The SILLIUS

Virtual Sundays at UUCG

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



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

"A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality." - John Lennon

January Theme: Imagination

January 3 Question Box Service

Virtual Visit to Fourth Universalist Society, NY, NY Rev Schuyler Vogel, *Service Leader*

January 10 Sapiens: The Gift (and Curse) of Imagination

Rev. Jan Taddeo and Bob Patrick, Service Leaders

January 17 Figment of Your Imagination

Rev. Jan Taddeo, Service Leader

January 24 Imagine

Rev. Taddeo, Service Leader

January 31 Virtual Field Trip UU Church of Lexington, KY

February 7 *Staying in the Struggle*Rev. Jan Taddeo, *Service Leader*

Plate contributions are shared equally with Beyond the Ribbon



Spring Covenant Groups



Begin this month!

Click here
to Register

2nd/4th Mondays 7-9pm 1st/3rd and 2nd/4th Wed. 7-9pm 2nd/4th Thursdays 10am-12pm

CUUPS Workshop Death Café



With Death Doula
Justin Miller
January 16
PS
UCG
6:00pm8:00pm

Property Work Day Saturday, January 23 8am-12pm

Sidewalk Repair and Pruning Click for info



Imbolc Ritual

Saturday, January 30, 6-8pm With Sylvan Sanctuary



Led by Bob Patrick

Reverend Jan Taddeo on Leave

January 2021 Newsletter for UUCG

Until January 9

Please Contact Pastoral Care at 770-847-0566 if you need



support or want to reach the minister.

Board Meeting Online Wednesday, January 20 7-9pm

Online through Zoom Click here for link



Full Moon Magick

Monday, January 28 7:30pm-9:30pm



CUUPS Event Hosted by Sherree Bailey

Thursdays Virtual Happy Hour





Online Via Zoom

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 all of the following events, go to https://zoom.us/join or call 646-558-8656 and enter the Meeting ID

Choir Connection Tuesday nights from 7-8:30pm, Meeting ID: 646-248-750 email mparker@uucg.org

Full Moon Magick and Ritual January 28 7:30-9:30pm Meeting ID 933 1676 4508 Every month on the Full Moon.





Virtual Happy Hour Thursdays 6-8pm, Meeting ID: 882-436-315

Open chat room for congregants to share what is on their heart with each other.

Tarot Sundays 4-6pm Meeting ID: 978 9585 2363 with Sherree Bailey. Topics on page 6

Yarns from the Heart: 1st and 3rd Wed.: January 6 and 20 10am-12pm Meeting ID: 994 7414 0257 Knitters and crocheters gather to create prayer shawls, baby blankets and other fiber gifts for members and friends of UUCG and the wider community. yarnsfromtheheart@uucg.org



Gwinnett Understanding Secular Truths (GUST): 2nd Mondays January 11 at 7:00 pm **Meeting ID: 311-901-332** GUST presents 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





Women's Spirituality Group: 2nd Fridays, January 8 7-10pm, Meeting ID: 894-489-117 Please join us for ritual and deep sharing. Together we create sacred space to go deeper into the feminine. Led by Sharon Yun and Sherree Bailey. Please email womensgroup@uucg.org.

Belief Exploration: 2nd Sundays January 10 12:30pm-1:30pm, Meeting ID: 896-987-304 We explore the sources of world faith traditions. 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. Speak to Carol Richardson or email beliefexplorers@uucg.org for info.





Spiral Scouts: 2nd Sundays, January 10 12:30pm-2:00pm

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.

Book Club: 4th Wednesdays January 27 7-9pm. Meeting ID: 144-736-833

More info about the current book selection is on https://www.uucg.org/learning/adult-programs/book-group/



Imbolc Ritual with Sylvan Sanctuary Saturday, January 30 from 6-8pm, More info on the Sylvan Sanctuary, DOTR Facebook Page

Vision Journal Session Last Wednesdays 7:30-9pm January 27 Meeting ID: 92604838439 Join Candice Bizzell as she leads participants through a meditation and visioning exercise. Then, express your vision through your preferred art mediums. Each month will focus on a different theme. https://zoom.us/j/92604838439





CUUPS will be hosting a Death Cafe January 16 from 6-8pm

Justin Miller, a certified Death Doula, will facilitate a conversation about death. More information on pg. 5

Fostering Spiritual Growth...

January Theme: Imagination



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

Click Here for Virtual Intention Table Activities

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.

January 3 Question Box Service Virtual Visit to Fourth Universalist Society, NY, NY

Rev. Vogel and Ember Kelley (DRE) will answer some of the questions submitted by congregants sent in advance to revschuyler@4thu.org.

January 10 Sapiens: The Gift (and Curse) of Imagination

According to author Yumal Noah Hurari, humans may be unique among species in our level of imagination. How might we use this power wisely and well to create a more compassionate and connected community within our walls and beyond?

Rev. Taddeo and Bob Patrick, Service Leaders

January 17 Figment of Your Imagination

In 1983, Disney introduced the character Figment at Epcot Center. Figment imagines many roles and identities from cowboy to skunk to astronaut. This character celebrates the spark of imagination that can lead to unlimited possibilities.

Rev. Taddeo, Service Leader

January 24 Imagine

John Lennon's song Imaginel echoes through the ages, inspiring many into action and activism. What's the message at the heart of this classic song?

Rev. Taddeo, Service Leader

January 31 Virtual Field Trip to Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington, KY

uuma.zoom.us/j/618715284 uucl.org

Find more information here: http://uucl.org/worship/upcoming-services/

February 7 Staying in the Struggle

In this service we'll explore ideas related to this quote from Victoria Safford: The goal [of Beloved Community] is reconciliation, not to destroy your opponent, nor cast them out, but to stay in the struggle till love wins. Rev. Taddeo, Service Leader

Recordings of Services on YouTube

Rev. Jan Taddeo has posted inspirational messages on our UUCG YouTube Channel. Also, our worship services have been recorded and are viewable on YouTube. Please visit bit.ly/UUCGYouTube to view our offerings and connect with us as you are able.



Sunday Morning Faith Development Programs

To access Faith Development Programs on Zoom, go to https://zoom.us/join or dial 646-558-8656. For Adult FD enter Meeting ID: 145-984-149. Please register for Elementary ID

Christiana McQuain has created a robust resource of Faith Development materials for at home study to supplement our Sunday morning programs.

For Adult Faith Development Beyond Sunday Morning, click here.

Adult Faith Development



January 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 at 10:00am:

Every Sunday morning at 10:00am during the month of January there will be a Faith Development session during which we will explore the theme of Imagination. These will begin on Sunday, January 3rd with an Invitation into Imagination, facilitated by Christiana McQuain. Please check the weekly e-news throughout the month for details on each week's specific programming.

Children's Religious Exploration

UU LEGO® Sources

A LEGO®-centered & experiential program exploring the Sources of the living tradition of Unitarian Universalism. 1st, 3rd, & 4th Sundays during January and February, 2021

Sunday, January 3 at 12:30pm: UU LEGO® Sources Sunday, January 10: Religious Exploration at Home

No online session, resources provided

Sunday, January 17 at 12:30pm: UU LEGO® Sources Sunday, January 24 at 12:30pm: UU LEGO® Sources Sunday, January 31 at 12:30pm: UU LEGO® Sources



Family Faith Development Resources: During this unique period of social

distancing and virtual programming, the UUCG Faith Development Team is committed to providing parents and caregivers resources to support you in navigating your faith journey from home. Please use this link for more information: https://www.uucg.org/family-faith-development-resources/

Come be Curious, Courageous, and Compassionate with us!

Please register all ages for Faith Development by going to this link: https://bit.ly/uucgregister. If registering for Elementary RE, the Zoom info will be sent to you after you register. You may also use this link to register as a volunteer.

Gadding About by Reverend Jan

I write this in the last days of 2020, a year for which our country, and many around the world, experienced tremendous violence, grief, fear, isolation, natural disasters, and losses of all kinds. And, babies were born, gardens were harvested, birds sang, the sun rose and set each day in beauty and splendor. We witnessed people being kind, helpful, and making tremendous sacrifices for the good of the many. We are still experiencing the aftermath of a contentious and difficult election, with the last of the votes yet to be cast and counted. Will the senate race in Georgia bring another round of challenges, recounts, and court cases? Will there be a smooth transition of power on January 20? Much is unknown, as always. And, the first round of vaccines for the Novel Coronavirus-2019 are making their way to leaders, health care workers, senior living centers, and others with the greatest risk. This offers real, active hope that the pandemic will be contained sometime in 2021 and we can begin to imagine our coming together again.

Your wise Board of Trustees have determined that we need to continue to offer our worship services and programs virtually through May 2021 in order to ensure that we are most inclusive and safe in our gatherings. We may have opportunities to have one-time activities safely outside when the weather begins to warm in March. Your Board of Trustees will continue to consider this and other possibilities for small outdoor activities until we can all be together again safely inside. In addition, we continue to invite people to assist with sprucing up the grounds, and we'll have a few people inside over the next few months working on projects to get the place ready for our return next summer.



Our theme in January is Imagination. Your Shared Ministry Council continues to imagine the possibilities for our congregation to live fully into our vision as a radically welcoming sanctuary in a green space, fostering spiritual growth as we joyfully nurture connections and community within our walls and beyond. For instance, the Gwinnett Interfaith Alliance continues to meet, and is now offering monthly programs for Gwinnett County residents to gather for prayer vigils, panels discussions, and other activities. Watch your enews and our Facebook group for information about these events.

Imagine with us the possibilities for what we can do together to learn, grow, and serve. Soon we will offer another round of registrations for the Transgender Inclusion in Congregations program, and we are reviewing resources for training in antiracism and dismantling white supremacy culture and systems for us to engage with this spring. I imagine a large number of people in the congregation engaging in this work this spring in preparation for opening our doors with an expanded circle of welcome come summer.

Your Lay Ministers are available to assist you in finding ways to engage in congregational life. It takes all of us to lead, follow, attend, participate, engage, and share as we strive towards our vision. You can email sharedministry@uucg.org to ask about ways to serve and connect.

With love and gratitude...

Reverend Jan

Covenant of Universal Unitarian Pagans Events

Sherree Bailey has organized the following offerings by CUUPS this month:

Check the calendar or email cuups@uucg.org for more info and links

Tarot Sundays 4-6pm with Sherree Bailey

All things Tarot, Card Readings, and a Meditation with Daniel Bailey Bring decks, thoughts, and questions.

Join the Zoom Meeting at https://zoom.us/j/97895852363 Meeting ID: 978-9585-2363

January 3 Light of the World: The Sun & The World

January 10 Cups Ace to King

January 17 Oracle Cards

January 24 Fire Suite: Wands Ace to King

January 31 Tarot and Astrology





Death Café January 16 6-8pm Join Zoom Meeting https://zoom.us/j/400036556 Meeting ID: 400-036-556



Led by Justin Miller who has completed his training to be a Death doula. You are warmly invited to join a lively conversation about a topic that we shouldn't be so quiet about. Death Café is an international movement with an objective "to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives." There will also be a short ritual focusing on the great goddess mother Danu. Grab your favorite drink and treat and join in on the conversation from the comfort of your own home.

Vision Journal Session January 27 7:30-9pm

Join Candice Bizzell as she leads participants through a meditation and visioning exercise and create a vision board on a monthly theme. https://zoom.us/j/92604838439 Meeting ID: 926 0483 8439

Full Moon Magick and Ritual January 28 7:30-9:30pm https://zoom.us/j/93316764508 Meeting ID: 933 1676 4508

Imbolc Ritual January 30 6-8pm

Sylvan Sanctuary welcomes all who are interested to join in an Imbolc Ritual online. The Druids have a vital relationship with the Earth, celebrate the Sun and its sacred days, hear the call to the inner life, and are weaving a wisdom that is both personal and communal. Sylvan Sanctuary has been a grove for 10 years and is led by Bob Patrick, a founding

Druid. Visit Sylvan Sanctuary, DOTR on Facebook for event info.



Make A Vision Board

Property Work Day January 23

The next workday is scheduled for Saturday, Jan 23 from 8am-12pm. This will focus on replacing a portion of the sidewalk in front of the church, so we need 1) a couple of folks that can commit to most or all the time and 2) those available for general yard maintenance (weeding, trimming, etc) Register here.

We will be jack hammering existing concrete, dumping concrete, preparing bed prior to pouring and moving broken concrete. We will also be trimming and pruning shrubs and trees, removing invasive plants & weeds, and spreading gravel over the walking path.

Please bring garden gloves, a water bottle, a hat, sunscreen and, if needed, long pants and a long sleeve shirt.

Tools to bring (if available): hoe, loppers, trimmer (manual). We already have sufficient rakes. Organized by Harry Falise.



Get Out the Vote Jan. 5 Run-Offs

Please go to the polls on January 5, 2021 for a run off election for two Senate seats and a Public Service Commissioner.

On the Georgia My Voter Page you can check registration, get a voter registration and absentee ballot application, and find your election day polling place and times:

https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do. Click here for a sample ballot.

If you chose the absentee ballot option, it is too late to mail it in. You must take it to one of the

designated and secured Ballot Drop Off locations listed below. Click here for more info on absentee ballots. If you choose to vote in person, please wear a mask for the safety of you and others. You may not wear anything that promotes a candidate. You will need a picture ID such as your driver's license, state ID, or passport. Click here for examples. Get your loved ones, friends, and acquaintances to vote. Offer them support if they need help getting to the polls. You can join UU the Vote efforts by going to https://www.uuthevote.org/ If you need a ride, go to rideshare2vote.com.

DEMOCRACY ONLY WORKS WHEN EVERYONE VOTES!!!





Bogan Park Community Recreation Center

2723 North Bogan Road NE Buford, GA 30519

Dacula Park Activity Building 2735 Old Auburn Avenue, Dacula, GA 30019

Mountain Park Aquatic Center 1063 Rockbridge Road SW, Stone Mountain, GA 30087

Voter Registrations and Elections Beauty P. Baldwin Building 455 Grayson Highway, Suite 200, Lawrenceville, GA **George Pierce Park Community Rec Center**

55 Buford Highway, Suwanee, GA 30024

Lenora Park Gym

Norcross, GA 30093

4515 Lenora Church Road, Snellville, GA 30039

Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center4651 Britt Road,

Shorty Howell Park Activity Building 2750 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth, GA

All Gwinnett County Public Libraries will also serve as secured Ballot Drop Off locations.

No postage is necessary for Ballot Drop Off locations.

Give Away the Plate — Beyond the Ribbon

Beyond the Ribbon is a Gwinnett-based organization that actively supports individuals who have received a cancer diagnosis and helps cancer patients cope with their disease. Its volunteers help, educate, support, and provide resources to patients and their families. They also advocate for greater awareness in the community.

Our mission is to advocate for support and resources beyond the diagnosis of cancer, to educate, inspire hope, cultivate awareness and empower individuals throughout their journey and beyond. Please visit https://beyondtheribboninc.org/



Give Away the Plate donations in 2020. Thank you for your generosity!

1st Quarter Mosaic Georgia \$963.37 2nd Quarter Rainbow Village \$828.13

3rd Quarter El Refugio \$606.25 4th Quarter New Life Technology \$63

Recognizing Our Common Humanity.

SPIRITUAL HEALING IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC.



Feeling Kinda Blue?





Start to build bridges.

Come to our Covid-19 Unity Service on January 10 on Zoom from 3:30 – 5:00 PM

Clergy from a diverse set of faith groups will speak about the importance of recognizing our common humanity and spiritual healing in a pandemic.

Interested? Tune in via Zoom at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88539003034

The Gwinnett Interfaith Alliance is proud to sponsor this event.

Covenant Group 2021 Spring Registration

Spring 2021 Covenant Group Registration is still open! Click here to register: https://bit.ly/UUCGregistration All sessions will be on Zoom.

1st & 3rd Wednesday 7-9pm (2/10-5/19) 2nd& 4th Monday 7-9pm (1/25-5/10) 2nd& 4th Wednesday 7-9pm (1/27-5/12) 2nd & 4th Thursday 10am-12pm (1/28-5/13)

Covenant Groups Nurture Meaningful Connections

Are you seeking an additional way of being present with our Beloved Community? **Covenant Groups** may provide the opportunity you are looking for!

What are Covenant Groups? Small groups of eight to ten people who meet for two hours, twice a month for eight meetings; creating a sacred space, exploring our monthly themes, listening and talking together. Each person is given uninterrupted time to share stories and find meaning from their own experiences. Trained, experienced facilitators are a part of every group meeting.

Why should I join a Covenant Group? We create a sacred space to focus our attention away from the cares of the present, leave the past behind, and let the future wait a couple of hours. We express a form of "radical hospitality" by giving each other our full attention without interruption, judgment, or advice.

When we listen, we focus completely on the personal journeys of our "fellow travelers."

When we speak, we are empowered to be vulnerable, to open our hearts, and to share our personal story. In accordance with the Congregation and Group Covenants, our "fellow travelers" listen with anticipation and appreciation. Our personal stories are held in confidence by the group. Talking and listening together about our interests and passions helps both "new" and "old" members connect with and understand all that our Beloved Community has to offer them. The experience of speaking the truth about our personal experiences can empower us to listen to the stories of others.

Who can join? Newcomers, long-time members and everyone in between benefit from these small groups. It's a great way to build connections within our beloved community as people engage in deep and meaningful conversations based on our monthly themes.

I'm ready! How do I sign up? You can register online. Check the "Covenant Group" box and all of the sessions will appear. Scroll down to select the meeting time that works best for you.

Food Bank Donations 1st Sundays

Food Bank Donations for the Lawrenceville Food Bank are now collected monthly every First Sunday from 2-4pm at UUCG. You may talk to Peggy Averyt for more info. The January pick up is January 3 and the next one is February 7. For current needs, go to https://lawrencevilleco-op.org/donate/



New Year's Blessings from the Board

PHEWWW!!! What a year. I don't know about you, but I'm feeling a bit of whiplash. The waxing post-solstice light coincides perfectly with the coming of a new government and a new vaccine. There is promise, at last, of a brighter future. In our house, the promise is punctuated even more by the arrival of the newest UUCG baby (third since pandemic – fifth if you count 2 toddler foster adoptions). I just dropped big sister Rowan off at her house to meet little Linden Elva Harris. Life moves on.

UUCG has made it through this tumultuous year and has come out stronger than ever. We have discovered that we're still a strong community, that we've still got each other's backs, even when we're physically apart. Due to your generosity, we are starting 2021 on solid financial footing. Behind the scenes, a newly-formed outreach/public relations team is planning a campaign to attract and welcome a new wave of congregants. We're hammering down policies and procedures to make our governance and communication run more smoothly. A new Vice President, Ed Miller, has joined the board to complete the current term. We maintain these efforts in order to experience their fruits as we reunite in person later this year.

With each new year, many of us make resolutions. We challenge ourselves to improve. This year, rather than striving for better and more, how about we congratulate ourselves on the basics? This year, maybe we promise simply to examine our lives and thank the cosmos for the things that get us through. From a place of gentleness and gratitude, how about we offer more of those things to our community – both that of UUCG and of the wider world. How about we offer kindness, forgiveness, "family," and grace to those who need it a little more. Let us also learn how to ask for help, trusting that together we have everything we need. Extend yourself, softly, to a neighbor, to the grocer, to your care ring, to yourself.

Blessings for a knowing and comforting New Year.

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

Donations to UUCG are Always Gratefully Received



paypal@uucg.org
Paypal.me/UUCG

2021 UUCG Pledge Please fill out your pledge form online at bit.ly/uucgpledge





Rev. Jan Taddeo, Parish Minister

RevTaddeo@uucg.org Cell: 678-558-4834

Lorena Griffin president@uucg.org
Sharon Yun admin@uucg.org
Christiana McQuain cmcquain@uucg.org
Michael Parker mparker@uucg.org
LaTreisha McKay Imckay@uucg.org
Bryan Bishop Pianist, bbishop@uucg.org

Building Closed



If you need assistance, please call Pastoral Care g 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.KrogerCommunityRewar
 ds.com to register your Kroger
 Plus Card each year. You keep
 all your points & Kroger gives
 to UUCG based on your pur chases. 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. We deliver.