






# GNUUs


## Contents

Worship: 

Gadding About: 

Ministry for Green Space: 

Ministry for Connecting Within: 

Ministry for Connecting Beyond: 

## Renewing Faith



We have been through – and in many ways are still in the midst of – a long period of profound uncertainty, when so much that we understood to be solid seems to be crumbling.

How do we renew our faith when so much is falling apart?

In these fragile days, we who assess life through “the fire of reason,” find so little reason to trust that everything’s going to be okay. On so many days, we have lost our hope for a better day.

And yet, despite the setbacks and slowness, there remains something inside that continues to say, “It can be better!” “More is possible!” “I need to believe that goodness is real.” It’s a longing that lingers.

Maybe faith is more about remembering our longing for what we love and who we want to be, than it is an act of restoring our trust that everything will work out well.

This month we explore ways to renew our faith in ourselves, in each other, and in the world.

### Events This Month

Mar 2....Yarns from the Heart+  
 Mar 5.....Property Work Day\*  
 Mar 6...Food Bank Donations\*  
 Mar 7...Intro to Discord Class+  
 Mar 13.....Luminescence Service+\*  
 Mar 13.....Spiral Scouts+  
 Mar 13.....Belief Exploration+  
 Mar 15.....Board Meeting+  
 Mar 19...Green Team Meeting+  
 Mar 19.Spring Equinox Ritual+  
 Mar 23.....Book Group+  
 Mar 27....Town Hall Meeting+\*  
 Mar 30.....Vision Journaling+  
 Tuesdays.....Choir Rehearsal\*  
 Sundays.....Tarot Sunday+  
 \*onsite  
 +online  
 For details visit [uucg.org](http://uucg.org)

### Did you Gnow?

- When migrating, gnus travel an average of 6 miles a day.
- In a burst of speed, gnus can run up to 50 miles per hour.





## Worship in March Sundays at 11:00am

Theme: Renewing Faith

Join us via Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/565460176>

**March 6:** Online

### ***Renewing Faith: Returning to Center***

In this service we will explore the ways we find and find again our personal soul-centers--so that we can venture into unknown territories.

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

**March 13:** Online and Onsite

### ***Luminescence: Letting Our Light Shine***

*Rev. Jan Taddeo (she/her), Service Leader*

**March 20:** Online and Onsite

### ***Renewing Our Faith in the Human Spirit***

*Rev. Jan Taddeo (she/her), Service Leader*

**March 27:** Online and Onsite

### ***Incorporating Daily Rituals to Ground Our Faith***

How to see small daily tasks as opportunities to center, ground, and renew our compassion and commitment.

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

## ***Looking Ahead***

**April Theme: Awakening**



**Please  
click here  
to RSVP  
for onsite  
services**

## Faith Development Sundays at 10:00am

On Sunday mornings at 10:00am during the month of March there will be a Faith Development session during which we will explore the theme of Renewing Faith.

Please check the weekly e-news throughout the month for details on each Sunday's specific programing.





## Gadding About

by Reverend Jan Taddeo



Beloveds, I am eager to return to our shared ministry - I've missed you all so much. I have used this time well to rest, learn, contemplate, meditate, and develop a healthier routine for my continued service to UUCG and the wider community. I recently returned from a retreat at The Mountain Retreat Center, and I am looking forward to most of us being there together September 16-18!

Our theme for March is "Renewing Faith" and I look forward to our shared explorations on this theme. Faith is often a challenging concept for Unitarian Universalists, especially those who had difficult experiences with previous religious organizations that may have offered a very limiting or rigid perspective on faith.

For me, faith is about where I place my heart and seeking insights about what I can trust in this world, especially in turbulent times such as these. On top of our own personal challenges and losses, war is imminent in Ukraine (and possibly beyond), the pandemic is becoming endemic, democracy is declining around the world (including in the United States), there is a strong possibility that *Roe v. Wade* will be struck down leaving people who need to terminate a pregnancy in a very difficult situation, and the Arctic ice is melting much faster than anticipated. There are hard times now and ahead for life on our planet.

How will we be over the next few years as this escalates? How will we live fully into our Unitarian Universalist faith that is grounded in love, curiosity, courage, compassion, justice, and the inherent goodness of life? How will we respond to what is needed within our congregation and beyond? We won't fully answer these questions in a month, but we can build on our vision about the work that is ours to do in our wider community. In difficult times, it is our faith in all that we value that can keep us committed to compassionate acts, strong in our resolve to serve the needs in the community, and open to extending our hearts and hands in new ways.

I also want to lift up the importance of faith to move us closer to one another, and to guide us in seeing all that is good in this world ... the family and friends whom we treasure, the joy we find in music, art, the natural world, and in the gift of life we share with all beings on this planet. During difficult times, we are well served to notice the beauty, joy, and goodness that is all around us. We can commit to living more fully each day and treasuring the moments that remind us that life is good. In that spirit, I offer a quote from Thich Nhat Hanh that I read first thing each morning to guide me through the day:

Waking up this morning, I smile. Twenty-four brand new hours are before me. I want to live fully in each moment and to look at all beings with the eyes of compassion.

In our shared faith...

Reverend Jan

## General Assembly Delegates

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. UUCG sends delegates to General Assembly each year to represent the congregation by attending business meetings and casting votes on the issues presented annually. This year, much of the conversation will concern the Article II Study Commission's task of reviewing and proposing revisions to the Principles and Purposes of the UUA. We, as a congregation, have already begun discussion of these topics to listen and learn from each other, and to eventually inform our votes (via our delegates) on these issues when they come up in 2024.

We invite you to consider applying to be a delegate to represent UUCG at this year's General Assembly. Keep an eye out for more information on the privileges and responsibilities of being a delegate in upcoming newsletters. If you have questions, please reach out to Rev. Jan, any member of the Board, the Lay Ministers, or Staff. We are happy to answer them for you!



## Town Hall Meeting

There will be a Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, March 27, after service at 12:15. The meeting will be both in-person and virtual. This is a follow-up conversation to our January 23 meeting, which you can view here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JB4Io2SANcBvwvD2j2VCqz1RqltYgqbg/view?usp=sharing>

We will divide into small groups to tell our own stories of feelings of belonging and acceptance, of times we've experienced these and times we have not, especially at UUCG. Please come prepared to share if you would like.

This is in preparation for congregational discernment over the Article II proposals that will come out next year from the UUA. This is also part of our annual goal of understanding the uniqueness of our own congregation.

-Lorena Griffin

## Welcome Back Rev. Jan!

Welcome Back Rev. Jan  
**Rev. Jan Taddeo returns to the pulpit on Sunday, March 13**, after a four-month sabbatical. **This will also be the date of the first in-person service this year (reservations required).**

We'll have a staggered welcome back open house on that date. If you attend the service in person, please stay afterward for a light snack and to say hello to Rev. Jan. Then head home so a second wave of attendees can come by at 12:30 (no reservations needed). If weather permits, we'll hold this outside. All food will be served by our (gloved and masked) Hospitality Team. COVID protocol (mask wearing, one-at-a-time at the sinks, social distancing) will be observed. Only servers will be allowed in the kitchen. Come celebrate Rev. Jan's return, in-person services, Luminescence, and spring!  
-Lorena Griffin



## From the Board

This week a team held its first meeting to devise a new Part-time Ministerial Contract that will go active in July. This move to part-time ministry is at the request of Reverend Jan. She will remain in her full-time position until June 30 and move to half time with the new program year. The team writing the contract has representation from the Board of Trustees, the Shared Ministry Council, Staff, and of course, Rev. Jan.

As we work through these changes as a congregation, one thing is abundantly clear. We need you – yes, YOU – to make the magic of UUCG hold together. Over the COVID years and throughout Rev. Jan's sabbatical, several people have given above and beyond the scope of traditional volunteerism. Those people are tired, but their jobs aren't going away. In addition, as Jan delegates some of the duties she's performed in the past, those tasks will need to be taken up by others.

In particular, we need people to serve on the Pastoral Care Committee, as new Lay Ministers (current Lay Ministers are finishing their two-year rotation soon), on the Board of Trustees, as leaders for Religious Education, and on the Sunday morning Tech Team. Rev. Jan will be in the pulpit less frequently, beginning in July. We could use your contributions to the Worship Committee. Does that seem daunting? Then sign up to assist. We're about to meet in person again and will require greeters and ushers each week.

Erika Shell-Castro has agreed to head up this year's fund-raising auction, and she's looking to pull together an auction planning team. As Coordinator of Family Ministries, Christiana McQuain has taken on a more active technological role, she needs assistance with planning Faith Development programming. This is a great job to do from home. Property workdays are held every first Saturday of the month. Spring is the perfect time to see the fruits of your labors blossom. Food Drive collection takes place every first Sunday. We're always looking for volunteers.

Each week, when you receive your weekly newsletter, there are links at the bottom, saying: *Give Time, Give Money, Give Materials*. Click there to discover current community needs. If you'd like to volunteer for any role here or if you have questions or other ideas, contact [admin@uucg.org](mailto:admin@uucg.org) and our Office Administrator Aline Harris will point you in the right direction.

*"Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do."*  
---Steve Jobs

- Lorena Griffin  
for the UUCG Board of Trustees

### Endowment Fund - Birthday Club



**Help us grow the Endowment Fund! We encourage members and friends to make an annual donation on their birthdays for a dollar amount equal to their age.**

**Please make checks payable to the UUCG Endowment Fund.**

**Mail to:**

**UUCG**

**12 Bethesda Church Road  
Lawrenceville, GA 30044**



## Property Work Days

Our next Saturday outdoor workday will be March 5, 9AM-12PM. This will be our “Fling into Spring”. Not Spring yet, you say? True, but we need to be ready. Some of the acts of love for our green surroundings will include prepping the keyhole garden, cleaning up flower beds and the entranceway, pulling weeds, removing sprouting trees and checking on rain barrel for viability.

Also be on the lookout for training on the use of our new sanitizing dishwasher and greener kitchen as well your chance to be involved in the development of our new upcoming Web of Life curriculum. If you like to get more deeply involved in the UUCG Green Space mission please feel free to join us for our next Green Team meeting on Zoom, Saturday, March 26 9:30-11:30AM.

-Terry Welsher, Lay Minister for Green Space

## It's Easy Being Green

**Submitted by Peggy Averyt**

Karen Smith, a UUCG member and a suburban homesteader, got our “It's Easy Being Green” series off to a great start on Jan. 22 at the Five Forks Library. UUCG is doing this series of workshops in partnership with the Five Forks branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library. Participants at her “Living a Green Lifestyle” session were provided with many recipes for non-toxic cleaning products. They were also given a sample of a homemade laundry detergent that is economical to make, as well as non-toxic. Everyone also had an opportunity to make and take a non-abrasive soft scrub cleaner. Lorena Griffin, another UUCG member, provided every participant with the necessary materials to make a wool dryer ball to soften their clothes, which could replace the less environmentally friendly dryer sheets. Karen shared the old saying, “Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without”, which is a good reminder of how we could all live greener in today's world.

There are three more upcoming workshops being planned for the “It's Easy Being Green” series. On April 23 at 1:00, Terry Welsher, a UUCG member and co-coordinator for the Georgia Citizen's Climate Lobby, will be doing a session called “Affecting Climate Change” at the Five Forks Public Library. He will be using a computer-model simulation that can show how small changes can make big impacts on climate change.

On March 5 from 2:00 -3:00 p.m., Jim Harper, a Gwinnett County horticulturist, will be doing a workshop called “The Climate Friendly Garden” at the Five Forks Public Library. He will present gardening and lawn care tips that promote climate resilience.

On May 6 and 7, the last session of the “It's Easy Being Green” will take place at UUCG with a “Recycling Rally”. People will be invited to drop off at UUCG several items that are clean and in good working order that they no longer want on Friday, May 6 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. They can return to UUCG the next day, May 7 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and select some items that they would like to take home with them. We are also hoping to offer minor clothing repairs on May 7th. Stay tuned for more details about this event!

### Join the Fun in Discord

Are you new to Discord? Do you need some help navigating this new platform the congregation has offered for an alternative way to be informed and chat with our members and friends? Join us for Intro to Discord where Candice and Patrick will go over all the basics and answer your questions. The session will be recorded to post for others to review.



Lay Ministry: Connecting Within

### You and UUism – Starting Point

Submitted by Peggy Averyt

Starting Point is a 4-week program is for both newcomers and long-time members to experience “deep listening and sharing practices” in a small group. The 4 sessions will begin with an opportunity for you to share your personal spiritual journey and tell how it led you to Unitarian Universalism, then to learn about the historical journey of UUism and our own congregation. It moves on to the shared journey that we travel together as Unitarian Universalists. This shared journey is made up of three fundamental and distinct UU spiritual practices: listening to one’s deepest self, opening to life’s gifts, and serving needs greater than our own. The program ends by helping you discern which of the many “journey groups” in our congregation will be your “next step.” To get the most out of this program, you should commit to all 4 sessions.

Each session will be one and a half hours, and the dates are: April 3, April 10, April 24, and May 1 from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. through Zoom. You can register for this inspiring program by going to our website, UUCG.org, and scroll down to the “Register for Events” section, then choose the “Click to Register” button.

### Book Group

Submitted by Nathalie Bigord

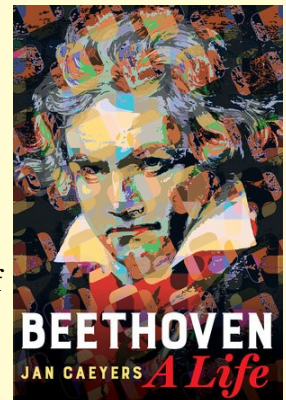
*Beethoven, A Life* by Jan Caeyers March 23 at 7:00PM

This new biography of Ludwig van Beethoven offers connoisseurs and newcomers alike an unparalleled story of the composer's life and works, written by a renowned conductor and scholar of Beethoven's music.

With unprecedented access to the archives at the Beethoven House in Bonn, Jan Caeyers expertly weaves together a deeply human and complex picture of Beethoven—his troubled youth, his unpredictable mood swings, his desires, relationships, and conflicts with family and friends, the mysteries surrounding his affair with the "immortal beloved," and the dramatic tale of his deafness.

Caeyers also offers new insights into Beethoven's music, showing how it transformed from the work of a skilled craftsman to that of a consummate artist. Demonstrating an impressive command of the vast scholarship on this iconic composer, Caeyers brings Beethoven's world alive with elegant prose, memorable musical descriptions, and a vivid depiction of Bonn and Vienna, where Beethoven produced and performed his works. Caeyers explores how Beethoven's career was impacted by the historical and philosophical shifts taking place in the music world and how, in turn, his trajectory changed the music industry.

Equal parts an absorbing cultural history and a lively biography, *Beethoven, A Life* reveals a complex portrait of the musical genius that defined a style of music and went on to become one of the great pillars of Western art music.



## Thoughts for Ukraine

Text from the UUA

Minor editing by Aline Harris

We join in solidarity with so many around the world and pray for the people of Ukraine. Our hearts go out to those who are enduring devastating loss of life, violence, instability, and upheaval due to the Russian government's invasion by land, air, and sea.



## General Assembly

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles.

In 2022, we will have the option of meeting online or in-person. For those who prefer the convenience and accessibility of remote participation, General Assembly will offer virtual attendance with robust programming and enhanced delegate discussion tools. For those who have been missing the physical experience, GA 2022 will also feature face-to-face interactions, hanging banners, a browsable exhibit hall, meals with friends old and new, local site attractions, and more!

Join us **June 22 - 26, 2022 online or in-person in Portland, Oregon.**

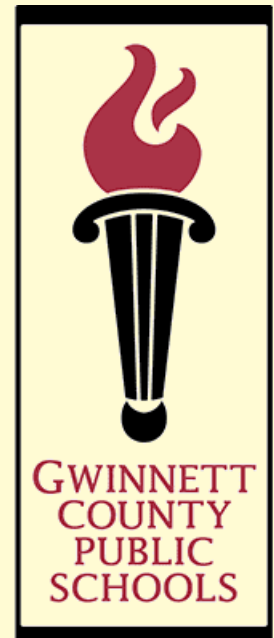
[Learn more about GA here.](#)

## Corley Elementary Teacher Appreciation Event

Submitted by Peggy Averyt

UUCG recognizes the importance of public schools, and to show our appreciation for the hard work public school teachers do, UUCG will be sponsoring a Teacher Appreciation event at our nearby partner school, Corley Elementary. Individually wrapped snacks will be purchased and delivered to the school for all the teachers and staff to enjoy on March 3. If you would like to contribute money to help pay for these snacks, please send your donation to UUCG with the words, "Corley Teacher Appreciation" in the memo line.

We have been partnering with Corley Elementary for over 10 years. This Teacher Appreciation event is only one of the many ways we have supported this school. Every year, several of our members meet with the leaders of this school to find out what their needs are for the upcoming year. Some of the other needs we have filled for them in the past are donations of book bags and clothing for their students, and donations of Walmart and Aldi gift cards to distribute to families who have other emergency needs. Thanks to all who have made donations to help this school. It truly takes a village to raise a child!









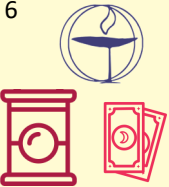


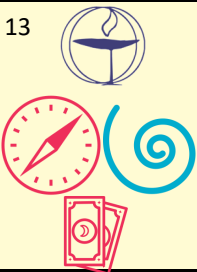








# Nurturing Connections

	<b>Covenant Choir Gathering every Tuesday at</b> Onsite	<b>7pm</b>
	<b>Yarns From the Heart March 2</b> Zoom Meeting ID: 994-7414-0257	<b>10am</b>
	<b>Property Work Day March 5</b> Onsite	<b>10am</b>
	<b>Food Bank Dropoff March 6</b> Front Porch at UUCG	<b>2pm-4pm</b>
	<b>Tarot Sundays every Sunday at</b> Zoom Meeting ID: 978-9585-2363	<b>5pm</b>
	<b>Intro to Discord Class March 7 at</b> This will also be recorded for later viewing. Zoom Meeting ID: 935-5560-4395	<b>7pm</b>
	<b>Spiral Scouts March 13</b> For children ages 3-12 and their families. Preregistration is required	<b>12:30pm</b>
	<b>Belief Explorers March 13</b> Zoom Meeting ID: 896-987-304	<b>12:30pm</b>
	<b>Board Meeting March 15</b> Zoom Meeting ID: 956-757-31773	<b>7pm</b>
	<b>Yarns From the Heart March 16</b> Zoom Meeting ID: 994-7414-0257	<b>10am</b>
	<b>Green Team Meeting March 19</b> Zoom Meeting ID: 926-178-30455	<b>9:30am</b>
	<b>Sylvan Sanctuary Spring Equinox Ritual March 19</b> Zoom Meeting ID: 528-297-2479	<b>6pm</b>
	<b>Book Group March 23</b> Zoom Meeting ID: 144-736-833	<b>7pm</b>
	<b>Town Hall Meeting March 27</b> Zoom Meeting ID: 565-460-176	<b>12:15pm-1:30pm</b>
	<b>Vision Journal Workshop March 30</b> Zoom Meeting ID: 998-7138-6950	<b>7pm</b>

**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

# March 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		