





GNUUs


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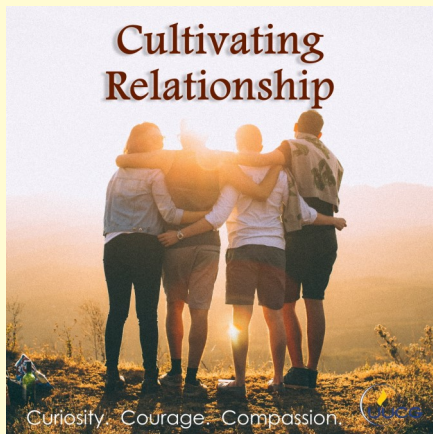
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Cultivating Relationship



"When we are engaged in acts of love, we humans are at our best and most resilient. The love in romance that makes us want to be better people, the love of children that makes us change our whole lives to meet their needs, the love of family that makes us drop everything to take care of them, the love of community that makes us work tirelessly with broken hearts... If love were the central practice of a new generation of organizers and spiritual leaders, it would have a massive impact... If the goal was to increase the

love, rather than winning or dominating a constant opponent, I think we could actually imagine liberation from constant oppression. We would suddenly be seeing everything we do, everyone we meet, not through the tactical eyes of war, but through eyes of love. We would see that there's no such thing as a blank canvas, an empty land or a new idea — but everywhere there is complex, ancient, fertile ground full of potential... We would understand that the strength of our movement is in the strength of our relationships, which could only be measured by their depth." ~ Adrienne Maree Brown



Events This Month

Oct 3.....Canned Food Drive*

Oct 6....Yarns from the Heart+

Oct 7....Gwinnett Interfaith

Alliance+

Oct 10.....Spiral Scouts+

Oct 10.....Belief Exploration+

Oct 20..Yarns from the Heart+

Oct 20.....Full Moon Magick+

Oct 27.....Vision Journal

Workshop+

Oct 30....Magical Arts and

Crafts+

Oct 30...CUUPs Silent Supper+

Tuesdays.....Covenant Choir+

Sundays.....Tarot Sunday+

*onsite

+online (This month, all UUCG events will take place online unless otherwise noted)

For details visit uucg.org

Did you Gnow?

- Blue gnus migrate while black gnus do not.
- Blue gnus migrate a distance of between 500 to 1000 miles every year.





Worship in October

Theme: *Cultivating Relationship*

October 3: On Zoom

Moving at the Speed of Trust

Cultivating connections, friendships, and relationships is an art form that requires many skills, including patience and deep listening.

Rev. Jan Taddeo (she/her), Service Leader

October 10: On Zoom

Falling into Grace

A service for cultivating a relationship with unconditional love and compassionate presence.

Daniel Bailey (he/him), Service Leader

October 17: On Zoom

Cultivating Relationship with the Earth

What can the wisdom of the forests teach us about making healthier communities and deeper relationships in our own little corner of the world?

David Morgen (he/him), Service Leader

October 24: On Zoom

Cultivating Connections in Community

When I ask newcomers what motivated them to seek a new faith community, most of the time the answer is about making connections with people. This service explores how we find meaningful connections in congregational life.

Rev. Jan Taddeo (she/her), Service Leader

October 31: On Zoom

Cultivating Our Relationship with Death: A Service of Remembrance

In this annual service dedicated to remembering our beloveds who have died, we'll explore our cultural relationship with death and dying. If someone or several someones in your life died in the past year, please send those names to Rev. Taddeo at revtaddeo@uucg.org so she can have a ribbon prepared in advance to attach to our memorial wreath.

Rev. Jan Taddeo (she/her), Service Leader

Faith Development

Every Sunday morning at 10:00am during the month of October there will be a Faith Development session during which we will explore the theme of Cultivating Relationship.

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 your UU faith in action. You can find these resources [here](#)





Gadding About *by Reverend Jan Taddeo*



Our October theme is Cultivating Relationship, a topic dear to my heart as I, like many other people, continue to learn how to cultivate rewarding and healthy

relationships with family, friends, and neighbors. I continue to learn how to be in a better relationship with myself, learning forgiveness, gentleness, and compassion for myself so I can offer these qualities more freely to others. I continue to explore and cultivate my relationship with the holy, which is a tall order for, as Peter Mayer captured so well in song, I see that “everything is holy now.”

I also continue to cultivate my relationship with this not-so-easy faith called Unitarian Universalism. We have a complex history, steeped in colonization, various types of privilege, and gradually evolving over time to draw the circle of Unitarian Universalism wider. There are many ways a large institution can choose to do the work of cultivating relationship and reconciliation with those who for too long have been dismissed, discouraged, and dismayed by our failures to overcome many of the cultural aspects of our long and complex history. Having allowed the Unitarian Universalists of traditionally marginalized identities to take a leadership role in this effort gives me confidence that we are on a track that will bring us closer to creating a model of the Beloved Community within Unitarian Universalism.

Unitarian Universalism is a covenantal faith. Sacred promises hold us together, not just within a congregation, but between congregations. The language we have come to call our “seven principles” are not beliefs, but rather covenants - promises - for how our congregations are with one another, and how individuals can be in

community. Yet, these seven principles have seen little change since they were adopted in 1985. This is likely to change soon.

Per the bylaws of the UUA, an Article II Study Commission was appointed in 2019 to review the entirety of the 2nd Article in the UUA Bylaws. The charge to the Study Commission includes consideration of the many requests for changes to the guiding principles of our covenant of congregations that have been put forward over the years. You can learn more about all of this at the UUA website, and I encourage you to become educated on what is happening in our larger faith. You can find lots of information [here](#).

Since I start my Sabbatical on November 1st, I will miss sharing with you the recommendations from the Article II Study Commission that will be presented to the UUA Board of Directors in January; our UUCG Board of Trustees will share their report with you when it becomes available. It will then be on the agenda for the 2022 General Assembly, and, if it passes, it will go through another year of discussion before being formally adopted in 2023.

I will return in March rested and renewed. You will be in very good hands while I’m away, and I’m already curious about what will be different and what will be the same when I return. I know I will be a little different for having the time to read, write, and learn more about the art of ministry; and, I expect you all to continue to grow, create, learn, and give towards realizing our bold vision of radical welcome, green space, spiritual growth, and connecting within and beyond our congregation. Please take very good care of each other while I’m away... you are each so precious and I love you dearly.

In our shared faith...

Reverend Jan

Navigating the Calendar

For now, our building remains closed for events. In anticipation of our eventual reopening all events added to the online calendar are being tagged with either 'online' or 'onsite' to make it easier to find an in person event or an online event, as you prefer.

On the calendar, found [here](#) on our website, there are two drop down menus just above the days of the week. One of them is 'event tags'. If you click it, a menu will drop down with lots of tags for various events including 'online' and 'onsite'.

Clicking on one of these will show a calendar view with only the events with the tag you chose.

At the bottom of the weekly news each event has either a * or + next to it.

* indicates the event is onsite

+ indicates the event is online

If an event has both symbols, it is offered with both an onsite and an online option.

Take a moment to familiarize yourself with these systems so that when we are able to reconvene, you will know how to look for the type of event you want.

From the Board

This month, UUCG will partner with Gwinnett County Public Library and the Human Library organization to bring a Human Library event to Gwinnett. This is a project I've wanted to organize for many years.

As a retired public librarian, I first heard of it in professional library literature. The program comes from Denmark, where so many progressive ideas originate. Throughout the 20+ years I spent as a public librarian, I was routinely surprised by the commonalities between Unitarian Universalism and the public library world. At library conventions, I've participated in workshops on race, gender fluidity, welcoming and serving ALL of the public. From the Public Library Association website "PLA advocates for equity, diversity, inclusion and social justice in order to enable every member, library, and community group to fully and equally participate in a society mutually shaped to meet their needs." Could have been written by a Unitarian, yes?

What a pleasure it has been to work in a field that aligned with my principles. Every day of work was a day of service. Does your work (whether for pay or not) align with who you are? Or, at the very least,

does it not conflict with who you are? Those who teach, who parent, who serve can very easily answer yes to these questions. What about the rest of you?

In most endeavors, there are countless ways to promote your values every day. Showing kindnesses, advocating for the one who's left out, looking beneath what is said to discover what is meant and making that plain. Last Sunday morning, Bob Patrick quoted Mohammed Ali: "Impossible is just a big word thrown around by small men who find it easier to live in the world they have been given than to explore the power they have to change it."

Each Sunday, we close the service with these words: "We extinguish this flame, but not the light of truth, the warmth of community or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until we are together again." Bring the light of Unitarian Universalism with you and watch for the power of possibility.

—Lorena Griffin (she/her), for the UUCG Board of Trustees

GNUUS Deadlines

If you would like an article or event featured in the GNUUS, please send it to admin@uucg.org before the 20th of the month before the one you'd like it published in (e.g. if you'd like something published in September, send it before August 20th). If it is not sent by the 20th, it will not be in the upcoming GNUUS. Thank you.

Please also send photos of events that happen to admin@uucg.org. Just be sure to get the permission of the photographer and the subjects if there are any people in them. We'd love to use them in the GNUUS and other media going forward.

U - U - C - G, It's the Place You Wanna Be!

This is the message that UUCG's Communications Team works hard to spread, both within our congregation and beyond our walls.

People on this team are tweeting, instagramming, and Facebook posting continuously about all the events going on inside our walls and beyond our walls.

Press releases about our major events are being sent to various forms of public media (newspapers, public radio, etc.). We want everyone to know about the great

things we are doing! We hope this information will help the wider community see what our values are, and how we live those values, and will entice them to come join us. We also have a beautiful new brochure (designed by Lorena Griffin) that we can share with others at public events we participate in, such as the Atlanta Pride Parade. Let's get the word out!

We encourage you to let the Communications Team know about any new event that your group, committee, or team has coming up so that we can get the news out about it. There is a "Publicity/Event Scheduling Form" that you can use to tell us about your event. You can access this form directly [here](#), find it on our website [here](#), or contact Aline or Christiana.

Please take photos of your events and share them with the Communications Team afterward! If we have the permission of all people who appear in your photos, we will share those on all our publicity platforms.

Members of the Communication Team are: Lorena Griffin, Peggy Averyt, Christiana McQuain, Maryjane Stout, Kelsey Rice, Elle Schneider, Kevin Schneider, and Aline Harris. If you would like to join our team, or have questions for us, you can contact us by email at communications@uucg.org

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Human Library

Unjudge someone. That is the slogan for an innovative diversity program called the "Human Library."

On **Saturday, October 9**, from 6:00-8:30 pm, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett will partner with Gwinnett County Public Libraries and the Human Library organization to offer an opportunity for interviews with living "books," who come from unique life experiences.

Due to the current Covid climate, the event will take place online via Zoom.

Human Library "books" are people who have agreed to make themselves available for discussion about stigmatized experiences. Some of the books featured include such titles as "Living with Bipolar Disorder," "Fathering a Child as a Gay Man," "Being Muslim in a Predominantly Christian County," and "Living with Vision Loss." The Human Library project puts a face on the headlines, allowing participants to begin to understand the experience of those who've been identified as "other." All human "books" go through training to ensure a safe space is maintained. The program allows people who may otherwise never talk to one another to engage in conversation.

The evening will begin with a talk by Gwinnett County School Board member Dr. Johnson on "The Changing Face of Gwinnett County." Please join us by registering [here](#).

Lost-n-Found Youth

GATP recipient

4th quarter 2021

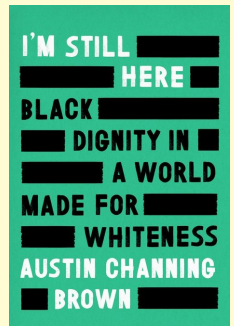
During the October-thru-December quarter, Lost-n-Found Youth will receive one half of all Sunday morning plate donations. This remarkable nonprofit organization seeks to alleviate homelessness for LGBTQ youth in the Atlanta area. A wide range of services is provided to homeless youngsters, such as temporary housing, food, clothing, case management, counseling, life skills training, job-readiness training, linkages to healthcare and mental healthcare, and recreational opportunities.





Book Group October Selection: *I'm Still Here* by Austin Channing Brown

"Austin Channing Brown's first encounter with a racialized America came at age seven, when she discovered her parents named her Austin to deceive future employers into thinking she was a white man. Growing up in majority-white schools and churches, Austin writes, "I had to learn what it means to love blackness," a journey that led to a lifetime spent navigating America's racial divide as a writer, speaker, and expert helping organizations practice genuine inclusion.



In a time when nearly every institution (schools, churches, universities, businesses) claims to value diversity in its mission statement, Austin writes in breathtaking detail about her journey to self-worth and the pitfalls that kill our attempts at racial justice. Her stories bear witness to the complexity of America's social fabric—from Black Cleveland neighborhoods to private schools in the middle-class suburbs, from prison walls to the boardrooms at majority-white organizations.

For readers who have engaged with America's legacy on race through the writing of Ta-Nehisi Coates and Michael Eric Dyson, *I'm Still Here* is an illuminating look at how white, middle-class, Evangelicalism has participated in an era of rising racial hostility, inviting the reader to confront apathy, recognize God's ongoing work in the world, and discover how blackness—if we let it—can save us all."

Wednesday, September 22nd 7pm-9pm

Zoom Link <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/144736833>

All who have read the book are welcome.



Lay Ministry: Green Space

Minister for Green Space

COMING SOON! Scheduled to start in November – The UU Ministry for Earth Curriculum: Our Place in the Web of Life. This 5-session curriculum is designed to support Unitarian Universalist congregational teams in learning how to use an environmental justice framework in their efforts, grounded in racial and economic justice. Through film, music, participatory research, visual mapping, ethical reflection, meditation, and ritual, students will engage with where their congregation is located in the web, as well as who is "upstream" and "downstream" from them—the consequences of your actions on other people and ecosystems—and what it really takes to embrace inter-connectedness. Keep an eye on our upcoming announcements for information on how to register.

-Terry Welsher



Keyhole Garden

FALL IS HERE AND THE KEYHOLE GARDEN IS READY.

Karen Smith has emptied the compost column in the front of the garden, so it is ready to receive compost donations. She has also lined the open hole with some wire fencing so it should be stable and open for some time to come and spread the decomposed compost in the garden bed so it is ready for fall planting: garlic, brassicas, spinach. etc.

Thank you, Karen!

Nurturing Connections



Food Bank Dropoff October 3 **2pm-4pm**
Front Porch at UUCG



Tarot Sundays every Sunday at **5pm**
Zoom Meeting ID: 978-958-52363



Covenant Choir Gathering every Tuesday at **7pm**
Zoom Meeting ID: 978-958-52363



Yarns From the Heart October 6 **10am**
Zoom Meeting ID: 994-7414-0257



Gwinnett Interfaith Alliance October 7 **7:30pm**
Zoom Meeting ID: 814-598-64698



Spiral Scouts October 10 **12:30pm**
For children ages 3-12 and their families. Preregistration is required



Belief Explorers October 10 **12:30pm**
Zoom Meeting ID: 896-987-304



Yarns From the Heart October 20 **10am**
Zoom Meeting ID: 994-7414-0257



Full Moon Magick October 20 **7:30pm**
Zoom Meeting ID: 933-1676-4508



Vision Journaling Workshop October 27 **7pm**
Zoom Meeting ID: 998-7138-6950 Preregistration is required



Book Group October 27 **7pm**
Zoom Meeting ID: 144-736-833



Magical Arts and Crafts October 30 **3pm**
Zoom






















CUUPs Silent Supper October 30 **4pm**
Zoom

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

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

October 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
					1	2
3  	4	5	6 	7 	8	9
10   	11	12 	13	14	15	16
17 	18	19 	20  	21	22	23
24 	25	26 	27  	28	29	30  
31 