





GNUUs


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*onsite

+online

For details visit uucg.org

Did you Gnow?

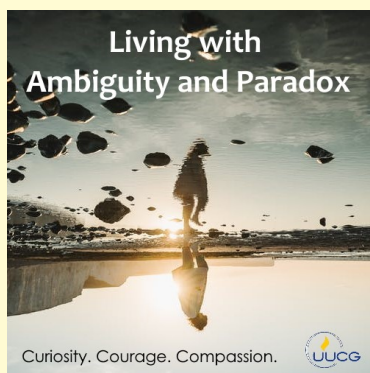
- A group of Gnus is called an implausibility
- A group of UUs agreeing unanimously is also called an implausibility

Register Now

We are inviting *all* members and friends to **register for Faith Development** in advance of our regathering.

Doing so will ensure that your contact information is accurate in our directory, allow us to prepare for expected attendance in our programs, and inform us about your preferences regarding use and sharing of any images of you and/or your children captured during participation in UUCG activities.

Please register today!





Worship in August

Theme: Living with Ambiguity and Paradox

August 8: On Zoom

Waiting for Everything to Be Okay

Perhaps like me, some part of you has been holding your breath for a year waiting for "normal" to return. Rather than trying to return to the past, we have an opportunity to create a new today and a better tomorrow. As we prepare to be together again on Sunday mornings, and beyond, what new priorities might we embrace?

Rev. Jan Taddeo, Service Leader

August 15: On Zoom and In-Person -
Limited seating w/pre-registration

Welcome Home

We return to our cherished Sanctuary for the first time since March 8, 2020. Bring to the altar of our beloved community your joys and sorrows, triumphs and challenges, and all that you are holding from this time away.

Rev. Jan Taddeo, Service Leader

August 22: On Zoom and In-Person -
Limited seating w/pre-registration

If Only...

Consider the road not taken, the choices made, good luck, bad luck. How do we reconcile the paradox of our topsy-turvy, wild ride of life?

Rev. Jan Taddeo, Service Leader

August 29: On Zoom and In-Person -
Limited seating w/pre-registration

The Thunder, Perfect Mind

All peoples everywhere and everywhen exist with uncertainty, contradiction, paradox, and ambiguity. How can we meet our internal conflicts with grace so that the external bombardment cannot sway us from our path? **The Layers**, by Stanley Kunitz: *I have walked through many lives, some of them my own, and I am not who I was, though some principle of being abides, from which I struggle not to stray...*

Sherree Bailey, Service Leader

Looking Ahead:

Exploring Possibility

September 5:

On Zoom and In-Person -
Limited seating
w/pre-registration

Embracing Possibilities through Forgiveness

What is available to us when we let go of the hurts of the past and explore new possibilities for ourselves and our lives? The Jewish tradition offers insights into how we can practice forgiveness.

Pre-Registration for In-Person Worship

Seats for in-person worship will be limited so that social distancing guidelines can be followed. Because of this, pre-registration will be required. Services will still be streamed online for those who prefer to stay home.

More information on how to register will be forthcoming.





Gadding About *by Reverend Jan Taddeo*

Our ministry theme for August is Paradox and Ambiguity. These are concepts many struggle with. It seems that many (most?) people really appreciate either/or and concrete answers to very complex situations -- to find a way to simplify the complexity of relationships and people. Often people want to label others as good or bad, and yet, as Bryan Stevenson reminds us, we are each more than the worst thing we've done. It is too simplistic to label any person as good or bad - we all have the capacity to cause harm and to do good works.

Ambiguity is present in our work for justice. As white people learn more about how injustice and inequity affect the lives of the majority of people on this planet, and see how certain populations are treated as if their lives do not matter, the work to dismantle these systems can feel threatening to our own sense of what it means to be a good person. We can choose to be divided by our different perspectives, or we can choose to be in deep dialogue to hear one another's truths. And, yet, people's lives are at stake and choices have to be made to respond to the calls for justice. We are not a faith that just talks about justice and equity... we are called to be in the community creating justice and equity in partnership with others.

Ambiguity and paradox can also be part of one's search for truth and meaning. People who come into Unitarian Universalism as adults have often rejected the religious tradition in which they grew up or where they spent many of their adult years. Maybe a religious leader did something bad that harmed people and this provoked a choice to abandon that faith completely. Maybe that faith lacked ambiguity and only offered concrete answers to complex questions. And, maybe there was something in that faith that was worth keeping. When I ask newcomers what was good about their previous faith communities almost always it was about the people -- the community that companioned

each other through life's ups and downs.

As we embark on another year together creating that kind of companioning for each other, I invite you to seek ways to connect through the many programs we'll be offering this year to move us towards our vision. In addition to Covenant Groups, we'll offer regular sessions for Starting Point, a small group program open to newcomers and seasoned members to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and UUCG.



Bob Patrick and Barbara Stahnke will be offering an updated version of their Working on Whiteness small group program. We'll also offer more opportunities for people to engage with the Transgender Inclusion in Congregations program. Through our Green Space Lay Ministry we'll be offering "Our Place in the Web of Life" to deepen our understanding of place, to explore how our behaviors as a congregation and as individuals affect people, communities, and the ecosystem, and discover ways we can promote environmental justice in our local community. It will be an enriching year!

In our shared faith...

Reverend Jan

Minister for Radical Welcome

As the Minister for Radical Welcome, I want to thank the attendees to the first workshop series Trans-inclusion in Congregations. My gratitude also goes out to the folks who participated in the follow-up conversation helping guide UUCGs work toward our vision of becoming Radically Welcoming.

From the survey of the workshop, most attendees of the workshops reported learning new information and identified ways for continual growth. The group conversations held bi-weekly after viewing the web-based videos were the most valued part of the process. I look forward to being in person again to lean into these deeper conversations about becoming radically welcoming. We are working on offering the series again in late fall with the support of some members who attended the first series. It looks like we will hold the group conversations with one virtual and one in-person group, thanks to the reconvening team who provided the guidance to allow this possibility.

Additionally, suppose you attended the first workshop series and wished you had time to read more of the support resources. In that case, your registration and password are still good. Go back and watch some of the videos or read some of the material at your leisure. Mind, body, and spirit are interconnected in so many ways for me. Learning something really helps me on my path to seeing people with my most loving eyes, ears, and heart. If nothing else, I like to go back and look at specific resources.

I look forward to growing with all of you. Barbara Stahnke

Lay Ministry: Green Space

Minister for Green Space

The Green Team has, with support from Georgia Interfaith Power & Light and Turning Sun, selected and purchased a sanitizing dishwasher. This will enable UUCG to eliminate all single-use paper and plastic from the kitchen, an important part of our Green Space aspirations. The plan is for the unit to be installed and running in August. Some training on how to use the dishwasher will be conducted shortly after the installation.

The Green Team is putting together plans for the program year that will include expanding our congregational awareness of green practices in the church and at home. We will also be assisting facilitating, with the other Lay Ministries, a tutorial series on incorporating environmental and climate justice into our "green thinking". We would also like to hear from UUCG Members and Friends ideas and suggestions for improving our green practices. Send suggestions to greenteam@uucg.org or post at the UUCG Green Sanctuary Group. Also please let us know if you would like to get more involved in the Green Space Ministry.

-Terry Welsher

Special thank you to the Spiral Scouts for their work at the last Yard Work Party. The next one will be on August 7th,. Everyone is invited to make a difference!



Harvest

Lughnasadh is the first of the 3 Pagan harvest festivals (the other 2 being Mabon and Samhain). Lughnasadh is often celebrated on the first of August and is centered around the harvest of the grain.

It is fitting that this August 1st (2-4pm) is also the day we are collecting for the Lawrenceville food bank and clothing for Corley Elementary. The next collection day will be September 5th.

Consider sharing your harvest.

Working on Whiteness

Four years ago, UUCG offered a listening group called “Working on Whiteness.” We invited people in the congregation who identify as white to gather in the spirit of our congregational covenant. With practices of deep listening we spent twelve 2-hour sessions across a 10 month period investigating and reflecting on the effects of white privilege in our culture. We identified the ways that we personally benefit from the effects of systemic white supremacist systems. We supported each other as we faced the discomfort this creates.

We are planning our second offering of that group for 2021-2022. White supremacy as a collective and historical energy still runs the systems of our national culture, politics, economics, education, healthcare and the various infrastructures that we depend on each day. Since our last offering, our national politics has exploded into open examples of white nationalist attempts to stop and silence conversations about racism in the US. In order to plan well for this next offering, we invite you to fill out this google form survey which will be open through August 16. The twelve meeting dates are as follows: Sept. 18, Oct. 2, Oct. 23, Nov. 13, Dec. 11, Jan. 8, Jan. 22, Feb. 5, Feb. 19, Mar. 5, Mar. 19, and April 16.

[You may sign up here](#)

Unjudge Someone

That’s the slogan for the Human Library, a 10-year-old organization, started in Copenhagen and coming to Gwinnett this fall. UUCG and the Five Forks branch of Gwinnett County Public Library are partnering to bring this innovative program that celebrates diversity in all its guises.

On Saturday, October 9, Gwinnett residents will be able to “check out” human “books” for a conversation, books with titles like “Transgender,” “Living with Mental Illness,” “Muslim,” “Blind.” We are in the recruiting process for volunteers with unique life experiences, who are willing to share their stories. “Books” undergo a training program, which helps to create a safe space.

So what does that mean for you? First of all, come. Details will be forthcoming. It promises to be a meaningful event, providing insight into the lives of people who are different from you. Secondly, we need volunteers. Each book will have a “handler,” who will help manage their interviewees, plus we need folks to help with registration. Sound interesting? Contact Lorena Griffin or Peggy Averyt for more information or to volunteer. You can also visit their website at humanlibrary.org



Give Away the Plate

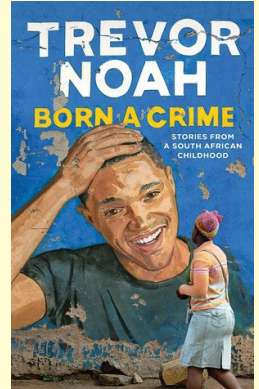
Please support the Give-Away-The-Plate (GATP) program by nominating a charitable nonprofit organizations. Since the fall of 2010, UUCG has generously supported organizations that variously serve children, homeless families, undocumented youths, seniors, persons with disabilities, victims of domestic violence or sexual assault or human rights violations, abandoned animals--and the list goes on.

To nominate an organization, please e-mail giveawaytheplate@uucg.org and explain why the organization deserves our support.



Book Group: Born A Crime by Trevor Noah

Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of The Daily Show began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle.



Born a Crime is the story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. It is also the story of that young man's relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother—his teammate, a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life.

The stories collected here are by turns hilarious, dramatic, and deeply affecting. Whether subsisting on caterpillars for dinner during hard times, being thrown from a moving car during an attempted kidnapping, or just trying to survive the life-and-death pitfalls of dating in high school, Trevor illuminates his curious world with an incisive wit and unflinching honesty. His stories weave together to form a moving and searingly funny portrait of a boy making his way through a damaged world in a dangerous time, armed only with a keen sense of humor and a mother's unconventional, unconditional love.

Wednesday, August 25th 7pm-9pm

Zoom Link <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/144736833>

Spiral Scouts

"Briefly stated, the purpose [of Spiral Scouts] is to provide opportunities for young people to fulfill their potential as caring, responsible individuals through informal activities in a spiritual, open, and loving atmosphere that celebrates their diversity."

-Pete "PathFinder" Davis

Our Spiral Scouts Circle is for kids ages 3-12 and meets online every second Sunday at 12:30pm. If you are interested, please email spiralscoutsleaders@uucg.org

What Brings You Joy?

Do you find joy in nourishing others through food and drink?

Are you excited by meeting new people and making them feel welcome?

Do you have a silly side and love playing with children?

Do deep conversations fill your cup?

Does getting your hands dirty building things or working in nature bring you joy?

Are you a technology fan, interested in all things digital?

[Check out our newly zhuzhed up volunteer opportunities page and find a way to give back that will bring you personal joy.](#)



From the Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund ran a very successful \$40 for 40 campaign in early 2021 gaining \$3500 from 79 donors. Due to a very positive return on investments for 2019 & 2020 we were able to make a grant of \$3000 to UUCG to purchase new equipment to continue streaming services even after we return to in-person gathering.

As of the end of July, the assets of the Fund totaled \$88,069.04 made up as follows:

UUA Common	
Endowment Fund	\$64,593.67
BB&T Bank savings & checking	5,523.61
Coca Cola Stock (drip acct)	203.56
UUCG Sewer Loan balance	17,745.20

The asset value is variable based on investment performance. We continue to encourage UUCG members to make Birthday Club donations as our primary growth mechanism.

Doug Beers, Treasurer

From the UUCG Board of Trustees

August is an exciting month at UUCG, as we return to in-person worship and begin our transition to normalcy (knock on wood, right?). While the past year has been a trying one, I wanted to bring to your attention a project that we've been working on for the past several months and that was adopted at the July board meeting. We've rewritten the UUCG Policy Manual. Wait! Stop! Don't move on to the next article. It's important. Really, it is.

Over the past several years, UUCG has been moving toward "policy-based governance," as outlined in the book Governance and Ministry by Dan Hotchkiss. Basically, this is a model for running the business of the congregation that ensures consistency. Throughout the year, numerous questions arise concerning staffing, banking, who reports to whom... Rather than discuss each instance as it occurs, we now have a "rule book" that we can turn to for clear guidance in any given situation. We've had policy manuals in the past and we offer many thanks to those who have contributed to the creation of those. But any organization changes and adapts over time, and so must its policies.

The process began with a task force last fall, consisting of Toby Lyles, Carol Pinto, Chuck Powell, and Maryjane Stout. As Board Secretary, Maryjane then proceeded from those initial discussions and worked with the UUCG Board of Trustees to reflect on various policies and to update their status. After the manual was written, she submitted the document to Alex Kapitan of the Unitarian Universalist Association in Boston for sensitivity to inclusive language and policies, as well as for practical edits. Maryjane put in countless hours of work on this document. Please offer her your thanks when you see her.

We feel the resulting manual is clear, concise, comprehensive and in line with UUCG's mission. You may access it any time from the UUCG website on the "About Us" page, under "Our Governance: Policies," or you may click on this link.

—submitted by Lorena Griffin
for the UUCG Board of Trustees

GNUUS Deadlines

If you would like an article or event featured in the GNUUS, please send it to admin@uucg.org before the 20th of the month before the one you'd like it published in (e.g. if you'd like something published in August, send it before July 20th). If it is not sent by the 20th, it will not be in the upcoming GNUUS. Thank you.

Please also send photos of events that happen to admin@uucg.org. Just be sure to get the permission of the photographer and the subjects if there are any people in them. We'd love to use them in the GNUUS and other media going forward.

Nurturing Connections



Food Drive August 1 2pm-4pm

Front Porch at UUCG

Drop off donations on the front porch of UUCG



Tarot Sundays every Sunday at 5pm

Classrooms at UUCG or on Zoom Meeting ID: 978-958-52363



Yarns From the Heart August 4 at 10am

Meeting ID: 994-7414-0257



Yard Work Party August 7 at 10am

Grounds at UUCG



Yoga every Tuesday at 4pm

Sanctuary at UUCG



UUCG Covenant Choir every Tuesday at 7pm

Sanctuary at UUCG



Women's Spirituality August 13 at 7pm

Grounds at UUCG



Spiral Scouts: 2nd Sundays, August 8 at 12:30pm

For children ages 3-12 and their families. Preregistration required



Belief Exploration August 8 at 12:30pm

Meeting ID: 896-987-304



GUST August 9 at 7pm

Sanctuary at UUCG



CUUPS August 14 at 7:30

Classrooms at UUCG or on Zoom Meeting ID: 400-036-556



Yarns From the Heart August 18 at 10am

Meeting ID: 994-7414-0257



Full Moon Magick and Ritual August 23 from 7:30-9:30pm

Classrooms at UUCG or on Zoom Meeting ID: 933-1676-4508



Book Group August 25 at 7pm

Meeting ID: 144-736-833

August Topic: A discussion of *Born A Crime* By Trevor Noah



































Vision Journal Workshop August 25 at 7pm

Meeting ID: 998 7138 6950

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

August 2021

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	31 