





# GNUUs

## Contents

Worship: 

Ministry for Connecting Beyond: 

Ministry for Green Space: 

Ministry for Connecting Within: 

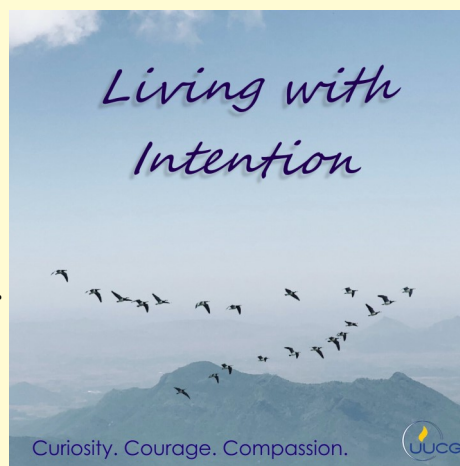
Ministry for Radical Welcome: 

## Living With Intention

“Here’s what I discovered. Intention is different from setting goals or resolutions in that it “pulls us into” who we truly are. Goals and resolutions “push us out” into future possibilities. To set intentions, we must listen to our inner voice which tells us who we truly are.”

- Katie Covey, *Soul Matters*  
Director of RE Resources

Maybe our real New Year’s work is not about pushing forward into self-improvement, but about pausing, stepping back and asking, “What hunger has my heart?”



### Events This Month

Jan 2..Food Bank Donations\*  
Jan 5....Yarns from the Heart+  
Jan 9.....Spiral Scouts+  
Jan 9.....Belief Exploration+  
Jan 18.....Board Meeting+  
Jan 19..Yarns from the Heart+  
Jan 23.....Town Hall Meeting+  
Jan 26.....Book Group+  
Jan 26.....Vision Journal+

Tuesdays.....Covenant Choir\*  
Sundays.....Tarot Sunday+

\*onsite

+online

For details visit [uucg.org](http://uucg.org)

### Did you Gnow?

- Gnus can run up to 50 mph (80km/h)
- Gnus can live up to 40, but on average, live up to 20 years.





## Worship in January

Theme: *Living with Intention*  
Join us via Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/565460176>

**January 2:** Online

### ***Taking Stock, Clearing out the Dust, and Making Room for Change***

In order to greet joy without a trace of suspicion we've got to know what we are about. Looking forward sometimes means coming to terms with the present and saying goodbye to the past.

*Lydia Patrick (she/her), Service Leader*

**January 9:** Online

### ***Living Loud in a Muffled World***

*Sherree Bailey (she/her), Service Leader*

**January 16:** Online

### ***Paying Attention to Intention***

When we're in the midst of a tense moment, it's very difficult to recognize our deepest intentions. How can we pay attention to our intentions and then bring them into difficult conversations?

*David Morgen (he/him), Service Leader*

**January 23:** Online

### ***Living With Intention as Practice***

*Bob Patrick (he/him), Service Leader*

**January 30:** Online

### ***Chord Progression***

Choosing where to place our attention and energy can be its own kind of radical act of reimagining.

*David Morgen (he/him), Service Leader*

**February Theme: Widening the Circle**

## The New Normal

Forgive the use of the term, but part of our 'new normal', at least for the time being, is going to be responding to local infection statistics and discernment regarding holding onsite events or closing the building.

**Please keep an eye out for announcements and check ahead of time before coming to the building.**



## From the Board

Happy New Year! May 2022 bring tidings of great joy to you and your people.

Following the service, on January 23, UUCG will hold a Town Hall meeting to begin discussions on the current effort underway to update Article II of our national UUA bylaws. This is part of an administrative move on the part of the Unitarian Universalist Association, our national denominational organization. On the one hand, such conversations can seem dry and remote. On the other hand, Article II contains the Unitarian Universalist Principles and Purposes, the heart of who we covenant to be in relationship with one another and the world.

Unitarian Universalism is a living faith and as such, has no creeds or central beliefs. Our current Principles and Purposes, which you can view [here](#), have not been revised since 1987. Since that time, there have been national discussions on updates to the 1st, 5th and 7th principles. There has also been a call to add a new 8th principle, dealing with anti-racism.

The UUA has created an Article II Study Commission and has issued to that Commission the charge linked [here](#). Originally the Commission was to present its findings to the UUA board in January of 2022 (now), but that deadline has been updated to January of 2023, in order to fully engage member congregations and individual congregants in the conversation.

Our January 23 Town Hall meeting will be a local introduction to a national dialogue. You will hear an outline of the facts, and then we will engage in brainstorming about our personal principles and how we have come to those. True to UU form, there are disagreements at both the national and the local (UUCG) levels. Dialogue is healthy, and differing points of view are to be expected, but our conversations must be grounded in Love. “We are not strangers,” states Lay Minister for Spiritual Growth Bob Patrick. “We are a long-standing community and we love each other.” I look forward to envisioning the next articulation of UUism with you.

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



# ARTICLE II STUDY COMMISSION

## What About the 8th Principle?

### THE 7 PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

#### A Covenant & Legal Document



The 7 Principles of Unitarian Universalism, are part of Article II, Principles and Purposes, of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) bylaws. Member Congregations promise each other, in covenant, to affirm and promote these principles.

### ARTICLE II STUDY COMMISSION (A2SC)

#### A Formal Procedure



The A2SC is a function of the UUA bylaws, for the periodic review of the Covenant between the Member Congregations. In consultation with the General Assembly, the Board of Trustees charged the A2SC to include the essence of the 8th Principle.

### 8TH PRINCIPLE PROJECT

#### A Grassroots Movement



The 8th Principle Project is a grassroots movement started in 2013, aimed at articulating a commitment to dismantle racism and other forms of oppression within the Covenants made between and within the Member Congregations of the UUA.

### UU CONGREGATIONS' ROLE

#### Covenanting & Anti-Racism



Adopting the 8th Principle at the local level is an act of covenant making amongst the members of that Congregation, to be anti-racist. The Covenant between Congregations can be shaped by engaging in the A2SC process, and voting on the amended Article II at the 2023 and 2024 General Assemblies.

LEARN MORE AT [UUA.ORG/A2SC](https://uua.org/a2sc)

These responses are our fellow community members answers to the open questions 2 & 3. These responses matter even more than before due to the absence of Real Life community, where growth happens in a more organic way. Please read these responses in preparation to move forward as a community.

-Katrina Yurko

***What personal and organizational needs must be addressed to move fully into our vision and what resources do we have to help us meet them?***

- I feel we need a strong Communications Team to make sure everyone within our congregation and beyond our walls will know what is happening and being done at UUCG.
- Mentoring, diverse Leadership Teams, and inclusive decision-making.
- Active participation from the congregation and financial support.
- Care Circles and Phone trees. We should have a Care Committee Chair and Leads from Each Circle who meet monthly for updates regarding our needs and health. Then we publish the results in our Newsletter
- Our Blue Building is hidden from the view of those passing by. A sign with changing messages will say "here we are, this is what we are about, come see what we are doing."
- More public events would be great... trunk or treat events, etc. I liked the idea of a "worship in the park" service.
- We need to follow the "build it and they will come" attitude in renewing a strong RE program. In a county with the largest school population in Georgia, there are many families with kids who would find us and join us if we only provided a program for them. Recognizing that this will not work while we are in Zoom mode, we need to plan to expand RE when we return to in person.
- Most people of the Millennial age (elder Millennials are approaching 40), Gen Z, etc. use Instagram, Tik Tok, and Snapchat much more often than email and Facebook. A lot of organizations and even churches use Tik Tok and Tik Tok trends to spread news.
- Social justice is our spiritual practice. Social justice issues could be best served in chalice circle settings, to address personal fears and express hopes. Sermons need to be more joyful in order to inspire us throughout the week to do the work. Personal testimonies in the form of reflections will also work.

***In what ways does UUCG meet your spiritual needs and how can we support each other in our spiritual journey?***

- UUCG meets my spiritual needs by having thoughtful and meaningful worship services each week, and by providing opportunities for me to connect with and learn from others within our congregation.
- Everyone deserves to have their story cherished and celebrated- past, present, and future. We have not heard the Community until all voices are heard.
- I think Jan does a very good job of meeting our pastoral needs. I am very glad that there is a liberal religious present in Gwinnett county; we are doing that, for sure. I also think Lorena is doing a fabulous job.
- I am excited to be involved in the faith development for families with young children. I did not think that this was well publicized though because I only found out about it through another member. We need to make sure that these opportunities are clear perhaps by Reverend Jan mentioning them at the service. I have thoroughly enjoyed the faith development programs I have experienced.
- A feeling of acceptance. Messages that align with who I am
- The Community of people. Just being available to listen to each other, and our stories.
- I find the ability to connect with a community that holds progressive values similar to my own to be reaffirming.
- It's good to have access to programs related to race awareness, to covenant groups, and like-minded community support. I enjoy the Sunday morning services on Zoom.
- As UU's we bring our spirituality to the table and align our beliefs with what we choose.
- The themes, programs, and worship services open the doors to the questions of ultimacy, to environmental connectedness, to a search for meaning, but the answers are within us.
- Our many varied services with an emphasis on personal search for spirituality provide a strong attraction for the people who value reason and science and yet are open to others ideas.
- Take all these surveys and make a plan with a timeline. Periodically let the congregation know how we are doing with it and if we do not reach 50% of the goal after a specific time period, scrap it and start over. What is the point of doing these surveys if nothing ever comes of the data?
- Adult RE and WOW are helping to expand my understanding of the world.
- The community, the widening of perspectives, the reinforcement of an open mind... I am thoroughly enjoying both this church and the people I've met and learned from so far



Lay Ministry: Connecting Beyond



### Food Drive

Thank you for supporting our food drive each month! We donated 250 pounds of food to the Lawrenceville Co-op food bank this December.

Next collection date January 2

### The Opening of Our Little Free Library was a Success

Thanks to all who donated books for the Grand Opening of our Little Free Library on Dec. 5. The book box was completely full at the end of the day with all your great donations. Our Library is now on the world map for everyone to find! Hope you will stop by and take a look at our library that is beside the sidewalk up the hill across from the cell phone tower. You just might find a book that you wanna take, and you are always welcome to donate another book if there is room in the book box for more.

-Peggy Averyt  
Lay Minister for  
Connecting Beyond



## A Community Conversation

### Honoring the Life of Charles Hale

Thursday, January 6th, 7-8pm

Join Gwinnett County Public Library and The Gwinnett Remembrance Coalition (one of our UUCG Community Partners) for a community conversation. The Gwinnett Remembrance Project acknowledges, remembers, and educates the community about the county's violent and racist past. Use the link to find out more and register to attend this virtual event. <https://events.gwinnettpl.org/event/5863476>

grc

### Charles Hale Historical Marker Dedication

January 15th 11:00am

David Morgen, interim minister at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett, will be delivering an interfaith invocation at the Charles Hale Historical Marker Dedication Ceremony to honor the memory of Gwinnett lynching victim, Charles Hale, on Jan. 15, 2022 starting at 11:00 a.m. The ceremony will take place at the New Jerusalem Baptist Church, 422 E. Crogan St., Lawrenceville, GA. Afterwards, there will be a procession to the Marker Site at the corner of Pike & Perry Streets. Attendees can then gather at the Lawrenceville Arts Center at 125 N. Clayton St. for reflection and conversation. Masks are required! This event is being organized by the Gwinnett Remembrance Coalition.

## Immigration Lobby Training

New Sanctuary Movement of Atlanta will be hosting an immigration lobby training on **Saturday, January 15th, 2-5pm** on Zoom.

This training will be led by Jaime Rangel, Georgia Immigration Manager for FWD.US, and will focus on tactics for influencing our legislators towards humane immigration policy, as well as information specifically relevant to the issue of immigration in the Georgia 2022 legislative session. It will include information for talking to our legislative representatives and other Georgia elected officials, as well as specific lobbying efforts to join with in 2022.

[Sign up here](#) for the Jan. 15th lobby training, and the Zoom link will be emailed to you the week of the event.

Together, we can make sure the values of dignity, justice, compassion, and hospitality are upheld in Georgia policy!

## Two Approaches, One Goal...

### Fair and Balanced Boundaries

During its December meeting, the Gwinnett County Board of Education agreed to put forward proposed Board district maps for consideration by the Georgia General Assembly. As part of its process, the Board of Education is seeking input from the Gwinnett community regarding the maps.

The survey regarding the maps will remain open **through 11:59 p.m. on January 4, 2022.**

Below is the direct link to the survey as well. -  
Barbara Stahnke

[https://gcpsk12ga.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_oq5L16zL19yVNyu?](https://gcpsk12ga.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_oq5L16zL19yVNyu?fbclid=IwARoRPORSweDF9JJRynD-2sdbkmifYqJw2-TTXf27249NvU_Rwo-tKIgcZ2Q)

[fbclid=IwARoRPORSweDF9JJRynD-2sdbkmifYqJw2-TTXf27249NvU\\_Rwo-tKIgcZ2Q](https://gcpsk12ga.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_oq5L16zL19yVNyu?fbclid=IwARoRPORSweDF9JJRynD-2sdbkmifYqJw2-TTXf27249NvU_Rwo-tKIgcZ2Q)

## It's Easy Being Green

Join Karen Smith, a suburban homesteader from the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett for the first session of the "It's Easy Being Green Series". Karen's informative presentation, entitled "Living a Green Lifestyle", will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Jan. 22, 2022 at the Five Forks Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library. At the end of her session, you will be able to make and take a natural, all-purpose cleaner to use in your home.



Look for more information about the events for February and March coming soon.

Dr. Terry Welsher, Co-Coordinator for the Citizens' Climate Lobby for the state of Georgia, explores climate change, its impact, and how to lessen its effects. Join him **at 1:00pm on April 23, 2022** at the Five Forks Branch of the Gwinnett County Library. With an in-person demonstration, he will show how seemingly small changes can make huge impacts on the environment. Dr. Welsher is retired from Bell Laboratories, where he was a Research and Development Director.

## Covenant Groups 2022

Covenant Groups have been a cornerstone of connection within our congregation. UUCG Covenant Groups are structured small group discussions around our monthly themes. We meet for two hours, twice per month, to connect, share ideas, and learn from one another. Each person is given uninterrupted time to share stories and find meaning from their own experiences. Trained, experienced facilitators are a part of every group meeting. The Spring 2022 groups will start the first week of February and we'll offer a Monday evening group, a Wednesday evening group, and a Thursday morning group.

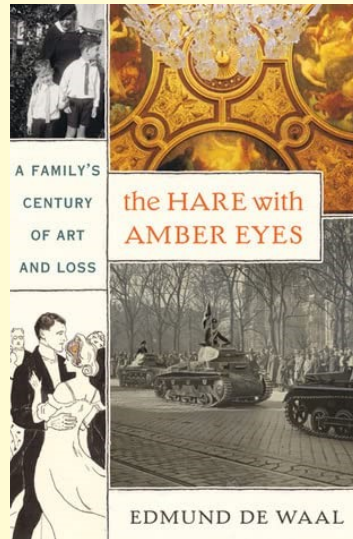
[Registration / sign up here !](#)

Lay Ministry: Connecting Within

## Book Group

**January 26th 7-9pm**

The Book Club resumes its regular schedule (4th Wednesday of the month) in January.



Current Selection:

**The Hare With Amber Eyes: A Family's Century of Art and Loss**

By Edmund de Waal

Summary: Edmund de Waal is a world-famous ceramicist. Having spent thirty years making beautiful pots—which are then sold, collected, and handed on—he has a particular sense of the secret lives of objects. When he inherited a collection of 264 tiny Japanese wood and ivory carvings, called netsuke, he wanted to know who had touched and held them, and how the collection had managed to survive.

## Come to the Mountain

Lay Ministry: Connecting Within

We are happy to announce that we have dates for the UUCG Congregational Retreat at The Mountain!

The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center is perched on a 4,200 foot high granite cliff in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains located just across the Georgia border, about four miles from the resort town of Highlands, North Carolina. This has been a long time coming and we look forward to seeing you September 16-19, 2022 for a weekend of connection, learning, relaxing, and just being. More details to follow, but we are looking for folks to volunteer to help plan activities, games, workshops, and general chores.

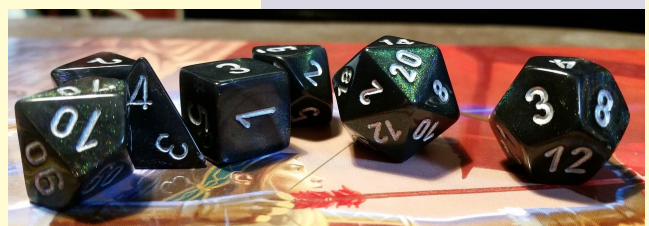
Please contact Joe Bentley at [ConnectingWithin@uucg.org](mailto:ConnectingWithin@uucg.org) if you're up for helping us create this experience for our congregation.

## Ready to QUUest?

**The UUCG Dungeons & Dragons group is getting ready to take a QUUest!**

We'll have two groups to choose from...one in-person and one online, each meeting once a month starting the beginning of February. Open to seasoned sojourners and newbies alike. A super fun way to connect!

[Click here to register](#)



## Message from the Lay Minister

As I journey on my spiritual path, I am grateful for the UUCG community. I learn through pictures, hands-on experiences, and interactions with my fellow earth dwellers. I am currently working through my thoughts, feelings, and actions about the model in the graphic, which helps me understand myself better.

This graphic comes from a history of learning about and utilizing Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (That model uses Thoughts-Behaviors-Feelings in the three circles.) to improve my life. It may also be informed by attendance at

the Southern Unitarian Universalist Leadership Experience (SUULE), and Maryjane Stout has reminded me they use the “triune model” where the three circles are Feeling (Emotional), Thinking (Intellectual), and Being (Physical) – triune meaning three in one. In this model, the center of the circle is the individual.

I give you the history so that you might understand how this model informs the way I am moving through this world. I will tell that my circles of spirit are not of one size at different times and interactions. I work to fill each process so that I stay balanced in spirit. I don’t always succeed. That’s what makes this a journey.

How does this connect to the UUCG mission of Curiosity, Courage, Compassion? For me, Curiosity is related to the mind, Courage is connected to the Body, and Compassion is connected to the Heart. These come together in Community which is my spirit. My spirit is fed when I connect to people, and I believe that feeds our whole community. It is so much more than this simple graphic. Sometimes mind (intellect, thoughts) takes over, and sometimes body (being, behaviors). My goal in interaction and community is to focus on the heart (emotions, feelings).

For me, listening to each other’s stories takes compassion and heart energy most of all. This heart energy is strengthened by the curiosity of learning a variety of different things and the courage of my body to keep at it. Each person’s story is their story. My story is my story. Our story may be how we accept each other and help each other listen and hear those stories while we are on our spiritual journey.

With radical welcome, we are trying to figure out how to create spaces of acceptance and love while honoring uniqueness. Join some folks at the Radical Welcome Study Hall on January 7th at 6:30 PM-8:30 PM on Zoom as we work to define what we mean by radical welcome. And yes, radical welcome is part of our vision statement, but I am not sure we have fully defined that yet.

-Barbara Stahnke





# Nurturing Connections



**Food Bank Dropoff January 2**      **2pm-4pm**  
Front Porch at UUCG



**Tarot Sundays every Sunday at**      **5pm**  
Zoom Meeting ID: 978-9585-2363



**Covenant Choir Gathering every Tuesday at**      **7pm**  
Onsite



**Yarns From the Heart January 5**      **10am**  
Zoom Meeting ID: 994-7414-0257



**Spiral Scouts January 9**      **12:30pm**  
For children ages 3-12 and their families. Preregistration is required



**Belief Explorers January 9**      **12:30pm**  
Zoom Meeting ID: 896-987-304



**Yarns From the Heart January 19**      **10am**  
Zoom Meeting ID: 994-7414-0257



**Town Hall Meeting January 23**      **12:30pm**  
Zoom Meeting ID: 565-460-176



**Book Group January 26**      **7pm**  
Zoom Meeting ID: 144-736-833





















**Vision Journal Workshop January 26**      **7pm**  
Zoom 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

# January 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 	31					