



GNUUs

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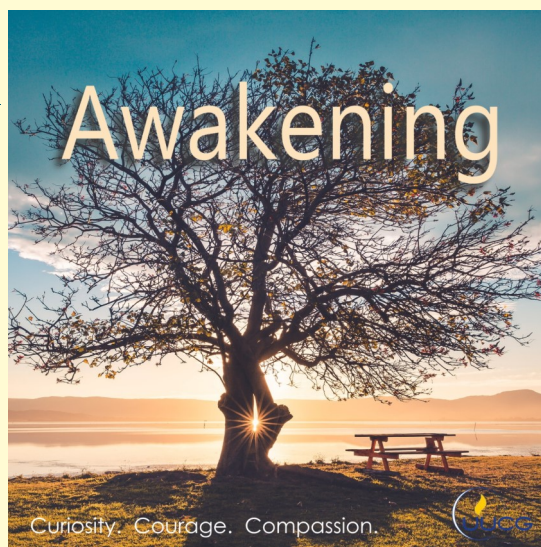
Ministry for Connecting Beyond:

Awakening

Have there been times over the last few years when you've felt as though a fog has been placed between the feeling of being fully awake & alive and yourself? In so many ways, world events have felt overwhelming. Is it surprising how easily we let dullness sink in? How often we allow the vibrancy of life to be muted?

Although we may forget what it feels like to be fully awake and for life to feel utterly alive, we can remember. In community we can help each other to re-awaken. And awakening opens a door for us to come alive again.

This month we explore the questions: What is awakening in you now? What is inspiring you to awaken? And what are you awakening to in this moment?



Events This Month

Apr 2.....Property Work Day*
Apr 3...Food Bank Donations*
Apr 6....Yarns from the Heart+
Apr 9&10.....Portrait Day*
Apr 10.....Spiral Scouts+
Apr 10.....Belief Exploration+
Apr 16...Green Team Meeting+
Apr 19.....Board Meeting+
Apr 20..Yarns from the Heart +
Apr 24.....Town Hall Meeting+*
Apr 27.....Book Group+
Apr 27.....Vision Journal
Workshop+
Apr 30.....Beltane Ritual+

Tuesdays.....Choir Rehearsal*
Sundays.....Tarot Sunday+
*onsite
+online
For details visit uucg.org

Did you Gnow?

- The word "Gnu" likely began as an onomatopoeia of the sound the animal makes.





Worship in April Sundays at 11:00am

Theme: Awakening

Join us via Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/565460176>

April 3: Online and/or In Person

Everyday is Earth day

We all have an impact on the health of our planet - how can we deepen our commitment and appreciation of our one precious, precarious, planet to decrease our footprint every day?

Join us in person or via Zoom

Rev. Jan Taddeo (she/her), Service Leader

April 10: Online and/or In Person

Awaken to All Your Senses

Wake up and smell the flowers!! And see their profound uniqueness and beauty. Listen to the buzzing pollinators, and taste the delicious fruit of the flowering plants. Feel the soft grass under your feet. Bring all your senses, and your flowers, to our annual Flower Ceremony. If attending remotely, send your flower photos to Rev. Jan via email

Join us in person or via Zoom

Rev. Jan Taddeo (she/her), Service Leader

April 17: Online and/or In Person

Awaken to New Possibilities

What religious concepts have you rejected outright? On this Easter Sunday we offer new-to-some possibilities for ancient miracles.

Join us in person or via Zoom

Rev. Jan Taddeo (she/her), Service Leader

April 24: Online and/or In Person

Good Morning: It's Time to Wake Up

What kinds of experiences wake you up? Are they alarming? Are they gentle? Are they surprising? What does it take to help us see with new eyes, hear with new ears and become a part of the arc of the universe always bending toward justice?

Join us in person or via Zoom

Bob Patrick (he/him), Service Leader

Please click here to RSVP for onsite services

Faith Development Sundays at 10:00am

On Sunday mornings at 10:00am during the month of April there will be a Faith Development session during which we will explore the theme of awakening. Please check the weekly e-news throughout the month for details on each Sunday's specific programing.

First Sunday, April 3:

Gardening as a Spiritual Path

facilitated by Sherree Bailey (she/her)

Join us in-person or online via Zoom



Looking Ahead

May Theme:

Nurturing Beauty

May 1: Online and/or In Person

The Energy of Everything

Join us in person or via Zoom

Rev. Jan Taddeo (she/her), Service Leader



Gadding About

by Reverend Jan Taddeo



In April we'll explore the theme of Awakening through our worship services, covenant groups, and faith development programs. What are you awakening to these days? What awakens your heart?

My conscience awakens to the continued collapse of democracy across the globe, the fears of a war that could all too easily escalate in tragic ways for all humanity, and arctic ice melting at a dangerous rate for the future of life on our planet. And...

My heart awakens to the incredible stories of humble heroism in the face of so many challenges ... the people who open their homes to refugees, the beloveds who give from their own belongings to make sure others have something - if not quite "enough," and the steadfast who continue to awaken each day to do the work that needs them to do it ... medical personnel, school staff, first responders, and all of us who get up and do what needs to be done today, and work for a better tomorrow.

My soul awakens to the awe and wonder of each beautiful day filled with bird song, rain, sunshine, delicious experiences, and the warmth and love of companions on this earth journey with me.

I expect those of you reading this newsletter have a pretty clear understanding of the horrors of our world ... and there have always been horrors in our world. Humans have much to learn yet about commitment to the common good of the community and to the well-being of all humans who share this earth with us. Shifting that commitment would be a powerful antidote to the growing emphasis on power, consumption, and greed that seems to prevail.

This month our services will focus on awakening to what is good, joyful, inspiring, sustaining, and steadfast. We'll awaken to our earth, to possibility, to our senses, and to what is emerging within us to move us toward a more just and fair world.

Earth Day Service, Sunday, April 3: If you would like to offer a reflection on a way in which you are living more lightly on the earth, please let me know. I would love to have several people share in the ways they have "changed their ways" to create a smaller footprint on our planet.

Flower Ceremony, Sunday, April 10: Bring fresh flowers from your yard (or your neighbor's yard - with their permission) to our Annual Flower Ceremony. If you are attending on Zoom, you can drop off fresh flowers at 10:00am that Sunday; or, send me your photos.

Easter Sunday, April 17: If there's a miracle story from the Christian tradition that you have worked with and awakened to a new way of understanding it through a UU lens, I'd love for you to share that experience in this service - let me know!

With an awakened heart, soul, and conscience...

Reverend Jan

From the Board

There will be a Town Hall meeting on **Sunday, April 24, at 12:15 pm**, just after the service. At this meeting, we'll discuss:

1. We will review updates to the UUCG Bylaws. These will be up for a vote at the Congregational Meeting in May. The major change in the bylaws involves how the Board of Trustees is organized (length of terms and definitions of roles).
2. General Assembly 2022. We hope to have an agenda from the UUA by this date. We will share this with the congregation and request input, so that delegates can adequately represent UUCG at the annual meeting. We are also looking for delegates. If you are interested in representing the congregation in this way, please submit a paragraph or two to board@uucg.org. This should state why you would like to be a delegate, what you bring to the role, and what you hope to gain from your participation. Remember that you do not have to be a delegate in order to attend General Assembly. This year's meeting will be held in person in Portland, Oregon. It will also be held remotely via Zoom.
3. We'll go over our third 2021-22 open question: In what ways does UUCG meet your spiritual needs and how can we support each other in our spiritual journey?

Your opinion matters to the community. Please make it known.

---Lorena Griffin, for the UUCG Board of Trustees

Work Day

Submitted by Terry Welscher

Our next Saturday outdoor workday will be **April 2, 9AM-12PM**. With Spring in full swing there is much to do to make our grounds and building more beautiful and welcoming. Our first two workdays have been very productive and fun. Let's keep it going! Planned activities include planting in the Keyhole Garden, continue thinning the irises in the Labyrinth, cutting out saplings from the hillside, raking leaves and cleaning signage. It would also be great to have some volunteers to be there early and make coffee for everyone. If you would like to step up for something specific let us know by email at info@uucg.org.

A poster for a Spring Photo Fundraiser at UUCG. It features a photo of an older couple, a man and a woman, both smiling. The background is teal with white floral patterns. The text is in white and yellow. The title 'Spring Photo Fundraiser At UUCG' is at the top. Below it is the address '12 BETHESDA CHURCH RD LAWRENCEVILLE, GA 30044'. The dates 'April 9th & 10th' are prominently displayed. Below the dates, it says 'ALL PROCEEDS GO TO UUCG' and '\$30 for 20 min studio session'. At the bottom, it says 'SIGN UP FOR A TIME AT BIT.LY/UUCGPHOTOS' and 'PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY GILDED MOON ARTS'.

**Spring Photo Fundraiser
At UUCG**

12 BETHESDA CHURCH RD
LAWRENCEVILLE, GA 30044

**April
9th & 10th**

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO UUCG
**\$30 for 20 min
studio session**

SIGN UP FOR A TIME AT [BIT.LY/UUCGPHOTOS](https://bit.ly/uucgphotos)
PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY GILDED MOON ARTS

It's Easy Being Green Series: Affecting Climate Change Workshop

Submitted by Peggy Averyt and Terry Welscher

At **1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 23**, at the Five Forks branch of the Gwinnett Public Library (2780 Five Forks Trickum Road, Lawrenceville), our very own Terry Welscher, will be presenting a workshop. Terry is a scientist and the co-coordinator for the Citizen's Climate Lobby for the state of Georgia. In this workshop, he will help us explore more deeply the causes of climate change, its impact, and how to lessen its effects. With an interactive climate simulation app, he will help the attendees explore which changes in the way we live, individually and collectively, can make the biggest impacts (and which are surprisingly ineffective). If you want to be part of the solution for global warming, don't miss this very informative workshop!

For more information, call 770-978-5154

FreeCycle Rally Coming to UUCG on May 6th & 7th

Submitted by Peggy Averyt

Never heard of a FreeCycle Rally? If so, you probably are not the only one. This is our last event in the "It's Easy Being Green Series" in our partnership with the Five Forks branch of the Gwinnett Public Library. Do you have some items in good working order at your home that you no longer want or need? Then the FreeCycle Rally is for you. Here is how it will work: Bring your unwanted items that are small, portable, and in good working order on Friday, May 6th to the Five Forks Public Library from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, or to UUCG from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. All donated items will be displayed at UUCG on Saturday, May 7th. Donors who dropped off items on Friday will be given priority access to the event on Saturday from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon for choosing the items they want to take home. The general public will be allowed into UUCG from 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m. for selecting items they want to take. Freecycling is a free, fun way to be green, so don't miss out on it.

(Examples of items you might want to donate: small appliances, sporting equipment, home decor items, tools, children's toys, baby equipment, indoor or outdoor plants, etc.)



Earth Month

Submitted by Terry Welscher

April is Earth Month with Earth Day on April 22. Check the calendar for Earth-centered and environmental events both at UUCG and in the greater Gwinnett community. More than ever we all need to be speaking up and showing up for the Web of Life.

Faith Development Resources

Explore Awakening throughout the month with these resources for adults, families, children, and parents .

"This is the time
For you to compute the impossibility
That there is anything
But Grace.
Now is the season to know
That everything you do
Is Sacred."
~ Hafiz

Lay Ministry: Spiritual Growth

Beacons

Submitted by Bob Patrick

As we return to in person worship services, a most important person is missing! That person is the person who greets you at the sanctuary door, gives you any items you need for the service, and helps you find a seat. We call that special person our "beacon." On March 13 when we returned to in person services, I volunteered to be the beacon. As much as I have served in various roles in the in our worship services, I'd never been a beacon. What a wonderful time I had! Truly. While there are a few things to keep in mind, serving as a beacon is really easy, and it allows you to be the face of radical welcome as individuals and groups of people step into our sacred space. So, are you looking for an easy and way to serve So, are you looking for an easy and REALLY IMPORTANT way to serve our community? Consider serving as a beacon, and send me an email and let me know of your interest. robert.patrick59@gmail.com

Rekindling the Flames of Love and Commitment

Submitted by Maryjane Stout

SAVE THE DATE!
Sept. 16-18

Congregational Retreat
For Members and Friends, All Ages

Meditation Rock	Music/Campfire
Labyrinth	Farm Tour
Arts/Crafts	Sunday Service
Short & Long Hikes	Faith Development
Youth Program	Teen Program

The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center
Highlands, NC
Watch for Registration Details!

Lay Ministry: Connecting Within

Portrait Day

Practice your smile and pick out your outfit, Picture Day is coming up! We are holding a photography fundraiser on **April 9th and 10th**. Come get your picture taken! Suggested donation \$30
[Reserve a spot here](#)

"Everyone should be in the family picture"



UU the Vote

2022 Scheduled Elections Calendar of Events

ELECTION	REGISTRATION CUTOFF	ELECTION DATE
Special Election	February 14, 2022	March 15, 2022
Special Election Runoff	February 14, 2022	April 12, 2022
General Primary Election/Nonpartisan/General Election/Special Election	April 25, 2022	May 24, 2022
General Primary Election/Nonpartisan/General Election/Special Election Runoff	April 25, 2022	June 21, 2022
General Primary Election Runoff for Federal Offices	May 23, 2022	June 21, 2022
General Election/Special Election	October 11, 2022*	November 8, 2022
General Election/Special Election Runoff	October 11, 2022*	December 6, 2022
General Election Runoff for Federal Offices	November 7, 2022	December 6, 2022

Check that you are registered to vote before the dates above.



Give Away the Plate recipient

2nd Quarter 2022

Uniting for Change

Submitted by Bert Schuster

During the April-thru-June quarter, Uniting for Change will receive one half of all Sunday morning plate donations. This is a grassroots self-advocacy network for individuals in Georgia who have intellectual and developmental disabilities. The organization strongly believes that disabled persons should not be kept in institutions. It advocates for equal rights, equal opportunity, decision making, and respect for privacy. The network is led by a group of self-advocacy leaders who mentor and teach across the state of Georgia. The main office is in Winder, GA.


















Nurturing Connections

	Covenant Choir Gathering every Tuesday at 7pm Onsite
	Property Work Day April 2 9am Onsite
	Food Bank Dropoff April 3 2pm-4pm Front Porch at UUCG
	Tarot Sundays every Sunday at 5pm Zoom Meeting ID: 978-9585-2363
	Yarns From the Heart April 6 10am Zoom Meeting ID: 994-7414-0257
	Portrait Day Fundraiser April 9-10 <u>Reserve a spot here</u> Onsite at UUCG
	Spiral Scouts April 10 12:30pm For children ages 3-12 and their families. Preregistration is required
	Belief Explorers April 10 12:30pm Zoom Meeting ID: 896-987-304
	Green Team Meeting April 16 9:30am Zoom Meeting ID: 926-178-30455
	Board Meeting April 19 7pm Zoom Meeting ID: 956-757-31773
	Yarns From the Heart April 20 10am Zoom Meeting ID: 994-7414-0257
	Town Hall Meeting April 24 12:15pm-1:30pm Zoom Meeting ID: 565-460-176
	Book Group April 27 7pm Zoom Meeting ID: 144-736-833
	Vision Journal Workshop April 27 7pm Zoom Meeting ID: 998-7138-6950
	Sylvan Sanctuary Ritual April 30 6pm Zoom Meeting ID: 528-297-2479

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

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

April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
					1	2 
3 	4	5 	6 	7	8	9 
10 	11	12 	13	14	15	16 
17 	18	19 	20 	21	22	23
24 	25	26 	27 	28	29	30 