







GNUUs


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Nurturing Beauty



This month we invite you to consider an expanded notion of beauty. Not merely visual; and not to be measured, assessed, judged, or simply appreciated.

We invite you to seek beauty in all circumstances and all things - beauty that can be experienced with all of your senses.

What does it mean to cultivate beauty in your life? How does it feel to nurture beauty in the world? What does a fierce, active beauty that speaks out

loud say to you? What does it call you to? And how do we as a community answer that call in service to the world at large?

Events This Month

May 1...Food Bank Donations*

May 4....Yarns from the Heart+

May 5...Gwinnett Interfaith

Alliance *

May 7.....Property Work Day*

May 7.....Freecycle Rally*

May 8.....Spiral Scouts+

May 8.....Belief Exploration+

May 11.....Discord Class*

May 17.....Board Meeting+

May 18..Yarns from the Heart+

May 21...Green Team Meeting+

May 22...**Congregational**

Meeting+

May 25.....Book Group+

May 25.....Vision Journaling+

Tuesdays.....Choir Rehearsal*

Sundays.....Tarot Sunday+

*onsite

+online

For details visit uucg.org

Did you Gnow?

- In addition to being an animal, GNU is a collection of free software that can be used as an operating system on it's own or paired with another system.





Worship in May Sundays at 11:00am

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

May 1: Online and In Person

The Energy of Everything

Join us for our annual celebration of the Founding of Unitarian Universalism, our beloved congregation, and the energy of everything that connects us.

Join us in person or [via Zoom](#)

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

May 8: Online and In Person

Nurturing Beauty and Harmony

It takes a village to raise children to walk in beauty and harmony with all things.

Join us in person or [via Zoom](#)

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

May 15: Online and In Person

Sing Your Song, Dance Your Dance

There is only one beautiful, unique, wonder-full YOU! What song is in your soul and what dance is yours to dance in serving the human spirit?

Join us in person or [via Zoom](#)

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

May 22: Online and In Person

Commitment to Beloved Community

Today we celebrate commitment to our beloved community and honor the dedicated service of Don Graff and Nancy Jacobsen for their legacy gifts of nurturing the beauty of our green spaces. Prepare to be with us outside for a portion of the service (weather permitting) and please plan to stay for our Congregational Meeting immediately following the service when we will celebrate some of our committed volunteers and vote on bylaw changes and elect new leaders.

Join us in person or [via Zoom](#)

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

May 29: Online and In Person

Sunday Morning Worship Service

Self Care Sunday - but what about the rest of the week? Taking a day to recover and regroup is essential for sure. But every day of the week there is truth to be found.

Join us in person or [via Zoom](#)

Lydia Patrick (she/her), Service Leader

Faith Development Sundays at 10:00am

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

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

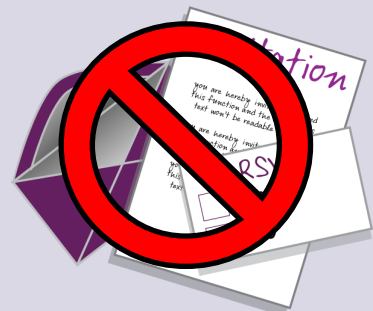
Sunday, May 1:

Nurturing the Beauty of our Grounds

On this Founders' Day morning, let's talk about how being intentional stewards of our property can feed our souls. How can we experience participating in the monthly Property Workdays as a Spiritual Practice?

Facilitated by Sherree Bailey

**We are no longer
requiring reservations
for Sunday
Services. Feel free
to just bring your
beautiful self.**





Gadding About

by Reverend Jan Taddeo



Nurturing Beauty is our theme for our shared ministry in May. We'll explore this theme through our worship services, faith development programs, and covenant groups.

Beauty was a central concept in a class I took in seminary called Evil, Trauma, and Ambiguity. One of our threads in exploring "what is evil" included the idea that the destruction of beauty is a core aspect of evil. I have continued to ponder this definition over the years and see evidence of it every day.

I see it when I read the news about the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the horrendous treatment of citizens of all ages and the ruthlessness of war in general.

I see it when I drive by yet another destruction of forested land to build shopping centers, houses, and roads.

I see it when people are cruel to each other (in more ways than I can name in this space) but always related to our failure to see the inherent beauty and goodness in each and every person.

However, avoiding the destruction of beauty is not the same as nurturing beauty. How do

you nurture beauty in your life, in your own soul, in the soul of another human? Beauty is all around us and within us, but so often we fail to notice the music, the art, the natural world, or the beautiful spark and shine in the eyes of another beloved. How do you seek and nurture beauty within yourself, in your family, friends, colleagues, and the people you do business with every day as you go about your errands and activities?

One way you can immerse yourself in beauty is to join us for our first (in a very long time) congregational retreat at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, September 16-18. Russ and I just registered and we are so excited about this opportunity for us all to gather in this beautiful place for fun, connection, inspiration, and nurturing the beauty within and beyond. Registration is open, and there is more information at www.themountainrlc.org – click on upcoming events and scroll way down to September to see the link for our congregational retreat. The registration portal can be a bit cumbersome ... be patient ... it's worth it!

Congregational Retreat Scholarships:

If you would like to support another person or family to be able to participate in the retreat, you can send contributions to UUCG and indicate MDF-Retreat Scholarship in the memo line or Venmo/PayPal note. The fee for adults is \$215 per person for double occupancy.

The beauty in me seeks to nurture the beauty in you...

Reverend Jan



Rekindle the Fires of Love and Commitment! **UUCG Congregational Retreat**

For Members and Friends, All Ages
September 16-18, 2022
Friday 6:00 p.m.- Sunday service
(Sunday lunch optional)

The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center
Highlands, NC

Prices and registration at <https://www.themountainrlc.org>
Register by 8/26 for best price!

(Be sure to register for the CONGREGATIONAL retreat in Sept.
and NOT the Leadership retreat in June)

Consider contributing to the scholarship fund to allow more
members to attend:

Make check payable to **UUCG Minister's Discretionary
Fund.**

Put RETREAT SCHOLARSHIP in the Memo Line.



From the Board

Please make your vote count at the **Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 22, following the service, at 12:15.**

We will vote on adoption of the new set of bylaws and on the slate for the 2022-23 Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee. These were presented at the April 24 Town Hall meeting, so you would have time to consider everything. You can ask questions at the Congregational Meeting, but we're hoping most of those will be answered beforehand. As always, if you are unable to attend the meeting, absentee ballots will be available on the website. Just click [here](#).

Thanks. Be sure to let us hear from you.

---submitted by Lorena Griffin for the UUCG Board of Trustees

Endowment Fund



**Submitted by
Doug Beers**

Years ago, a handful of UUCG members began to discuss the long-term financial future of UUCG. The discussions led to the formation of the UUCG Endowment Fund, Inc. a separate but partnered non-profit corporation established to provide a financial vision for our congregation. Today, as we approach a net asset value of \$100,000, those dreams for a secure financial future seem very realistic. We are supported by donations, bequests, and primarily our "Birthday Club" donors who give an amount equal to the number of years they are celebrating. We would like to recognize and thank the following people for their recent donations: Barbara Stahnke, Bill and Denise Benshoof, Diana Dice, The Millette Family, and Maryjane Stout. If you wish to participate, make your check payable to UUCG Endowment Fund and note "Birthday Club" in the memo line. You can mail it to the church or directly to Doug Beers.

In addition to administering the EF fund, we are also responsible for maintaining the Memorial Garden, and also manage grant distributions from the Fund. A new Grant Application form can be found [here](#). If you have any questions about how you can support the Endowment Fund, please talk to any of our Board members. Thank you all for your continued support. The UUCG Endowment Board:

Dave Averyt, Doug Beers, Amy Guildroy, Steve Smith, and Barbara Stahnke.

Faith Development Resources

Explore Nurturing Beauty throughout the month with [these resources](#) for adults, families, children, and parents.

*“Beauty is that which glis-
tens on the edges of our
yearnings and lures us into
the depths of things.”*
~ Patricia Adams Farmer



New Additions to our Staff Team

Two of our beloved staff members have stepped down recently. Our pianist, Bryan Bishop, after serving us for 23-1/2 years has stepped down from this role for a well-deserved retirement. Damon Harper has obtained a new position that better fits his needs. We are so grateful for their service to UUCG. After a month of searching, we have found people to fill their roles, bringing their own unique gifts and talents to our congregation. Please welcome...



Stephen Pyle (he/him/his), Pianist

Thank you for allowing me to be part of your congregation and worship services. I've spent the majority of my life behind a piano. I played for church and in talent shows, got a professional job while still in High School, and I received the musical scholarship to Young Harris College, majoring in Piano Performance. I was soon traveling the eastern United States with The Lefevres (Gospel music), then spent 10 years managing a corporate travel agency and exploring the world.

Deciding to take a chance on my talent, I left the agency for a small piano bar in Buckhead, then enjoyed the next 20 years playing retirement villages, private parties, hotel lobbies and some well-known restaurants, primarily in Atlanta, but I also gigged in Tennessee, New York and the Atlantic Ocean. I was proud to be Principal Accompanist for the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus.

In 2006 I returned to the skies and enjoyed being an International Flight Attendant where I met a handsome gentleman from Amman. We dated for 6 years and are happily married since 2014. Unfortunately, he is in Jordan caring for his mother while she battles cancer. I have Zo (pictured) to keep me company in the meantime. I retired (disability) from Delta International Airport check-in.

I now run a small business from home called Homemade Hollywood and I volunteer for Operation Photo Rescue, restoring photographs damaged by disasters. If you care to know more about these or view videos of past piano performances, you are welcome at [this link](#) and [this link](#). We do live in a digital world! I pledge my all to this congregation and hope I bring an element of musical joy to your services. Thanks so much for having me. That's my story, what's yours?



Kyle Evans (he/him), Facilities Caretaker

Hello, all! I'm a 24-year old college student currently enrolled at Georgia State University. I'm the youngest of 4 and I'm an avid gym goer. I truly enjoy the outdoors and its serenity (probably) more than anything. I'm honored to work for UUCG and can't wait to meet you all!

Supporting Our UUCG Staff

As your minister, I am privileged to work with an amazing staff team here at UUCG. All our skills and talents come together to support the shared ministry of this congregation. All of the staff, except me (until July) serve part-time and have particular hours when they are available, so I ask that you be patient when awaiting a response, and to look at their schedule before contacting them to make sure it is a day when they are working. If it's something urgent, I'm your first contact if the staff person is not on duty, even once I am serving half-time. Here are our staff schedules so you can anticipate when to contact them or to hear back from an inquiry; most staff are working from home unless otherwise indicated:

Reverend Jan Taddeo, *Minister* (revtaddeo@uucg.org)
Flexible schedule Tuesday-Sunday; available 24/7 for emergencies

Christiana McQuain, *Coordinator of Family Ministries* (cmcquain@uucg.org)

Hours: Sunday 8:30-2:30 (at UUCG), Tuesday 10:00-4:00, Friday 9:00-2:00 (at UUCG)

Aline Harris, *Office Administrator* (aharris@uucg.org or admin@uucg.org)

Hours: Tuesday 9:00-1:00, Friday 9:00-1:00 (at UUCG)

Michael Parker, *Choir Director* (mparker@uucg.org)

Hours: Tuesday 4:00-9:00, Sunday 9:30-12:30 (both at UUCG)

Checks email Friday & Tuesday

LaTreisha McKay, *Bookkeeper* (lmckay@uucg.org)

Hours: Flexible schedule balanced with full-time job and other obligations. Typically works at UUCG on Monday night; responds to email usually within a week. If you have an urgent need, contact Rev. Jan by phone/text or email Treasurer@uucg.org.

Stephen Pyle, *Pianist* (email address pending)

Hours: Tuesday 6:00-9:00, Sunday 9:30-12:30 (at UUCG)

Kyle Evans, *Facilities Caretaker* (contact information pending)

Hours: Kyle will be working flexible hours every weekend, coming in twice to move chairs and clean, sometimes coming quite late (or early). Outside lawn maintenance will be done as he is available.

Child Care Providers: While we discern when we will resume offering child care on Sunday mornings, I will be checking in with our child care providers as to their interest and availability and determine if we need to start searching for new staff.

Reverend Jan

Staff Covenant

Did you know we have a staff covenant?

This covenant was created in 2012, and it still holds us in relationship with each other and the congregation, though we may look at it again in the coming year. If you feel that any of the staff are not serving within the intent of this covenant, please contact me directly.

In our shared service to our faith community...

Reverend Jan

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett Staff Covenant

The staff of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett covenant to foster beloved community as we support the congregation in achieving its mission. To live this covenant, we honor the following practices:

We express and maintain clear personal and professional boundaries.

We model a healthy work-life balance and practice sustainable leadership.

We balance transparency with respect for confidentiality.

We respect each other's unique roles and direct questions appropriately.

We practice good stewardship of congregational resources in alignment with the mission and values and UUCG.

We are proactive, honest, and kind in our communication.

We honor all UUCG covenants in the spirit of trust, compassion, and inquiry.

Property Work Day

Submitted by Aline Harris

Are you physically unable to help with heavy yard work, but want to help keep the property looking nice?

Here are a few ways to help the work days without much physical activity.

- Arrive to the workday early and make coffee for everyone
- Drive someone without transportation to and from the workday
- Volunteer to be on call for projects like calling companies about repairing the gutters
- Put your efforts towards other workings of the congregation, knowing that we all support each other.



Freecycle Rally

Submitted by Peggy Averyt

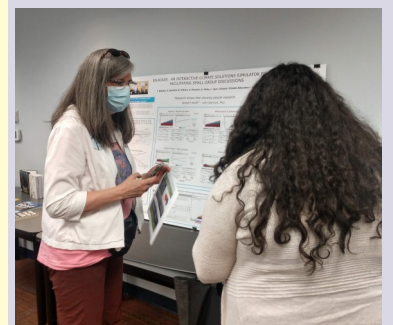
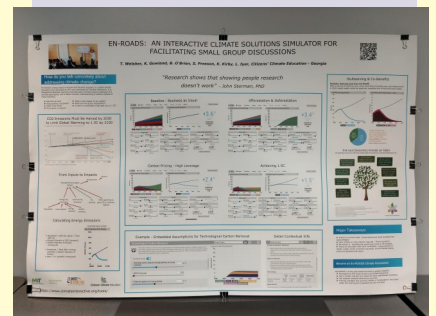
Never heard of a FreeCycle Rally? If so, you probably are not the only one. This is our last event in the “It’s Easy Being Green Series” in our partnership with the Five Forks branch of the Gwinnett Public Library.

Do you have some items in good working order at your home that you no longer want or need? Then the FreeCycle Rally is for you. Here is how it will work:

Bring your unwanted items that are small, portable, and in good working order on Friday, May 6th to the Five Forks Public Library from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon, or to UUCG from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. All donated items will be displayed at UUCG on Saturday, May 7th. Donors who dropped off items on Friday will be given priority access to the event on Saturday from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon for choosing the items they want to take home. The general public will be allowed into UUCG from 12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m. for selecting items they want to take. Freecycling is a free, fun way to be green, so don’t miss out on it.

(Examples of items you might want to donate: small appliances, sporting equipment, home decor items, tools, children’s toys, baby equipment, indoor or outdoor plants, etc.)

There’s enough stuff in the world, lets get it to those who can use it!



Photos from Terry Welsher's Climate Change presentation

Spiral Scouts to Team Up with Green Team

**Submitted by Xoey
Kelly**

What does it mean to be a Spiral Scout? While there are many things that a Spiral Scout can strive for, various badges and awards they might earn, at the heart of their purpose is to learn to be a "Future Steward of the Earth". It's vital to the Web of Life that we plant and nurture this philosophy into the spirit of each child that joins our Circle. The members of #393 Flowering Branches, in embracing their roles as environmentalist youth, have taken steps to put that ethos into action locally with a new collaboration with the UUCG Green Team. Aside from scouts lending a hand for the past few workdays by tending to the upkeep of the labyrinth and keyhole garden, plans have been in the works for the creation of a pollinator garden on the UUCG grounds. With the return to in-person gathering, our hope is that participating scouts will soon restore a connection to the land on which we come together and to grow into the allies



May Book Group Selection The Midnight Library by

Matt Haig

Book Group Meeting May 25th 7pm

Submitted by the UUCG Book Group

Somewhere out beyond the edge of the universe there is a library that contains an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, along with another book for the other life you could have lived if you had made a different choice at any point in your life. While we all wonder how our lives might have been, what if you had the chance to go to the library and see for yourself? Would any of these other lives truly be better?

[\[See more\]](#)



Thank You!

TO EVERYONE THAT
PARTICIPATED IN THE
SPRING PHOTO SESSIONS!

14 SESSIONS WERE BOOKED
AND OVER \$400 RAISED FOR
THE GENERAL FUND!

WE HAD A GREAT TURN OUT
AND LOOK FORWARD TO
DOING MORE IN THE FALL!



Give Away the Plate Nominations

Submitted by Bert Schuster

Please support the Give-Away-The-Plate (GATP) program by nominating charitable nonprofit organizations whose work aligns with UU principles and purposes. Since the fall of 2010, this church has generously supported organizations that variously serve children, homeless families, undocumented youths, seniors, persons with disabilities, victims of domestic violence or sexual assault or human rights violations, abandoned animals--and the list goes on. One half of Sunday morning plate offerings during a three-month period will be shared with an organization. To nominate an organization, please e-mail giveawaytheplate@uucg.org and explain why the organization deserves our support.

Gwinnett Interfaith Alliance

Submitted by

Gwinnett Interfaith Alliance

Our mission is to promote understanding and respect among the different faiths of Gwinnett County by interaction, communication and education. We will strive to create and enrich the community by working together to promote inclusion and acceptance. We will focus on our commonalities while embracing our differences. You are welcome to join us and help keep our community one that celebrates and gains strength from its diversity.

The next meeting is at UUCG on May 5th at 7pm.



Food Bank Donations (not just food)

Submitted by Lawrenceville Co-op Community Food Bank and Peggy Averyt (minor editing by Aline Harris)

Imagine a person struggling to meet basic needs. They are doing their best, but times are tough. They can get help with food and necessities like rent or utilities, but they miss several days of work because they don't have enough period products to get them through a workday or a teenager who misses days of school and/or work for the same reason. This is a sad reality for many people with periods in Lawrenceville. The Lawrenceville Co-op helps when they can, but period products are not high on the list of things that people donate. When they do have some to give, they are often unable to provide a full package. They break the packages down into bags of 4 or 5, barely enough to get through a single day.

Please consider making a donation of period products at UUCG's next food drive collection, which is always on the first Sunday of the month from 1:00 - 3:00 in UUCG's parking lot. While all period products will be gratefully accepted, pads are more versatile and cover a wider variety of situations. Suggestions: Especially for Teen products such as: Kotex U Teen pads, Always Totally Teen Radiant pads Multi-use products (2 in one for monthly days and bladder leaks) such as: One by Poise, Stayfree – All in One, Aline Feminine Care, Incognito by Prevail Regular pads in different lengths and absorbencies. Thank you.

Nurturing Connections



Food Bank Dropoff May 1 1pm-3pm
Front Porch at UUCG



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



Covenant Choir Rehearsal every Tuesday at 7pm
Onsite



Yarns From the Heart May 4 10am
Zoom Meeting ID: 994-7414-0257



Gwinnett Interfaith Alliance May 5 7:30 pm
Onsite



Property Work Day May 7 9am
Onsite



Freecycle Rally May 7 11am
Onsite



Spiral Scouts May 8 12:30pm
For children ages 3-12 and their families. Preregistration is required



Belief Explorers May 8 12:30pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 896-987-304



Discord Help Class May 11 7pm
Onsite. Bring your devices



Board Meeting May 17 7pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 956-757-31773



Yarns From the Heart May 18 10am
Zoom Meeting ID: 994-7414-0257



Green Team Meeting May 21 9:30am
Zoom Meeting ID: 926-178-30455



Congregational Meeting May 22 12:15pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 565-460-176



Book Group May 25 7pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 144-736-833



Vision Journal Workshop May 25 7pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 998-7138-6950















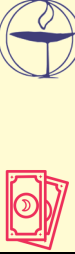
To submit an event for publication, fill out this form

<https://forms.gle/2ZZBL3DFRqEDJSdM6>

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

May 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				