

Virtual Sundays at UUCG

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



"If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time, but if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together." - Aboriginal activists group, Queensland, 1970s

April Theme: Liberation

Go to <https://zoom.us/join>
Or dial 646-558-8656

and enter Meeting ID: 565-460-176

April 5 *Liberation from How We've Always Done This* Flower Ceremony

Rev. Taddeo, *Service Leader*
Lorena Griffin, *Worship Associate*

April 12 *Liberation from Fear*

Rev. Jan Taddeo, *Service Leader*
and the *Worship Team*

April 19 *Liberation from a Single Story*

Rev. Taddeo, *Service Leader*
Daniel Bailey, *Worship Associate*
UU 101, UU 102 on Zoom

April 26 *Liberating Grief*

Bob Patrick, *Service Leader*
Sherree Bailey, *Worship Associate*

Plate contributions are shared equally with Rainbow Village



Assisted Listening
Devices Available



Wheelchair
Accessible



Reverend Jan Taddeo's Personal Chat Room Wednesdays 10am-12pm

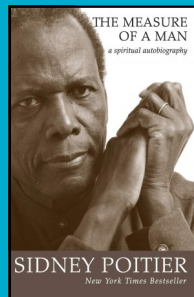


Fellowship
with Rev Jan
and UUCG
Congregants

Saturday Connection and Fellowship

12pm-3pm

Online
through
Zoom



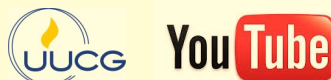
Book Club

Wednesday,
April 22
7pm - 9pm

Online
via Zoom

All are Welcome!

UUCG YouTube Channel bit.ly/UUCGYoutube



Daily Inspirational Readings
with Reverend Jan
Worship Service Recordings

UUCG Families Virtual Visits

Thursdays 11am-1pm



This is a special
time for our
children and
youth to connect
on Zoom

Board Meeting on Zoom

Wednesday April 15, 7pm-9pm
Meeting ID: 844-948-258



DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

Online through Zoom

1st and 3rd Fridays 6-9pm

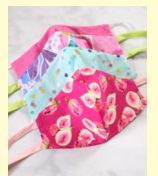
April 3 and 17

Organized by
Damon Harper

Mask Donations

Drop Off at UUCG

The masks will
be distributed
to local
hospitals



Visit www.uucg.org & select "Calendar of Events" for details

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett



12 Bethesda Church Road
Lawrenceville, Georgia 30044



770-717-7913 • www.uucg.org

We are becoming a radically welcoming sanctuary in a green space.

We foster spiritual growth as we joyfully nurture connections

and community within our wall and beyond.

Nurturing Connections Online

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

For the following events, go to <https://zoom.us/join> and enter the Meeting ID

Choir Connection Tuesday nights from 7-8:30pm on Zoom
More information on the UUCG calendar.

Reverend Jan's Virtual Chat: Wednesdays 10-12 on Zoom, *Meeting ID: 998-083-078*

Join Reverend Jan for check-in and open conversation as she and others work on their Yarns from the Heart projects.



UUCG Families Virtual Visits: Thursdays 11am-1pm on Zoom. Email cmcquain@uucg.org for info

Connection and Fellowship: every Saturday from 12-3pm on Zoom *Meeting ID: 882-436-315*
Open chat room for congregants to share what is on their heart with each other.

Young Adult Game Night: 1st and 3rd Fridays, April 3 and 17 on Zoom *Meeting ID: 728-905-745*

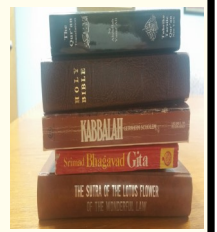


Women's Spirituality Group: 2nd Fridays, April 10 7-10pm Zoom *Meeting ID: 89-489-117*

We meet the second Friday of the month. Please join us for ritual and deep sharing. Together we create sacred space to go deeper into the feminine. Led by Sharon Yun, Sherree Bailey, and Sue Tumbleweed. Please email womensgroup@uucg.org for info.

Belief Exploration: 2nd Sundays, April 12 on Zoom *Meeting ID: 896-987-304*

We explore the sources of world faith traditions. We have no prescribed theology and honor each person's spiritual path toward enlightenment and reason. We invite you to join us if you have an interest in theological writings and would like to learn and share your views in an open, accepting environment. We meet after the worship service on the second Sunday of each month in the Laboratory. Speak to Carol Richardson or email beliefexplorers@uucg.org for info.



Spiral Scouts: 2nd Sundays April 12 from 12:30pm-2:30pm on Zoom.

For children ages 3-12 and their families, this earth-based scout program encourages young people to co-create their programs. Contact spiralscoutsleaders@uucg.org for more info.

Gwinnett Understanding Secular Truths (GUST):

2nd Mondays April 13 at 7:00 pm on Zoom *Meeting ID: 311-901-332*

GUST supports programs that explore atheism, skepticism, and secular humanism and works to encourage community and friendships. Contact Dylan at gust@uucg.org or visit <http://brights.meetup.com/295>



UU 101 and UU 102: April 19 on Zoom 12:30pm-2pm

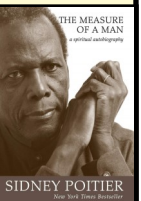
Join us after the service for the UU 101 Visitor Orientation *Meeting ID: 709 584 522* where you will learn more about Unitarian Universalism and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett. After attending UU 101, you may attend UU 102 Path to Membership *Meeting ID: 520 702 428* where you will learn what it means to be a member. Please register online.

Book Club: April 22 at 7:00pm—9:00pm on Zoom *Meeting ID: 144-736-833*

The Measure of a Man by Sidney Poitier

All are welcome to a time of bonding, lively discussion, and building friendships.

Contact bookclub@uucg.org. More info about the current book selection is on www.uucg.org.



Fostering Spiritual Growth...

April Theme: Liberation

Online Worship Services, Sundays at 11:00 am



Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or dial 646-558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 565-460-176

Our services are led by our minister, the Reverend Jan Taddeo, and our inspiring team of Service Leaders and Worship Associates. This is our sacred time to gather in our cherished space to recall our true selves, reflect on the meaning of our lives, and explore questions of ultimacy together. All ages are welcome in our virtual worship services. You may contact Reverend Jan Taddeo at RevTaddeo@uucg.org.

April 5 *Liberation from How We've Always Done This* Flower Ceremony

The circumstances of this pandemic may offer liberation from doing things the way we've always done them. Take pictures of your flowers and send them to Rev. Jan. Email: revtaddeo@uucg.org, or text: 678-558-4834.

Rev. Taddeo, Service Leader Lorena Griffin, *Worship Associate*

April 12 *Liberation from Fear*

"Fear is the cheapest room in the house. I'd like to see you in better living conditions." - Hafiz
Can we create our own resurrection by letting go of the fears that keep us small?

Rev. Jan Taddeo, Service Leader and the Worship Team

April 19 *Liberation from a Single Story*

What are the stories of "how it is" or "how it should be" that keep us from being in right relationship with our earth?

Rev. Taddeo, Service Leader Daniel Bailey, *Worship Associate*

April 26 *Liberating Grief*

Poet Mary Oliver says "That time / I thought I could not / go any closer to grief / without dying / I went closer, /and I did not die." We have all, as a community, a nation, and a world gone closer to death. In this service we reflect on this very important, precious, and mysterious part of human life.

Bob Patrick, Service Leader Sherree Bailey, *Worship Associate*

Faith in Action... *Living Our Values by Making Masks*



As you've probably heard, hospitals have a shortage of masks. Last week a group formed, which is mobilizing home sewists to create homemade cloth masks. These masks do not replace n95 masks, but they extend their lifetimes, so they can be used longer before they must be discarded. The cloth masks are washed and reused. So far, the group has delivered about 1500 masks to area hospitals. Another 6000 have been requested.

If you would like to sew masks, visit the Facebook group "Sewing Masks for Atlanta Hospitals." There you will find patterns and instructions. UUCG is serving as one of numerous drop off locations. There is a plastic bucket with a lid outside the front door. As long as supplies last, there will also be hand sanitizer to use before touching the bucket. You may leave your completed masks there, and they will be distributed to those who can use them. If you have questions, contact Lorena Griffin or Peggy Averyt by emailing masks@uucg.org.

Thanks for your help with this project!



Gadding About . . . From Reverend Jan Taddeo

When I returned from a collegial gathering at The Mountain on March 11, I called for a meeting of our leaders for a conversation about how we would proceed as the pandemic was just reaching our shores. We have an amazing leadership team here at UUCG. There was no question that we needed to honor all efforts to increase physical distancing and slow down the spread of the virus. And we have an amazing congregation ... I did not hear one person question this effort. That all seems like months ago, but was only a few weeks... weeks filled with not doing things the way we always do them, and trying to do some of what we always do, but in different ways. This is an amazing community as so many have pitched in to keep us connected.

It's ironic that our theme for April is Liberation when we are all stuck in our homes, longing for liberty. I find myself looking at liberation differently in light of current events. Liberation from the way I've always done things, liberation from fear, and realizing the many liberties I've taken for granted.

Where do you need liberation? Perhaps you need liberation from fear and anxiety related to the circumstances related to this pandemic. Naming our fears can be an important first step in letting them rest: Fear of losing people we love to this virus, fear of catching the virus ourselves, fear of not having enough supplies for a long period at home, fear of financial distress, fear of losing employment, fear of entering into a police state, fear of the presidential election being cancelled, fear of what the world will be like when the pandemic has passed and the work of recovery begins. There's so much our minds can conjure in times like this. The fear feels real, the possibilities feel real, and it does not serve ourselves or others to dwell in this fear and anxiety.



Illustration by Carole Henaff

This is a good time for developing and deepening your spiritual practices. There are so many that can bring us back to center, to this moment, to the beauty, love, friendship, and many blessings in our lives. Meditation is one practice to consider ... I recommend the Insight Timer app for a wide range of guided meditations, several created specifically for this time. Explore Tonglen, a practice of exchanging self with others to expand one's compassion around the globe. Take walks in the park, run on the trails, or ride your bike around the neighborhood. Garden, play solitaire, solve puzzles, try new recipes, craft, clean, read poetry, listen to

music. Avoid over-consuming the news ... read or watch enough from reliable sources to know what is going on, and avoid the viral (sorry for the pun) messages and news sources that promise to vex your spirit.

Come to worship ... gather with others in the congregation to connect with the values, vision, and inspiration of our shared faith. We'll continue to open the room at the end of the service for a virtual time of connection.

Choose one way to connect with UUCG between Sundays ... attend a 10:00 Faith Development program, join one of the open chat rooms, bring your children to the Thursday family connection time, or set up your own video link with friends from church. Check the calendar for other on-line activities.

Be gentle with yourselves, beloveds. We will be together again in time. Until then, reach out to me or the Pastoral Care Team if you feel anxious, fearful, depressed, want to explore ideas for spiritual practice, or just need to connect with someone who is trained to listen well. Our Pastoral Care Associates are on call 24/7, 770-847-0566.

Sunday Morning Faith Development Programs

The UUCG Staff offer their gratitude to all our remarkable volunteers and leaders who are making the creation and delivery of our virtual worship services and other programs for connection possible. We could not do this without you.

Special thanks to our Pastoral Care Team and additional volunteers for reaching out to all our members and friends, and continuing to be available and present for our members and friends during these difficult times.

To access Faith Development Programs on Zoom,
go to <https://zoom.us/join> or dial 646-558-8656
and enter Meeting ID: 145-984-149

Sunday, April 5 at 10:00am: Explorations: *Dreamwork*

Additional session by request: Join us for an exploration of working with dreams, as we share with each other, using Jeremy Taylor's book *Dream Work* as a guide. Program facilitated by Thomas Yun

Sunday, April 12 at 10:00am: Easter Sunday: *Liberation in Challenging Moments*

Sunday, April 19 at 10:00am: Faith in Action: *Being Present to What the World Needs*

Sunday, April 26 at 10:00am: Explorations: *Dreamwork*

Join us for an exploration of working with dreams, as we share with each other, using Jeremy Taylor's book *Dream Work* as a guide. Program facilitated by Thomas Yun

Come be Curious, Courageous, and Compassionate with us!

Please register all ages for Faith Development by going to this link: <https://bit.ly/uucgregister>. A vibrant faith development program only happens with You! We invite you to help us create an enriching experience of Faith Formation at UUCG. Use the above link to register as a volunteer.

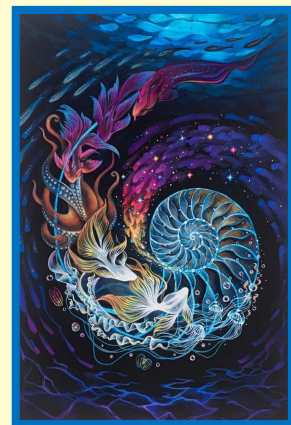
UUCG Auction: Blue Boat Home Postponed

The 2020 fundraising auction has been postponed but not cancelled. Please continue to donate items to the auction by going to <https://bit.ly/34111jn> on the uucg.org website. If you are planning an event, consider the date and the projected outlook for the physical distancing timeline. Consider offering a virtual event as connection continues to be vitally important during this time. When we are able to gather in person again, we will come together with a celebratory event in which we hope all members will participate enthusiastically. Prior to the big event, we will periodically auction off items immediately after Sunday service. So put on your thinking caps and consider how you can contribute to the UUCG 2020 "Blue Boat Home" fundraising auction. Questions?



Katrina Yurko

Contact Lorena Griffin or Thomas Yun at auction@uucg.org.



Jessica Perlstein

Give Away the Plate Donations— Rainbow Village



Rainbow Village transforms the lives of homeless families with children by providing a stable housing community and services that instill initiative, self-development and accountability for future generations. Their vision is to be a national model of an educational and holistic approach to breaking the cycle of homelessness, poverty, and domestic violence.

Tending the Flame

A message from UUCG Faith Development

Early last month, when I began to plan for programs this month, I realized I would struggle with the theme of Liberation during this time when it seems that so many of our liberties are being (necessarily) restricted. I asked my colleagues for their perspective, and I asked my sons for their thoughts. (If you are among those in the congregation who know my sons, the notion that I value their opinions will not surprise you.) Devon, who is 16, said this:

“All I know is, I don’t have to be cooped up in that [school] building for hours of my life every day. Even if I have to stay at home, it feels like freedom to me.”

While this is a sad commentary on our education system, it provided me with rich food for thought. What if this time is about re-thinking what we value and what we do with our time when we have the choice of how to spend it? When we are liberated from “have to”, where does that take us?



Of course, there are many who are still very deep in their daily grind. Healthcare workers, first responders, food service workers, and so many more... it is a long list of people whose jobs have become more intense and necessary in this time of crisis. Their perspective on liberation will be very different. As it will be for those of us who find “free” time to be nothing more than additional hours to stress over how we will manage to pay our monthly bills. How can those of us who find ourselves with time on our hands honor and assist those of us without a moment to spare for self-care? The more thought I attend to it, the more relevant this theme of Liberation becomes for me. I welcome exploring it in concert with all of you.

In the absence of in-person RE for children, I am creating a weekly schedule of suggested activities for families to engage in together. Please reach out to me if you would like to receive these resources directly in your email. The entire collection will be stored here:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1dJHumoSOiaxobbtpw5gLAzDoDzJJTb7>

You may access any of them at your convenience.

In the works is a monthly newsletter for Adult Faith Development, as well as one for families with older children (tweens and teens). These resources should be released this first week of April, and you can find information on how to access them in the upcoming editions of the weekly e-news.

As always, my (now virtual) door is always open. Please feel free to contact me if you have a suggestion or a need in the realm of Faith Development that you’d like to see fulfilled. All thoughts are welcomed in this time of Liberation from The Way We’ve Always Done Things.

In the meantime, stay safe, be well, and remain connected.

Abundant Love,
Christiana

Letter from the Board

Hello all,

We are living in interesting times. First of all, we hope that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy. We are making efforts to check on all members, but don't hesitate to reach out to the Pastoral Care Team at 770-847-0566, if needed.

Our lives have been disrupted in unprecedented ways, and that includes our finances. Some of you may have lost jobs recently or may have had your work hours reduced. The following message is not intended for you, so please don't feel any additional burden. For those of you whose finances are secure, however, we wanted to make you aware of how physical distancing is affecting the UUCG budget.

We have now held three online services, and contributions are down significantly. In addition, Turning Sun School has closed indefinitely, and we will not be receiving that rent payment for at least a few months. We will continue to have a time for an offertory during each Sunday service, but you can give at any time. We have accounts with Venmo and with PayPal, which are linked from our website (<https://www.uucg.org/connection/donate/>). We are investigating additional platforms as well. Staff continues to check the mail, so you needn't be concerned about mailing checks. Please stay current with your pledges.

In addition, if you are able to give an additional amount, that would be tremendously helpful. As government relief checks go out in the coming weeks, you may consider (as some have) donating a portion to UUCG. Though our annual auction has been postponed, it has not been cancelled. Upon our return to normalcy, we will hold a nautically themed bash and encourage your enthusiastic support. To submit items for auction, use this link: <https://bit.ly/341l1jn>.

Thank you for your love. I know many have found great comfort in the community still being practiced through UUCG.

Sincerely,

The UUCG Board of Trustees

Rev. Jan Taddeo, Parish Minister

RevTaddeo@uucg.org

Cell: 678-558-4834

Virtual appointments scheduled at:
revtaddeo.acuityscheduling.com

Marcus Kabel president@uucg.org

Sharon Yun admin@uucg.org,

Christiana McQuain cmcquain@uucg.org

Michael Parker mparker@uucg.org

Bryan Bishop, Pianist, bbishop@uucg.org

LaTreisha McKay, lmckay@uucg.org

Building Closed

If you need assistance, please call

Pastoral Care:
770-847-0566



Stewardship

Funding Our Vision

- **Annual Pledge.** Our shared ministry is funded by the generous gifts of members and friends. Gifts of 2% or more of net income help UUCG in becoming a strong and vital faith community.
- **Birthday Club.** Give a dollar for every year you're celebrating on your birthday to grow our Endowment Fund. Write "Birthday Club" on the memo line.
- **Amazon.** UUCG receives a percentage of your purchase when you designate Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett as your Amazon SMILES recipient. You will need to log onto Amazon each time using this URL: https://smile.amazon.com/?_encoding=UTF8&tag=u030-20
Bookmark this page!



- **Kroger Rewards.** Visit www.KrogerCommunityRewards.com to register your Kroger Plus Card. You keep all your points & Kroger gives to UUCG based on your purchases. Select "My Account" to login and add UUCG (NV919).
- **UUCG Sales.** Contributions for Equal Exchange Fair trade coffee, chocolate, and Cocoa, Books, and CDs from the Tech Team all benefit the UUCG operating budget.