GA Racial Justice Training Workshops
- Financial Aid Applications Available

Discounts on registration available through April 30.

LIKE UU New Orleans on FACEBOOK or subscribe to receive updates weekly at <http://eepurl.com/bSGgBv>.



MONDAY, APRIL 3 - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2017

Stand up for Justice in Washington DC

Monday April 3 through Wednesday April 5

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 301 A St SE, Washington, DC

For registration information, visit:

<http://uujec.com/ReversingInequality>

The rising tide of inequality, intolerance and racism makes it more important for UUs to stand up for their values. UUJEC and UUs for Social Justice in the National Capital Region

(UUSJ) are organizing a spring conference in Washington DC to give UUs an opportunity to advocate for a vision of a fair and compassionate society directly to decision makers on Capitol Hill. We cannot take a step back on progress in equality and human rights. Now more than ever we must act...

We will be joined by several of our justice allies, including Sister Simone Campbell and Chuck Collins, build advocacy skills and spend time on capitol hill talking with decisions makers. This is an exciting and important time to be in our nation's capital.

Join a community of like-minded people making a difference by not only defending our gains for social and economic justice but also join people standing for a world that is more compassionate and just.

Contact: Rachel Bennett Steury uujec@uujec.com at 260-837-8938



Growing a Beloved Community

Barbara Stahnke, President

This year the board is in preparation for strategic planning. We are reading a short book *Growing a Beloved Community* because it inspires, informs and connects us to our vision. We are asking ourselves key questions that we developed at the Board Retreat in August that can help us understand the best ways to govern for our vision to be achieved. This month's question was delayed due to the injury I suffered with my foot. I am healing, and we will get back on track with the board conversation in February.

What I did learn this month is that there is help available when needed from UUCGers; and if physical help is not needed, there is caring listening – caring expressions of concern – and caring forgiveness. I connected to this first month of Jan's absence from our community like last years, except – we can't say – “let's wait until Jan gets back” – unless the decision can wait until the end of summer. I remembered that we have some awesome lay leaders to lead us in “Singing the Journey” this year. I learned that we have awesome leaders of ministry, governance and social justice (shout out to those that attended marches, and those who are working at communicating across divisive lines) to learn what we need to be doing differently or the same next year when Rev. Jan returns. I am getting to know our staff from a different perspective – especially our newest staff member Michael Parker who I am loving for his dedication to living out our principles to grow with us, and living our music in a new way. I got to hear worship from our contracted ministers who were AWESOME; this “awesome” in my heart made me wonder, “how often do I listen to a worship from Rev. Jan or our lay leaders with the level of intensity and commitment I brought to those worships?”.

So as usual, I grew – I grew in personal love and commitment to UUCG; I grew in personal commitment to the worship service – expecting always the best and always learning something; I grew in personal love and gratitude for the people in this congregation. I grew in LOVE; isn't that what it is all about. Let us take the words from our Guest Ministers to heart (my understanding of their message) –

Let us walk in the suit of someone we see as larger than life because of their work (no matter their actual size). (Rev. Teague)

Let us commit to a sacrificial love that dares to call us to higher selves. (Rev. Arsenault)

And from our Board of Trustees: Let us grow this beloved community together!

Choir Notes

A Message from Michael Parker, Choir Director

Hello UUCG! Just in case we haven't met, I'm Michael Parker and I am the new choir director at UUCG. I have been overwhelmed by the displays of support and love which have been shown to me in my first few Sundays here. Thank you so much for your support, I quite literally, can't do it with out you!

...and speaking of YOU!

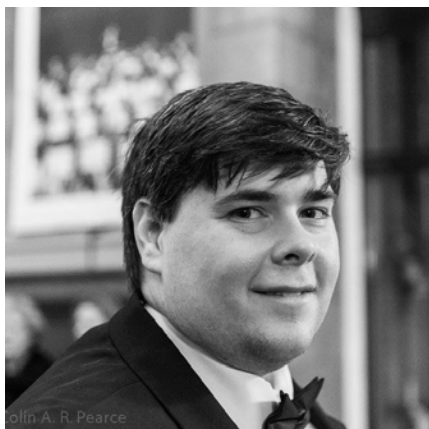
Do **U** enjoy singing?

Do **U** sing in the car on your way to work?

We would love to **C** you join us on Sunday's at 9:30 for choir rehearsal
G, it would be just great if you could!

We would welcome you with open arms and warm hearts!

See you in the loft!



John A. R. Pearce



Troop 99 Supports UUCG

Troop 99 spent its MLK Day of Service doing grounds work at UUCG and learning to cook a meal outdoors.



Spiral Scouts Inaugural Meeting February 12

UUCG's new Spiral Scout circle, "Flowering Branches," will have its first meeting February 12th from 12:30-1:30pm. Snacks provided. If you are interested, please come to learn more. You can also find out more at www.spiralscouts.org. This is a nature based co-ed scout group for ages 3-12. It is led by Aline Harris, Sharon Zinzow, and Thomas Yun. From their website:

"SpiralScouts is based on the idea of children and parents of both genders working together. Our program encourages girls and boys to learn, play, and work together under the direction of leaders of both genders as a way of showing by example that both men and women are capable and cooperative leaders. SpiralScouts thrives on child-directed activities based on a globally-oriented philosophy of religious tolerance and interfaith cooperation, personal responsibility, and ecological education and conservation, in order to help our children learn to grow into strong, competent members of society and citizens of the world. Our program encourages children to know themselves, to become introspective, and to honor and respect others who may be different. It also teaches them life skills necessary to maintain stable lives and lasting relationships. We owe our children nothing less. Further, the SpiralScouts philosophy includes teaching about all the world's cultures from all time periods (including its many mythologies), and about the diversity of faiths, both ancient and modern."

UUCG

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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

Michael Parker, Choir Director

choir@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
Theresa Waldrop
Phoenix Lastinger
Vacant



Donating to the Auction is as easy as A, B, C

Agree to be an auction sponsor at level you choose
Bake a cake
Crochet an afghan
Deliver a home-cooked meal to the highest bidder
Entertain a child while parents have an afternoon out
Figure out a tax return
Get together a Sunday Brunch
Help organize an office
Invite a group for a hike or other outdoor event
Just plan your favorite meal and put it up for bid – your house or theirs
Knit a scarf
Ladle up home-made soup at an informal supper at your house
Make music (at your place or the winning bidder's)
Nail down loose boards and make other repairs
Open your home for drinks and games
Photograph a family
Quick! Think of a new and different auction event!
Rake leaves and tidy-up a yard
Speak a foreign language? Understand math? Offer tutoring sessions
Throw a party – any kind will be a success
Undo a computer glitch
Virtually any service or social event will bring big bucks for UUCG
Watch a favorite movie with a gang of high bidders
X-spect to have great fun at the Auction
Yipee! The Auction is almost here!
Zip on over to the Auction on March 18th at 6:00pm



The Auction is UUCG'S major fundraiser. Auction proceeds make up a substantial portion of our budget. The success of the auction depends on our donations & sponsorships. Please make your donations soon. Donation forms are in the foyer; at UUCG.ORG, or available via email. Contact Auction@uucg.org.



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.*