



the

gnuuS

August 2017



Gadding About

I am feeling very grateful, refreshed, renewed, and energized as I prepare to step into the UUCG pulpit after 7 months of vacation, study leave, and sabbatical. It has been a tremendous gift and a privilege to have this time to experience new things, connect deeply with the earth, to read, reflect, write, and explore my heart and soul. And, I have missed you all terribly! I am SO ready to return to UUCG to continue serving our vision and mission, and our faith, in our shared ministry together.

This first month will be a time of getting to know one another again and finding out what we have each learned during this time apart. I'll be meeting with several of our ministry and governance teams and the staff in the first few weeks to get caught up on the activities of the congregation in my absence. I am really looking forward to being together again!

When I return I will have regular office hours **11:00-9:00 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday**. Thursday and Friday are my writing, study and Sabbath time. I've created an on-line scheduling system for people to use in setting up appointments with me so we don't have to play phone or e-mail tag. I'm new at this, but I'm hoping it will work smoothly. For those wondering why you would want to set up a meeting with me, here's a reference list of **When to Call or Meet with the Minister:**

- You don't know me, but would like to.
- You are seeking to deepen your spiritual life, or have religious or spiritual questions.
- You are going to the hospital, having surgery, find out you have a serious illness or condition, or know of someone else in the congregation who has any of these experiences.
- Someone close to you has died or is critically ill or you're dealing with a significant loss or transition of some kind.
- You have problems with your job, children, marriage, parents, school, or anything else where a sympathetic ear might help you sort through the issues.
- You feel ready to join the congregation.
- You want to explore new ways to engage in congregational life.
- You are pregnant and glad you are, or wish you weren't; also, if you want to be pregnant but aren't, or you are considering adoption.
- You are planning to be married, separated or divorced, or would like relationship coaching.
- You would like your child dedicated.
- You want to make a large donation to the church.
- You have concerns or suggestions.
- You are upset with me, or would like to express appreciation.

How to Reach the Minister:

Acuity Scheduling: <https://revtaddeo.acuityscheduling.com/>
Office: 770-717-7913 (Monday-Wednesday)
Cell: 678-558-4834 (text or call)
E-Mail: RevTaddeo@uucg.org

With love and gratitude...

Reverend Jan

Sundays at UUCG

10:00 am Faith Development
11:00 am Worship Service

August Theme: Return Again

August 6

Coming Home, Again

Rev. Jan Taddeo, Service Leader
Bob Patrick, Worship Associate
Bryan Bishop, Pianist
Choir Practice before service

August 13

Where is the Home of Your Soul?

Rev. Jan Taddeo Service Leader
Lydia Patrick, Worship Associate
Sherree Bailey, Pianist
Choir Practice before service

August 20

Returning to the Beloved Community

Rev. Jan Taddeo Service Leader
Aiyana Haynes, Worship Associate
Bryan Bishop, Pianist
Potluck Lunch
UU 101 and UU 102
Michael off. No choir practice.

August 27

Essential Questions

Rev. Dawn Cooley, Service Leader
Rev. Jan Taddeo, Worship Associate
Choir Practice before service

August plate contributions are shared equally with Lost-n-Found Youth
www.lnfv.org

gnuuS

Announcements for the Sept. newsletter are due by August 25. Announcements for the weekly e-newsletter and Order of Service are due on Tuesdays at noon. Send announcements to "announcements@uucg.org". Contact Ldecastro@uucg.org to subscribe to newsletters.

Faith Development

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The goal of the **Faith Development Team** is to provide you with inspiration and resources to help you live deeper into your UU faith throughout the week. Come **join us at 10:00 on Sunday mornings** for fellowship and learning, and opportunities to live into the questions as you search for truth and meaning.



Please register for the 2017-2018 Program Year online or with the enclosed form.

Faith Development Forum: on the **first Sunday** of each month, the Faith Development Team hosts a guided discussion introducing the monthly theme. Indulge your curiosity, join us and deepen your understanding! What gifts does this month's theme hold for you?

Spiritual Practices: on the **second Sundays**, Spiritual Practices are shared in a workshop format. Come with the courage to experience something new, or re-invigorate a forgotten practice. What rituals or practices feed your spirit?

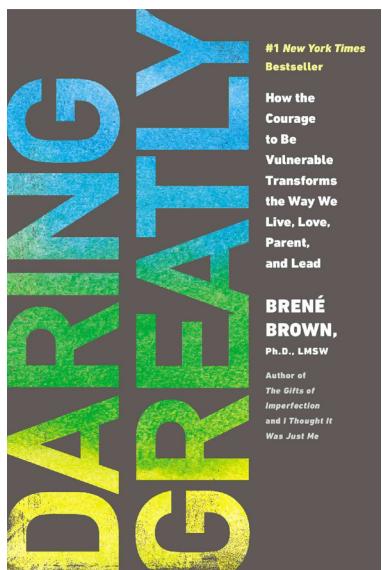
Faith in Action: on the **third Sundays**, engage in discussions about various ways to get and stay involved in the movement to work toward social justice in our community, our nation, and the world. "Love is our doctrine and service is our prayer" (or faith practice). How can your compassion make a difference?

Book Study: on the **fourth Sundays during even months**, the Faith Development Team will sponsor a book discussion (see schedule below). Whether you have had an opportunity to read the book or not, you are welcome to come and take part in the discussion of the issues explored in each chosen title.

Earth-centered practices: on the **fourth Sundays during odd months**, Earth-centered practices will be explored. Join us for an opportunity to develop a richer bond with nature through understanding and experience of earth-centered rituals and practices, facilitated by members of Sylvan Sanctuary.

Adults and teens are welcome at all sessions, and childcare is provided.

Starting August 13, we will also offer a program for Early Elementary-age children (ages 5-7 years), based on our monthly themes to coincide with the Worship Service topic each week. These sessions are story-based, and offer young children an age-appropriate lens through which to explore the various themes in a UU context. Children will begin in the Worship Service with their family, and be escorted out to the Studio by their leaders after about 15 – 20 minutes. Their workshops end when the Service is over.



- August 6 – Faith Development Reception. All ages join us for coffee, juice and refreshments in the Playhouse as we welcome in the new program year with an introduction to our theme, *Return Again*, and information about the programs coming up this year.
- August 13 – Spiritual Practices – Return to the Home of Your Soul: How we find spiritual sustenance in our everyday experiences. We will explore *Exercises to Increase and Maintain Compassion* presented by Daniel Bailey. Our Early Elementary program begins too.
- August 20 – Faith in Action – Identify Your Frame of Reference. Explore the lenses through which we see the world and the people in it (an exercise created by Robin DiAngelo) . Prejudice, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder.
- August 27 – Book Discussion – *Daring Greatly*. Researcher and thought leader Dr. Brené Brown offers a powerful new vision that encourages us to dare greatly: to embrace vulnerability and imperfection, to live wholeheartedly, and to courageously engage in our lives.

Lughnasad Celebration: The First Harvest



Saturday, August 5, at 6:00pm

Come and celebrate this half of the year that first began with Brigid at Imbolc, fulfilled now with Lugh at his festival of the first harvest. We gather to celebrate what we are enjoying of life's harvest. This ritual is open to the public and led by members of the Sylvan Sanctuary Grove of Druids. Ritual begins at 6:00 with shared snacks and fellowship afterwards. Ritual attire is welcome but not required.

Racial Justice Workshop



Saturday, August 19, at 10:00am

Look for details in the Sunday bulletin and e-newsletter in August.

Me2/Orchestra Atlanta Affiliate Update

By Jen Garrison



Me2/Orchestra is the world's only non-profit orchestra that provides a supportive space for musicians who have mental health challenges and their allies (friends, family, doctors, therapists, etc.). It was started by Ronald Braunstein and Caroline Whiddon, with two orchestras currently located in Boston, MA and Burlington, VT. More information can be found at www.me2orchestra.org. This year, I became the facilitator for the Me2/Orchestra Atlanta Affiliate. Ronald and Caroline's goal is to have 20 new orchestras around the country by 2020. As the facilitator of Me2/Orchestra Atlanta, my goal is to build interest in and have regular rehearsals for peers who share the experience of mental illness, and who play a classical instrument (any type). So far, there is one member who plays piano, and I play violin. We can certainly start out with chamber music, and grow from there. Currently we have been meeting in the sanctuary of UUCG. I need additional input from peers to see if this location will still work for all involved. If you are interested, or know someone who would be, please contact me at 1blonde.violin@gmail.com or call (678) 395-6374. Thank you!

UU 103: Where Have We Been?



October 1 after service

"UU 103: Where Have We Been?", a class on Unitarian Universalist history topics, will begin October 1 and then continue on every other month on the third Sunday following the service. These classes will continue throughout the 2017-2018 program year, with different topics discussed during each session. While the class is part of our developing UU New Member education series, everyone is invited! Please see Denise Benshoof for details.



Cultivating Presence & Connection Through Companionship is being rescheduled for next March 16-18!

Co-facilitators Rev. Roy Reynolds and Trudy Deyle are working to create a new program to offer next spring instead of August 14-18 this summer. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

Congratulations to Nathalie Bigord, Board Chair-Elect at The Mountain!

Gadding About

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A Message from Rev. Duncan Teague

Who is Carol Burnett?

This is the kind of question you have to deal with when you use a cultural reference, a song this time, that makes you cry and your Worship Assistants are far less than half your age. I was glad we had this sacred time together during the sabbatical of your minister and my dear colleague, Rev. Jan Taddeo.

I am so grateful for the openness and generosity extended to me and what I do as a minister. I was welcomed into your processes, your worship and Pastoral Care committees with respect. I had many lessons I will treasure from Laura de Castro and am so glad for her familiar face when I agreed to pitch in.

I foresee more great ministries taking place in our Unitarian Universalist congregation in Gwinnett County.

Most sincerely asking for your continued prayers and thoughts,
You will remain in mine,
Rev. Duncan E. Teague

PS. I will advise the parents of my last set of Worship Assistants that they research, "American Comedic Television Icons and Their Theme Songs". They were otherwise amazing to work with in worship.

Reverend Jan Taddeo
12 Bethesda Church Road
Lawrenceville, GA 30044

July
2017
*I'm coming home!!!
It will be wonderful
to be with you again!*

*Bring water to our
"Coming Home" Service
on August 6 -
Can't wait to see
everyone!
Much love! Reverend Jan*

Postcard from Rev. Taddeo Received July 25, 2017



UUUC
12 Bethesda Church Rd.
Lawrenceville GA 30044

Faith Development 2017-2018 Registration

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UUCG maintains a community of love through trust, compassion, and inquiry. We welcome you to our Religious Exploration Sunday morning program. Our programs for this year are described on the back of this form.

Please register everyone in the family, including adults.

Name (Last, First)	Birth Date	Photo Permission	Select Program Age Group					Allergies or Special Needs
			0 - 4	5 - 7	8 - 11	12 - 17	16 - 99	
1.								
2.								
3.								
4.								
5.								

* **Photo Permission:** Indicate YES, NO, or INTERNAL ONLY regarding permission to be photographed and/or videotaped while participating in UUCG activities. These photos may be published in UUCG newsletters, on our website, and/or on our Facebook page without names. "Internal Only" includes worship slides, UUCG bulletin boards and other non-public use.

**UUCG strives to include ALL people, regardless of age or abilities. Please notify Rev. Taddeo about special needs or concerns so we may ensure a positive and meaningful experience in our programs.

Primary Household Contact(s)

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Relationship to children _____

Alternate Contact(s)

Name _____

Phone(s) _____

Relationship to children _____

Name _____

Phone(s) _____

Relationship to children _____

Please update us if your contact information should change.
We will use email exclusively to communicate with you.

UUCG Programs are a shared ministry. People of all ages are asked to assist in a variety of ways. Please indicate below how people in your household might assist and we will contact you to confirm who, how, and when. Thank you.

- Nursery/Toddler childcare
- Early Elementary Workshop Leader
- Sunday RE Greeter

I give permission for my children to participate in Religious Exploration programs at UUCG. As a partner in the work of religious exploration, I agree to volunteer time to the RE program; to financially support UUCG through an annual pledge or contribution, and to communicate directly with Religious Exploration Associates and staff regarding any issues or concerns.

Signature/Date _____

Faith Development Survey

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Book Study Schedule:

This program year the Faith Development Team will be hosting a book discussion during the 10 o'clock hour, every other month (August, October, December, February, April, and June). The selected titles cover a wide range of topics relevant to our Unitarian Universalist faith & Principles and our monthly themes.

August 27 – *Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead*, by Brené Brown

Every day we experience the uncertainty, risks, and emotional exposure that define what it means to be vulnerable or to dare greatly. Based on twelve years of pioneering research, Dr. Brené Brown dispels the cultural myth that vulnerability is weakness and argues that it is, in truth, our most accurate measure of courage.

October 22 - *The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona Borderlands* by Margaret Regan
Undocumented migrants cross into Arizona in overwhelming numbers. And Arizona has the highest number of migrant deaths. Fourteen-year-old Josseline, a young girl from El Salvador who was left to die alone on the migrant trail, was just one of thousands to perish in its deserts and mountains.

Upcoming titles will include: *Acts of Faith: the Story of an American Muslim, the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation*, by Eboo Patel; *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, by Bryan Stevenson; *Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry*, by Mitra Rahnema; and *Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want*, by Frances Moore Lappé and Adam Eichen.

Survey for Faith Development Team

The Faith Development Team invites you to share your thoughts on program offerings at UUCG. How are we serving you? Please take a moment to respond to three questions, and contribute your ideas to shape the direction of future programs. We value your voice! Please place printed surveys in the red "Survey" box in the foyer at UUCG or email your answers to ["FaithDevelopment@uucq.org"](mailto:FaithDevelopment@uucq.org).

*Faith Development is all we do,
Unitarian Universalism is the faith we teach,
the congregation is the curriculum.*

- 1) How can we support you on your faith journey? What works, what doesn't, what would you like to see?
 - 2) Are we helping you grow in your knowledge and understanding of what it means to be UU?
 - 3) What would help you live into your faith beyond Sunday morning?

Potluck Reception Featuring Best of Sweets Contest



The Resource Development Committee is sponsoring a dessert cook-off contest called "The Best of Sweets" on Sunday, August 6. Bakers may enter their creations in the following categories:

Cakes, Muffins, Candy, Cookies, Pies, Gluten-Free Desserts,
Vegan Desserts

Entries will be cut into small pieces and purchased and voted on by the congregation after the Ingathering Potluck on August 6. Awards will be given in each category. Bring a copy of your recipe to display with your entry.

Please Re-Register Kroger Plus Cards



page.

A new program year is starting at Kroger and all cards have to be re-enrolled for participation. Participants get to keep all of their Kroger points, fuel discounts & benefits too. Last year, Kroger gave nearly \$400 to UUCG and this could increase if more people participate.

- Register at www.KrogerCommunityRewards.com or call 800-576-4377, select option 4 to get your Kroger Plus card number.
- Select "My Account" to login and add UUCG (19343). Click on confirm.
- Verify enrollment by finding UUCG on the right side of your information

Luck of the Community

With ongoing donations for parties from our 2017 Auction, we have exceeded our Auction goal with proceeds of \$8,304. Additional donations will go to capital improvement projects at UUCG - like the hole in the parking lot or our aging air conditioners. So, take a look below and consider an additional donation to UUCG for fun at our Fall 2017 events. To sign-up just make a generous donation of your choice to UUCG, write the name of the item you want on the memo line or envelope OR visit www.uucg.org and select "Register for Events". These parties are a great way to meet other congregants too.



Harbins Hike Coming Fall 2017

6 mile moderate hike in the woods. Picnic lunch will be provided.

Contact Wally at 678-463-4652

Date: Fall 2017



Left, Right, & Center Party on October 14

Come play Left, Right & Center (a fun dice game!), and enjoy food & fellowship at the Averyt's house. One person will win about \$45 at the end of the game!

Contact Peggy at 404-354-3226

October 14, 2017 from 6:00 - 9:00 pm

The Averyt Home in Grayson, GA

Board of Trustees

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Welcome Back!



Ingathering Service & Potluck Reception on August 6

Rev. Taddeo returns from her sabbatical on July 31. She'll be in the pulpit on August 6, 2017 for our multigenerational Ingathering service. Bring your water, a dish to share at potluck reception and a dessert entry for the Best of Sweets contest.



Meet & Greet with UUA Staff - Rev. Dawn Cooley on August 25

Join us for a meet and greet with Rev. Jan Taddeo, our beloved minister, and Rev. Dawn Cooley, our Southern Region Congregational Life Staff, on Friday, August 25, at 7:00 – 8:30 pm. This is an opportunity to share where you see the congregation in 1, 3 & 5 years.

Worship Service with Rev. Cooley & Rev. Taddeo on August 27

On Sunday, August 27th, we will have a joint worship with Rev. Jan and Rev. Dawn. Be there by 11:00 am to be reenergized for our visionary work to create the beloved community.

Serving With Grace A Message from Theresa Waldrop, President of UUCG

A huge welcome back to Rev. Jan! I know all of us can't wait to hear about her adventures and exploits as well as the insights and wisdom she's gained during her sabbatical.

While we celebrate Rev. Jan's return, I'd like to take a moment to offer gratitude to the many, many people who helped our beloved community continue to thrive in her absence, from those who took care of the small, often overlooked details to those who planned and carried out worship services or offered care and assistance to those in need. Many times it was the same people who did all of the above.



The board discussed awarding a Volley of the Sabbatical this quarter, but we were a bit daunted by the sheer scope of all the people and work involved! And a little afraid of forgetting someone. Just know that the last word of thanks hasn't yet been said by the board to those who served with grace during Rev. Jan's absence.

Serving with grace - that's how the board hopes you see our work in the coming program year. Incoming and remaining board members met for a few hours this past month - a "mini-convocation" and not quite a retreat - to plan and discuss how we as your board of trustees can better engage, empower, encourage and celebrate our congregants and congregation. Not an easy subject to tackle in a few hours, but we will continue to discuss it over the coming year. In fact, it's going to be part of our discussion at our next board meeting.

How we can serve was the overarching theme of our discussion, spurred by reading the book *Serving with Grace: Lay Leadership as a Spiritual Practice*, by Erik Walker Wikstrom. The author looks at the rewards of tackling our service to the community as a spiritual practice, a way of rounding out our spiritual experience.

As Walker Wikstrom reminds us: How we do what we do is important. But it's also important to ask: Why are we doing what we're doing?

We finished our discussion with these words from Howard Thurman, also quoted by Walker Wikstrom: "*Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and then do that thing. Because what the world needs is people who are alive.*"

The same, Walker Wikstrom writes, goes for our congregations.

Volly of the Quarter

Our Volly of the Quarter has the breadth and depth of knowledge and experience to perform their public roles gracefully, displaying a mixture of humility, humor, and compassion. We enjoy their teamwork with their family, as well. They simultaneously perform all of their roles- leader, philosopher, lecturer, “fellow traveler,” mentor, parent, and spouse- and they make it look easy. One of their most striking qualities is their ability to respond so quickly to a question, concern, or problem that it looks as if they had already planned and prepared for every possible outcome.

The challenges faced by our Beloved Community during this quarter included not only the continual “Sabbatical Surprise,” but an upheaval in our denomination over an ingrained culture of White Supremacy.

They provided for the needs of two new ministers, several Service Leaders, and several Worship Associates. They met and mastered every challenge. This included some tasks previously performed by Reverend Jan, which only became apparent after they would normally have been completed.

They saw the need and responded immediately to the challenges posed by a hiring decision at the main office of our denomination that exposed an insidious culture of White Supremacy. This including re-planning multiple worship services. It was as if they kept emergency kits on hand with labels like “in case of White Supremacy” and “emergency humble pie.”

Our Volly of the Quarter, to whom I will point out that I have used the pronouns “they” and “their” sixteen times during their introduction, is Bob Patrick!

תודה
Dankie Gracias
Спасибо Merci Takk
Köszönjük Terima kasih
Grazie Dziękujemy Děkujeme
Ďakujeme Vielen Dank Paldies
Kiitos Täname teid 谢谢
Thank You Tak
感謝您 Obrigado Teşekkür Ederiz
감사합니다
Σας ευχαριστούμε សូបណ្ឌោ
Bedankt Děkujeme vám
ありがとうございます
Tack



Visitor Orientation

UU 101 Aug. 20 after service

CURIOS – If you are new to Unitarian Universalism or just new to UUCG, this class should answer some of your questions. COURAGEOUS – Join us in the library on third Sundays immediately following the service.

COMPASSIONATE – We hope the information and discussions will help you on your spiritual journey.

Childcare and lunch provided. Sign up on the bulletin board by the nametags, visit www.uucg.org and select “register”, call the UUCG office at 770-717-7913, or just drop in. For more information, contact Peggy at membership@uucg.org.

New Member Class

UU 102 Aug. 20 after service

If you have taken UU 101 and feel ready to move on to the next step, please join us. UU 102 meets in the Lounge. Childcare will be available and lunch provided. Sign up is available by selecting “register” on the www.uucg.org website, through the office at 770-717-7913, or through email to membership@uucg.org. After completing UU 102, you are eligible to become an official member of UUCG at an upcoming signing ceremony.

Signing Ceremony

If you are considering becoming a member of UUCG, please contact membership@uucg.org, to participate in the next ceremony. Ceremonies take place quarterly in the Pastor’s Parlor, with the next ceremony on August 20.

UUCG

Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Gwinnett
12 Bethesda Church Road
Lawrenceville, GA 30044
www.uucg.org
770.717.7913 

Building Open

Sunday: 9:30am-12:30pm
Tuesday: 10:00am-3:30pm
Friday: 10:00am-2:00pm
By Appointment: 770-717-7913

Staff

Rev. Jan Taddeo, Parish Minister

RevTaddeo@uucg.org
Office: 770-717-7913
Cell: 678-558-4834
Hours: Mon-Wed. 11am-9pm
Appointments scheduled at:
<https://revtaddeo.acuityscheduling.com/>

Laura de Castro, Administrator

Ldecastro@uucg.org
Office: 770-717-7913
Hours: Tues, Fri 9:30-3:30, 3rd Sundays
Appointments suggested as hours vary.

Christiana McQuain, Program Assistant

cmcquain@uucg.org

Michael Parker, Choir Director

choir@uucg.org

Board of Trustees

Theresa Waldrop, President
president@uucg.org

Bill Benshoof, Vice President
vp@uucg.org

Barbara Stahnke, Treasurer
treasurer@uucg.org

Steve Smith, Secretary
secretary@uucg.org

Board Members at Large

Nathalie Bigord
Ally Perras
Evan Varner
Vacant
Youth Vacant



Ingathering Service: “Coming Home, Again”



August 6

Rev. Jan Taddeo, Service Leader

Bob Patrick, Worship Associate

On August 6, we return from our summer activities to begin a new program year. We come home, again, to our beloved community and mark the end of one year and the beginning of another with our UU Water Ceremony.

Rev. Taddeo invites you to consider the meaning you glean from the sources of water in your life. In times of joys or sorrows, when gathering with family or friends, experiences of renewal, cleansing, transformation, challenge, transition; how has water shaped your spiritual journey?

August 6

- 10:00 am Faith Development Reception for all ages
- 11:00 am Ingathering Service with Rev. Taddeo
- 12:30 pm Potluck Reception and Best of Sweets Contest

Please bring:

- Bring a small vial of special or symbolic water
- Potluck dish for reception
- Entry for Best of Sweets Contest
- Donation to vote or shop at Best of Sweets Contest



Curiosity. Courage. Compassion.

We are a radically welcoming sanctuary in a green space.
We foster spiritual growth as we joyfully nurture connections
and community within our walls and beyond.