

Sundays at UUCG

10:00am Faith Development

11:00am Worship Service



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

"Change the story, Change the World"
-Terry Pratchett

May Theme: Story

May 2 *Founder's Day:* *Celebrating Our Stories*

Rev. Jan Taddeo, *Service Leader*

May 9 *Leaning on the Stories* *of the Generations*

Rev. Jan Taddeo, *Service Leader*

May 16 *Weaving the Stories* *of Our Lives*

Rev. Jan Taddeo, *Service Leaders*

Congregational Meeting

May 23 *One Sentence*

Rev. Jan Taddeo and
Christiana McQuain, *Service Leaders*

May 30 *Virtual Field Trip TBD*

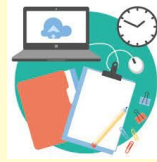
June 6 *The Power of Play*

Rev. Jan Taddeo, *Service Leader*

*Plate contributions
are shared equally with
Path Project*



Office Administrator Position Open



For more info,
please contact
Rev. Jan at
revtaddeo@uucg.org

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 16

12:15pm After the Service

Vote on New Officers



Full Moon Gathering



Wednesday, May 26
7:30pm-9:30pm

CUUPS Event
Hosted by Sherree
and Daniel Bailey

Platelet Donations Needed!



A member of our
congregation is
battling
leukemia and
needs platelet
donations

www.atlantabloodservices.com

Courageous Coffeehouse



Thursdays
6pm-8pm

Online Via Zoom

CUUPS Workshop

Saturday, May 22

6pm-8pm



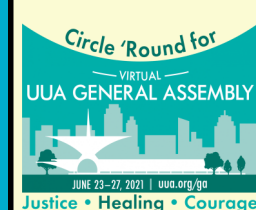
Vision Journal Workshop

Thursday, May 27 7-9pm



With Candice Currier

Call for Delegates for GA



Click here
for more
info

Email
Revtaddeo@uucg.org
if interested

Visit www.uucg.org & select "Calendar" 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 walls 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

Tarot Sundays 4-6pm Meeting ID: 978 9585 2363 with Sherree Bailey. Topics on page 8



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



Courageous Coffeehouse Thursdays 6-8pm, Meeting ID: 882-436-315

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

With Maryjane Stout and Bill Benshoof.

Yarns from the Heart: 1st and 3rd Wed.: May 5 and 19 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



Women's Spirituality Group is not meeting in May, resumes June 11 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 Candice Currier. Please email womensgroup@uucg.org.

Belief Exploration: 2nd Sundays May 9 12:30-1:30pm, 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, May 9 12:30pm-2:00pm

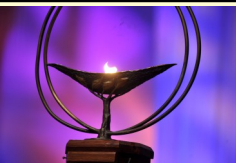
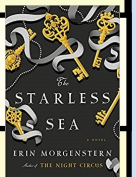
For children ages 3-12 and their families, this earth-based scout program encourages young people to co-create their programs. Contact spiralscoutsleaders@uucg.org for more info.

Gwinnett Understanding Secular Truths (GUST): 2nd Mondays May 10 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.

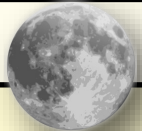


Book Club: 4th Wednesdays May 26 7-9pm. Meeting ID: 144-736-833 More info about the current book selection is at <https://www.uucg.org/learning/adult-programs/book-group/>



Starting Point: Every other Sunday 2-3pm

A Small Group Ministry Program to explore the UU path. For newcomers and long term members alike. The series includes four one-hour sessions every other Sunday. Future session to be determined, please email membership@uucg.org to express your interest.



Full Moon Magick and Ritual May 26 7:30-9:30pm Meeting ID 933 1676 4508

Vision Journal Session Thursday, May 27 7:30-9pm

Meeting ID: 92604838439 Join Candice Currier 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.



Summer Solstice Ritual with Sylvan Sanctuary Saturday, June 19 from 6-8pm

More info on the Sylvan Sanctuary, DOTR Facebook Page



Fostering Spiritual Growth...

May Theme: *Story*

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

[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.

May 2 *Founder's Day Service: Celebrating Our Stories*

Join us as we celebrate the ongoing story of our congregation,
as we prepare to write the next chapter together.

Rev. Taddeo, *Service Leader*

May 9 *Leaning on the Stories of the Generations*

What are the stories handed down through the generations that inspire and guide us on our own life journey and help us to become the people we are, and the people we hope to become?

Rev. Jan Taddeo, *Service Leader*

May 16 *Weaving the Stories of Our Lives*

One of my favorite songs is *Tapestry* by Carole King. I've often imagined our spiritual lives as a tapestry woven from the stories of our search for truth and meaning.

What are the warp and weft threads of your spiritual tapestry?

New Member Signing during the service.

Rev. Jan Taddeo, *Service Leader*

Congregational Meeting following the service.

May 23 *One Sentence*

This service will draw from the work of Daniel Pink to write one sentence we can live into.
She made people laugh. They listened well. He relieved the suffering of others.

What's your one sentence?

We will have a Bridging Ceremony for our youth.

Rev. Taddeo and Christiana McQuain, *Service Leaders*

May 30 *Virtual Field Trip TBD*

Check our calendar for more information closer to this date.

July 6 *The Power of Play*

Sometimes people can brush off "play" as a waste of time or a frivolous activity. We'll explore the ways in which play and playfulness are essential ingredients for nurturing curiosity, courage, and compassion.

Rev. Taddeo, *Service Leader*

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.

Gadding About by Reverend Jan

Our May theme is Story in which we are invited to explore the question: What does it mean to be a people of story? This month we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the founding of the UU Congregation of Gwinnett, a story that is filled with many stories. Each person who took part in founding this congregation has a story of how they came to be part of this grand, and challenging, adventure. Since our founding, there have been countless stories of inspiration, transformation, tragedy, loss, discovery, friendships, heartbreaks, service to the wider community, and many stories that may never be told, or never fully told - or understood. Such it is with a community of faith - a community of seekers, wonderers, wanderers, and dreamers.

And so it is also with our individual stories, woven together to create the fabric of our lives. I admit that I am most intrigued by the ways in which our stories can change over time. Something that happened in our childhood may morph over time from something that was a great challenge or even traumatic to the story of something that inspired great action or service as we grew and matured.

Our stories are also interconnected with the stories of others in our lives ... and sometimes with people we've never met. Stories from our service to the wider community may touch lives we never know. Stories from our work lives may overlap with the stories of people served by that work. And, sometimes, our stories may include stories of harm caused to others, unintentionally or intentionally, and the hard learning that comes from such encounters. We have to have faith that we do more good than harm, and that the scale tips more and more to the good as we learn and grow in our understanding of how to be more fully human, and humane.

Sometimes we trap people in a story. I remember one of my brothers telling us (his siblings) that after he left home as a young adult, it seemed he was not allowed to "grow up" in the eyes of his siblings ... that we would always remember him for the not-so-great qualities he displayed as a young man that had mellowed and evolved as he aged. Some stories can keep us trapped in cycles of victimhood and self-loathing, or they can inspire us to establish healthy boundaries and discover all that there is to love about ourselves. What story are you creating? What story are you living into? What story would you like to be remembered by?

The story of our congregation is a never-ending-story (I hope!) and one that we are each and all writing together, every day. In the words of one of my favorite songs (Woyaya) "We are going, Heaven knows where we are going, but we know within. And we will get there" ... together. Though the road is sometimes "muddy and rough" I believe ours is a story of becoming stronger, wiser, and more deeply engaged, connected, and making a difference in the world with each turn of the calendar.

With a grateful heart...
Reverend Jan



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

May 2, 9, 16, 23 at 10:00am:



Every Sunday morning at 10:00am during the month of May there will be a Faith Development session during which we will explore the theme of Story. These will begin on Sunday, May 2nd with *An Invitation into Story*.

Please check the weekly e-news throughout the month for details on each week's specific programming. In addition, we offer curated resources online for you to engage with our monthly themes in your daily life, beyond Sunday mornings. These include readings, music, spiritual practices, poetry, and opportunities to put you UU faith in action.

You can find these resources here: <https://bit.ly/UUCGFaithDevelopment>

Children's Religious Exploration

CartUUns

Elementary-Aged Children are invited to explore our Unitarian Universalist values through discussing themes of the animated short films of Pixar and Disney. Each session is 45 minutes.

Please *register here*.

Sunday, May 2 at 12:30pm: *CartUUns Program*

Sunday, May 9: *Religious Exploration at Home*

No online session, resources provided

Sunday, May 16 at 12:30pm: *CartUUns Program*

Sunday, May 23 at 12:30pm: *CartUUns Program*



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 visit this webpage and navigate to the pages for Themes or

Resources for Families: <https://sites.google.com/view/uucgfaithdevelopment/>

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.

Covenant of Universal Unitarian Pagans

CUUPS is offering the following events this month:

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

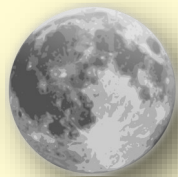


Tarot Sundays 4-6pm with Sherree Bailey

All things Tarot, Card Readings, and a Meditation with

Daniel Bailey. Bring decks, thoughts, and questions. Meeting ID: 978-9585-2363

Join the Zoom Meeting at <https://zoom.us/j/97895852363>



Full Moon Magick and Ritual May 26 7:30-9:30pm

<https://zoom.us/j/93316764508> Meeting ID: 933 1676 4508



Vision Journal Session May 27 7:00-9pm

Join Candice Currier 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



Sylvan Sanctuary Summer Solstice Ritual June 19 6-8pm

Sylvan Sanctuary welcomes all who are interested to join a Summer Solstice Ritual at 6pm. Click here for more info. 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.



UUA General Assembly June 23-27



Join us for Virtual General Assembly 2021!

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend.

General Assembly 2021 will be a fully virtual event due to the continuing pandemic and the uncertainty of vaccine distribution. This means anyone with internet access can attend! We will gather on June 23-27, 2021.

Circle 'Round for Justice • Healing • Courage is the theme for General Assembly 2021. GA is a time to circle 'round in community. We circle 'round in care and healing; for liberation and justice; and for love and courage. We study ways to implement and live into our mission. UUA GA 2021 will incorporate recommendations from the Commission on Institution Change report, "Widening the Circle of Concern" and dialogue with the Article II Commission about our Principles and Purposes.

Registration is open for General Assembly and the registration fee is \$200 per person. Financial Aid is available, see the [registration webpage](#) for details. You do not need to be a delegate to attend. Only delegates can vote in general sessions. UUCG can send 3 delegates. Email Rev Jan at revtaddeo@uucg.org if interested in being a delegate.

Serving as a Delegate:

Familiarize yourself with the business items on the GA [Agenda](#). Discuss agenda items with your congregation. Learn how to effectively speak in General Session by reviewing the [General Session Participation Guide](#). Learn about [candidates for election](#). [Delegate frequently asked questions](#).

Give Away the Plate Nominations Needed

Who can nominate a charitable organization for GATP?

UUCG members, youth, the minister, and staff may nominate an organization. Nominations can be made by [email](mailto:GiveAwaythePlate@uucg.org) to GiveAwaythePlate@uucg.org

Who approves charities for GATP?

The Give Away the Plate Committee prioritizes nominations and approves recipients based on confirmation of eligibility requirements, selection criteria, and all available information. The team also seeks to ensure that a diverse range of charitable missions are supported by UUCG.

What are the requirements for an eligible entity?

- The organization is recognized as a nonprofit charitable organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and said status is verified. Individuals, trade associations and lobbying organizations are not eligible.
- The organization's work aligns with the Unitarian Universalist Principles and Purposes.
- A non-UU entity is eligible to be a GATP recipient 12 months after its last award.

Desired characteristics of potential recipients:

- The organization has a history of significant achievements and shows signs of future success.
- The organization has volunteer or engagement opportunities for UUCG members and friends.
- The organization has local impact.
- UUCG member(s) are or have been actively involved on a regular basis.

If you are inspired by or involved with an organization who serves our local area and whose work aligns with UU principles and purposes, please let us know! We are actively seeking worthy charitable organizations that can be truly impacted by the generosity of our members. Ideal candidates will also have the potential to actively involve UUCG members in their work. Nomination forms are located on the fundraising bulletin board in the hallway. You can email your nominations or questions to giveawaytheplate@uucg.org and a member of the Give Away the Plate committee will contact you. Share your gratitude for the good work of others with us as we expand our compassion into our community!

Current GATP Recipient — Path Project

Path Project operates community centers inside mobile home parks where children experience the love of Christ through education and positive relationships. At our community centers we offer programs that are designed using research-based best practices and are led by certified teachers and youth development specialists who serve alongside incredible volunteers. Through partnerships with park owners, schools, businesses, churches, parents and other non-profits we're able to offer on-site programs.

Jim and Melinda Hollandsworth started this program after learning from the school system what a terrible graduation rate the mobile home population in Gwinnett County had, in some places only 20%. Their main goal is to offer mentoring and after school tutoring. They have provided every family in these mobile home parks with at least one laptop computer and a wifi system so that the students could do their on-line classes during the pandemic. They offer English classes for the adults who want to become more proficient in it. They have created soccer leagues for the youth to participate in, and provide coaching and transportation to the games. Find out more at <https://www.pathproject.org>.



Prayer



Attitude



Teamwork



Humility

Introducing Michael Simons, Facilities Caretaker



Please welcome to our staff team Michael Simons, as our new, and first, Facilities Caretaker. Michael brings a wealth of experience in building and lawn maintenance. He served the Miami-Dade Public Schools as a Commercial Maintenance Technician for 26 years, with responsibility for the interior and exterior property of the schools where he served. He has a certification in commercial air-conditioning, and currently works as a coordinator for a commercial duct cleaning company in Norcross.

He lives in Loganville with his wife and 4-year old son.

Michael's primary responsibilities include cleaning our building on weekends and moving the furniture to accommodate our programs on weekends, and the Turning Sun programs during the week. He is also responsible for the basic care of our

property: lawn maintenance, trimming bushes and trees, and generally assuring the property looks welcoming. You may see him assisting on property work days and assisting with congregational events. He'll be doing general maintenance in the building to ensure our lights are on, the water is running only when it should be, equipment inspections and maintenance happen on schedule, our road sign is updated, and our indoor and outdoor spaces are generally safe and welcoming.

First Sundays Food Donation

The monthly Food Drive takes place on Sunday, May 2 and June 6, from 2-4 at UUCG. All donated food will be delivered to the Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry. Most needed food items are canned pasta, pasta sauce, jelly and canned vegetables. Most needed toiletries are shampoo, deodorant and baby wipes. Many thanks to Diane Smithson, this month's volunteer. For current needs,

please visit <https://lawrencevilleco-op.org/donate/>



First Saturdays Property Work Days

Harry Falise is organizing monthly property work days on the first Saturday of the month from 8-11am. Please email him for more information. Many thanks for the many volunteers who have spent their Saturday mornings working hard to beautify our property so it can be even more welcoming and inviting.

Corley Teacher Appreciation

The UUCG Social Justice fund contributed to a very special offering for the teachers at Corley Elementary. Here is a picture of Katrina Yurko and Rev. Jan showing our appreciation with a handwritten note and a cart full of snacks.



SUSSI July 17-24

The Southeast Unitarian Universalist Institute is meeting this year online July 17-24. Registration will open May 15. Please visit <https://www.suusi.org> to find out more. There is programming for all ages. Concerts and worship services are open to everyone registered, but workshops, sports, and nature events need to be signed up for in advance - the sooner, the better. Some have materials that need to be mailed out and many will fill up quickly. The requested donation for the week is \$30/individual and \$50/family, but a donation can be made in any amount depending on your circumstances. You can choose to only attend what



interests you and what your schedule allows. Please consider making use of this unique accessibility and find out what has made SUSSI such a special place for Rev. Jan and many of our members throughout the years.

Letter from the Board

Things are cranking up with the UUCG Board. This month's meeting will be full of good things. We'll hear from the Reconvening Task Force and look forward to coming together in person, as soon as possible. We'll be presented with board nominations for the 2021-22 fiscal year. (There's still time to join. Contact Joe Bentley at cyrus30047@aol.com if interested.) We'll be talking about a new student from Candler School of Theology at Emory, who will be joining us this fall. There's even a rumor about a future congregational retreat at The Mountain (still in the planning stages).

Our new Facilities Caretaker, Michael Simons, started this month. He has lots of experience from the Dade County, Florida School System. If you see him pruning or cleaning or smiling, say "hello" to Michael.

We're looking for a host of sprucer-uppers before we open our doors. There's still work to be done in the bathrooms, a tad of painting in the kitchen, lots of weeding, and other opportunities. Wondering how you can lend a hand?

Contact lorenagaygriffin@gmail.com. Many of these jobs can be done on your own time table. And, as always, Harry Falise leads a group work project on the first Saturday morning of each month.

Enjoy the sunshine!

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

You can cast your ballot now as an absentee ballot or wait until the Congregational Meeting May 16 after Sunday Service. The form is the same: [UUCG May 2021 Ballot](#).

Here is your slate of candidates:

President: Lorena Griffin **Vice-President:** Ed Miller

Secretary: Maryjane Stout **Treasurer-Elect:** Gary Kiel

Member At-Large: Erika Shell-Castro **Member At-Large:** Lydia Patrick

Donations to UUCG are Always Gratefully Received



paypal@uucg.org

[Paypal.me/UUCG](https://paypal.me/UUCG)

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



@UUCG-Gwinnett

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 lmckay@uucg.org

Bryan Bishop Pianist, bbishop@uucg.org

Building Closed



**If you need support,
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 each year. 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; and books, and CDs from the Tech Team all benefit the UUCG operating budget. We will deliver your items to you.