





GNUUS


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For details visit uucg.org

Did you Gnow?

- Gnus are separated into 2 species; blue and black
- The blue gnu species has 5 subspecies and the black has none



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 July

Theme: *Practicing our Sources*

July 4, 2021

Dream Catchers and Singing Bowls

Unitarian Universalists draw from many wisdom sources for inspiration, and we strive to do this respectfully. The lines of cultural appropriation can seem fuzzy and complicated, but there are ways to find clarity and simplicity in choosing our spiritual practices and planning our celebrations and rituals.

Rev. Jan Taddeo, Service Leader

July 11, 2021

Sources of Our Faith

In Kathleen Rolenz' collection of inspirational readings called *Sources of Our Faith*, she offers UUs a resource for waltzing with the Holy, gamboling with the rational mind, and moving to the rhythms of mystery and wonder. Let it be a dance we do.

Rev. Jan Taddeo, Service Leader

July 18, 2021

The Three Cauldrons

Earth Relating Spiritual Traditions: The three realms within us and around us.

Bob Patrick Service Leader

July 25, 2021

Virtual Field Trip to Foothills Unitarian Church, Fort Collins, CO

Reverend Gretchen Haley, Service Leader

August Theme

Living with Ambiguity and Paradox
August 1, 2021

Virtual Field Trip,

location TBD (ambiguous)

We're Coming Home!

Reverend Jan

On August 15, 2021, we will hold our first in-person worship service since March 8, 2020. What a long strange time it's been! It will be good to be together again.

As we prepare to return to being together in-person for various events and activities, it's a good time for us to reflect on what we want to create together as we come together again. What feels more important than it did before March 2020? What feels less important? What new focus might we want to create together? What needs to be revisited?

Our Lay Ministers and I would very much like your thoughts on these and others questions as we prepare to return to in-person programs. We've created a survey to invite your feedback and thoughts as we begin to plan for our coming program year. Here's the link for the survey: <https://forms.gle/isdwXBm29Gb9FAyy6> or scan here:



We also want to make sure everyone is aware of the recommendations for our reconvening and the guidelines we'll be following as we gradually increase our participation.

Starting in July, small groups (fewer than 25 people) may reserve space to meet in the building or outside on the property. These gatherings must be scheduled with our Office Administrator, Aline Harris at aharris@uucg.org

Reconvening Guidelines Summary

- Hugging and other forms of touch must be consensual - ask first!
- Bring your own food, snacks, coffee, beverages - no shared food, potlucks, etc.
- Sharing vaccination status is voluntary
- Wash hands frequently and thoroughly

Gathering Inside:

- All attendees (including children over 2 years old) must wear masks
- Sunday seating will be spaced such that family groups will sit together
- There will be no Sunday morning child care available
- Sunday morning Greeters and Beacons will wear masks
- Masks will be available for guests
- Fidget bags will be provided for use during worship
- The Covenant Choir may sing wearing masks and with separated seating
- The kitchen is closed except for those designated to provide hospitality services
- Bathroom access limited to three persons at a time, with social distancing at sinks
- The bathroom to the left of the water fountain is reserved for Turning Sun School during the day - available to UUCG evenings and weekends

Gathering Outside:

- Small groups may meet on the deck, or bring their own seating for gathering in other places on the property
- Masks for adults are optional outdoors, with physical distancing practices in place
- Children may use the playground while masked and practicing social distancing (two adults must be present)



Gadding About by Reverend Jan Taddeo

Practicing Our Sources is our theme for July. For those not familiar, or would benefit from a refresher, the sources we draw from are stated in the bylaws of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), Article II linked here ([Present Text of Article II](#)), that reads, in part:

The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:

- *Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;*
- *Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love;*
- *Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life; • Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;*
- *Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;*
- *Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.*

Which of these sources draw you in? Which have not been part of your spiritual journey? Where might you venture to explore something new in your search for truth and meaning? What does it mean to be in a responsible search ... what would be an irresponsible search? We'll touch on these and other questions in worship and faith development this month.

There is a lot to explore within these broadly defined wisdom sources. The "living tradition" phrase is very intentional. Ours is an

ever-evolving faith, both personally and collectively. We encourage a free and responsible search for truth and meaning, and consider this a life-long process. There is always more to learn, experience, and practice to deepen our own spiritual life.

Our principles and sources, and all of Article II of our UUA Bylaws, are mandated to be reviewed regularly for relevance, and to hold us to the commitment of being a non-creedal, living tradition. Yet, the current version has been largely unchanged since 1984.



In the last few years there has been increasing interest and energy to make changes to Article II. In June 2020 an Article II Study Commission was charged with this work. They expect to complete their work and present recommendations to the UUA Board of Trustees in January 2023, which, if accepted, will be presented to the delegates at the UUA General Assembly in June 2023, for final adoption in June 2024. I encourage you to follow their work [here](#) and be informed about the process as this will likely be a landmark shift in the future of our faith.

In our shared faith...
Reverend Jan

Graphic Icons

In an effort to be more welcoming to people with differing literacy levels, we are beginning to implement graphic icons for each event and group as well as color coding the lay ministries. You can see the colors on the first page of this newsletter and some of the icons on the last page. The colors are also in use on the website calendar.

Beginning in August, there will be a graphic calendar as part of the GNUUS that utilizes these icons to show when events are at a glance.

Reconvening and Welcoming Discomfort

As we prepare to have more events in person again after the pandemic, we invite you to embrace a spirit of radical welcome towards those of us whose experience and comfort levels may be different than your own.

This pandemic has certainly shaped our lives over the past year and a half and it's natural to be excited to see others in person again. It's also natural to feel anxious or uncomfortable in large groups of people.

For so long, we have been conditioned to see the 'other' (in this case just people not in our household or bubble) as 'dangerous'. It may take time for some people to settle back into social life again.

As a covenantal community, we are intentionally radically welcoming of all comfort levels. This includes shedding any reluctance about expressing your own boundaries to others. Honest and open communication will help us all get to a place where we can again feel comfortable and at home in community at UUCG.

New Recycling Program: Terracycle

We are starting to gather recycling for a few brand sponsored recycling programs. These programs are free for our church to participate in (the cost is paid by the brands) and as a group, we will be able to remove a lot from the waste stream.

As we begin using the building again, there will be boxes in the office for certain categories of items. They will be clearly marked. Please collect these categories at home and drop them off when you are coming to the building. When we fill a box, we will mail it to Terracycle and they will recycle it. You may begin to start collecting waste from these companies. Click on the names for more information.

- [Flexible plastic packaging from all Kroger store brands \(Simple Truth, Private Selection, etc\)](#)
- [Burt's Bees](#)
- [Late July chip bags](#)
- [Bimbo Bakeries \(Thomas, Ball Park, Orowheat, Sara Lee, etc\)](#)



Thank you to all who have worked around our property throughout the time away and now as we prepare to reconvene. There are still some jobs that need to be done, you can sign up [here](#).



Yoga



JoAnn Weiss will be leading new Yoga classes beginning July 6 at 4pm. These classes will be held in the UUCG Sanctuary and participants will be adequately distanced.

Masks will be worn in common areas of the building but not required during the class.

Contact JoAnn at joannw55@live.com for more information including pricing structure.

Spiritual Growth Lay Ministry

Bob Patrick

Lay Minister of Spiritual Growth

I have been in conversations with the various groups that are part of spiritual growth at UUCG about how and when they are planning to return to in person offerings. The groups that are a part of spiritual growth include: Faith Development Team, CUUPS and related activities, Sylvan Sanctuary and relatives activities, Women's Spirituality Group, Two Hands Sangha meditation group, Tai Chi, The UUCG Covenant Choir, Yoga and Belief Explorers. Groups have either already begun scheduling their first in person gatherings or are talking with the participants of those groups about how and when they would like to return. One of the outcomes of the pandemic experience is that some of these groups will continue to offer some form of virtual connection for those who are not able to rejoin in person. Making, keeping and fostering connection means even more now than ever.



Give Away the Plate

Special Kneads and Treats -- GATP recipient 3rd Quarter 2021

During the July-thru-September quarter, **Special Kneads and Treats** of Lawrenceville will receive one half of all Sunday morning plate donations. This nonprofit organization provides job training and employment to handicapped ("special needs") adults. They bake cakes, cookies, and other sweet treats, and by doing so they develop social skills and confidence. The organization sells to the public, but it also provides baked goods to homeless shelters, food pantries, foster care systems, and other support groups. It also gives free birthday cakes to special needs individuals in Gwinnett County.



Corley Donations

This year, Corley Elementary school is not in need of backpack donations, they will be requesting clothing including underwear. More information including requested sizing will be forthcoming.

Thank you for your generosity in the past and future.



GUST: UFOs, magnetic people, and other topics to be skeptical

This meetup is in person! We will social distance in the UUCG sanctuary.
Please be vaccinated or masked!

Once again, the news is full of wild topics that should have been debunked years ago. Skepticism is not a one time activity but it is a continual thought process. We must be mindful of lessons learned so that we don't have to learn over and over again. For this meeting we will talk skepticism and what we have learned, and how to keep an open but not credulous mind.

July 12th 7pm-9pm

UUCG Sanctuary

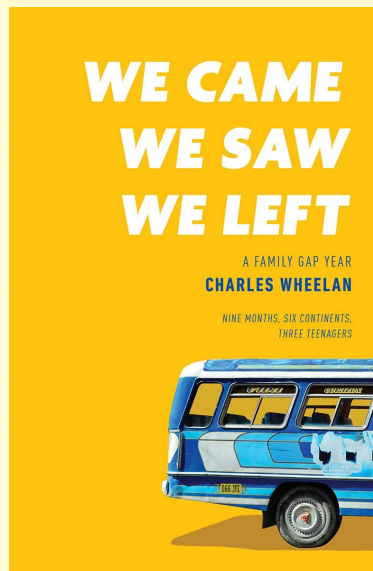
Bring your masks and/or antibodies!

GUST Summer Party

It's that time of year: the GUST summer party is on and in person! We will meet at Sharon Yun's house and hang out outside. There is a fire pit and grill, so bring food and drink. We'll have music and chill vibes. There are 10 chairs but you can bring your own. Sharon's number is 415-439-3416.

Many people have been asking about in person meetings and many of us are ready to get out and hang out with friends. Here's a good start where we can meet outdoors.

Book Group



We Came, We Saw, We Left

by Charles Wheelan

What would happen if you quit your life for a year? In a pre-COVID-19 world, the Wheelan family decided to find out; leaving behind work, school, and even the family dogs to travel the world on a modest budget. Equal parts "how-to" and "how-not-to"—and with an eye toward a world emerging from a pandemic—We Came, We Saw, We Left is the insightful and often hilarious account of one family's gap-year experiment.

Wheelan paints a picture of adventure and connectivity, juggling themes of local politics, global economics, and family dynamics while exploring answers to questions like How do you sneak out of a Peruvian town that has been barricaded by the local army? And where can you get treatment for a flesh-eating bacteria your daughter picked up two continents ago?

Wednesday, July 28th 7pm-9pm

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



From the Endowment Fund

The UUCG Endowment Fund, Inc. is very pleased to announce a grant of \$3000 to UUCG's Tech Streaming Team.

The funds are being used to acquire the new hardware required to continue streaming our services from the sanctuary even after we resume in-person services. We will be able to provide a 3 camera, and multi-media sourced program and we will be able to include Zoom participants in the services.

The success of the recent \$40 for 40 Campaign and the continued growth of our funds invested in The UUA Common Endowment Fund allowed the Endowment Fund Board to make this investment in new technology to reach a wider community.

If you wish to contribute to our growth, please consider making a Birthday Club donation in the amount of your years.

Faith Development

Adult Faith Development

Sundays at 10:00am

- Sunday, 7/11
- Sunday, 7/18
- Sunday, 7/25

Sunday mornings at 10:00am during the month of July there will be a Faith Development session, during which we will explore spiritual practices based on our Sources. These will begin on Sunday, July 11th. Please check the weekly e-news throughout the month for details on each week's specific programming.

In addition, we offer curated resources online for you to engage with our monthly themes in your daily life, beyond Sunday mornings. These include readings, music, spiritual practices, poetry, and opportunities to put your UU faith in action. You can find these resources here: <https://bit.ly/UUCGFaithDevelopment>

Children's Religious Exploration

Is on hiatus for the summer, but please join us for our planned outdoor family gatherings (see below).

Family Faith Development

"Family" means everyone! Please join us this month as we gather for some outdoor fun on-site at UUCG. Faith Development is hosting two events during July

- Saturday, 7/10
- Saturday, 7/24

with activities planned for all ages. We request that you register your interest in attending [here](#).

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 June 6 2pm-4pm

Front Porch at UUCG

Drop off donations on the front porch of UUCG



Tarot Sundays every Sunday at 5pm *no meeting on July 4*

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



Yoga every Tuesday at 4pm

Sanctuary at UUCG



UUCG Covenant Choir every Tuesday at 7pm

Meeting ID: 646-248-750

Covenant Choir gathering on Zoom



Women's Spirituality July 9 at 7pm

Outside at UUCG



Family Faith Development July 10 from 11:30am - 1:30pm

Detail TBD. Pre-registration is requested but not required.



Spiral Scouts: 2nd Sundays, July 11 at 12:30pm

For children ages 3-12 and their families.



Belief Exploration July 11 at 12:30pm

Meeting ID: 896-987-304



GUST July 12 at 7pm

Sanctuary at UUCG

July Topic: UFOs, Magnetic People, and Other Topics to be Skeptical On



CUUPS July 17 at 7:30

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

July Topic: Alchemy: A Deeper Look: Facilitated by Daniel Bailey



Yarns From the Heart July 21 at 10am

Meeting ID: 994-7414-0257



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

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

July Topic: Crystals and Gemstones: Facilitated by Michelle Reed



Family Faith Development July 24 from 11:30 am-1:30 pm

Details TBD. Pre-registration is requested but not required.



Book Group July 28 at 7pm

Meeting ID: 144-736-833

July Topic: A discussion of *We Came, We Saw, We Left* by Charles Wheelan



Sylvan Sanctuary

Grove and Sanctuary at UUCG

July Topic: Lughnasadh: Celebration of the Harvest

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
