



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett
12 Bethesda Church Road
Lawrenceville, Georgia 30044
www.uucg.org 770-717-7913

Gwinnett News for Unitarian Universalists



February 2018



Gadding About

***Where do we come from? What are we?
Where are we going?***

In February and March, the Board of Trustees will be seeking your ideas about what it looks like to live more fully into our vision. We'll kick off this process during our worship service on **February 11**. During this "Answering the Call of Love" service, we'll be asking everyone to share ideas about how we can more clearly live our mission and move towards our vision.

Where do we come from? We come from a place of curiosity, courage, and compassion as we walk towards our vision.

What are we? We are **becoming** our vision: *We are a radically welcoming sanctuary in a green space. We foster spiritual growth and joyfully nurture connections and community within our walls and beyond.*

Where are we going? This is a big question! We have a grand vision, but what are the specifics of what the vision looks like? How might we focus our shared ministries to realize this vision? What goals are we reaching for?

On February 11, we'll have a World Café in our worship service. Everyone will be invited to share ideas about each part of our vision: What will we look like, what will we be doing, and what will we have created, in one, three and five years if we are truly journeying with curiosity, courage, and compassion to be:

- Radically Welcoming
- A Sanctuary
- Growing Spiritually
- Joyfully Nurturing Connections and Community ...
 - Within our walls
 - Beyond our walls

We want to get ideas from as many people as possible, so the Board of Trustees will also host several Zoom video/phone conferences to hear from as many people as possible. We currently have four calls scheduled. Information for accessing these calls will be published in the weekly e-news and the Sunday announcements, as well as in our UUCG Facebook Group. If you can't join us on February 11, or more ideas occur to you after our World Café, please join us for one of these conversations:

Saturday, February 17, 10:00 a.m.
Monday, February 19, 2:00 p.m.
Friday, February 23, 10:00 a.m.
Monday, February 26, 7:00 p.m.

Out of these conversations, our Board of Trustees will develop goals for the congregation to guide our shared ministry. I am excited about the possibilities for the "work of the church" that will emerge from this process, and the clarity of purpose and relevance that will emerge.

In the spirit of trust, compassion, and inquiry...

Reverend Jan

Sundays at UUCG

10:00 am Faith Development

11:00 am Worship Service

February Theme:

Love

February 4

Scouting Sunday

Rev. Jan Taddeo, Service Leader
Lorena Griffin, Worship Associate
Bryan Bishop, Pianist
Choir warm-up before service

February 11

Answering the Call of Love

Rev. Jan Taddeo, Service Leader
Paige Varner, Worship Associate
Bryan Bishop, Pianist
Choir warm-up before service
Town Hall meeting after service

February 18

Creating a Community of Love

Rev. Jan Taddeo Service Leader
Lydia Patrick, Worship Associate
Bryan Bishop, Pianist
New Member Recognition
Michael off. No choir.
Potluck Lunch

February 25

Loving the Hell Out of the World

Daniel Bailey, Service Leader
Sherree Bailey, Worship Associate
Choir warm-up before service

*February plate contributions are
shared equally with
Peace of Thread
www.peaceofthread.com*



Announcements for the March newsletter are due by February 25. Announcements for the weekly e-newsletter and Order of Service are due on Tuesdays at noon. Send announcements or newsletter subscription requests to "announcements@uucg.org".

Faith Development Programs: Sunday Mornings at 10:00am

Theme: Love



"The work of religion is to make sure that the love we spread carries further than the division and hate." ~ Rev Forrest Church.

•February 4 Forum - *Have Love, Will Travel*. How does Unitarian Universalism help you to carry Love out into the world? How do you do it again and again and again?

•February 11: Spiritual Practices - *Healing Tormenting Thoughts and Feelings*. We will experience together techniques to reframe and redirect troublesome thoughts and to transform feelings. I am offering this as part of being involved in ongoing

emotional healing practices and not as a one time cure or panacea.

- February 18: Faith in Action - *Prevalent Hate; Abundant Love*. The Southern Poverty Law Center documented 917 active hate groups in the United States in 2016. According to Gun Violence Archive, there were 345 mass shootings in America in 2017 alone. Hate has become commonplace in America.
- February 25: Book Discussion - *The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona Borderlands* by Margaret Regan. Touching the soul and the heart as well as the mind, these stories call us to the religious act of bearing witness to brutality and despair, and extraordinary courage and commitment. Join us for a discussion facilitated by JoAnn Weiss of how we process our experience of these stories together, and discern how we may respond and take action.

Shamanic Breathwork

February 9 from 6:30 till 9:30 pm at UUCG

Using our own group and personal intentions, circular breathing and powerful music we create a sacred and safe space together to be able to experience healing, transformation, guidance and love. If you have not previously done Shamanic Breathwork please contact Daniel Bailey at Danielbaileyuucg@gmail.com for more information! Suggested love offering to UUCG of \$20, though no one will be turned away for not being able to pay.

Registration Open for Mountain Conferences



The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center in Highlands, North Carolina, invites UU children and teens and their friends to weekend conferences this March. Elementary group: March 2-4, Middle School Ages: March 9-11, High School Ages: March 16-19. Registration closes when full or two weeks before conference. UU WomenSpirit, Easter, and Homecoming Weekend are also open for registration. Visit www.themountainrlc.org to register or see more information.

Imbolc Celebration: Stirrings of Spring

Saturday, February 3 with Ritual at 6:00 pm

Magical Arts of the Crafty Pagan at 3:00pm



Come and celebrate the first stirrings of spring at this seasonal celebration of Brigid, creativity, healing and the beginning of new things. This Imbolc 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. For more information, contact Bob P. at robert.patrick59@gmail.com.

Come help UUCG manage the money you give Information and Call for New Members from the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is a standing committee of UUCG as described in our bylaws. Finance Committee members must be members of UUCG. The Finance Committee promotes the financial stability of UUCG. We are to review the financial accountings (i.e. revenues and expenses) per our current policies. The Finance Committee has the Treasurer as Liaison to the Board of Trustees and should have four other members, one of whom is the Chair. Currently, our Church Administrator is an ex officio member of the Finance Committee to assist us with understanding our reports. Any member may attend a Finance Committee meeting. Our meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month at 12:30 pm.

Our current work is focused on reviewing our policies to assure we are promoting the financial stability of UUCG and complying with good accounting practices. We are working on a dashboard to communicate our financial status in a clear way that allows the Board and members to be informed about where we are financially. Finally, we are reviewing our revenues and expenses for compliance with and risk to our budget. We also provide oversight of the financial work that the Treasurer and Church Administrator are doing for UUCG.

We do need more members to learn and understand the financial workings of UUCG. Attending a finance committee meeting is a good way to do this. Additionally, we need to develop more members to do this work in a responsible way. Although financial experience is nice to have for a finance committee member, it is not required. Come learn with us and help us decide how we can promote our financial stability in working towards our vision. Please contact Barbara Stahnke, treasurer@uucg.org for more information. We do need members now to be able to assure UUCG remains financially stable. Many hands and many minds will make this work go smoothly.

Congratulations Best Appetizers Winners!

Congrats to the winners of the "Best of Appetizers" in January:

- 1st Place - The Miller Family for their French Toast Twists with Bacon
- 2nd Place - Nathalie Bigord with her Ceviche
- 3rd Place - Nathalie Bigord with her Bruschetta

Thanks to all who entered, and to all who donated and sampled the delicious entries. A little more than \$64 was raised for UUCG's operating budget. February will be "Best of Chili", so get your favorite chili recipe out and make it for the Feb 18 CHILI COOK-OFF! Be sure to bring a copy of your recipe to display with your chili, or register it on-line on the UUCG website by clicking on the "REGISTER" button at the bottom of the home page.



All Things Healthy

Health, Metaphysics & Sustainability Fair

Saturday, February 24
Noon - 4:00 pm

Free to Community
includes speakers, exhibits,
demonstrations, and samples



Martin Luther King Day

There were 25 UUCG folks at the MLK march down route 29 in Lawrenceville on January 15th. We had a chilly but sunny day to walk the talk. Many took turns holding the banners and signs. Beeps from cars and cheers from the sidelines raised our spirits as well as some rousing bands with energizing drum lines. A few did the route twice just for good measure and picked up trash on the way back (service to the community and such). Afterwards some of us retired to a local pizza parlor to get warm and fill up hungry bellies. A grand day out!



Corley Elementary Teacher Appreciation

For the past 6 years, UUCG has been a partner to Corley Elementary School, where there are many needy families, and no PTA to offer extra support and help. UUCG collects book bags for these students in the fall, gift cards for the families in December, and monetary donations to buy food for a Teacher Appreciation Event in February. There will be an envelope in the foyer at UUCG for your monetary donations. If you would like to help with the set-up of this food at Corley Elementary on Feb. 22 at 11:30 a.m., please let Peggy Averyt know at peggyaveryt@gmail.com.

Immigration: A Bird's Eye View

Sunday March 4 12:30-1:30

This presentation will begin with a few working definitions: undocumented, refugee, asylum seeker. It will discuss the growth of the immigration detention system since 1996 (especially since 9/11/2001) and the role of prisons-for-profit. It will bring you up-to-date of what is happening under Trump – and what is happening in our own Gwinnett County. It will discuss the violation of civil and human rights at Stewart Detention Center – one of the nation's largest immigration detention centers- in Lumpkin, GA. Finally, we'll talk about the work of El Refugio, a small but mighty hospitality house and visitation program one mile from SDC.

Two Invitations Beyond Our Walls

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FREE Program: “Faithful to the Future: Big Picture Inspiration for Chaotic Times” with Rev. Michael Dowd on Sunday, February 25, 7 PM – 8:45 PM

Northwest Unitarian Universalist Congregation: 1025 Mount Vernon Hwy, Atlanta, GA 30327. www.nwuuc.org.
Childcare provided.

This program, geared for adults and teens, builds on Rev. Dowd’s two TEDx talks and material in his bridge-building book, *Thank God for Evolution: How the Marriage of Science and Religion Will Transform Your Life and Our World*, which was endorsed by 6 Nobel Prize-winning scientists and by religious leaders across the spectrum.

We each have experienced times of trouble that threaten to overwhelm our individual lives. In such times, a vision of possibility is essential. The same holds for the punctuations in history when whole societies face troubles of an immense and uncharted variety. Truly, we here and now have arrived at such a time. Humans, unwittingly, have become a planetary force. We are changing, irreversibly, the very climate of our world. Henceforth, any actions we take as individuals and societies will be done in the new light of climate change. What vision will carry us forward through such times and inspire us to work together? How shall we frame the need to shed our business-as-usual outlook on life and take on a new vision of possibility that can unite us as a species in joyful self-sacrifice and service? What vision will charge us with a sense of heroic purpose that the future is, indeed, calling us to greatness?

Science and religion are not enemies; indeed, they must work together if humanity is to survive the 21st century. Given our impact on Earth’s climate, the seas, and other species, humanity is about to experience what could be called The Great Reckoning. The good news is that this will also be The Great Homecoming: the prodigal species coming home to Reality. This presentation will focus on 6 points of agreement held in common by tens of millions of religious and non-religious people across the globe — and how to stay deeply inspired in the face of changing climate and other large-scale challenges.

Rev. Michael Dowd is bestselling eco-theologian and pro-science prophetic voice whose work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *LA Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, *Discover*, and on television nationally. Michael and his science writer / evolutionary educator wife, Connie Barlow, have spoken to more than 2,000 groups throughout North America since 2002, including Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett. Their work has been featured on the cover of the *UU WORLD* twice, in 1997 and again in 2006.

Michael has delivered two TEDx talks and a program at the United Nations. He has also conducted an acclaimed online conversation series: “The Future Is Calling Us to Greatness. At the 2016 General Assembly, Michael and Connie were honored as “UU Religious Humanists of the Year.”.



UUWomenspirit
Spring 2018 Retreat
The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center
Highlands, NC
Institute: May 16-18
Gathering: May 18-20

*an empty bowl
holding space
is also full*

Artwork created by Penny Featherstone
Lettering and logo design by Carole Dixon
www.uuwomenspirit.org

Bring your sacred self to The Mountain this spring to be refilled. Let us gather once again with other women as we hold space together and invite the sacred into our lives. We will embark on interior journeys that welcome and celebrate the Goddess in every aspect of our days.



Within Our Walls

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Visitor Orientation

UU 101 Feb. 18 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 Feb. 18 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.



Serving with Grace, Preparing for Our Future From UUCG President, Theresa Waldrop

Here we are, already in the second month of a year of big changes at UUCG. This month, we’ll begin the conversations with one another about where we want to be five years from now, and what we want to happen in the years until then. The board is excited to get this started and hear your ideas.

Since Rev. Jan is writing about that in more detail, I’ll just tell you what else the board has been up to this past month. We had a lovely, productive day of retreat at Karen and Steve Smith’s farm (thank you again, Karen and Steve!), working on the “plan for the strategic plan” and other forward-looking ideas, including changes in how your board of trustees may work in the future.

We have a wonderful group of people who are reviewing our policies and what we need to do to update them: Paige and Evan Varner, Rob Kohl, and Russ and Rev. Jan Taddeo. At our last board meeting, the group gave a presentation on policy-based governance, leaning on Dan Hotchkiss’ Governance and Ministry. Using this model, the Board of Trustees would be less involved in making day-to-day decisions and would spend more time working on the big picture. If you’re interested in learning more, check out some of the UUA resources for policy-based governance available at <https://www.uua.org/leadership/governance/policybased/63121.shtml>. We will be discussing this again at our February BOT meeting.

As discussed at recent town halls and the congregational meeting, we are looking to form a stewardship committee. Nathalie Bigord and I have taken the lead on recruiting for that, so please let us know if you are interested.

Among other business, the Board:

- Voted to support a request by the Liberal Religious Educators Association to put a change to UUA bylaws on the agenda at General Assembly this year that would give GA delegate status to all “Active members of LREDA who are currently serving a congregation.” This is from the LREDA statement explaining the request: “Since current practice is for non-ordained staff to refrain from joining the congregation they serve, this leaves most religious educators without a voice in matters that concern the faith they serve. The LREDA Board seeks a vote on this matter at the 2018 General Assembly in Kansas City, Missouri.”
- Selected Volly of the Quarter for the last three months of 2017. Stay tuned for the announcement of the winner!



UU Singer- Songwriter
Peter Mayer
In Concert
at UUCG

Friday, March 2nd
8:00 pm

(Doors open at 7:30)

\$15 advance, \$20 at the door

Loved for Songs like Blueboat Home, Holy Now, and Church of the Earth

Register online using "Register for Events" button at www.uucg.org
or with this link: <http://www.jotform.us/form/13535224736>
(Make checks payable to Peter Mayer)

"Peter Mayer is a magician...(his) universe is full of metaphor and meaning, story and symbol — everything contains more than meets the eye." -Bill Reed, music editor, Colorado Springs Gazette

"His guitar work is breath-taking, his lyrics mind-spinning, his singing soul-soothing and his feet-on-the-ground optimism nothing short of healing." -Marilyn Rea-Beyer, music director, WUMB Radio

"Peter Mayer makes it look easy – beautifully crafted songs that pose eternal questions -- his arrangements make it sound like there is certainly more than one man and his guitar in the XM Satellite Radio studios." -Mary Sue Twohy

"He is unafraid of complicated topics and always strives to look beyond the easy sentiment...Peter does nothing less than address the very nature of our existence...Trust me, most songwriters can't pull this off. Peter Mayer does." -Dale Connelly, Minnesota Public Radio

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Visit www.blueboat.net to learn more about Peter Mayer.

UUCG

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Building Open

Sunday: 9:30am-12:30pm
Tuesday: 10:00am-3:30pm
Friday: 10:00am-3:00pm
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
Terry Welsher
Youth Vacant



All Things Healthy

February 24, 2018 from noon - 4pm

Plans are underway for the "All Things Healthy" Fair to be held at UUCG on Saturday, Feb. 24, from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. Come and learn about: hands only CPR; radical forgiveness healing circles; traditional western and ancient energy healing; shamanic ceremonial practice; shamanic tools & intuitive feather readings; how to reduce your carbon footprint with sustainable & recyclable products; natural and organic bath and beauty products; physical fitness for older adults; home delivery of local organic produce, meat, eggs, milk and artisan items; wares you can buy made from upcycling; and much more!

We are looking for more Health Advocates, Providers and Sponsors to participate in our Feb. 24 Health Fair. Please take a couple of the flyers from the Health Fair bulletin board in the foyer to give to your favorite health care providers and urge them to participate. Also, take a form to register yourself for the Health Fair if you have a health, metaphysical, or sustainability service or product to offer. Members of UUCG can get an Exhibitor's table at the fair for only \$30, instead of the \$50 table fee for non-members. Registration forms are on the bulletin board or register online at www.uucg.org under Upcoming Events.



Curiosity. Courage. Compassion.

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