



# July 2025

## Gwinnett News for Unitarian Universalists

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Gnus are a vital part of the African savanna ecosystem. They are a keystone species, meaning their presence and actions significantly impact the environment and other living things. Gnus play a crucial role in nutrient cycling, habitat management, and maintaining grassland biodiversity through their migrations and grazing habits.

### Tending the Commons

*Tending the commons* refers to the ongoing, shared responsibility of caring for and sustaining resources, spaces, or systems that are collectively owned or used by a community. Like cultivating a garden, it requires intentional, sustained care, and involves nurturing, protecting, and maintaining these shared resources for current and future generations.



Exploring this theme in our UU context calls us to a more expansive understanding of “the commons”. It is more than our physical spaces and our planet. It includes intangibles like our relationships and our democracy. These are all examples of shared resources that are essential to communal well-being and which require intentional nurturing care and protection; as well as cooperation and trust.

This *tending* invites us to live deeply into our UU values of equity, generosity, interdependence, and justice *together*, in community, mindful of keeping love at the center. Tending the commons is a shared responsibility.

**We invite you to join us this month as we explore Tending the Commons together.**

# Worship in July

Sundays at 11:00am

Theme: Tending the Commons

Join us in-person or via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/565460176>



## July 6th

### ***From Independence to Interbeing – Tending the Commons Together***

To reflect on how we move beyond individualism into shared care, weaving our lives together through UU values and intentional connection.

*Candice Carver (she/her), Service Leader*

## July 13th

### ***Village Life***

Honoring our living traditions and growing our faith stewardship extends to the physical property of congregations, such as buildings, the relational energy of our community, such as small groups, as well as the intangible aspects of our faith. Today we will look at how we do that in covenant with each other and our larger community.

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

## July 20th

### ***The Seventh Generation Principle***

We consider a way of thinking that respects the interconnectedness of the previous and the next seven generations in our stewardship of Mother Earth. We inherit the preservation work of the previous seven generations and act in the interests of the next seven. This principle extends to cultural, environmental, and resource preservation. It helps us to understand the negative impacts of previous actions and how we can positively affect our future by changing them and adopting newer, more responsible practices.

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

## July 27th

### ***Tending the Family***

Families are as varied as we are; they come in many different configurations, sizes and with unique stories. As we discuss Tending the Commons, join us for this UUCG Men's Group led service that examines what Family can mean: To be part of a family, to be seen by your family, and to be loved by your family.

*Ian Van Sice (he/him) & Bob Patrick (he/him), Service Leaders*

Programs

Sundays at  
12:30pm

### **1st Sunday, 7/6**

- Potluck Lunch

### **2nd Sunday, 7/13**

- Belief Explorers

### **3rd Sunday, 7/20**

- Resisting Fascism

### **4th Sunday, 7/27**

- "Good Trouble"





# Worship and More

## Welcome to Program Year 2025-2026!

The following themes have been chosen for the upcoming program year:

**July 2025: Tending the Commons**

**August: Strengthening the Circle**

**September: Building Belonging**

**October: Cultivating Compassion**

**November: Nurturing Gratitude**

**December: Choosing Hope**

**January 2026: Practicing Resistance**

**February: Embodying Resilience**

**March: Paying Attention**

**April: Embracing Possibility**

**May: Awakening Curiosity**

**June: Flourishing Together**



## Sharing Our Gifts Through Give Away the Plate

**Our 2025 Third Quarter recipient is  
Mosaic of Georgia**

Give Away the Plate is a program at UUCG that shares quarterly plate offerings with an external organization chosen by the congregation. During the third quarter of 2025 (through September 30), we will share the Sunday morning offering with Mosaic of Georgia, whose mission is to provide unwavering support to victims of sexualized violence. Mosaic offers free, confidential support and services to victims and survivors of sexualized harms including rape, sexual assault, child sexual molestation and abuse, sex trafficking, and technology-facilitated sexual abuse. The organization recognizes the diverse needs of survivors and offers specialized care to individuals of all genders, regardless of when the violence occurred or whether they choose to report. Mosaic of Georgia has evolved into a multi-services center with specialized support for children, teens, and adults.





# Message From the Minister



## What's in a Theme?

by Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones (she/her)



Every Unitarian Universalist General Assembly (GA) has a theme, and this year's (June 18-22 in Baltimore) was "Meeting the Moment." Workshops, General Sessions, worship services, the Actions of Immediate Witness, the Congregational Study Action Issue—all offered focus, encouragement, skill building, and action steps to help us get real

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Every big conference like this one also carries a deeper theme, interwoven with the one printed on the posters. This year, my colleague Rev. Matthew Johnson says, the deeper theme was "in the midst of pain I choose love." "In the midst of personal pain and loss, the midst of unjust war and attempted fascism, in the midst of budget struggles and change in church culture," Rev. Matthew sums up, "we choose love. Over and over again. This is the way. The only way."



Both themes run like powerful currents through my week in Baltimore. Imara Jones's Ware Lecture on Saturday night draws a clear line between the current targeting of trans people with dehumanization and discriminatory bills (so much focus on a group that makes up only 1% of the U.S. population!), and the authoritarians' ability to gain control over the lives of the other 99%. To Meet This Moment, Imara Jones says, we must "hold our values unwaveringly," taking every opportunity—from dinner-table conversations to the state legislature—to choose love over the demeaning or denying of *people's* rights. "The answer is US!" she shouts to our applause.

Alongside these big stirring moments are also the smaller ones, where people help each other. "Let me get you a cup of water." "Are you getting enough sleep?" "Can we sit here and chat for a moment?" These moments restore my weary soul.

(continued on next page)



# Message From the Minister

## What's in a Theme?

*continued from page 4*

So as we move into UUCG's theme this month, "Tending the Commons," our Worship Team has come up with these tantalizing thoughts and questions:

- What are our common values, at the deepest level?
- What are we doing to keep our shared values alive?
- Are all beings whole, holy, and worthy, and if so, how do we honor and work with them?
- What responsibilities do we share? What do we owe our family, our community, our nation, the planet, ourselves?
- How are we tending a welcoming space that opens a pathway into the circle of this community?
- What thoughts and actions ensure the health of our immediate ecosystems?
- Do we believe that we belong to each other—and that we're all responsible for keeping our shared life strong and healthy?

Most of all, dear ones, how shall we, in the days ahead, choose Love over and over again?

With my love for you,  
Rev. Nancy



## Seeking More Pastoral Care Associates!

**UUCG's Pastoral Care Associates** play a crucial role in creating and sustaining our congregation's Culture of Care. They are partners with me, as your minister, in companioning our folx in times of need. Pastoral Care Associates (PCAs) can testify to the satisfaction they get from offering their love in this way.

### It's time now to expand the team!

I envision a team of 6 to 10 Pastoral Care Associates, each of whom takes on one or more of the following roles. Pastoral Care Associates rotate their duties. With a robust team, a PCA would likely serve in one of these roles just one week out of each month or more.

Training in all these roles will be offered in the fall and open to all who are interested in growing our capacity for compassionate companionship. Members of Covenant Groups are especially encouraged to attend.

**All titles here are tentative; this vision is still emerging!**

- **Listener:** Responds to calls on UUCG's Pastoral Care line during the week that the PA is on call
- **Connector:** Makes phone calls or sends Cards from the Heart to congregants on our care radar to see how they are doing
- **Visitor:** Visits congregants in hospitals, homes, or coffee shops to offer occasional in-person companionship
- **Sunday Pastoral Carer:** Holds a space on Sundays after worship where people can light a candle, fill out a prayer/care request, speak with a compassionate listener

### What You Can Do Now:

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a Pastoral Care Associate, please send a note to Rev. Nancy at [revnpj@uucg.org](mailto:revnpj@uucg.org) with "Pastoral Care Associate" in the subject line.

# From the Board



## Help! We Need Some Bodies!

*by Dan Kelly, President, UUCG Board of Trustees*

***Help me if you can, I'm feeling down,  
And I do appreciate you being 'round,  
Help me get my feet back on the ground,  
Won't you please, please help me?  
~ The Beatles***

Now that I have successfully planted an earworm in your mind, I hope you'll sing along with this update about the Roofing Project.

After much wrangling with lawyers and banks and third-party lenders, we are glad to report that the Sale of the Cell Tower Land Lease has been completed as of June 20th, and that the funds are processing even as I write this update.

Thanks to everyone on the Board and Staff who have worked diligently to get this done!

We are currently working with the Roofing Company to schedule the work dates. Unfortunately, we cannot confirm the dates yet. (We were hoping to!) However, the work could be as soon as July 21st. It is also possible that the work will be done in August, so we should all be prepared for that, as well. Due to the Independence Day holiday, we will not have confirmed dates until the week of July 7th.

Gosh! That's a lot of uncertainty, isn't it? Let's take a quick verse together:

*"When I was younger,  
so much younger than today,  
I never needed anybody's help in any way,  
But now these days are gone and  
I'm not so self-assured,  
Now I find I've changed my mind,  
I've opened up the doors."*

Okay, better?

What we CAN do in the meantime is to start preparing for the work. And that's where we need everyone's help! We will need to do the following before the roof work begins:

1. Move items of value, especially items of sacred value, out of the building. We will have a storage unit.
2. Clear the attic of everything.
3. Cover any items that are left in the building with plastic to prevent potential water damage.
4. Prepare plans for services and other events that may have to happen outside of the building, if it is unavailable.

So if you want be Some Body, just let us know! We will be glad to have you help!

We appreciate everyone's support in this process. When we finish this work, we will have a 20 year no-leak guarantee to ensure our longevity as a community, and we will have reduced our carbon footprint by using R-17 insulation to maximize our thermal resistance. While we are vacating the building for this work, we may address any other repair issues that need to be addressed. If you know of any items that are of concern, particularly for safety reasons, please bring them to our attention.

Thank you all for your continued support during this process!

In covenant,  
Dan Kelly  
President of the UUCG Board of Trustees



# Tending the Commons...

## PLEASE FILL OUT THE 2024-2025 SURVEY! We Need Your Feedback to Set Goals for the New Year!

from Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

*"Five hundred, twenty-five thousand, six hundred minutes," starts the song "Seasons of Love" from the musical RENT. "Five hundred, twenty-five thousand moments so dear ... How do you measure, measure a year?"*



### **What, Where, and How:**

**Please fill out this survey** about what has gone well this program year at UUCG (August 2024-June 2025) and about how you would like to see UUCG grow in the year ahead. You don't have to answer every question or write long—just write what comes to your mind and heart as you go.

Hard copies are available at UUCG, but please fill it out online if you can.

**To complete this survey online, go to:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QKCQRT2>

### **Why:**

**Our congregational leaders will use your input to create our goals for August 2025-June 2026.**

Our shared question: How will we fulfill our mission—especially in these times—to live with Love at the Center, expressed in Curiosity, Courage, and Compassion?

### **Who:**

**We need everyone's feedback!** The survey can be completed in 15 minutes, though some people take longer.

In the last question, please put your name so we can follow up for clarity, conversation, and appreciation! Our different experiences are part of our faith.

### **When:**

**Survey closes on Sunday, July 13.**

### **A Note from Rev. Nancy About the Survey:**

Beloveds, a few people have expressed hesitancy about putting their name to their feedback. "Honesty requires anonymity," I have heard in one form or another. Which feels terribly sad.

I am truly curious: What is the fear behind this assumption? Are some afraid that the reader (me, for instance, or other congregational leaders) will be hurt, defensive, or reactive if we receive negative feedback?

Yes, I may have any of these feelings at first, but they pass pretty quickly. I never stop there. I'll want to know more, to understand better, to explore whether this is something I need to change, or other leaders/congregants can look at, or is it something in our congregational culture that we want to work on? Or is it a longing that we UUs can't actually fulfill?

You may write about a change that you want, but we readers can't picture what you mean unless we can ask you for specific examples. So we (you and I, or you and another leader) may have a conversation—a conversation where these questions can flow, where we get to know each other better, and from which the community, as well as each of us, will grow!

This is what it means to live with Love at the center of this community and of our lives. This is how we build trust in each other so that we can fulfill our mission ... together.

With Love,  
Rev. Nancy



# Ministry of Radical Welcome

## July is Disability Pride Month



by Carol Underwood, Lay Minister for Radical Welcome

Disability Pride Month invites us to reflect on the inclusion of our folx who have disabilities.

Disability Pride Month is not about charity but about justice. We are called to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person and to resist ableism. When we work together for our hospitality of the community we need to keep in mind people who may get left out if we don't pay attention. Radical Welcome means more than opening doors. It means reimagining our communities so that we are more than "accommodated". Instead everyone is centered.

This month we are invited not only to highlight stories of resilience and struggle, but to dismantle the idea that anyone needs to "overcome" their disability to be celebrated. The Divine shows up in all bodies, all minds.

Let us be brave enough to build that home together. Not just this month, but every day. That is the work of radical welcome.

This is why I love being part of the Sharing the Journey program. Everyone that I've heard from has a unique story about how they came to be, and the decisions that have led them here. There is so much that is worthy in each person's whole makeup! It is important to know where we all have been and how we have come to be in this community.

Dr. Rebekah Taussig is a Kansas City writer and teacher. She runs the Instagram platform @sitting\_pretty. Her Ph.D. is in Creative Nonfiction and Disability Studies from the University of Kansas, and she writes personal essays that participate in the stories being told about disability.

"When I was small and just learning how to do life in my body, I didn't hesitate, didn't hold back, didn't worry how it would look, didn't look for cues or ask for a line. My imagination ruled... I was entirely free to be, driven by the innovation my body inspired. This is the wild emancipation I wish for all of us—a world where we are all free to be, to move, to exist in our bodies without shame; a world that isn't interested in making all of its humans operate in the exact same way; a world that instead strives to invite more, include more, imagine more. That world sees the humans existing on the margins and says, You have what we want! What barriers can we remove so we can have you around? What do you need? How can we make that happen?"

*Excerpted (pp. 15–16) from Rebekah Taussig's Sitting Pretty: The View from My Ordinary Resilient Disabled Body*

### Resources for Georgians with Disabilities

- **Disability Services** - The official Georgia website compiling resources that are available for those seeking guidance or assistance.
- **EqUUal Access** - UUs coming together to enable the full engagement of people with disabilities in Unitarian Universalist communities and the broader society.



# Ministry of Radical Welcome

## We Love Our Volunteers! Thank You for Sharing Your Time & Talent!

Are you seeking your niche? Looking for a way to serve, but not quite sure what will suit your particular interests and talents? Look through this newsletter, or reach out to [SharedMinistry@uucg.org](mailto:SharedMinistry@uucg.org) to get connected.

### Coffee Hour Invitation

Help us make our Coffee Hour after Service even more welcoming by bringing snacks to share!

**Please label your container with your name so we can offer our gratitude.**

While we love sweet treats, we also welcome:

- Fresh fruits & veggies
- Gluten-free options
- Vegan & vegetarian items



Your contributions help create a nourishing and inclusive space for all. Thank you!

### Help Tend The Commons: Join the Hospitality Team!

**We are especially in need of folks to assist with clean-up following Coffee Hour**

- Bring treats to share
- Make coffee
- Assist with organizing the treats brought for Coffee Hour
- Set out items on the coffee cart
- Wash mugs
- Put away coffee cart
- Launder tablecloths or hand towels
- Assist with potluck on first Sundays
- Or any of the many other ways to serve!

Which of your gifts can you share with the UUCG community as we Tend the Commons with and for each other?

**Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values.**

We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love.

Inseparable from one another, these shared values are:

**Interdependence  
Generosity  
Justice**

**Transformation  
Pluralism  
Equity**





# Ministry of Green Space



## UUCG Wins Best Keyhole Garden!

By Gary Kiel, Lay Minister for Green Space



I was researching keyhole gardens. I did not realize how much was behind that name. They are fascinating. Here is some of what I found out.



From *“The Spruce”*, article by Peg Aloï

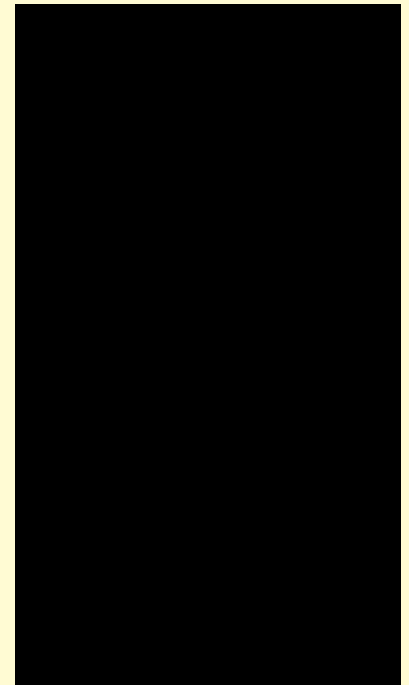
### What Is a Keyhole Garden?

A keyhole garden is a raised bed garden with a very innovative design and function. It is usually a circular shape with a wedge-shaped indentation (sort of like a pie with a slice missing, or a keyhole).

The indentation allows an easy access point to reach a cylinder-shaped compost basket. Watering the compost releases nutrients into the surrounding soil in the raised bed, which acts like a retaining wall to keep moisture in. The compost basket usually has some kind of covering made of permeable material, to allow aeration and to keep out pests, usually a cone or cylinder made with chicken wire, or a trellis.

### Where did the Idea come from? Some history from Wikipedia.

The keyhole garden was developed in Lesotho by the Consortium for Southern Africa Food Security Emergency (C-SAFE), based upon a design that originated with CARE in Zimbabwe. In the mid-1990s, Lesotho had one of the highest AIDS/HIV rates in the world. C-SAFE designed the keyhole garden for people who suffered from AIDS or were otherwise unable to tend a traditional garden. They are tall enough that people do not have to bend over while working in them, sturdy enough that a person who is weak can lean against them while they work, and small enough that the entire bed is within arm's reach. The garden is constructed using layers of compost, manure, wood ash and other nutrient-rich materials, so they are more productive than most home gardens; they hold water making them drought-resistant. The walls can be made of common stones picked up from a field, cinder blocks, bricks, or any material strong enough to hold in the soil. Clean water is used when watering the plants on the surface, while household greywater is poured down into the compost basket. *(continued on next page)*



How to Build a Keyhole Garden



# Ministry of Green Space

## UUCG Wins Best Keyhole Garden!

*continued from page 8*

### Keyhole Gardens are Designed for Composting

The center of the garden is the compost hole, as you can see in the photo above. Kitchen scraps are poured into the compost hole. The compost hole is biologically active to accelerate composting the scraps. I like to think there are swarms of happy worms feasting on the compost.

### How did UUCG Keyhole Garden Win?

While researching these gardens, I searched the web using Google and checked the images. There are hundreds of them! The UUCG Keyhole Garden wins on design, materials, and implementation aesthetics. So, yes I was the only vote. Really you should check for yourselves and I think you will agree. Let me know your findings.

~ Gary

## Compost Bucket Brigade

**We are looking for volunteers for the bucket brigade.** The task is:

1. Take the compost bucket from the kitchen.
2. Climb the hill to the keyhole garden, and empty the bucket in the compost hole.
3. Feel the vibes from the happy worms celebrating the new food!
4. Rinse out the bucket using the hose next to the front entrance. That must be turned on inside the building, used, then turned off.
5. Put the bucket back in the kitchen.

Are you interested in helping the hungry worms? Contact Gary Kiel, or send an email to [GreenTeam@uucg.org](mailto:GreenTeam@uucg.org).

## Green Sanctuary 2030




The Green Sanctuary program has been revised. The requirements are simplified. Also, the requirements show annual growth instead of a one time effort. Our team is researching the new requirements. You can find more information at the [UUA Website](http://UUA Website).

## Upcoming Green Team Events:

- **July 5** - Property Beautification Day
- **July 19** - Green Team Meeting via Zoom
- **Sept. 19** - Movie Night:  
We'll have a showing of "2040", an uplifting movie of the future.

# Ministry of Green Space

## Property Beautification Report - June 7

- It was so hot, I saw a bird blow on a worm before eating it. 
- A lot of work was done. The grass was mowed. The parking lot and sidewalks were blown clean.
- Karen improved the labyrinth.
- The hill in front of the sign was attacked again.
- There is always more to do, but the grounds are looking good. We can be proud.



Warty McFly says, "Hi!"



Peggy planted coleus in a raised bed.  
Thanks Peggy!

### *Next Property Beautification Day: July 5*

Help is also needed for indoor beautification, such as:

- Emptying and cleaning the refrigerators
- Making sure dishes are cleaned and put away
- Disposing unwanted items from the attic
- Organizing the ready room



# Ministry of Spiritual Growth

by Lydia Patrick, Lay Minister for Spiritual Growth

## 2025 - 2026 Worship Calendar is Coming!



The UUCG Worship Team has begun work on the new worship calendar for 2025 - 2026

Join us as we worship together in our beloved community. Sneak peek at services will include titles like: Interdependence Day, Village Life, Tending the Family, Primary Sources, and so many others. We look forward to seeing you every Sunday morning at 11:00!

## Choir Reminder:

**The UUCG Covenant Choir will be off during the month of July.**

We will receive support during worship from our pianist, Stephen Pyle, and our own Sweet MUusic band. Choir rehearsals will start back up in August. Look for updates from our choir director, Michael Parker.



## Join Us!

Volunteer Opportunities include:

Beacons, Worship Associates, Service Leaders, Covenant Choir, Sweet MUusic, and Faith Development Programs

We look forward to serving alongside you!



[Click HERE](#)



# Faith Development

## Tending the Flame

by Christiana Fernandez-McQuain, Coordinator of Family Ministries

July is always an exciting time for me, as we embark on a new program year and I get to re-imagine with our congregational leaders what program offerings will best serve you all through the coming months. Toward the end of this month, I will join Rev. Nancy and the members of both the Board and the Shared Ministry Council as they gather for three consecutive days for a weekend of visioning, planning, and development. Together we will engage questions about the present and future of UUCG as we explore the foundations of our governance structure and create the Annual Vision of Ministry for 2025-2026.

In addition, it is my hope to reconvene a Faith Development Team to support the continued offering of programs for children, Youth, and adults that inspire exploration of and engagement with our UU faith & values in thoughtful, intentional ways that feed your spirit.

**If you are interested in serving on the Faith Development Team and working in collaboration to plan & develop our program offerings through the coming year (or have any questions), please reach out to me at [cmcquain@uucg.org](mailto:cmcquain@uucg.org).**

Looking forward to the journey ahead, as we Tend the Commons together.

With gratitude & grace,  
Christiana

**Faith  
Development  
resources  
for exploring  
Tending the  
Commons**

Check out The Places We  
Belong - Soul Matters July  
Playlist on [Spotify](#).



### Words of Wisdom?

We invite you  
to journey with us...

## Summer Program: Resisting Fascism



Centered on the content of the book *On Tyranny*, by Timothy Snyder, and facilitated by Steve Babb, this program is designed to open discussion about the peril our democracy is currently facing, and where we have agency to make a difference.

**Next Sessions: 12:30pm  
on July 20, August 3,  
August 17**

If you need a copy of the book, UUCG has copies to lend. Reach out to Steve Babb or Christiana.

# Ministry of Connecting Within



## Thoughts on Tending

by Lisa Kiel, Lay Minister for Connecting Within

*“Gardeners are good at nurturing, and they have a great quality of patience, they're tender. They have to be persistent.”*

~ Ralph Fiennes

Gary and I have been gardening this year. It's an experiment with both successes and failures. It is also a mental health practice where we can work and escape the pressing worries surrounding us. In the garden, we can measure growth. We can weed, discourage pests and supplement the nutritional needs of our plants. As frustrating as the rain has been for social times, there's no denying that it has contributed to our plants' survival.

Since we're not as physically flexible as we used to be, our garden is spread about in raised beds, buckets, pots, whatever containers were at hand. Basically, our vegetable garden is a testimony to where there's a will there's a way. And, we're already eying our yard wondering where we can squeeze in more garden space. After all, our garden is a community, so there's always room for more, right?

This month UUCG is embracing the theme of Tending our Commons. I think on this lovely phrase, and I think about all the groups here within our community that so many of our congregants have lovingly, patiently tended, nurturing growth through persistent commitment. Thank you to everyone this year who is leading a group or attending a group, and if your group is on vacation this summer, it's the perfect opportunity to sample something new!

With joy,  
Lisa



## UUCG Book Group

Wednesday  
July 23rd  
at 7:00pm

[Online via Zoom](#)

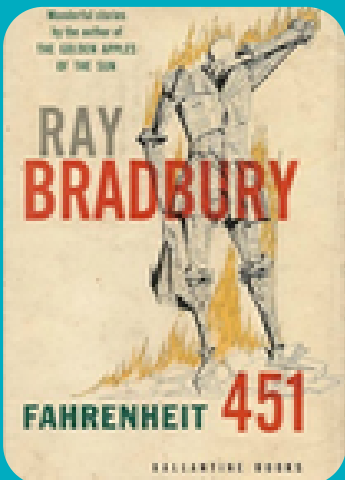
### July Selection:

***Fahrenheit 451***

by Ray Bradbury

This internationally acclaimed novel stands as a classic of world literature set in a bleak, dystopian future. Today its message has grown more relevant than ever before.

[Learn more here...](#)















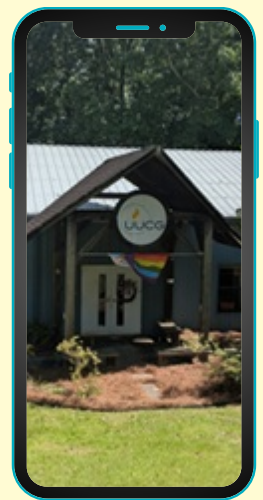
# Ministry of Connecting Within



## ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

-  **Alphabet SoUUp** - In Person: 1st Monday at 6:30pm, potluck served
-  **Book Group** - Online: 4th Wednesday at 7:00pm <https://zoom.us/j/144736833>
-  **Covenant Groups** - All Covenant Groups will be on break July and August
-  **Game Night** - Is canceled for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Will return in August.
-  **Men's Group** - In Person: 2nd Saturday at 9:00am
-  **Music Night** - In Person: every Thursday night starting at 6:30pm
-  **QUUest** - Adults: In Person-4th Friday at 6:00pm  
**QUUest Jr.** - Youth: In Person-2nd Friday at 7:00pm
-  **Spiral Scouts** - Is on break for the Summer and will return in the Fall
-  **Women's Group: The Open Circle** - In Person: 4th Saturday at 10:00am
-  **Yarns from the Heart** - In Person and Online: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays

CHECK OUT THE CONNECTING WITHIN BULLETIN BOARD



Connecting within starts with presence—pausing to breathe, reflect, and truly see the beauty around us. As you walk through the doors of UUCG, capture the moments that bring you joy and share in the collective appreciation of this sacred space.

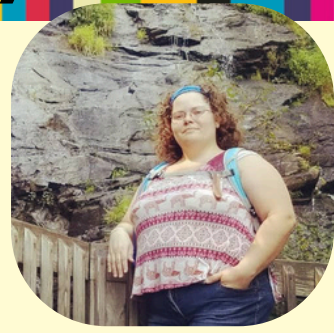


# Ministry of Connecting Beyond



## Tending the Unseen: The Quiet Labor of Love in Community

by Candice Carver (she/her), Lay Minister for Connecting Beyond



At UUCG, we often talk about justice, equity, transformation, pluralism, generosity, and interdependence as bold and beautiful values we live by. But it's the quiet, consistent acts of kindness—the ones that often go unnoticed—that are at the heart of how we tend the commons together.

One of the most visible and joyful examples happened last year when our congregation coordinated handing out boxes of fresh produce to our local community. It wasn't a grand event with compassionate hands offering nourishment, neighbors meeting neighbors, and a shared understanding that care is something we grow and give freely. As a community we also collect food for the Lawrenceville Co-Op quietly "tending our commons."



But tending the commons isn't just about food. Many of our members carpool to services and events, ensuring that transportation is never a barrier to belonging. Others faithfully send cards to those who are grieving,

healing, or in need of a little light, offering words that remind them: you are not alone. These simple gestures—rides, cards, meals, presence—are threads in the tapestry of our shared life. This is how we nurture our beloved community. Not just with big projects, but with daily love in action.

I often ask myself: Are there people in my life I can tend the commons with? Are there neighbors who might need help, a check-in, a warm meal, or a listening ear? How am I helping tend the community within my UU values?

And perhaps most importantly—What can we do together as a community to tend to our community and make it stronger?

We don't have to do it all alone. The strength of our shared ministry lies in the ways we show up for one another.



Lawrenceville Co-Op is again partnering with Village of Hope to make sure those students in our area who are in need of food get the support they need.

### Greatest Needs

Rice  
Corn  
Oatmeal  
Green beans  
Canned meat products

### Village of Hope Items

Individual mac and cheese  
Pop Tarts/Individual cereals  
Vienna Sausages  
Oatmeal packets

**They will be closed 6/28 - 7/6**

**Donations Begin 7/7 at 9:00am**

**Distributions Begin 7/7 at 5:00pm**

# Ministry of Connecting Beyond

## Claiming Our Power

by Barbara Stahnke



During the weeks of May 28th and June 23rd Unitarian Universalists from across Georgia spoke out against the Georgia Power Integrated Resource Plan (GA Power IRP) at the Public Service Commission Public Comments. The GA Power IRP involves the way Georgia Power intersects with climate justice, power provision, and Georgia Power's \$return on investment. At the May 28th event Peggy Averyt, Terry Welsher, Bruce Leonard, Karen Smith, and Barbara Stahnke from UUCG made public comment. At the June 23rd event, Barbara Stahnke and Terry Welsher from UUCG made public comment. The UUCG members spoke on the lack of renewables, the lack of planning for climate change, and the lack of concern for economic justice and equity in the Georgia Power IRP. There is still work to be done.



**#1 Continue to make public comment** on the Georgia Power IRP until July 10th. [Here](#) is an easy way to do this.

**#2 Share the action with 5 friends.** Most people don't know about the Public Service Commission and how it not only impacts their lives but folks in their communities' lives.

**#3 Save the date for July 9th** and a potential Vigil with GIPL, downtown to represent our views related to the IRP. Pay attention to social media for announcements. Email [bstahnke@comcast.net](mailto:bstahnke@comcast.net) to be alerted to late breaking news.

**#4 Consider if you are eligible to vote** in the Public Service Commission (PSC) democratic runoff primary on July 15th. Please note that **EVERY** person in Georgia who voted in the democratic primary for PSC is eligible to vote in this primary runoff. Research where you can vote, if eligible, and help others. The Atlanta Journal Constitution is investigating the current increased numbers of folks voting, which evidences new awareness of the Public Service Commission impact on our lives. **VOTE** if you are eligible to vote.

1. **Advanced Voting:** 7/7-7/11/2025

2. **Primary Runoff:** 7/15/2025

3. **Decreased voting locations have been approved** – research where you can vote in the primary. (The UU GA Legislative Action Network is researching what is happening with voting locations and the potential that there may be voter suppression.)

**#5 Prepare to attend Good Trouble Faith Development on July 27th** and help plan our Get Out the Vote (GOTV) for August through November 4th. We will have an opportunity to vote in the district 2 & 3 Public Service Commission races. **REMEMBER** – Everyone in Georgia gets to vote in both races.

Let's Create Some GOOD TROUBLE Together.

~ Barbara – [bstahnke@comcast.net](mailto:bstahnke@comcast.net)



# Ministry of Connecting Beyond

## Associational Connections

At the 2025 UUA General Assembly in Baltimore, Maryland, and online, 1882 delegates representing 592 congregations in 48 U.S. states and 4 additional countries voted to determine:

- **The Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson and Bill Young will serve as UUA co-Moderators** for a term of 6 years
- **Three Actions of Immediate Witness were affirmed:**
  - We Declare and Affirm: Immigrants Are People Who Have Inherent Worth and Inalienable Rights
  - Faithful Defiance of Authoritarianism, a Call to Action: Reaffirming Our Covenants for Democracy and Freedom
  - Defending LGBTIQ Freedom Amid Funding Crisis: A Call for Global Solidarity
- **The following Congregational Study/Action Issue was selected:**
  - Abolition, Transformation, and Faith Formation



You can learn more about each of these initiatives by clicking the links above, or by speaking with your UUCG Delegates for this year, Terry Welscher, Dmitri Novak, and Bill Benshoof.

You can learn more about what AIWs and CSAIs are on the UUA website.

You can view the official ballot results here.

Next year's General Assembly will be held online only.

Look for programming and information about how we at UUCG can engage with these AIWs and the CSAI in upcoming issues of this newsletter.

## Food Distribution



Gwinnett

**Starting at 3:00PM  
while supplies last.**

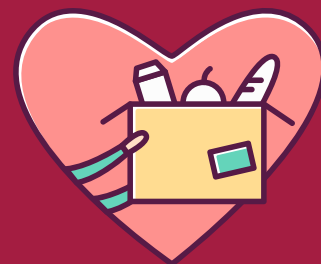
- Fresh & Shelf-stable foods
- No ID required
- Drive through distribution

**July 8**

RHODES JORDAN PARK  
100 E Crogan St, Lawrenceville

**July 22**

BEST FRIEND PARK  
6224 Jimmy Carter Blvd, Norcross



For more information, visit  
[GwinnettCounty.com/FoodResources](https://www.gwinnettcountry.com/FoodResources)



# Save the Date



## Blessing of the Backpacks

A ritual of renewal

Sunday, August 3



Saturday,  
September  
13th

## The Ordination of David Morgen to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry



## UUGA Legislative Action Network Annual Conference

### SAVE THE DATE



This event will be held at the [\*Unitarian Universalist Church of Savannah\*](#) on **Nov. 15th**. Focus will be on Georgia Legislation 2026. **Let's plan a Unitarian Universalist Georgia focused trip to Savannah that weekend. Tentative itinerary is:**

**Friday:** arrive in the morning, spend the evening settling in Savannah

**Saturday:** attend the conference, enjoy Savannah in the evening

























**Sunday:** worship at the Savannah church

For more information contact Barbara Stahnke, [bstahnke@comcast.net](mailto:bstahnke@comcast.net)

# July 2025

for more information about any of these events,  
please [visit our online Calendar](#)



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 		



	Food Bank Donations Days	Food collection for our members in need and the Lawrenceville Co-op	In-Person
	Potluck Lunch	Sign up to volunteer; bring a dish to share; come break bread together	In-Person
	Board Of Trustees	Congregational Conversation, Board Meeting, or Business Meeting. All members and friends of UUCG are invited to attend	In-Person and Online via Zoom
	Alphabet SoUUp	Discussion group for Queer-identified folx	In-Person
	Choir	Rehearsal for performance during Worship Services	In-Person
	Yarns from the Heart	Creates prayer shawls and baby blankets for members and friends	Online via Zoom
	Music Night	Musicians of all skill levels gather to play together	In-Person
	Property Beautification	Monthly indoor/outdoor workday. All skills and abilities are welcome	In-Person
	Oak Grove UUCG CUUPs	Oak Grove UUCG Covenant of UU Pagans Gathering, all are welcome	In-Person
	Belief Explorers	Explorers of world philosophies, faith traditions & religions	In-Person and Online via Zoom
	Spiral Scouts	All-gender scouting group for ages 3-12	In-Person
	Covenant Groups	Small Group Ministry. Registration Required	In-Person and Online via Zoom
	Men's Group (inclusive)	Male-identified people gather for discussion	In-Person
	Tarot Classes	A learning space for all who are interested in the tarot	Online via Zoom
	Green Team Meeting	Environmental Justice-focused group, all are welcome	Online via Zoom
	Sylvan Sanctuary	Oak Grove Sylvan Sanctuary Druid Ritual celebrating the Sabbats	In-Person
	Book Group	Monthly book discussion (contact administrator for link to join)	Online via Zoom
	G3T	Grand Green Get Togethers: Movies and more with the Green Team	In-Person
	Worship Services	Sunday Morning Worship Services at 11:00am weekly	In-Person and Online via Zoom
	Family Game Night	Board and card games in community - all ages welcome	In-Person
	QUEST & QUEST Jr.	D&D campaigns, registration required	In-Person
	Good Trouble	Sunday After Service at 12:30PM	In-Person
	Women's Group	All who identify as women are welcome to this safe space for sharing & connection	In-Person
	Resisting Fascism	Discussion group centered on the book On Tyranny, by Timothy Snyder	In-Person

## Staff Schedules

**Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones**  
**Minister**

revnpj@uucg.org | 678-558-4834

**on vacation through July 14**

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays:

10:00 am. - 4:00 pm

First & Third Saturdays: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

**LaTreisha McKay**  
**Bookkeeper**

lmckay@uucg.org

Monday (remote), 5:00 pm-8:00 pm

**Christiana McQuain**

**Coordinator of Family Ministries**

cmcquain@uucg.org

**away from the office July 6-12**

Tuesdays (remote), 9:00 am-4:00 pm

Fridays (on-site), 9:00 am-2:00 pm

most Sundays (on-site) 8:30 am-2:30 pm

**Michael Parker**

**Choir Director**

choirdirector@uucg.org

**off during the month of July**

Tuesdays (on-site), 1:00 pm-6:00 pm

**Jason Pfeffer**

**Office Administrator**

admin@uucg.org

Tuesdays & Fridays, 9am-2pm

Third Sundays, 10:30-12:30pm

**Becca Parker**

**Choir Director**

choirdirector@uucg.org

**off during the month of July**

Sunday mornings (On-site),

9:00am-12:00 pm