



GNUUS

Our Monthly Theme *Play*

Play is something done for its own sake. Play is often associated with children and not seen as something adults do. Adults, after all, need to get things 'done'. Something as playful as painting becomes more about creating a finished product and less about enjoying the feeling of the paint. But play is the process and not a product.

Play should be valued in its own right. When was the last time you played?

Events This Month

June 5.....Yard Work Day
June 5.....CUUPs Event
June 6....Food Bank Donations
June 12.....Family Faith
Development
June 13.....Spiral Scouts
June 14.....GUST
June 16...Yarns from the Heart
June 19.....Sylvan Sanctuary
June 23.....Book Group
June 24.....Full Moon Ritual
June 26.....Family Faith
Development
Tuesdays.....Covenant Choir
Thursdays.....Coffeehouse
Sundays.....Tarot Sunday

For details visit uucg.org

Did you Gnow?

- Gnus are also known as wildebeests
- Gnus often graze in mixed herds with zebras in order to be more aware of predators



Worship in June *Theme: Play*

June 6, 2021

The Power of Play

Sometimes people can brush off “play” as a waste of time or a frivolous activity. We’ll explore the ways in which play and playfulness are essential ingredients for nurturing curiosity, courage, and compassion.

Rev. Taddeo, Service Leader

June 13, 2021

Playing with God

Poets offer us many perspectives on our relationship with various concepts of God. Join Rev. Jan and Bob as they offer us ways to play with God through writings from Hafiz, Harkin and others.

Rev. Taddeo and Bob Patrick, Service Leaders

June 20, 2021

Play Time!

One of the delightful aspects of play is that it can take us out of “normal” time and renew our well of joy. So, let’s explore the ways we can create this kind of play!

Rev. Taddeo, Service Leader

June 27, 2021

UUA General Assembly Worship Service

UUA General Assembly Sunday Morning Worship
Recognizing the importance of shared ministry and the many innovative approaches to worship created by congregations during the pandemic, UUA President, Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick Gray, selected the First Universalist Church of Minneapolis to serve as worship leaders for this year’s GA Sunday Morning Service. Music will be offered through collaboration with 2021 GA Choir Director Susan Mashiyama, the GA virtual choir, and musicians from First Universalist.

Speakers: Rev. Jen Crow, Rev. Arif Mamdani, Julica Hermann de la Fuente, Karen Hutt, Lauren Wyeth, Dr. Randy Buikema, Franco Holder, Aimee K. Bryant

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. Taddeo, Service Leader





From the Board

We'll soon be back together again. At the May UUCG Board meeting, the recommendations of the Reconvening Task Force were adopted. Many thanks to those who served on this team: Sue Ann Solloway, Rob Kohl and Deb Millette. They based their recommendations on the following principles:

- The use of science-based data
- An abundance of caution regarding health and safety of the beloved community
- Our covenant and principles
- Justice and inclusivity
- The value of the beloved community and the importance of the joy found together

Specifics can be found on the next page.

We have determined that the first in-person service will be held on August 15. We are considering whether or not there will be a registration system for attendance. We will continue to offer zoom services for convenience. The board will regularly revisit these recommendations to determine when they can be altered. Thank you for your patience throughout this time, and help us get ready for reconvening by claiming one of the work projects listed elsewhere in this newsletter. See you soon!

---Lorena Griffin for the UUCG Board of Trustees

Food Drive Most Needed

- Green Beans
- Oatmeal
- Canned Pasta
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Soup
- Canned Fruit
- Baby Wipes
- Dish Liquid
- Toilet Paper
- Laundry Detergent

Please donate anything you are able.

Drop off at the front porch of UUCG from 2:00-4:00 pm on June 6





Reconvening Guidelines

Below are the basic guidelines. [You can find the full recommendations here.](#)

Gatherings may begin when 80% of active members and friends are vaccinated.

Attendees (including children) **MUST** wear masks and practice social distancing (family groups may sit together).

Greeters will be fully vaccinated and wear masks.

Visitors must be symptom free and wear masks. Masks will be available.

No communal singing. Choir may sing while wearing masks and social distancing.

Those involved in set up and clean up will be fully vaccinated.

The kitchen will be closed, except to those involved in food service.

Potlucks will be discontinued until further guidance. Food service (including coffee) will be catered with a safe serving line and social distancing. It may be discontinued at first.

Water fountain will be closed.

Signage for all cautionary measures will be posted at the entrance, in the bathrooms and in the sanctuary.

Bathroom access is limited to three persons at a time, and social distancing will be practiced at the sinks.

The deck area will be open. Masks and social distancing are required. Tables will be shared with family groups only.

If a person who has attended an in-person event becomes infected with COVID-19, that person will contact the Minister or the President of the congregation.

Participants in outdoor events will provide their own blankets/chairs. Set-up will not be provided.

There will be no intention table for children during service. Take-home fidget bags will be provided. Children will sit with family during service.

Children may use the playground, while wearing masks and practicing social distancing. They will wash their hands afterward.

Offsite gatherings are encouraged to follow these guidelines.

Touching and hugging is discouraged.

Small gatherings of fewer than 25 people may begin when all in the group have been fully vaccinated. Room reservations are required and can be made through the Office Administrator, Aline Harris (aharris@uucg.org).



From the Endowment Board

Wow! Just Wow!

The \$40 for 40 Campaign was a smashing success. 73 members donated \$3260 dollars during March and April. Those gifts, along with growth of our account at the UUA Common Endowment Fund bring our assets to over \$92,000.

In addition, we received Birthday Club donations from the Millette Family, Diana Dice, Lorena Griffin, and Sue-Ann Soloway. We encourage you to continue donating the amount of your years at each birthday.

The mugs (thank goodness we ordered extras) will be distributed as soon as possible. If you would like to wait 'til we return to in-person services and pick yours up at UUCG, just email dougbeers@bellsouth.net. That will save gas and postage.

Again, thanks to all who participated with strong stewardship in support of our long-term financial future.

“The only thing that ultimately matters is to eat an ice-cream cone, play a slide trombone, plant a small tree, good God, now you’re free.”

-Ray Manzarek

UUCG Stories

“I wasn't around when this happened, but one of my favorite UUCG people was a woman named Nancy Jacobsen. She died several years ago. Before I met her she lived with a guy named Tex. From what I hear, Tex was one of these guys with a long white beard who was his own man (at least that is how I imagine him). Well, one day, Tex parked behind the church, put his car into DRIVE, instead of reverse, and ran into the rear RE classroom! Thankfully, no one was hurt, but I believe that incident prompted the barrier between the church and the parking lot.”

–Debra Greenwood

Do you remember it differently? Send your version to aharris@uucg.org

Give Away the Plate

2nd Quarter 2021

The Path Project



Prayer



Attitude



Teamwork



Humility

Their Mission: To empower children growing up in mobile home parks to find their path to high school graduation and God's plan for their future.

There are multiple challenges facing children growing up in mobile home parks but the most pressing challenge is the high school dropout rate. We've seen dropout rates in some parks as high as 80%. This is a crisis. Children who drop out of high school are more likely than their graduating peers to be incarcerated, live their entire life in poverty, and experience unemployment.

Their main goal is to offer mentoring and after school tutoring. They have provided every family in these mobile home parks with at least one laptop computer and a wifi system so that the students could do their on-line classes during the pandemic. They offer English classes for the adults who want to become more proficient in it. They have created soccer leagues for the youth to participate in, and provide coaching and transportation to the games.

Find out more at <https://www.pathproject.org>.



Tending the Flame

Notes from Faith Development

We are so excited to dive into this month of Play, and begin to gather again in person in accordance with the guidance from the Reconvening Task Force. Generally, we take a break during the summer months and reconvene Religious Exploration offerings in the fall, but this year we will be hosting 4 in-person outdoor gatherings over the next two months which invite families (of any and all ages) to spend time together outdoors on the UUCG property, engaging in games and activities to foster and celebrate reconnection.

In order for us to plan for enough supplies for anyone interested in joining us for these on-site activities, we request that you [register your interest in attending here](#).

Adult and teen Faith Development will continue as usual through June with theme-centered discussion sessions on Sunday mornings at 10:00am via Zoom.

Faith Development Resources for all ages to explore our monthly themes will continue to be available online. You may [access them here](#).

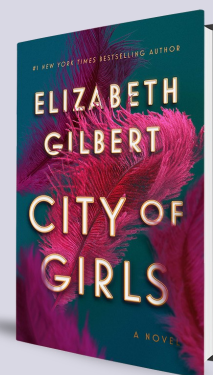
I am so looking forward to this transitional summer as we plan and prepare our building for re-gathering. As always, reach out to me at any time if you have questions, comments, or suggestions about any of our programs and offerings.

Playfully yours,

Christiana McQuain, UUCG Coordinator of Family ministries
on behalf of the UUCG Faith Development Team

Book Club Selections

The book club is going to be selecting books to discuss a few months in advance. In June the book club will be discussing *City of Girls* by Elizabeth Gilbert. Author Elizabeth Gilbert returns to fiction with a unique love story set in the New York City theater world during the 1940s. Told from the perspective of an older woman as she looks back on her youth with both pleasure and regret (but mostly pleasure), *City of Girls* explores themes of female sexuality and promiscuity, as well as the idiosyncrasies of true love.



In July, the selection is *We Came, We Saw, We Left: A Family Gap Year* by Charles Wheelan.

In August the selection is *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah.

Gadding About by Reverend Jan Taddeo

The theme for June is Play! What a delightful theme to explore as our world starts to get a little safer and a little bigger. And summer is here and that's the time to play, right? At least that's what summer always meant when I was a child... something I've tried to hold as a possibility through my adult years.

What does play mean to you? Is it just for kids? I don't think so. Play is so good for the human spirit. Play provides a space for imagination, creativity, and curiosity. I see playfulness as an opportunity to explore what matters most to me and to practice grace, compassion, and joy. But most of all, play time takes me out of regular time. When I'm engaged in playful activity, I can lose track of time and be fully present to the moment.

There are so many ways play feeds our mind, body and spirit. A play on words allows us to explore new ideas. A play on stage takes us into a new world. Playing music uses a whole other part of our brain and soothes the soul. Role play games offer us ways to try on other identities, powers, and situations. Playing games with children invites us into their discovery of new ideas and new ways of playing old games (it's great to let a child come up with the rules for the game!). Playing with our pets can cause us to laugh out loud with joy.

When I was serving as a youth minister, we used games to build community ... games that broke the ice among people who didn't know each other well. We played games that invited teens to learn more about each other. There were games designed to stretch the community and build new skills. We used games to dig into deeper questions about life (Questions for God was often a favorite!). Sometimes what would start as a fun game would develop into deeper sharing from the heart. I have occasionally brought those

same games to groups of adults. It would often take them a little longer to get comfortable with being silly or allowing their guard to drop a bit and become vulnerable as we worked to build a sense of team with one another. But when they were able to let go of whatever was holding them back (ego, pride, fear, skepticism), the laughter was loud and the bonding was deep.

Maybe we can come up with a way to play in the Zoom space one Sunday ... I'm giving that some thought, and I would love to hear your ideas!



Russ and Layla Taddeo

I hope as our world opens wider this summer with more people vaccinated, and more places open for business that you will create time and space in your life for playfulness. Dance in the rain, build a sand castle at the beach, get out the sidewalk chalk and create art for your neighbors to enjoy, gather with friends to play your favorite games, or get on the floor with the kids, grandkids, dog, or cat and immerse yourself in play!

With a playful heart...
Reverend Jan

SUUSI

SUUSI is the Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute, an intentional community of UUs and kindred spirits. For more than 70 years we have come together for a week in July to explore our interconnectedness, delight in the outdoors, enjoy music and learn new ways of seeing our world and each other.

SUUSI 2021 is an entirely virtual event. Registered participants will also receive a daily email with Zoom links to major all-SUUSI events (for example, worship services) as well as to the individual workshops and age-group activities you've signed up for.

The SUUSI Board has decided that rather than charging a set fee to attend SUUSI, we will ask participants to donate what they can. We estimate that a "fair share" of SUUSI's costs is **\$30 per person or \$50 per family**. When you check out, this donation amount will be pre-selected for you. However, feel free to raise or lower the amount depending on your personal circumstances.

Sampling of SUUSI Events

Some highlights include a worship service led by our very own Robert Patrick, a workshop on bystander intervention, virtual kayaking, and a class on foraging for food in the weeds in your yard. There's also lots of social time, games, and concerts.

Kid's events include many story times, cardboard creation, and a Dungeons and Dragons session just for kids age 6-10 (there's also Dungeons and Dragons for adults).

Or learn a new skill with classes in art, dance, cooking, origami, and cookie decorating.

The full catalogue of SUUSI events can be found at https://www.suusi.org/suusi_events



General Assembly

I, Sharon Yun, am honored to represent UUCG at the UUA General Assembly this year. As a delegate for UUCG in a democratic organization, it is my responsibility to vote on behalf of the congregation. I want to hear from our congregants on how you would like me to vote on the business items mentioned starting on pg. 93 of the GA program:

<https://www.uua.org/files/2021-05/2021%20Program%20Book.pdf>

Please [contact me here](#) and we can set up a phone call or Zoom conference. Being a delegate last year made me realize that there are many things up for debate at the General Assembly. I attended many meetings about items we were voting on before the vote and realized how little I understood of decisions happening at the UUA level and the many conversations happening around them. Since it was the first time I attended the GA, I mostly just listened and absorbed what I could in the meetings. Since then, I have done extensive research this year to understand more about what is happening so that I can make more informed decisions with my vote this year. Now that the agenda is available, I plan on doing my own research into these items. Part of being prepared is talking to each of you as much as you are willing and able so that I can truly represent UUCG's conscience and not just my own. I also am happy to share what I learned in the past year for anyone who is curious. There are a lot of conversations happening and this is UUCG's opportunity to be a part of the conversation. It is essential to me going as your representative that I listen to others in the congregation about these agenda items before deciding how to vote. Thank you for taking your time to participate in our democratic organization with me.

Also please consider attending the Virtual GA yourself or at least the free public programs. All of the info is in the program guide. We still need delegates, and you can attend even if you aren't a delegate. Most of the programs are on demand and will be available after the GA.

Many Blessings,

Sharon Yun

Charles Hale

Charles Hale was a black man who was born in Clarke County, Georgia in 1875. His parents were Sam and Lou Hale. He married a woman named Willie and they had a daughter named Sarah who was born in 1906. Willie's brother, Roe Williams, lived with the family for a time.

On April 7, 1911 Charles was pulled from the local jail and brutally murdered on the corner of Pike Street and Perry Street on the town square in Lawrenceville. The lynching was reported in several local newspapers including The News-Herald, Lawrenceville. They titled their article "Hale Lynched Himself says Mack Renwick".

He was buried in an unmarked grave in Pauper Cemetery III. The cemetery is located at the end of Wilson Street on the edge of the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Land.

Soil Collection Ceremony a GRC Event

The Gwinnett Remembrance Coalition invites you to a Soil Collection Ceremony to honor the memory of Gwinnett lynching victim Charles Hale, from 10:00-11:15 am on June 19 at the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse square on the corner of West Pike and Perry Streets. A soil sample will be kept locally and a second sample will join the collection at the Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama. The project is a part of the Equal Justice Initiative ([more information at eji.org](https://www.eji.org)).

The Gwinnett Remembrance Coalition is a diverse group of concerned county residents who have come together to acknowledge, remember, and educate the community about the county's violent and racist past in order to enable dialogue and healing.

UUCG Reverend Jan Taddeo will lead an opening prayer with clergy from the Gwinnett Interfaith Alliance.



Charles Hale

1875– April 7, 1911

Lynched in Lawrenceville, GA

Introducing Aline Harris, Office Administrator

Please welcome Aline Harris as our new Office Administrator! Many of you already know Aline as a member of our congregation, and one of our Child Care Providers on Sunday mornings. I am so pleased Aline is stepping into this new position. She officially began on May 16, and has hit the ground running working closely with Sharon to learn how to fill her shoes.

Microsoft Office suite that we use for most of our publications, and she is quickly learning the other software systems we use for managing our membership records, our event registration system, setting up and maintaining email lists, updating our website and calendar, and managing our Zoom schedules.

Aline brings not only the skill set needed for this position - organizational, technical, and creative skills - she also embodies the principles of Unitarian Universalism and is highly committed to the vision of UUCG. Aline is an entrepreneur in a shared business with her mother, Lorena Griffin. Aline brings to us the skills she has developed through running her own business, as well as experience as an administrative assistant in college. She is proficient with the



Special thanks to Rowan Carolina Harris (age 8) for photography services.

[Note: Aline's mother, Lorena, is currently serving as the Board President, and knew that Aline was applying for this position. For this reason, she recused herself from all aspects of the hiring process. In seeking a candidate for this position, I reviewed nearly 100 resumes and interviewed seven candidates. Our Vice President, Ed Miller, then met with me to review all the candidates I had interviewed and together we selected the best one.]

-Reverend Jan

Getting Ready to Gather Again

Very soon we will be ready to gather in our beautiful blue boat home once again! I can hardly wait for us to be together in our lovely sanctuary on Sunday mornings again.

And, we have some work to do to make our space ready for our return. I recall that when UUCG was preparing to welcome a new minister in 2011, many, many people came together to spruce up the building and grounds and get it ready to welcome her. Fresh paint, new carpet, cleaning up outside and inside... it felt so fresh, warm, and welcoming.

Well, we need to rally that energy and commitment and prepare the space not just for ourselves, but for the people who have joined us since last March, and the many more that will arrive soon after we open. People are yearning for a curious, courageous, compassionate community like ours that welcomes people as they are, wherever they are in their search for truth and meaning.

There are projects inside and outside, light work and heavy work, and all fun when we do it together. To see a list of what needs to be done before August 15 and sign up, use this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A44ADAE2DA20-reconvening>
Dates for doing the work can be negotiated after you sign up... be sure to provide information about your availability!

Many hands will make this work fun and much easier! Could even be playful! This congregation has a long history of bringing the energy, muscle, expertise, and commitment to creating our gathering space ... it is indeed an act of love. Thank you in advance for signing up to do what you can.

Nurturing Connections

UUCG Covenant Choir

Meeting ID: 646-248-750

Covenant Choir gathering on Zoom

Courageous Coffeehouse Thursdays 6-8pm

Meeting ID: 882-436-315

Open chat room for congregants to share what is on their heart with each other.

With Maryjane Stout and Bill Benshoof.

Workday June 5 8:00-11:00am

Yard work party. We'll be working on the garden wall, as well as trimming, weeding and cleaning up to prepare for reopening. Bring gloves, hat, sunscreen and water bottle.

CUUPs Workshop and Ritual June 5 6:00-8:00pm

More info on the CUUPs facebook

Food Drive June 6

Suggested items listed earlier in this newsletter, but please donate what you can.

Thanks to Lydia Patrick

Family Faith Development June 12 11:30am - 1:30pm

All UUCG families are invited to gather onsite for lunch (BYO) and a 7th Principle Nature Walk on the UUCG grounds. Pre-registration is requested but not required.

Spiral Scouts: 2nd Sundays, June 13 12:30pm-2:00pm

For children ages 3-12 and their families, this earth-based scout program encourages young people to co-create their programs.

Contact spiralscoutsleaders@uucg.org for more info.

Summer Solstice Ritual with Sylvan Sanctuary Saturday, June 19 from 6-8pm

More info on the Sylvan Sanctuary, DOTR Facebook Page

Book Club June 23 7:00-9:00pm

Meeting ID 144 736 833

A discussion of *City of Girls* by Elizabeth Gilbert.

Full Moon Magick and Ritual June 24 7:30-9:30pm

Meeting ID 933 1676 4508

Every month on the Full Moon.

Family Faith Development June 26 11:30 am-1:30 pm

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



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

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