



# January 2026

## Gwinnett News for Unitarian Universalists

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Bayard Rustin was a pacifist who practiced a philosophy of nonviolent resistance who helped to organize some of the Civil Rights Movement's largest events, like the 1963 March on Washington, and a 1947 Freedom Ride.

### This month we are Practicing Resistance

In the context of Unitarian Universalism, **Practicing Resistance** means actively pushing back against injustice, oppression, and despair while *simultaneously* cultivating internal strength, love, and connection; viewing acts like community building, speaking truth, setting boundaries, and even joyful living as profound spiritual work rooted in UU principles and history. It's about saying "no" to harmful systems and "yes" to transformation, integrating personal growth with collective liberation.

#### Practicing Resistance



Curiosity. Courage. Compassion. 

Before the beginning of the program year, UUCG's lay leaders chose the statement, "Our Love is Inclusive and Defiant" as our Vision of Ministry for this year. It is in that *defiant love* where the spiritual practice of Resistance lives. And it is there that we find inspiration to explore the strength we have when we practice resistance together.

# Worship in January

Sundays at 11:00am

Theme: Practicing Resistance

Join us in-person or via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/565460176>



**January 4th**

***Community Care and the Practice of Resistance***

Our inclusive and defiant love calls us to focus on community care. It promises us companionship and joy when we show up for our communities, working for safety in the face of fear, managing discomfort for the sake of holy connections. How shall we embody Love this year?

*Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones (she/her), Worship Leader*

**January 11th**

***Our Corner of The Sky***

The world is a big place with a never-ending supply of injustices. Our Unitarian Universalist faith is an active one - we feel compelled to *live* our values. Sometimes it feels like each attempt to live our values is just a drop in the bucket of a vast sea of problems in our lives, our communities, our nation, and our world. Let us consider together how we can sustain this work.

*Ian Van Sice (he/him), Worship Leader*

**January 18th**

***Better Together***

Our Resisting Fascism Team joins Rev. Nancy and Britt to share ways to practice resistance here and now. We bless and commission our journeys toward justice this year.

*Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones (she/her), Worship Leader*

**January 25th**

***Resisting Local Harms by the Extractive Kleptocracy***

We ground our response to injustice in the context of our local community, congregation, and conditions. We perform community mapping, plan fundraising, assess resources, and plan for risk, safety, and security.

*Bill Benshoof (he/him), Worship Leader*

**Programs**

**Sundays at  
12:30pm**

**1st Sunday, 1/4**

- Potluck Lunch
- Social Change Now

**2nd Sunday, 1/11**

- Belief Explorers
- Spiral Scouts

**3rd Sunday, 1/18**

- Sunday Tarot
- Resisting Fascism
- Social Change Now

**4th Sunday, 1/25**

- “Good Trouble”





# Give Away the Plate

Each quarter the Give Away the Plate Committee selects an organization that embodies UU values and is helping to build a world of freedom for all, and share our weekly collection with them. Our recipient for the first quarter of 2026, is the [Society of Humane Friends of GA](#).

SOHFGA is a licensed animal rescue organization and a 501(c)3 nonprofit based in Lawrenceville. Since 1998, SOHFGA has placed thousands of rescued dogs and cats into loving, adoptive homes. They accept homeless, neglected and abused pets from various metro-Atlanta county shelters, and also accept owner surrenders. All animals are evaluated and fully vetted before they are offered for adoption. Potential adopters are carefully screened to ensure a good match between human and animal. All animals are housed in volunteer foster homes, and adoptions are scheduled by appointment at their Adoption Center in downtown Lawrenceville.

Learn more about the the Society of Humane Friends of GA on their website: [sohfga.com](http://sohfga.com).

# Worship and More

**Sunday Worship Service  
with the Resisting Fascism Team**

Join us for a special worship service on January 18 where we share ways to practice resistance here and now.

**Imbolc Ritual**  
January 31, 2026  
6:00 PM @ UUCG  
12 Bethesda Church Road  
Lawrenceville, GA 30044



# Message from the Minister

## When What We HAVE to Do Can Also Be What We WANT to Do

by Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones (she/her)



“Everyone has to do things they don’t want to do, Nancy!” my mom used to say over and over, like a Greek chorus. Her tone of voice was always rather grim, even though she wasn’t a grim person.

We placed a big value in my family on not acting out of selfishness or privilege; I’m sure that’s what she wanted to teach. But I wonder, Was she also a little sad about it? How much of what she wanted to do had she given up in order to do what she had to do over the course of her life?

I remember this lesson now because there’s a part of me that doesn’t want to “practice resistance”—January’s theme—though I am ashamed to admit it. Does anyone else feel this reluctance or exhaustion? Can I see a show of hands?

How do we practice resistance when we are beaten down by the bad news that streams in every day? Where do we find the energy, the will, and the direction to resist and reverse systemic forces when we feel discouraged because we’ve been fighting this battle all our lives, or we feel overwhelmed because we need every ounce of energy and will just to keep our heads, and our family’s heads, above water every day?

Maybe what we need—maybe what I need—this month is more of a loving touch than a hard push. Not the Greek chorus of judgment: “If you’re not knocking yourself out resisting right now, you’re not a good person!” But rather the music of our better angels: “Say, what you want is more love and connection, right? Come connect with these good people and see what a joy it is to love and build together.”

So I’ve just now found another list of possible roles we each can play in the work of resisting oppression and creating liberation. This one comes from Satya Doyle Byock\* and includes: The Healer, The Musician, The Cook, The Neighbor, The Observer, The Civil Servant, The Orator, The Benefactor, The Keeper of Law, The Prophet, The Wisdom Keeper, The Leader, The Writer, The Defender, The Seed Keeper, The Code Maker, The Artist, The Organizer, The Underground Guide, and The Soul-Tender.

Just like Deepa Iyer’s list in “Social Change Now,” Byock reminds me that there are so many ways to do “what we have to do,” so many ways to practice resistance. And some of them are exactly what I want to do!

Thank you, Mom, for the lessons, and thank you, Life, for the promise that we have choices and that we are not alone!

With Love at the center,  
Rev. Nancy



\* <https://satyadoylebyock.substack.com/p/archetypes-of-resistance>

# Our Love is Inclusive...

## Please Welcome Our Newest Members



Rev. Nancy with (from left) Cole Parker, Shelby Bouck, and Dylan Weldon

On Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> we held our winter New Member Welcome and Signing Ceremony. After engaging with the content of the Sharing the Journey program throughout the fall, Shelby Bouck, Cole Parker, and Dylan Weldon (pictured above) signed the book and were welcomed into membership.

We are overjoyed to welcome you among us as we endeavor to journey forth together, living into our shared values as Unitarian Universalists.

## UUCG's Blue Glass Chalice: What Lives On

Please click on the image below to watch the video from Rev. Nancy, sharing the story of UUCG's beautiful blue blown-glass chalice, explaining where it has gone, and reflecting on what we carry forward from this beloved symbol.



## The Minister's Discretionary Fund: Living Our Values

At our Christmas Eve service on December 24, we took up a special collection, as we do each year, for the Minister's Discretionary Fund (MDF). Funded exclusively by your contributions, the MDF is a confidential resource for UUCG members and attending friends in times of stressful need; and this opportunity to give is still open.

This year, thanks to your generosity, we have helped folx pay their mortgage or rent, buy gas for their car, purchase food, pay for medical insurance, and so much more. People simply reach out to Rev. Nancy ([revnpj@uucg.org](mailto:revnpj@uucg.org)) and she then offers some financial help. We strengthen this community through our mutual care!

You can make a donation via [PayPal](#) (@uucg) or [Venmo](#) (@UUCG-Gwinnett), just write Minister's Discretionary Fund in the note section.

Thank you for your loving generosity and connection to UUCG!

# From the Board

## Let's Get Loud in 2026!

by Dan Kelly, President of the Board of Trustees



Happy new year! The UUCG Board of Trustees thanks you for all the time and talent you have dedicated to make 2025 a success for our congregation. Our faith community continues to grow, and our commitment to a better world through action and advocacy has an ever-expanding impact. UUCG continues to show what an inclusive and defiant love looks like!

As we go into 2026, we can look back at some of the things we accomplished together this year.

- The roof has been repaired! Having tended to this important need, we find that our building finds new opportunities for rentals and community use that broadens our mission.
- Our debt has been settled! With the pay-off of our building loan with the bank and the loan from the Endowment Fund, we are able to commit our financial resources to the things that this congregation has continued to prioritize: the minister and staff that lead us in our important work.
- Membership has grown! As we continue to embrace our calling to speak love in a world where hateful rhetoric has become more common, we find more and more folks who want to engage with us in that mission.
- Our Minister has committed for another year! We have all benefited from the wisdom and leadership of Reverend Nancy, and we are grateful that she will be with us as we continue to build a community of resilience and resistance.
- The 2026 Annual Budget has been passed! With the faithful commitment of this

congregation to support UUCG, we have built a budget for 2026 that is realistic in its expectations, and transparent in its capacity. It is a budget that puts UUCG on a path to continued growth for years to come. The Board is grateful for all the feedback and support the congregation has given.

UUCG goes into 2026 with a strong building, a committed faith, and a healthy community.

However, we know that 2026 will be a challenge for many, especially in communities that are marginalized. Every day, we see our fellow humans being demonized, fear being weaponized, and hate being institutionalized. But we at UUCG know the truth. We know that Love will always prevail.

And we know that sometimes that Love needs to be expressed a little louder to be heard over the din of hatred and bigotry.

So, let's get loud in 2026.

In covenant,  
Dan Kelly  
UUCG Board President



# Ministry of Radical Welcome



## Meeting the Moment: National Human Trafficking Prevention Month

by Carol Underwood, Lay Minister for Radical Welcome



National Human Trafficking Prevention Month is observed every January in the United States. It is a nationwide effort dedicated to raising awareness about human trafficking, supporting survivors, and mobilizing communities, governments, and organizations to take action against this widespread crime. This month serves as both a reminder of the ongoing fight against exploitation and a call to strengthen prevention, protection, and prosecution efforts.

Victims can be adults or children, strangers, acquaintances, romantic partners, or even family members. Because trafficking is highly complex and often hidden. Our awareness is crucial and people must be able to recognize the signs, report suspected cases, and understand the conditions that allow trafficking to exist.

Prevention efforts focus on reducing vulnerabilities that traffickers exploit. These things can be poverty, unhoused, discrimination, unstable living situations, lack of economic opportunity, or histories of trauma and abuse.

### Here are some resources:



*National Human Trafficking Hotline*  
24/7 national helpline  
1-888-373-7888



*Georgia Hotline for Human Trafficking*  
a statewide toll-free number for  
Georgians  
1-866-ENDHTGA



*Georgia Department of Human Services*  
*Division of Family and Children Services*  
child sex-trafficking hotline for suspected  
exploitation of minors:  
2-844-END-CSEC

### The UUCG Hospitality Team

**We are seeking folks to assist  
with clean-up following  
Coffee Hour, and...**

#### Other ways to contribute:

- Bring treats to share
- Make coffee
- Assist with organizing the offerings brought for Coffee Hour
- Set out items on the coffee cart
- Wash mugs
- Put away coffee cart
- Launder tablecloths or kitchen linens
- Assist with potluck on first Sundays
- Or any of the many other ways to serve!

**Which of your gifts will you share with the UUCG community? Reach out to Carol to learn more about how you can contribute to UUCG's dedication to a ministry of Radical Welcome.**

# Ministry of Green Space



## Keeping it Green

By Gary Kiel, Lay Minister for Green Space



### Entering a New Year

***The darkest days are behind us. The coming year brings changes for the better.***



### Tending Our Grounds: Saturday, December 6

Look at these well behaved bushes. Someone trimmed them very nicely on the work day. Alas, I was not there (so it was not me) and do not know who did it. I suspect Xoey Kelly. Thanks to whoever did this job!

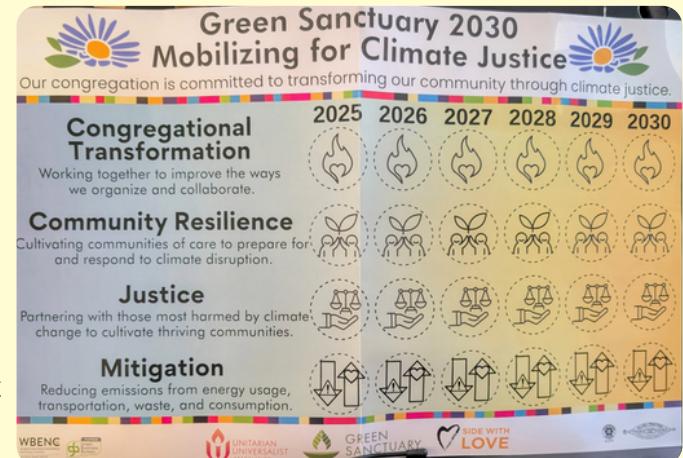
***Next Property Beautification (aka Tending our Grounds) is January 3, 2026.***

### Green Sanctuary 2030 Program - New Poster!

The [UUA Website](#) describes the Green Sanctuary program:

*"Green Sanctuary 2030: Mobilizing for Climate Justice provides structure, leadership and support, in broad collaboration, for the UU faith community to engage in an ambitious environmental and climate justice movement that seeks to live fully our principles and achieve our vision of a sustainable and just world for all."*

Coming to a bulletin board near you, soon! A new Green Sanctuary 2030 poster was received. It can be used to record our progress on the 2030 program. We will put a backing on it to flatten it out and ruggedize it prior to posting on the Green Space bulletin board.



UUCG was awarded 2025 Recognition for our actions. A major part of the activity was accomplished by Dr. Terry Welcher and Barbara Stahnke teaming the Green Space and Social Justice groups. Special thanks are due those two and all who contributed to these activities this year. Only 5 more years to go.

### UPCOMING GREEN TEAM EVENTS

- **January 3, 9:30am:**  
Tending our Grounds at UUCG
- **January 17, 9:30 - 11:00am:**  
Green Team Zoom meeting.  
Planning our "Planning Brunch".
- **January 2026, date TBD:**  
Pine Cone Bird Feeder activity

### Green Space Planning Workshop (with food!)

Every year, the Green Space ministry has a planning session to create goals for the coming year.

Reach out if you are interested in joining us. Let us know of any suggestions via email to  
[GreenTeam@uucg.org](mailto:GreenTeam@uucg.org)

# Ministry of Spiritual Growth

 Lydia Patrick  
is the Lay Minister for Spiritual Growth



## Resistance as a Spiritual Practice?

When we are encouraged to shut our doors in the faces of our immigrant and Trans friends and neighbors, **Radical Welcome** is resistance.

Working to educate about and fight for our earth and our **Green Space** in the face of Climate Change denial is resistance.

Committing to **Spiritual Growth** rather than accepting stagnation is resistance.

When the intention is to divide us, nurturing genuine relational **Connections Within** our walls **and Beyond** is resistance.

In this age when we are surrounded by messages of division and hate, proclaiming that we value **Justice, Equity, Transformation, Pluralism, Interdependence, and Generosity** is resistance.

Centering ourselves – our words and our actions – in Love is... say it with me... RESISTANCE. Our Love is Inclusive and Defiant. *Of course* we embrace resistance as a Spiritual Practice.

~ Christiana



Click [HERE](#)

## Words of Wisdom?

Hello, everyone.

We have come to a time with Words of Wisdom where we need to let go of our work together, and do so with peace of mind and heart.

We have all been engaging life with both its expected and unexpected challenges. We are also living in difficult times politically and otherwise in this country and the world which is taking more of our energy. We still need each other's support and encouragement. I know that we will continue to do that for one another, but we will not be attempting to do that through Words of Wisdom posts at this time.

Should we feel at some point in the future that we are ready to start again, the blogging infrastructure is there and connected to the UUCG website, and we may resume. (We have, in fact, done this once before--taken a pause, and then restarted.) I feel such gratitude in my heart for all of the wonderful reflections and words of encouragement, hope, challenge, daring, empathy, compassion, courage and curiosity that our writers have created from their – your - own beautiful lives. As we transition into a New Year, I wish you all much love and deepest blessing.

~ Bob Patrick

## Planting the Seeds of Spiritual Growth

Engagement Opportunities include:

Beacons, Worship Associates, Covenant Choir Singers, Sweet MUUsic musicians, and Faith Development Program Facilitators

We look forward to serving alongside you!



# Ministry of Spiritual Growth

## It's Time to Get Ready: Let's Participate in Social Change Now!

Whoever we are, whatever time and energy we have or don't have, we have a part to play in creating the good and loving kind of social change that we and our neighbors need!

Christiana and Rev. Nancy invite you to join them in a study-action group on this year's UUA Common Read: [Social Change Now: A Guide for Reflection and Connection](#), by Deepa Iyer.

The six 75-minute sessions will meet on Zoom on first and third Sundays at 3:00 pm, starting January 4, 2026.

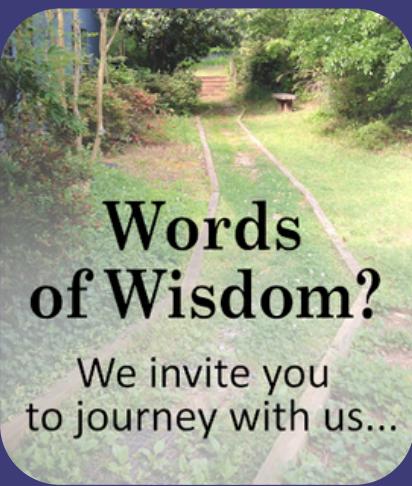
Copies of the book are available — please email to let Christiana know if you need one:  
[cmcquain@uucg.org](mailto:cmcquain@uucg.org)

If you are interested to participate in this workshop, please register by January 2nd at this link:

[Social Change Now Registration](#)

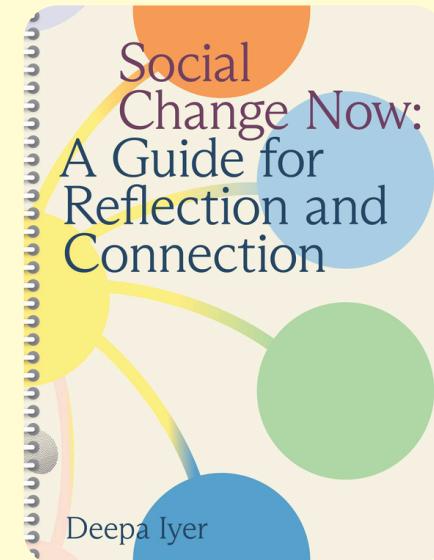
Faith  
Development  
resources  
for exploring  
Practicing  
Resistance

Check out Practicing  
Resistance - Soul  
Matters January Playlist  
on [YouTube](#) or [Spotify](#).



Words  
of Wisdom?

We invite you  
to journey with us...



## 30 Days of Love

At a time when fear, violence, and extraction dominate our politics and our planet, we practice another way. We believe love is not fragile; it is fierce. It grounds our organizing, fuels our imagination, and sustains our communities.

Beginning mid-January, over five weeks, we will join Side With Love on a journey from imagination to action, rooting our freedom dreams in faith and bringing them to life in our world.

Resources will be shared, inviting all of us to practice love as a public, courageous, world-shaping force. Our inclusive, defiant Love has work to do—and we are stronger when we do it together.



# Ministry of Spiritual Growth

## THE JANUARY PAGAN GUIDE

### PROTECT YOUR SPACE

Before practicing resistance, use these elements to protect your space and loved ones:

- bells
- herb bundles
- salt



### A TREE'S 2<sup>ND</sup> LIFE

Winter is a great time for pruning and caring for your trees. Consider giving the branches a 2<sup>nd</sup> life! You can make:

- wands
- staves
- bell branches
- garden fences and supports

### BRAT-BHRÍDE

Three days before Imbolc, set aside a special cloth or ribbon and place it on a bush or tree outside. It is said that Brigid travels the land blessing these special items!



### GARDEN RESISTANCE

Help support local pollinator and bug populations by leaving your yard as untouched as possible. Pollinators LOVE:

- leaves
- logs
- dead plant stems



### LET THEM EAT!

Consider donating your undecorated Christmas tree to a local animal rescue or zoo that is accepting donations. Many animals will enjoy the snack!



## Tarot this month at UUCG

**Friday, January 2**  
at 7:30pm on-site at UUCG

Major Arcana Study

**Saturday, January 10**  
at 9:00am on-site at UUCG

Learning the Cards

**Sunday, January 18**  
at 12:30pm on-site at UUCG

Sunday Tarot

**Tuesday, January 27**  
at 7:30pm on Zoom

Social Justice Tarot

Bring your cards and your questions. All are welcome, regardless of level of experience.

Are you interested in learning about serving in Lay Ministry at UUCG?

Reach out to [sharedministry@uucg.org](mailto:sharedministry@uucg.org).

# Ministry of Connecting Within



## The Strength of Connection

by Lisa Kiel, Lay Minister for Connecting Within

*But maybe what we need most is to be reassured. Reassured that when the road gets too treacherous and the forces against us grow too big, others will be by our side. Maybe it's not more courage that is required, but more connection. Maybe what we really need to hear is not simply "Resist!" but "I will resist with you!"*

*~Soul Matters Small Group Ministry Guide: Practicing Resistance*



## Book Group

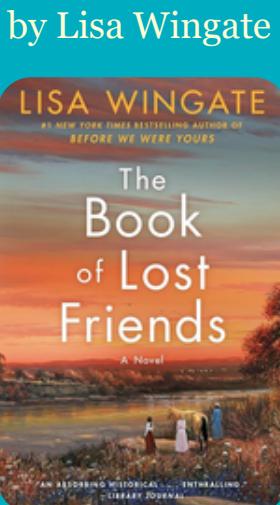
**Wednesday, Jan. 28**

**at 7:00pm**

**Online via Zoom**

### **January Selection:**

*The Book of Lost Friends*



*The Book of Lost Friends* is a historical fiction novel that weaves together two timelines: the post-Civil War Reconstruction era and 1987 Louisiana, inspired by real "Lost Friends" advertisements in which formerly enslaved people searched for family.

**Read more here...**

Are you weary just thinking of the word resistance? I understand. It's a heavy, multi-faceted word, both inspiring and overwhelming. Sometimes I wonder if the tiny amount I can seem to do even matters, but then that's what our opposition seems to want. They simply want us to give up practicing the values and ideals that we as a community hold dear to our hearts. Whenever I think about that, I stop and think, "do I actually want to give up on being a UU?"

"No I don't," my inner self protests!

Still, what are we all to do when we feel tired and unmotivated? If we believe the Soul Matters writers this month, we band together. We make connections. We protect our community. One day I woke up and realized just being a UU was practicing resistance! Our faith is working to stand by those who are oppressed, to support social justice, and to strengthen our democratic values on the national, state, and local levels. Here at UUCG, we're in that fight whether we realize it or not. We are reaching out to offer support to one another by creating our own little pantry, groups that are welcoming to all, and safe spaces for folk to worship according to their own inner beliefs. Those are not small things. Those are big things in our small place in this world.

So when you feel discouraged, I urge you to come back to the warmth of this community. Take comfort in knowing that you can rest and others will have your back. There are groups and teams where you can make life changing connections. And don't ignore all the ways you already practice resistance: creating art, practicing a musical instrument, writing, cooking for those you love, rescuing an animal, bringing food for the food pantry, participating in a new group, planting a garden, calling someone you haven't seen in a while, saying yes to leadership, wearing a values-based t-shirt, smiling at strangers... These too are examples of the many ways we can both practice resistance, practice our faith, and feed our hungry souls.

With Joy,

Lisa

# Ministry of Connecting Within

## The Strength of Connection

### Community Pantry



When the government shut down this fall, some of our members lost food stamps. Others were furloughed from government jobs. We created an in-house pantry to help with their needs. Now the government has reopened, but we've decided to keep the pantry. Now it's a resource for all of our members & Friends.

Maybe you're a working parent, who stayed late for a meeting and didn't have time to get to the store. Feel free to pick up tomorrow's breakfast. Maybe you just made the best cookies ever. Gather the ingredients, along with the recipe, and leave for a member to find. Of course, if you need help making ends meet, the pantry is for you. Give and take at will.

Together, we're stronger. Together, we share.

Be soft.

Do not let the world  
make you hard.

Do not let pain  
make you hate.

Do not let bitterness  
Steal your sweetness.

Kurt Vonnegut



### Belief Explorers

2nd Sundays  
at 12:30pm

in the Library and  
online via Zoom



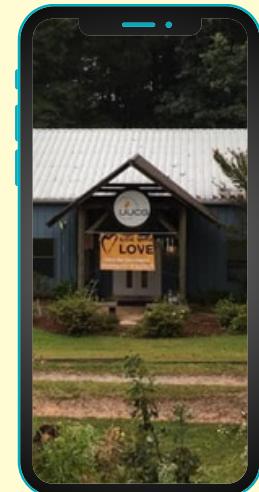
# Making Connections



## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- Alphabet SoUUp** - In Person and Online: 1st Mondays at 6:30pm, potluck served!
- Book Group** - Online: 4th Wednesdays at 7pm  
<https://zoom.us/j/144736833>
- Covenant Groups** - **Registration Remains Open!** **Group A**: 2nd and 4th Mondays at 7pm Online; **Group B**: 2nd Wednesdays at 7pm In Person; **Group C**: 2nd Thursdays at 10am Online (*waiting list only*)
- Game Night** - In Person: 1st Fridays at 6:30pm, all ages welcome!
- Men's Group** - In Person: 2nd Saturdays at 9am
- QUUest** - In Person: 3rd Fridays at 6:30pm. Registration currently closed.  
**QUUest Jr.** - In Person: 2nd Fridays at 7pm, campaign for Youth
- Spiral Scouts** - In Person: 2nd Sundays following Sunday service
- The Open Circle Women's Group** - In Person: 4th Saturdays at 10am
- Yarns from the Heart** - In Person and Online: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 10am  
<https://zoom.us/j/98096623472>

**CHECK OUT THE CONNECTING WITHIN BULLETIN BOARD**



Connecting within starts with presence—pausing to breathe, reflect, and truly see the beauty around us. As you walk through the doors of UUCG, capture the moments that bring you joy and share in the collective appreciation of this sacred space.

# Ministry of Connecting Beyond



## Practicing Resistance as an Act of Love

by Candice Carver (she/her), Lay Minister for Connecting Beyond

I recently heard a story that has stayed with me. A woman found out she had cancer, at 20 years old and just engaged. Her company was going through open enrollment for their medical insurance plan and she knew she needed something better than what she had. She spoke to her HR representative and was assured that they would take care of everything. The HR representative went over all the things she needed to know about her policy, what it covered and more. Through her treatments the HR person went over her bills, making sure that everything was coded correctly and that she wasn't overcharged for treatments. The rep went above and beyond and sent care packages just to remind her she was not alone. It was not part of her job. It was not required. It was simply kindness.

By the time the woman finished treatment and her cancer was in remission, she realized something important. She had met plenty of people who were "nice." Polite. Friendly. Professional. But this experience showed her the difference between nice and kind. Nice is pleasant. Kind changes you. Kindness stays with you. Kindness makes you feel held when life feels unbearable.

That story feels deeply connected to our annual vision of ministry at UUCG: our love is inclusive and defiant. Practicing resistance does not always look like protest signs or loud voices.



Sometimes it looks like kindness that refuses to be shallow. Sometimes it looks like care that is steady, personal, and real, even when no one is watching.

In a world that often encourages us to stay distant, to stay polite, to stay "nice," choosing kindness is a form of resistance. Checking in on someone when it feels easier not to. Sending a message. Sitting with someone in their grief. Helping someone with things they have a hard time doing. Making space. These small, quiet choices push back against a culture of isolation and indifference.

Practicing resistance, for us, is practicing this deeper kind of love. The kind that shows up. The kind that stays. The kind that refuses to let anyone feel invisible.

At UUCG, this is how we live into inclusive and defiant love. Not through perfection, but through presence. Not through performance, but through real connection.

May we keep choosing kindness over comfort, courage over silence, and love that is real over love that is simply nice.

~ Candice Carver



**LAWRENCEVILLE CO-OP  
COMMUNITY FOOD BANK MINISTRY**

### Most Needed Items:

Shelf stable milk	Soup/stews
Applesauce	Canned fruit
Canned tuna/chicken	12 or 18 ct egg cartons
Size 3 and up diapers	Feminine Pads

### FOOD DISTRIBUTION HOURS

MONDAY 5-7pm  
WEDNESDAY 9am-noon  
FRIDAY 9am-noon  
\*BY APPOINTMENT ONLY



\* Scan QR Code to  
Schedule Appointment

# Ministry of Connecting Beyond

Calling all UUCG Congregants:



## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

### The Give Away the Plate Committee Seeks Nominations and a Volunteer



The Give Away the Plate committee selects organizations to become recipients of our share-the-plate ministry from among those nominated by the members & Friends of UUCG. The committee *requires* your nominations. Are you curious how you can help?

#### **Who can nominate a charitable organization for GATP?**

UUCG members, youth, the minister, and staff may nominate an organization.

#### **What are the requirements for an eligible Plate recipient?**

- The organization is recognized as a nonprofit charitable organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and said status is verified. Individuals, trade associations, and lobbying organizations are not eligible.
- The organization's work aligns with the Unitarian Universalist Principles and Purposes.
- A non-UU entity is eligible to be a GATP recipient 12 months after its last award.

#### **Desired characteristics of potential recipients:**

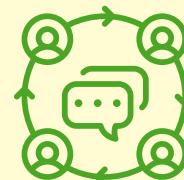
- The organization has a history of significant achievements and shows signs of future success.
- The organization has volunteer or engagement opportunities for UUCG members and friends.
- The organization has local impact.
- UUCG member(s) are or have been actively involved on a regular basis.

#### **Also, if you're interested in joining the committee, we want to hear from you!**

You can email your nominations or offer to volunteer to [giveawaytheplate@uucg.org](mailto:giveawaytheplate@uucg.org) and a member of the Give Away the Plate committee will contact you.

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### The Communications Team is Looking for Members



The Communications Team serves a vital role in keeping the congregation and the community informed about what is going on at UUCG. From the weekly and monthly newsletters, to our Facebook page and website, the Comms Team helps determine what, how, and when our message reaches you. And they are now looking for folks to join the team!

If you are interested in getting involved with this decision-making group, please send an email to [communications@uucg.org](mailto:communications@uucg.org). We look forward to hearing from you!

# Ministry of Connecting Beyond

## UU GA Legislative Action Network

by Barbara Stahnke

The mission of UUGALAN is to educate and mobilize Georgia Unitarian Universalists in the state legislative process to amplify the needs and voices of Georgia residents who are the least represented in the state government.



### Unitarian Universalist Georgia Legislative Action Network

Our Unitarian Universalist values dictate that the GA UU Legislative Action Network advocate on behalf of Georgia residents who would include but not be limited to --- renters, the medically uninsured, people of color, those who identify in non-binary gender roles, victims of gun violence, immigrants, individuals whose reproductive healthcare rights are threatened, public school students and Georgia citizens who seek to vote without impediment.

The UUGALAN focuses on state and local legislative and policy activities through organizing, educating, engagement and activism. I think I learned from JoAnn Weiss that social justice involves 5 levels of action. I believe they were - Direct Service, Education, Advocacy, Activism. And Organizing. Her inspirational early organizing inspired me to continue to where I am today working to Save our Democracy with the UUGALAN.

Sign up at the [\*\*every action link for our newsletter\*\*](#) for the 2026 year. Know that we are new to this method of engagement with legislators, and we may make mistakes. We may send too much. Take action when you can. We are hoping that we are making it easier to engage promptly and consistently with your legislators at the State

level. With every action, you can edit the content, and you don't have to look up your legislator. You type in your address info and the correct legislator info is automatically added.

You will also learn about in-person actions and proposed legislation with the Georgia State legislature through [\*\*every action\*\*](#). The UUGALAN has identified Voting Restrictions on the GA legislative agenda this year. We must continue the work to SAVE and PROTECT our democracy. Yes, only citizens can vote in the USA, but shouldn't we work to ensure ALL citizens can vote. There should not be restrictions to limit voting to only the folks who can show up on the actual voting day during the voting times at the exact location. I think we can do much better than that.

These are not the only issues. Bodily autonomy and human rights are going to be up for discussion in the GA legislature in the coming year. Our legislature must receive the message that we care about **Equity, Justice, Pluralism, Interconnection, and Generosity**. We can Transform this state into the beloved community, one individual and one community at a time. Sign up today for the [\*\*UUGALAN Every Action Emails and Online Actions\*\*](#). Georgia Needs YOU!!!

# Ministry of Connecting Beyond



## Widening Our Circle



### The Gathering

Fortifying Ourselves for the Long Road Ahead

Economic Non Cooperation

Monday, Jan. 12 at 8 ET • 7 CT • 6 MT • 5 PT • 4 AKT • 2 HT on Zoom

Join us on Jan 12 at 8pm ET for The Gathering, a monthly virtual event from Side With Love designed to offer Spiritual Grounding, Political Analysis, and Collective Action.

This month, Rev. Mykal Slack will ground us with music and Nicole Pressley will share teachings about noncooperation.

[Register to come strengthen your spirit, make sense of the threats to democracy, and take meaningful action alongside others!](#)



## The Woodlands

An all ages, monthly, Trans\* Spiritual Care Program

January 11, 2025  
4:00pm

- Saplings - Trans Youth (13+/HS)
- Sycamores – Trans Adults (18+)
- Sequoias- Parents/Caregivers (attending solo)
- Sequoias Jr. – Parents/Caregivers (attending with kids)



[The Woodlands](#) is a monthly online gathering designed for trans children, youth, and adults—as well as the parents and caregivers of trans people.

Each session will begin with a shared message and grounding ritual, followed by breakout rooms tailored to different communities within the circle, and then come back together for a release. Sessions will be about an hour and a half.

Each breakout room—co-facilitated by two chaplains—will offer space for meaningful check-ins where we can honor our grief, celebrate our joy, and support one another. The spirit of each room will reflect the people within it.

[REGISTER TO JOIN](#)

All of those on the UUA staff who helped bring The Woodlands to life hope you'll find meaningful community and support in this shared space.

# Save the Date...

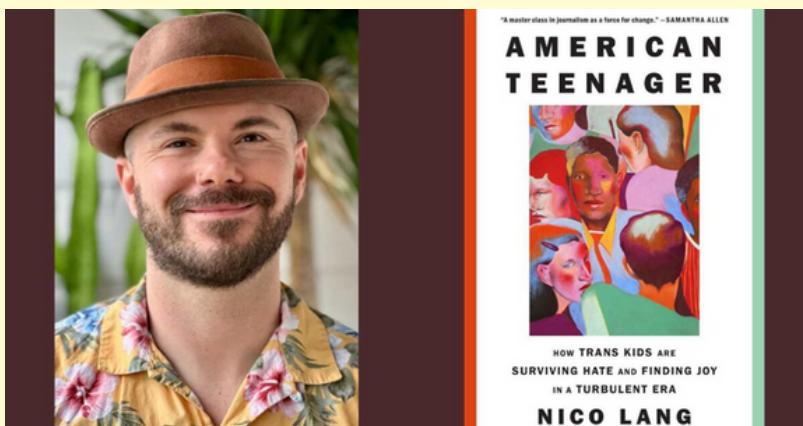
## Nico Lang Book Reading & Signing Event

**Wednesday, February 4th  
at 5:30PM at UUCG**



**PFLAG will be hosting the author Nico Lang at UUCG for a book reading and signing event. This gathering will be open to the public and members & Friends of UUCG are invited to attend.**

**More details will be available soon.**



Join us for Worship on

**SIDE WITH LOVE**  
Sunday

**February 15, 2026 at 11:00am**

# January 2026

for more information about any of these events,  
please [visit our online Calendar](#)

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

	Food Bank Donations Days	Food collection for our members in need and the Lawrenceville Co-op.	In-Person
	Potluck Lunch	Sign up to volunteer; bring a dish to share; come break bread together.	In-Person
	Board Of Trustees	Congregational Conversation, Board Meeting, or Business Meeting. All members and friends of UUCG are invited to attend.	In-Person/Online
	Alphabet SoUUp	Discussion group for Queer-identified folx.	In-Person
	Choir	Rehearsal for performance during Worship Services.	In-Person
	Yarns from the Heart	Creates prayer shawls and baby blankets for members and friends.	In-Person/Online
	Music Night	Musicians of all skill levels gather to play together.	In-Person
	Property Beautification	Monthly indoor/outdoor workday. All skills and abilities are welcome.	In-Person
	Oak Grove UUCG CUUPs	Oak Grove UUCG Covenant of UU Pagans Gathering, all are welcome.	In-Person
	Belief Explorers	Explorers of world philosophies, faith traditions & religions.	In-Person/Online
	Spiral Scouts	All-gender scouting group for ages 3-12.	In-Person
	Covenant Groups	Small group ministry. Registration required.	In-Person/Online
	Men's Group (inclusive)	Male-identified people gather for discussion.	In-Person
	Tarot Classes	A learning space for all who are interested in the tarot.	In-Person/Online
	Green Team Meeting	Environmental Justice-focused group, all are welcome.	Online
	Sylvan Sanctuary	Oak Grove Sylvan Sanctuary Druid Ritual celebrating the Sabbats.	In-Person
	Book Group	Monthly book discussion (contact administrator for link to join).	Online
	G3T	Grand Green Get-Togethers: Movies and more with the Green Team.	In-Person/Online
	Worship Services	Sunday Morning Worship Services at 11:00am weekly.	In-Person/Online
	Family Game Night	Board and card games in community - all ages welcome.	In-Person
	QUUest & QUUest Jr.	D&D campaigns, registration required.	In-Person
	Good Trouble	4th Sundays after service at 12:30PM.	In-Person
	Women's Group	All who identify as women are welcome to join us in this safe space for sharing & connection.	In-Person
	Resisting Fascism Team	Discussion group.	In-Person
	Special Event	Unique event/holiday taking place at UUCG.	In-Person



# Staff Schedules

## Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Minister

revnpj@uucg.org | 678-558-4834

Tuesday thru Thursday:

email or text for appointment

1st & 3rd Saturday: 10:00am - 2:00pm

## Christiana McQuain

Coordinator of Family Ministries

cmcquain@uucg.org

Tuesday (remote): 9:00am-4:00pm

Friday (on-site): 9:00am-2:00pm

Most Sundays (on-site): 8:30am-2:30pm

## Jason Pfeffer

Office Administrator

admin@uucg.org

Tuesday: 10:00am-2:00pm

Friday: 9:00am-2:00pm

Third Sunday: 10:00-12:00pm

## LaTreisha McKay

Bookkeeper

lmckay@uucg.org

Monday (remote): 5:00pm-8:00pm

## Michael Parker

Choir Director

choirdirector@uucg.org

Tuesday (on-site): 1:00pm-6:00pm

## Becca Parker

Choir Director

choirdirector@uucg.org

Sunday (on-site): 9:00am-12:00pm

