



# GNUUs

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## The Gift of Spirituality and Secularism

Often we may think of these two as independent of one another, or even polar opposites. We may

see these as two ends of a spectrum. But what if they are not?

We may not all have faith in a divine being, but we all have faith in something. As Unitarian Universalists we share core values rather than common beliefs regarding the divine. UUism is a religious movement, based on those values and ideals that we collectively hold dear.

At the intersection of spirituality and secularism is reverence.

Join us in our programs and Worship services throughout the summer as we explore what it is that we, as Unitarian Universalists, hold sacred.

## Events This Month

July 1.....Property Work Day\*  
 July 2...Food Bank Donations\*  
 July 5....Yarns from the Heart+  
 July 8.....Sewing with Sherree\*  
 July 9.....Spiral Scouts+  
 July 9.....Belief Exploration+  
 July 15...Green Team Meeting+  
 July 19...Yarns from the Heart+  
 July 19.....Board Meeting+  
 July 20.....CUUPs+  
 July 26.....Book Group+  
 July 20.....CUUPs+

Tuesdays.....Choir Rehearsal\*  
 Sundays.....Tarot Sunday+  
 Sundays...Mindfulness and  
 Meditation+\*

\*in person

+via Zoom

For details visit [uucg.org](http://uucg.org)

## Did you Gnow?

- Octopuses have 3 hearts. One for each of their two gills, and one for the rest of their body.





## Worship in July Sundays at 11:00am

Theme: *The Gift of Spirituality  
and Secularism*

Join us via Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/565460176>

### July 2

#### ***We Are America***

Whether we are spiritual, mystic, humanist, secular, druid, devoted, caring, or carefree we share this space on this planet in this universe. How are we doing with that?

Join us in person and via Zoom

*Lydia Patrick (she/her), Service Leader*

### July 9

#### ***Did You Bring Your Life Jacket?***

We all need some reassurance sometimes. Are we making good choices? Are we going in the right direction? Are we going to make it? Remembering that the journey is not a straight line but links to opportunities for enlightenment might be just the lifejacket we need to survive.

Join us in person and via Zoom

*Lydia Patrick (she/her), Service Leader*

### July 16

#### ***Spirituality for the Non-Religious***

If this were the last Sunday we ever intended to participate in a religious service, what questions could we take with us that would serve us well for the rest of our lives?

Join us in person and via Zoom

*Bob Patrick (he/him), Worship Leader*

### July 23

#### ***SUUmertime in the Garden***

A light-hearted (but not fluffy) look at the multiple mentions of "garden" in traditional stories- Mother Earth as a "beloved garden," the "Garden of Love and Delight," the "Garden of the Knowledge of Good and Evil," the "Hanging Gardens of Babylon," and the family or community "Victory Garden."

Join us in person and via Zoom

*Bill Benshoof (he/him), Worship Leader*

### July 30

#### ***Sunday Morning Worship Service***

Join us in person and via Zoom

## After Hour Sundays at 12:30pm

### 1st Sunday, July 2

•Potluck

•Tarot Sunday

### 2nd Sunday, July 9

•Spiral Scouts (pre-registration required) Off-Site

•Belief Explorers

### 3rd Sunday, July 16

•Tarot Sunday

### 4th Sunday, July 23

•"No Programs

### 5th Sunday, July 30

• No Programs



## Greetings from the Board

The board gathers this month at our annual Leadership Retreat to discuss the next step in the future of our congregation. We are excited to continue much of the work from previous Boards for the betterment and growth of our congregation.

While we take a break in July and August from first Sunday Congregational Conversations we ask the congregation to take this time to reflect on all the joys and sorrows we have grown from in the last three years. The struggles we have been through with COVID. The loss of precious members through death and relocation. The much needed repairs of our beloved building and the continued efforts to beautify our space. The new members we've welcomed and the friendships we've formed. The retirement of our beloved Reverend and the resilience of our wonderful Ministry team as we move forward. All these things we have persevered through.

Now as we open a new chapter of our Congregation the Board will strive to bring our mission and vision to the forefront of our goals.

We reach into the past resources to evaluate and fulfill the plans already laid before us. Our plan is to review and heavily consult "The Fire of Commitment" report, developed by Lorena and Chuck in 2020 to guide our work. While we grow this year, we ask for your patience, grace and understanding of the decisions we make together.

We will resume **Congregational Conversation on August 27th**. There we will present this year's Open Questions and progress on the continued search for a new Contract Minister. We ask that all members participate in this important discussion of our Congregations future.

With Much Gratitude,

Candice C Carver (she/her)

President, UUCG Board of Trustees

## Stewardship Opportunities

Click each link for more information

[Give Time](#)

[Give Money](#)

[Give Materials](#)

We are especially in need of

- Members for the Communication Committee
- Assistance on Property Beautification Days



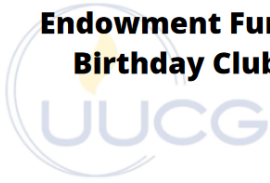
**This Quarter's  
Give Away the  
Plate Recipient**

*Georgians for a  
Healthy Future*

Georgians for a Healthy Future's *mission* is to collaborate with communities and partners to lead policy change that advances health equity for all Georgians. Their *vision* is of a day in which all Georgians have equitable opportunities to achieve their highest level of health.



## Endowment Fund - Birthday Club



**Help us grow the Endowment Fund! We encourage members and friends to make an annual donation on their birthdays for a dollar amount equal to their age.**

**Please make checks payable to the UUCG Endowment Fund.**

**Mail to:  
UUCG  
12 Bethesda Church Road  
Lawrenceville, GA 30044**

## AUUA Pro Days

**By Aline Harris (she/her)**

Before I began working as the UUCG administrator, I was unaware of how vibrant and important UU professional organizations are. I am now a member of the AUUA (Association of Unitarian Universalist Administrators) and have found the collective wisdom and community highly useful.

Just before General Assembly, the AUUA holds a 2 day convention called Pro Days for administrators. This year, it was two days filled with connecting with other UU administrators, sharing and gathering new ideas, and self care practices. I am immensely grateful to this congregation for my Professional Development budget that allows me to be a part of this organization and learn how to do my job even better!



## UUA General Assembly Report

**By Maryjane Stout (she/her)**

UUA's General Assembly was held in Pittsburgh, June 21-25. UUCG was well represented by Rev. Jan (onsite), Christiana Fernandez-McQuain, Terry Welsher, Ed Miller, and me (we four attended remotely). Key outcomes:

- The Article II vote passed, with some amendments. Wording is not final – the vote was simply to continue study and discussion of Article II of the UUA Bylaws for one more year. It will be voted on in final form at GA 24 (which will be 100% remote).
- The Business Resolution did not pass. This was a hotly debated and complex proposal to divest UU Common Endowment Fund investments from the fossil fuel industry. Tied to this divestment was a proposal to make reparations to Indigenous tribes and the descendants of enslaved Black and Brown people. Note: the UUA Trustees, President, CFO, and other UU leaders issued statements that supported the goals, but not the methods in the resolution. I expect more to come on this in the next year as well.
- Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt was elected UUA President for a six-year term. She is the first woman of color and openly queer person to be elected to the office.

A longer report will appear in the next issue of GNUUS; in an upcoming UUCG worship service we will reflect on our experiences in business meetings, workshops, and worship services (the music!). In addition, in the coming year the Board will host a Congregational Conversation or two on several UUA topics.

## Resources for Radical Welcome

This month we highlight opportunities for connection for Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) with other BIPOC UUs.

### DRUUMM (Diverse & Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries)



DRUUMM is the oldest and largest UU People of Color collective. They are a front door for new people and a spiritual home that enriches our liberal religious tradition.

[Visit the DRUUM website](#)

### Taproot: A National BIPOC Space



The work of the spiritual community is complicated in the 21st century. This monthly Zoom call is an intentional BIPOC space for rest, renewal and leadership development.

[Connect to the Taproot Community](#)

### Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU)



BLUU is committed to expanding the power and capacity of Black UUs within Unitarian Universalism; providing support, information, and resources for Black Unitarian Universalists

[Learn More About BLUU](#)

### Sister SoUUrce



A unique space for Black UU women and girls (womxn, LGBTQIA+ and non-binary inclusive) to gather their stories and voices, to explore their presence in UUism; accomplishments, sorrows, wonderings, and wanderings.

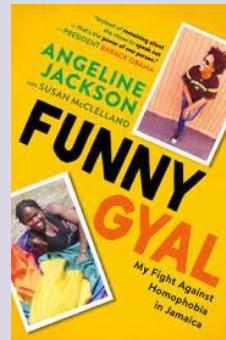
[Visit the Sister SoUUrce Website](#)

## Looking for a Summer Read? Allow us to suggest the following:

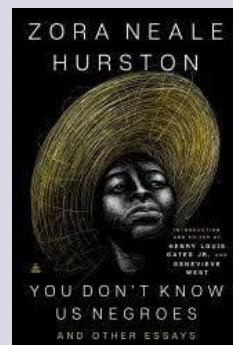
**Fiction:** Black Cake, by Charmaine Wilkerson



**Non-Fiction:** Funny Gyal : my fight against homophobia in Jamaica, by Angeline Jackson



**Anthology Collection:** You Don't Know Us Negroes : and other essays, by Zora Neale Hurston



## Our Place in the Web of Life

By Terry Welscher (he/him)

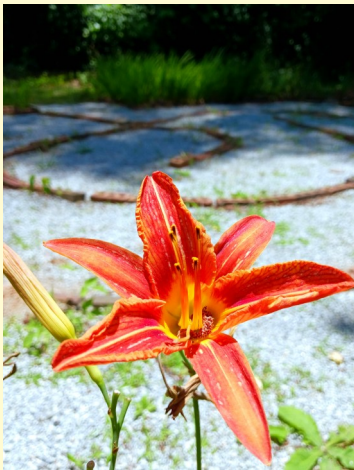
On May 30 the Green Team completed the first three-part presentation of “Our Place in the Web of Life”. This program is based on the original curriculum from the UU Ministry for Earth. During the three sessions, the students explored spiritual practices related to the interconnected web of all existence, completed a “map” of the relationship of the UUCG property to water resources and use. In the final session, actions were explored and implications for environmental justice were discussed.



Map diagram created by the WOL Participants 2023

**This program will be offered again soon, probably in early 2024.**

## Property Beautification Day



## **UUCG Book Group** **Selection**

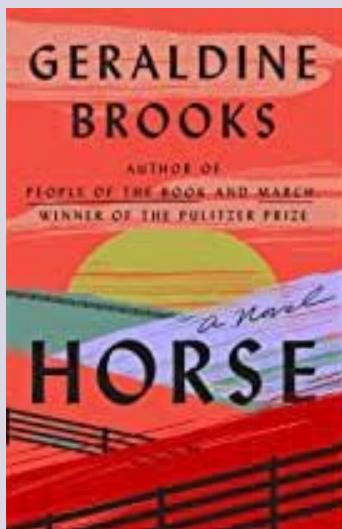


**Horse by  
Geraldine  
Brooks**

### **Book Group Meeting July 26 7pm**

A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, a Pulitzer Prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history

[\[See more\]](#)



Ministry: Connecting Within

## **A Brief History Of Volunteering at UUCG**

**By Doug Beers (he/him)**

Once upon a time (1981) ten families gathered to start a UU group that would meet in Gwinnett County. They took turns volunteering to host the Sunday services in their homes until the group grew and needed more space. They moved to several rental properties. By 1989 the weekly chore of setting up and taking down everything, every Sunday, was done by volunteers. Donating hundreds of volunteer hours, fundraisers were held and enough donations were finally raised to construct a permanent home for the now named UU Congregation of Gwinnett. With a “CAN DO” attitude, from the fall of 1990 until March of 1991, 65 volunteers worked days, nights, and weekends to construct the interior of our little metal shell.

Over the years since then, people have volunteered to improve our property adding an entry portico, a kitchen, a deck, playgrounds, an outdoor worship area, and a memorial garden. As they did, new friendships and bonds were made (many sustained even after departing UUCG). In addition, volunteers have taught religious education, Coming of Age (COA), Junior and Senior High Youth groups, and Our Whole Lives (OWL) classes, conducted lay-led services, served as officers, sung in the choir, maintained the building and grounds, prepared hospitality in the kitchen, marched for justice, represented UUCG at General assembly, and served on countless committees. Many of the volunteers wore more hats than can be counted.

Today, as we enter another period of transition, we continue to count on volunteers. With leadership from the Board we will move forward into our unknown future. For the congregation to thrive, continue to grow, and to serve (not only our current membership, but) the vast number of people in Gwinnett who need to find and grow with us, we ask our members for three things (the 3 T's) Time, Talent and Treasure. The pledge drive focuses on the treasure part, but today, I'm asking you to think about your time and talents and what you can do as a VOLUNTEER. Bonding together we can maintain a strong, vital UU community for years to come.

To learn more about current volunteer opportunities, contact [admin@uucg.org](mailto:admin@uucg.org)



## Food Bank Sundays

Submitted by Carol Pinto (she/her)

Hello! We are still collecting food and household supplies at church on the first Sunday of each month.

We've decided to simplify and just collect for the Lawrenceville Food Bank at this time.

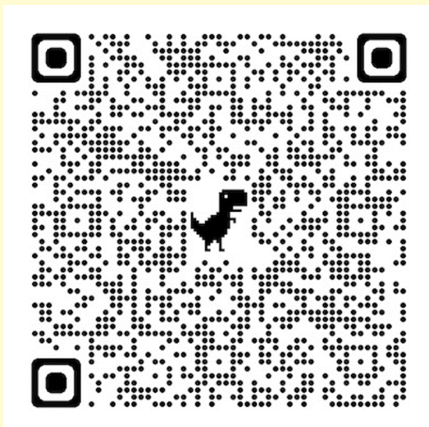
We need volunteers to pick up the food on these Sundays and deliver to the Food Bank during the following week.

[Please sign up on this link](#)

Or scan the QR code below.

If you have questions, ask Carol Pinto at [carolpinto8@yahoo.com](mailto:carolpinto8@yahoo.com).

THANK YOU!




## Car Wash a Success

By Fauna Kelly (she/her)




























In May the Spiral Scouts 393 Flowering Branches had a successful car wash in the UUCG parking lot to raise money for a spiraling garden. All together we washed more than 12 cars but what felt like 50 and earned about \$200. The tall people washed the tops, the middle people washed the middles and the small people washed the bottoms. It was really fun and I hope to do something like this again soon!



# Nurturing Connections

	Property Beautification Day	Monthly projects to benefit the building and grounds. All skills and abilities are welcome.	1st Saturday 10:00am	In-Person
	Food Bank Dropoff	We gather donations for the Lawrenceville Co-op food bank.	1st Sunday of each month	In-Person
	Potluck	Our monthly potluck. Please bring a dish to share and thank you to the volunteers who make this happen!	1st Sunday of every month	In-Person
	In-Person Tarot Sundays	A discussion about all things Tarot and a Guided Meditation inspired by the weekly topic.	1st and 3rd Sundays 12:30pm	In-Person
	Mindfulness and Meditation	Two Hands Sangha is a Buddhist Meditation Community. We ask that you arrive by 6:00pm before the doors are closed. RSVP to Two Hands Sangha required to attend.	Every Sunday 6:00pm	In-Person and Online via Facebook
	Yarns from the Heart	Knitters and crocheters gather to create prayer shawls and baby blankets for members and friends and the wider community. This group is open to all fiber artists.	1st and 3rd Wednesdays 7:00pm	Online Email admin@uucg.org For access
	Sewing with Sherree	Join us for easy sewing projects and fun! Bring your fabric and machine if you got one! All skill levels are welcome.	2nd Saturdays 8:00pm	In-Person
	In-Person Tarot Sundays	A discussion about all things Tarot and a Guided Meditation inspired by the weekly topic.	2nd and 4th Sundays 5:00pm	via Zoom
	Spiral Scouts	An all-gender scouting group that focuses on nature-based learning and activities. We are open to children ages 3-12.	2nd Sundays 12:30pm	This month is Off-Site
	Belief Explorers	A group of Unitarian Universalists and others who are interested in exploring the sources of world faith traditions. All are welcome.	2nd Sundays 12:30pm	Online Zoom: 896-987-304
	Green Team Meeting	All who are interested in environmental issues are welcome.	3rd Saturday 9:30am	Online Zoom: 926-1783-0455
	Board Meeting	Open to the congregation at large. If you have something to discuss that you would like added to the agenda, please email board@uucg.org at least three weeks ahead of time.	3rd Wednesdays 7:00pm	Online Zoom: 956-757-31773
	CUUPS	The Oak Grove Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) of UUCG is open to anyone in the UUCG community.	July 20th 7:30pm And July 29	As scheduled
	Book Group	All who have read the book are invited to attend.	4th Wednesdays 7:00pm	Online Zoom: 144-736-833

# July 2023

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					