





GNUUs


Contents


Worship: 


Message from the Board: 


Ministries:

Radical Welcome: 

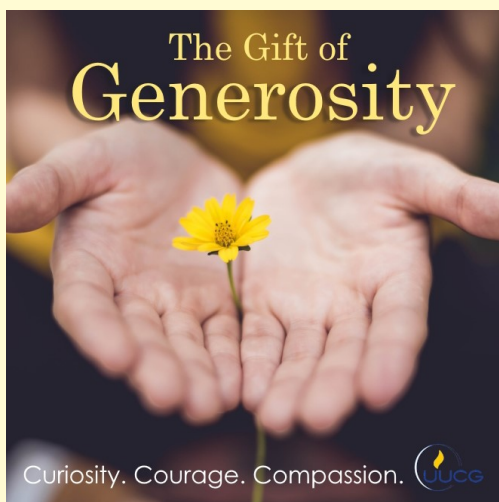
Green Space: 

Spiritual Growth: 

Connecting Within: 

Connecting Beyond: 

The Gift of Generosity



It would be easy to see this as a month of niceness. After all, for many, the call of generosity is equated with the call to be kind.

But that's not the spiritual understanding, and certainly not the sort of gift our faith sees in generosity.

Generosity is transformative. It doesn't just brighten our days; it changes how we relate to life. Life often hurts us. Can we be blamed for viewing it as a threat? But then these seemingly small or sentimental gestures come our

way. In those simple moments, the world suddenly feels less cold. A crack sets in. Our obstacle course, winner-take-all view of life gives way to something softer. We may still hurt, but it also feels as though life itself is trying to help. That's what generosity does. It transforms.

[Read more...](#)

Events This Month

Nov 1....Yarns from the Heart+
Nov 4.....Property Work Day*
Nov 4.....Magical Arts and Crafts*
Nov 4.....Samhain Ritual*
Nov 5....Food Bank Donations*
Nov 5.....Congregational Conversation*+
Nov 12.....Spiral Scouts+
Nov 12.....Belief Exploration+
Nov 12....Town Hall Meeting*+
Nov 15..Yarns from the Heart+
Nov 15.....Board Meeting+
Nov 16.....CUUPs Café Discussion+
Nov 18..Green Team Meeting+
Nov 22.....Book Group+
Nov 23..Thanksgiving Potluck*

Tuesdays.....Choir Rehearsal*
Sundays.....Tarot Sunday+
*in person
+via Zoom

For details visit uucg.org

Did you Gnow?

- Bananas do not grow on trees, the plant does not have a woody 'stem' and is classified as herbaceous.





Worship in November Sundays at 11:00am

Theme: The Gift of
Generosity

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

November 5

Generosity is not Transactional - It is Transformative

Whether you say thank you, no thank you, not now, or more please, understanding and making space for generosity does not need to be transactional.

Join us in person and via Zoom

Lydia Patrick (she/her), Service Leader

November 12

Thank You For Your Service: Peacekeepers and Peacemakers

So many paths to heal and protect family, community, country, and planet.... Appreciating different paths and finding our own unique way to "save" the world.

Join us in person and via Zoom

Sherree Bailey (she/her), Service Leader

November 19

Opening to the Generous Heart Of Creation

How our joys, sorrows, reciprocity, and sacrifice create a generous spirit

Join us in person and via Zoom

Daniel Bailey (he/him) and Sherree Bailey (she/her), Service Leaders

November 26

"The Pebble and the Butterfly"

We consider the effects of living out our love for the world- the unpredictable and unseen ways our pebble can make the ripple that changes the world. We also consider the converse- that, like the butterfly causing a tornado, our failure to act can also have far-reaching effects.

Join us in person and via Zoom

Bill Benshoof (he/him), Service Leader

Looking Ahead

December Theme: The Gift of Mystery

**January Theme: The Gift of Liberating
Love**

After Hour Schedule Sundays at 12:30pm

1st Sunday, Nov. 5

- Congregational Conversation

- Family Faith Development

2nd Sunday, Nov. 12

- Spiral Scouts (pre-registration required)

- Belief Explorers

- Town Hall Meeting: Budget

3rd Sunday, Nov. 19

- Sunday Tarot

- Family Faith Development

4th Sunday, Nov. 26

- Thanksgiving Weekend: no programs



UUCG Annual Pledge Drive 2024

This is *our* house. Welcome Home.

What each one of us does impacts us all. When we are careful stewards of this humbly magnificent sacred space and these beautiful grounds, we honor the history of this congregation – the founding members who created this congregation, acquired this land, and built this building, and all those who have helped us grow over the years. There is no better way to say “thank you” than to care for our spaces and our relationships.

Collectively, we are responsible for this church and this community; we are tasked with caring for the building and grounds, and for each other. We embrace these responsibilities, even as we draw the circle wide to welcome in those who share our vision for a more just and compassionate world. This is *our* house - yours and mine; and it takes all of us to make it a place that is worthy and welcoming. If you arrive with an open mind, a compassionate heart, and a caring spirit, you are welcome here.

As we walk towards our vision of being a safe, welcoming home as a basis for growing our beloved community, we renew our commitment to building and growing connections and community beyond the walls of our sacred space. We invite you into visioning what we can create when we join our resources together, in a spirit of generosity and stewardship.

Thank you for your consideration and your pledge of support.

This is *our* house. Welcome Home.





Endowment Fund News

Thank you for recent contributions to the UUCG Endowment Fund.

Happy Birthday to Sue-Ann Soloway, Doug Beers, Sandi O'Toole and Barbara Stahnke.

Happy 50th Anniversary to Jim and Deb Millette.

We also received memorials for Mike Warfield and Blue Dice.

Birthday Club donations are one of the primary sources of long-term financial stability for the congregation. The Endowment Fund has been able to provide grants to GA delegates and was able to provide a low interest loan to the church for the septic system expansion in 2019. Your continued support is appreciated.

Portrait Fundraiser

Help us welcome Rev Nancy by contributing to the Ministerial Transition Fund. Katrina Yurko will be creating portraits and /or caricature sketches as an incentive to all who donate at least \$25.00 to the Minister's transition fund for Rev Nancy's relocation. Once you have given to the MTF, either by putting a check (MTF on memo line) or cash that is designated for the MTF, send a selfie of you, or your pet, or anyone else you would like to see sketched, to katrinapyurko@gmail.com.

- Deadline date is **Thanksgiving**.
- Portraits will be delivered to UUCG by **November 26th**.
- All are neutral color in Black and White or simple fleshtones.



Stewardship Opportunities

Click each link for more Information

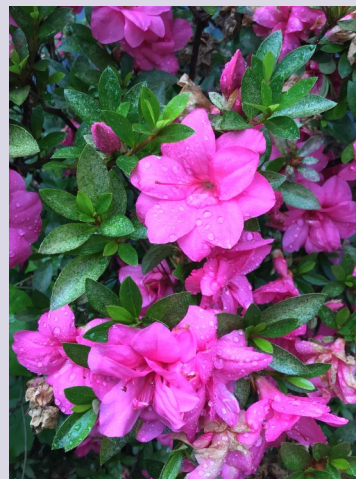
[Give Time](#)

[Give Money](#)

[Give Materials](#)

We are especially in need of

- Volunteers for the Auction Committee
- Banned books to add to our library



Building Facts

Did you know we have a congregational archive in the library? There are photo albums and documents from past events as well as past ministerial searches. Feel free to look around one day! **This is our house. Welcome Home.**



From the Board

Talking about finances is not something people really like to do. There is anxiety over money, finances, lack of them, and the ever increasing price of well, everything. I never know why, but it's always there, this anxiety over finances. So you can imagine how hard this letter is to write.

Instead of writing about our finances I want to write more on the Gift of Generosity and stewardship.

When we posed the question, "what does a financially healthy congregation look like?", we felt it would be hard to approach. It's certainly hard to write about. However, reframing the mindset of asking for finances to discussing generosity and stewardship brings a different spin on the question.

What does stewardship mean to you?

When we define stewardship we go back to examples of our own experiences. Stewardship to me is taking care of something I value so that it will grow and continue to thrive. We are stewards of our congregation when we give our time to take care of each other, our building, and our grounds. Ways to do this are to participate in the monthly Property Beautification Day, volunteer to support a table at local events, share a talent, give your time, or donate your treasure.

Generosity is the quality of being kind, showing a readiness to give more of something than is necessary or expected. The gift of Generosity is just as deep as being a good steward to our land. What story of generosity is our congregation telling? In what areas are we able to improve our story? During this month as we dive into the Gift of Generosity and kick off our pledge drive, remember how grateful we are for all our members.

We encourage everyone to attend the Congregational Conversation on December 3rd to discuss What does a financially healthy congregation look like to you?

Your feedback helps us develop the Annual Vision of Ministry and we highly encourage everyone to stay so that your voice is represented.

With Gratitude,
Candice C Carver She/Her
Board President



This Quarter's Give Away the Plate Recipient

The Minister's Discretionary Fund

The UUCG Minister's Discretionary Fund is to provide financial support for members, active friends, and staff during times of unexpected or extraordinary financial need. It is managed by our Lay Minister of Connecting Within (who is also a lead member of the Pastoral Care Team).



DEIB

By Aline Harris (she/they)

Many of us have heard of DEI or Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. This is the idea many companies have focused on in recent years to diversify their workforces. But there's a new concept entering the business world; DEIB, or Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging. (Maryjane Stout talked about this from the pulpit during a service in September.)

No longer is it enough to have a black face on the staff page of your website and pay your female and non-binary employees as much as you pay the men, but the idea behind adding belonging is to consider the feelings of those 'diverse' employees. It's not enough to hire a queer Latina just for her to quit in a month because she wasn't welcomed in the office. Now that welcoming is becoming a more explicit part of companies trying (to varying degrees of success) to undue decades of white supremacy and other privileges.

Another small step on the path to dismantling systems of oppression.

Ministry: Radical Welcome

Power, Privilege, and Justice - A Discussion Group on Resisting Racism

By Bill Benshoof (he/him), Lay Minister for Radical Welcome

Dear Friends,

In November, I and (hopefully) some other folks will be developing guidelines and discussion questions for a series of discussions about power, privilege, justice, and resisting racism. Held on Tuesdays in December at 7pm via Zoom, these sessions will be centered around the book, "Mistakes and Miracles," co-authored by our new Contract Minister, Reverend Nancy Palmer Jones. The book was last year's UUA Common Read.

Because of the personal, interpersonal, and organizational challenges of resisting racism, there will be full transparency in this curriculum. The discussions will be covenantal, respecting and appreciating each person's story from their heart and from their head. "Mistakes and Miracles" is 399 pages, and the audio book is about 15 hours. Ten copies are being purchased by the Congregation, and they are available for loan (3 copies) or purchase (7 copies) at slightly a discounted price.

The first discussion will focus on pages 320 to 324, which are Reverend Nancy's thoughts at the beginning of her multicultural work with her previous congregation in San Jose, CA. We will try to put ourselves in her shoes, and share our reaction to her expressions of "self-conscious insecurity," her "dawning realizations about the many forms multiculturalism can take," her concerns about "the places where our ego tantalizes us," her statement that "There's so much more to cross-cultural understanding than just sharing a common language!", and her assertion that "'Relationships, relationships, relationships' is the Common Thread that sustains me in the work's joys and sorrows." If you would like to purchase or borrow a copy of Mistakes and Miracles from the Congregation, please email cmcquain@uucg.org

- If you would like a link to images of pages 320 to 324 of Reverend Nancy's book, please email radicalwelcome@uucg.org.
- If you would like a link to the Covenant under which we will hold our discussions, email radicalwelcome@uucg.org
- If you are interested in helping to "take the lead" on this important and challenging set of discussions, you can reach me at radicalwelcome@uucg.org.

Peace,
Bill

“Everybody’s Talkin’ ‘Bout Food...”

By Bill Benshoof (he/him), Lay Minister for Radical Welcome

Food events are a favorite in our congregation, but they require a lot of work behind the scenes. This is the typical list of considerations for food centered events:

Organizer- Sets dates and times. Reserves space with the administrator. Advertises the event. Handles ordering of pre-prepared or special items. I understand there is something called “decor” that is sometimes important.

Host- Recruits volunteers and does on-site coordination. CHECKS THE KITCHEN SUPPLIES before the event to back up our already-diligent supply chain. To request supplies, leave a note on the desk in the office.

Setup- Setting up tables and arranging chairs are a big task, though it can be made smaller with many strong backs.

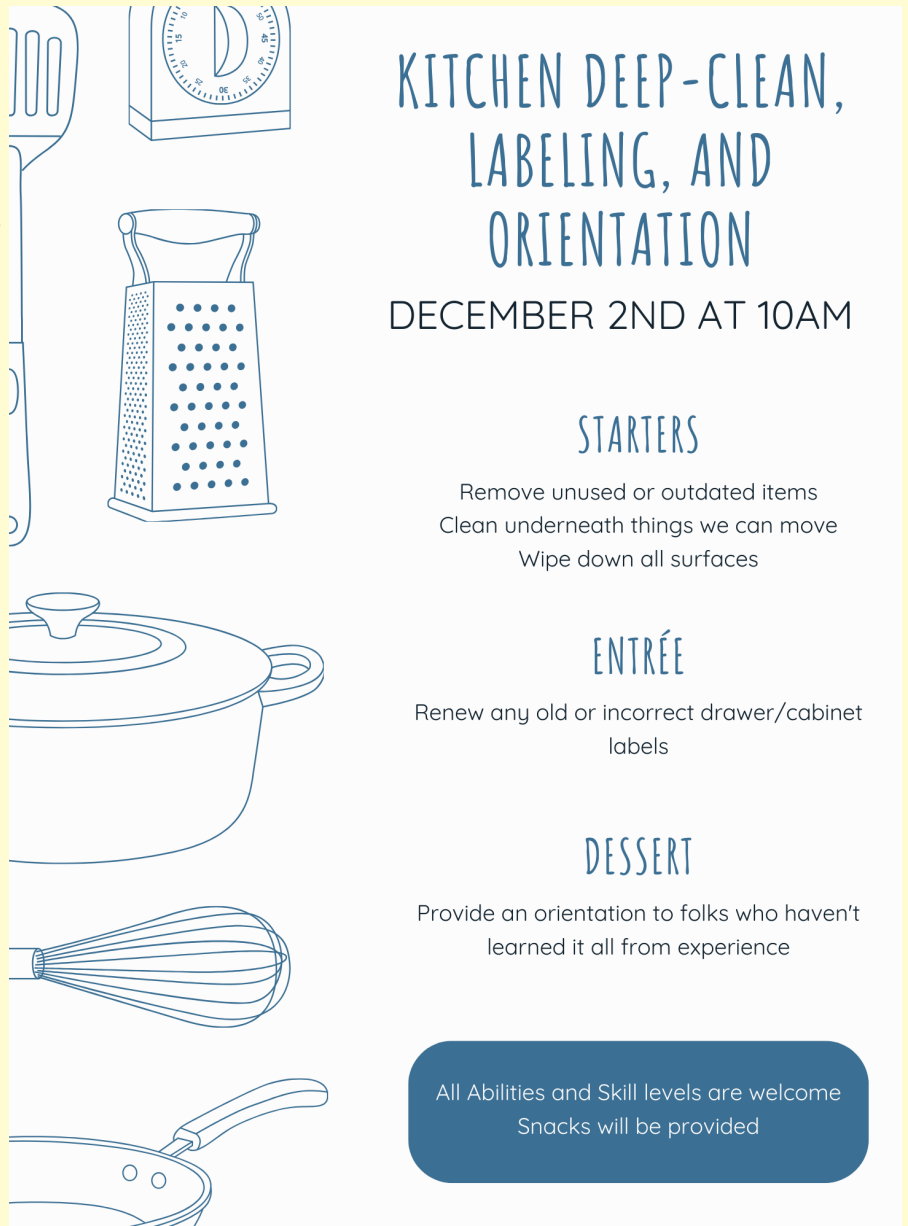
Runners- Required both before and after the event unless the group likes enclosed spaces and wants to eat in the kitchen. (Runners to carry things from the kitchen to and from the serve-yourself area are VERY helpful to folks like me who don’t run much anymore.)

CLEAN UP- This gets special emphasis because bugs are a thing and STAFF DO NOT CLEAN UP AFTER US! Because our building is occupied during the week, this is a literal truth- for the safety of our young weekday visitors, leaving a mess of any kind behind FORCES staff to clean up.

Take-Down- Put the room(s) and/or Sanctuary back the way we found it, or, more exactly, the way our seating plan prescribes.

My personal opinion is, though it could be done with less, if we rotate through a team of at least three people (including Organizer and Host) we will not leave folks alone in a role, and we will all feel more sustained and fulfilled. Those of us who do not REQUIRE the supervision of other adults, but DESIRE company probably understand this. My personal (e.g. sexist) memory of this arrangement is my Dad’s two older sisters and my Grandmother having great conversation after meals while washing, drying, and putting away the dishes

What role do you feel most called to?



KITCHEN DEEP-CLEAN,
LABELING, AND
ORIENTATION
DECEMBER 2ND AT 10AM

STARTERS

- Remove unused or outdated items
- Clean underneath things we can move
- Wipe down all surfaces

ENTRÉE

- Renew any old or incorrect drawer/cabinet labels

DESSERT

- Provide an orientation to folks who haven't learned it all from experience

All Abilities and Skill levels are welcome
Snacks will be provided

Labyrinth Refresh

By Karen Smith (she/her)

Wow, what a great job the crew did, cleaning up the labyrinth on our October work day! Almost halfway around removing overgrown plants! Now the fun of planting begins!




Property Beautification Day November 4 at 10am

Once again, it's that time of the month! The UUCG workday crew will be out working on the labyrinth planting, cleaning the parking lot signs, and maybe even mowing the lawn! There is no shortage of places that need tending to improve our "curb appeal". The only thing that we are missing is....YOU! Our spunky 5-member committee can't handle all our property on its own, much as we try. Come honor our congregational commitment to our greenspace and its place in the larger web of existence.



Generosity Bingo

[Click for a larger image](#)

B I N G O				
Follow 3 charities on social media	Clean out your closets and donate to a local thrift shop or shelter	Text someone you love them	Share a website, article or video from your favorite charity to the UUCG Facebook Group	Sign up for a Volunteer Opportunity at UUCG
Contemplate what you are grateful for	Bring a co-worker a coffee or tea	Take a shorter shower	Bring a sharable snack to offer at Hospitality Hour on Sunday	Bring in a food bank item
Donate to your favorite charity	Plan the dish you will bring to the next UUCG 1st Sunday Potluck		Set a New Year's resolution for how much you plan to donate/volunteer next year	Support a friend's favorite cause
Share a favorite poem, song, or story to the UUCG Facebook Group	Send a fellow congregant a thank you note or holiday card	Spend some time learning about Radical Welcome	Donate blood or platelets	Schedule a recurring donation to your favorite charity
Return your UUCG Pledge Drive form	Give yourself a compliment	Show up to help at Property Beautification Day on 1st Saturday	Introduce yourself to someone you don't know	Let someone in front of you (in traffic, coffee shop, etc.)





Ministry: Connecting Within

Message from the Lay Minister for Connecting Within

By Lisa Kiel (she/her)

It's November, and here come the holidays! Do you love this hectic, busy time of the year, or do you tire of the repetitive holiday music played in stores and decorations that seem to emerge earlier and earlier each year? Has your feeling for the holidays changed over the years and subsequently altered your traditions and expectations? It seems to me that no matter our faith, our heritage or our traditions, the one constant during the holidays is the desire to be with family and loved ones. UUCG is a family of sorts. We have chosen to care about shared principles and to care about one another. For many folks in our congregation, UUCG is their family of choice because here, they feel unconditionally loved and accepted.

I first came to UUCG during the holidays. I was drawn here because we offered a Blue Christmas service for those struggling with the holiday expectations of happiness and joy. Deeply grieved, I needed a service both to celebrate and mourn, a difficult combination. I was hesitant to attend this service, but as I sat quietly in the circle, I began to relax and allow myself to feel the love and compassion

surrounding me. It was a great gift to me at a difficult time.

During this upcoming season, take a deep breath amidst all the hustle and bustle and remember that UUCG is both here for all of us and needs all of us. Perhaps, this year you might plan to attend the Thanksgiving Potluck, volunteer to help decorate, clean up our grounds, contribute to the worthy cause of our Minister's Discretionary Fund, donate a book to our new library or bring a few extra cans for the food drive. Most importantly of all, look around for those who might need your care, a quiet word of encouragement or the best gift of all, a warm welcome home for the holidays.

Connecting Within Opportunities:

Chalice Circle - monthly meeting set by members

Book Group - meets online every 4th Wednesday from 7-9 pm

Yarns from the Heart - meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday online at 10 am

QUUest - meets every 1st Friday at 6pm in person and every 3rd Friday at 7 pm online

Spiral Scouts - meets every 2nd Sunday following Sunday service

Fall Covenant Groups in session. Spring Covenant Groups January 2024.

Transgender Inclusion Workshop coming in 2024



~ALL ARE INVITED~
meeting of the
**UU Georgia
Legislative
Action Network**
at UUFA

November 18 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

uuathensga.org/calendar

FEATURED SPEAKERS

- **David Schaefer**, Vice-President of Research and Policy for the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute
- **Helen Butler** with Peoples Agenda
- **Ben Lynde** with ACLU Georgia Policy Council
- **Jai Davis** with Georgia Equality

Register ▶

by November 5

tinyurl.com/UUGALeg



*For additional information,
contact UUFA members Greg Davis
(706-589-5568, gregoryrawsondavis@gmail.com, fax 706-884-4470)
and Connie Bruce (706-254-7822, connie.l.bruce@gmail.com).*

Trunk or Treat Success

This year, despite having fewer trunks than in previous years, our annual Trunk or Treat event was a huge success! We don't have an exact count of how many people attended, mostly because there were so many we couldn't keep track. Our best rough estimate is around 450-500 people came!

Our Communications Team put out an ad on Facebook that cost \$40 and was specifically targeted at families in our area. We can attribute the great turnout to this effort. Once they arrived, we had games and music, as well as trunk or treating and a cotton candy machine. The atmosphere was very exciting.

Thank you to all who celebrated with us and to those who missed it, plan to join us next year!



**Save
the Date**

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

Oak Grove
CUUPS
Yule &
White Elephant
Party

2nd | 4:00
Dec | PM

POTLUCK DINNER
WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT
FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE
CRAFTS, GAMES AND CARD WRITING



Welcome

We will be holding a Signing Ceremony
on the morning of

Sunday, December 3rd

If you are interested in joining UUCG
as a member, please reach out to the
Shared Ministry Council at
SharedMinistry@uucg.org to let the
Lay Ministers know. (If you aren't sure,
but want information, please reach
out!) They will get you the information
you need to prepare in advance of this
date. **Welcome Home!**



*Thanksgiving
Potluck*

Bring a dish if you are able, and let's
celebrate the season of gratitude and
giving together!

NOVEMBER 23
UUCG
12 BETHESDA CHURCH RD
LAWRENCEVILLE GA















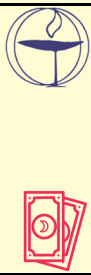

All are welcome.
Email info@uucg.org with any questions

**The deadline for submission to the combined December and January
GNUUs is November 20. Email submissions to admin@uucg.org**

Nurturing Connections

	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
	Property Beautification Day	Monthly projects to benefit the building and grounds. All skills and abilities are welcome.	1st Saturday 10:00am	In-Person
	Magical Arts and Crafts	The Oak Grove Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) of UUCG is open to anyone in the UUCG community.	November 4 3:00pm	In-Person
	Sylvan Sanctuary	Sylvan Sanctuary is the Mother Grove of the Druid Order of the Three Realms, a community of Druids walking personal paths. All are welcome.	November 4 6:00pm	In-Person
	Food Bank Dropoff	We gather donations for the Lawrenceville Co-op food bank.	1st Sundays	In-Person
	Congregational Conversations	Discussions centered around Unitarian universalism and our specific congregation. All are welcome.	1st Sunday 12:30pm	In-Person and Online Zoom: 565-460-176
	Tarot Sundays	A discussion about all things Tarot and a Guided Meditation inspired by the weekly topic.	Every Sunday 5:00pm	In-Person
	Covenant Choir	Choir gathers to rehearse for performance on Sunday mornings during Worship Services.	Every Tuesday 7:00pm	In-Person
	Town Hall	Stay after the Sunday Worship Service to discuss next year's budget.	November 12 12:30pm	In-Person and Online Zoom: 565-460-176
	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	In-Person
	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	In-Person and Online Zoom: 896-987-304
	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.	November 16 7:30pm	Online Zoom: 400-036-556
	Green Team Meeting	All who are interested in environmental issues are welcome.	3rd Saturday 9:30am	Online Zoom: 926-1783-0455
	Book Group	All who have read the book are invited to attend.	4th Wednesdays 7:00pm	Online Zoom: 144-736-833
	Thanksgiving Potluck	Join us for a potluck Thanksgiving meal. Bring your family, or come alone. All are welcome!	November 23	In-Person
	Good Trouble	We invite you into discussion about an issue that we (community, society, world) are facing currently, and specific ways that you can get involved in working for change.	4th Sundays 12:30pm	In-Person and Online Zoom: 145-984-149

November 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		