



# November 2025 Gwinnett News for Unitarian Universalists

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Gnu symbolism varies across cultures, each attributing unique meanings to this powerful animal. Some believe it carries powerful messages of strength, service, and connection to Mother Earth. It embodies resilience and dedication, teaching us to approach life with humility and gratitude.

## Nurturing Gratitude

Of course this month we embark on an exploration of the ways in which we can nurture gratitude.

We already know that gratitude is more than saying “thank you.” It’s a spiritual practice. It helps us notice life’s gifts, both large and small, and it shapes how we move through the world.



This month we are invited to notice with intention - what does gratitude look like? What does it feel like? Nurturing Gratitude invites us to tune in to the experience of what it means to be grateful.

When we choose to live into this practice of gratitude, we commit to pausing to notice the good around us—even in ordinary moments (even in difficult moments). These practices root us in appreciation and remind us that life, even with its challenges, is still full of gifts.

Living into gratitude doesn’t mean ignoring struggles or pretending everything is easy. It means noticing beauty and kindness alongside the hard parts, and letting those moments strengthen us.

# Worship in November

Sundays at 11:00am

Theme: Cultivating Compassion

Join us in-person or via Zoom

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



## November 2nd

### **Gratitude, Compassion, and Boundaries**

We launch this month with gratitude for our Unitarian Universalist faith, which asks us to be in compassionate relationship with an ever-widening circle of people, creatures, and things. Yet compassion also requires us to set some healthy boundaries—in our families, friendship groups, and communities. How do we hold Love at the center and also hold limits? Let's explore this profound spiritual practice! Please plan to stay after the service for the potluck and congregational conversation so that we can dive deeper into how this theme touches UUCG.

*Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones (she/her), Worship Leader*

## November 9th

### **Nurturing Gratitude for Earth and All Her Beings**

Practices to increase love, and connection with our Web of Light, and action to nurture this love.

*Daniel Bailey (he/him), Worship Leader*

## November 16th

### **A Tree of Gratitude and a Source of Hope for the Season**

In this multigenerational service, we will discover how sharing our gratitude for the smallest things can ground us in hope throughout the complicated holiday season. The Tree of Gratitude that we will create will spark a spiritual practice to share throughout the year. And our glorious anthem, "Love Has Always Been Our Song," will set our hearts soaring.

*Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones (she/her), Worship Leader*

## November 23rd

### **Nurturing Gratitude for What Is and For What is Yet to Be**

Amy Lloyd says,

"Today I want to greet joy, Without a trace of suspicion  
I want to open my eyes to the light, Without a blink of dread  
I want to look at my past without a whisper of shame.  
I want to look at my future without a hint of fear."

Let us set our intention today to be grateful for all that we can, remembering what it took to get here, and knowing that we move forward daily, setting a goal to make this world a better place indeed.

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

## November 30th

### **Nurturing Gratitude for Group Safety**

Because we respect everyone's worth and dignity, we make the safety of all a priority as we plan the sacred spaces we open and the way we conduct our gatherings. And, we are grateful for the safety specialists who we ask to help us take care of each other in times of need.

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

Programs

Sundays at  
12:30pm

### **1st Sunday, 11/2**

- Potluck
- Resisting Fascism Team

### **2nd Sunday, 11/9**

- Belief Explorers
- Spiral Scouts (pre-registration required)

### **3rd Sunday, 11/16**

- Congregational Conversation
- Tarot Sunday
- Board Meeting

### **4th Sunday, 11/23**

- "Good Trouble"







# Worship and More

## Sylvan Sanctuary Samhain Ritual November 1st

Gathering at 5:45 PM  
Ritual Starts at 6:00 PM  
*Potluck to proceed afterwards*

### Harvest festival

UUCG Annual  
Fall Fundraiser  
Saturday/November 8  
10 AM-4PM

Volunteer Sign up  
for Various  
Positions to help:



Sign Up for  
Group/Team  
Fundraising or  
Personal Sells:



**Nurturing  
Gratitude  
for  
Group Safety**

**Sunday, November 30**

**Join us as we practice safety  
drills with the aid of our  
Safety Specialists as they lead  
us through a demonstration  
of best practices.**



## THANKSGIVING FRIENDSGIVING DINNER

Thursday, November 27th  
12:00pm - 7:00pm  
12 Bethesda Church Road  
Lawrenceville, GA 30044

# Message from the Minister



## Always Wanting More – Nurturing Gratitude for Who We Are

*by Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones (she/her)*



The first time I really became conscious of my longing for more—more life, more love, more everything—I was in my twenties and walking to work in downtown San Francisco. Amid the sensory overload of rush-hour traffic, I felt this tug in my solar plexus and heard the words “I want—!” repeating over and over in my mind. I could never complete the sentence—what did I want exactly? I just knew I wanted something more, something different. It was uncomfortable and mysterious.

I can see now how this wanting-something-more has driven me to find my sense of purpose in life. I even notice where it brings delight: Oh, look at that pretty sparkling thing! Oh, look at these good people working and loving and trying so hard! But it has also made me too big a fan of “retail therapy” and too easily distracted by—SQUIRREL!

So mostly I’ve seen craving, as the Buddhists call it, as a problem. It takes me right out of the present moment, which is the only place life can really be lived. I’ve tried diminishing this hunger mostly by criticizing myself whenever I hear “I want—!” ringing in my head again.

Just this week, as I listen to Pema Chödrön’s book “How We Live Is How We Die,” I find a new teaching. Chödrön, an American Buddhist nun, says we all have one of these “propensities”—craving, pride, jealousy, ignorance (feeling withdrawn or out of touch), or aggression. But if we sit compassionately with these tendencies instead of pushing them away, our ego and fear will melt away. Then the energy that each characteristic bottles up will actually bring us wisdom. Craving loses its grasp on my gut and transforms into a deep interest in every detail of life, and the sense that we’re all connected.

Wait! Does this mean I can nurture gratitude for my craving?! It sure does! That longing for something more becomes an invitation to pay close attention to what is, and to see what it’s asking me and us to do.

Wow! It still takes energy and practice to transform wanting-something-more into engagement with life’s actual details. But I’m up for the journey!

Let’s go together!

With Love at the center,

Rev. Nancy

OUR LOVE IS  
INCLUSIVE  
AND  
DEFIANT





# Reflections from Rev. Nancy

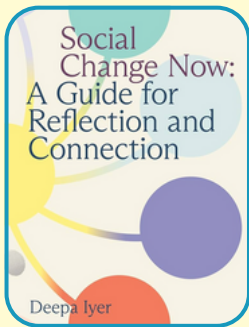
## My Gratitude List: Four Ways UUCG Gives Me Guidance



### 1. Joy:

UUCG's Board has voted to extend my contract as your part-time minister through June 2027! The morning after the board told me this good news, I woke feeling energized and inspired, and this undercurrent of aliveness continues to carry me. I am profoundly grateful that we will be building this community, caring for each other, and expanding the good that we can do for another year-and-a-half+!

### 2. Study:



Christiana Fernandez-McQuain and I are leading a study-action group on this year's UUA Common Read: "Social Change Now: A Guide for Reflection and Connection," by Deepa Iyer. Through six 75-minute sessions—all online except for the last one in February—we will name the social-change roles that call to each of us; we will discover practical ways to play our part; and we will support each other as we make change for the good. Please list all your available times by filling out the [form at this link](#) ASAP! Please let Christiana know if you need a copy of the book: [cmcquain@uucg.org](mailto:cmcquain@uucg.org)

### 3. Action:



- Support our local food banks! Bring canned and dry food for our monthly food collection at UUCG on Sunday, November 2.
- Change our shopping habits as much as we can: Refrain from shopping at all the big-box stores except Costco, Trader Joe's, and the various Dollar stores. Financial pressures are an essential part of our power to end fascism.

### 4. Care:



Let's revive and strengthen UUCG's Community Care Circles! Do you know which neighborhood Care Circle you belong to? [insert link to Care Circle list/chart here] How can you and your Care Circle show up for each other? Similarly, reach out to UUCG folx you have not seen recently! Let's stay connected, and join us in worship and other programs at UUCG as we create life-saving circles of care!

# From the Board



## Continued Leadership

*by Lorena Griffin, Board Secretary*



The UUCG Board of Trustees is pleased to announce we will be extending Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones' ministerial contract for an additional year, through June 2027. Nancy is a great fit for our congregation and has a tremendous amount of expertise to offer, garnered from her decades in the ministry.

One area of that expertise will enable her to guide us through the search for our next minister, a process which will need to begin soon. We plan to enlist a new Ministerial Search Committee shortly after the start of the new year. The process leading up to recruitment of a new minister will involve multiple conversations with the congregation at-large concerning our goals and desires.

Please begin to consider UUCG's ministerial needs and consider whether you might like to be a part of this committee. It may seem early, but we can get ahead of the game if we take our time and imagine this decision creatively.

Meanwhile, please congratulate Reverend Nancy. We look forward to working with her for an additional year.

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## Pledge Drive 2026

Please plan to join us on Celebration Sunday on November 2, 2025 when we announce the tally of total pledges received to date to fund the Operating Budget for fiscal year 2026. With profound gratitude to all who returned their pledge forms. (There is still time to do so, if you haven't had a chance to submit your yet!)





# From the Board

## News from the Endowment Fund

*by Doug Beers, UUCG Endowment Fund Chairperson*



It is with deep gratitude to Katrina Yorko that The UUCG Endowment Fund, Inc., has received a substantial bequest from her estate. Katrina was an accomplished artist, designer of the artwork on UUCG's "40 for 40" campaign mugs, and creator of the paintings displayed in our sanctuary. The bequest was immediately invested in our account at the UUA Endowment Fund in Boston.



With recent Birthday Club, and other donations from the Millette Family, Dave and Peggy Averyt, Doug Beers, Sue-Ann Soloway, Amy Guildroy and Dave Schroeder, the Endowment Fund's net asset value has risen to \$127,649.79 as of November 20th. This year, the Endowment Fund is pleased to have given grants to GA Delegates and the Minister's Discretionary Fund. As our assets grow, so will the available funds for grants each year. Please consider making a Birthday Club donation every year. If you need information on how to include UUCG in your estate or trust planning, please contact Doug Beers.

Together, our stewardship will provide for long-term financial stability, and increased opportunities for the church.



# Ministry of Radical Welcome



## National Native American Heritage Month

*by Carol Underwood, Lay Minister for Radical Welcome*



National Native American Heritage Month, celebrated each November in the United States, is a time dedicated to recognizing the rich histories, diverse cultures, and important contributions of Native American peoples. It serves as an opportunity to honor the first inhabitants of the land and to acknowledge their enduring influence on American society, government, language, art, and traditions.

The observance originated as a single day of recognition. In 1915, Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian, and others pushed for a national day to honor Native Americans. Decades of advocacy led to more official recognition, and in 1990, President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November as National American Indian Heritage Month. Today, it is more commonly called National Native American Heritage Month, reflecting the broad diversity of Indigenous peoples across the continent.

This month is not only a celebration but also a reminder of the historical injustices faced by Native communities, including displacement, cultural erasure, and systemic inequality. Education plays a major role during this time, with schools, museums, and institutions highlighting Native histories often overlooked in mainstream narratives.

National Native American Heritage Month is a chance for all Americans to deepen their understanding of tribal sovereignty, Native resilience, and contemporary issues facing Indigenous peoples today. It's a moment to listen to Native voices, support Native-owned businesses, and explore the many traditions, languages, and stories that continue to thrive in Indigenous communities.

Ultimately, this observance encourages respect, reflection, and connection. By learning about and honoring the Native peoples of the past and present, Americans take a step toward a more inclusive and accurate understanding of the nation's history and future. It is not just about remembering the past, but about supporting Native communities today and ensuring their cultures and rights are preserved for generations to come.

### Save the Date!

What: Native American Festival & Pow Wow

When: October 30 - November 2

Where: Stone Mountain Park

How: <https://stonemountainpark.com/activity/events/native-american-festival-and-pow-wow>





# Meeting the Moment

## Where Is Our Prophetic Witness When It Comes to the Gaza Genocide?: A Call to Conscience

by Steve Babb

*Content warning: This article contains graphic descriptions of violence against children and the horrors of poverty and war.*

Imagine that you are an 18-year-old in a tiny, densely populated enclave of two million people, half of them children, three quarters of them refugees or descendants of refugees, all of them stateless, besieged, blockaded, and constantly surveilled and policed.

You have grown up in a ghetto the size of Grenada knowing you will never be allowed to leave.

Yet you are more than victims. That ghetto, which has one of the highest rates of unemployment and poverty in the world, also has one of the world's highest literacy rates, and punches way over its weight in producing poets and artists.

Israeli bureaucrats have been monitoring and tapering down your calories, subjecting you to periodic electricity blackouts, and sharply restricting the food, medicine, medical supplies,

and other goods available to you for your entire life, since well before October 7th.

You have been subjected to five bloody full-scale Israeli invasions before the current one, plus multiple "lawn mowings." Your attempts at mounting nonviolent protests have been brutally suppressed.

You were not living in a "ceasefire" on October 6<sup>th</sup>. You were living under siege, under a collective punishment regime, in a perpetual state of suspension waiting for your real life to start.

You weren't allowed to visit West Bank relatives, and nobody except Israeli soldiers were allowed to visit you. They had been brainwashed to believe that you were human animals, and treated you accordingly.

Your life was hell on October 6<sup>th</sup>, and nobody gave a damn.

Then overnight your situation got exponentially worse.

[Read the entire article on our website...](#)

## Are you looking for a way to serve the UUCG community?

**Our Hospitality Ministry is always looking for volunteers! Reach out to Carol Underwood to get information about the many ways you can contribute on Sunday mornings and beyond, including:**

- Assisting with Potluck
- Greeting at the door
- Bringing snacks to share on Sundays
- Donating kitchen supplies
- and so much more!



graphic designed by HP Rivers

# Ministry of Green Space



## UUCG Role in “Claiming Our Power” Receives Honors from UUA

*by Terry Welscher, UUCG Green Team*

On Wednesday, October 15, the Good Trouble/Climate Justice coalition from UUCG was invited to give a “Spotlight Presentation” to the UUA Green Sanctuary 2030 Monthly Community National Call. While we were invited to do this as a UUCG entity, we were really reporting on what became a statewide effort called “Claiming Our Power” involving many other UU Congregations, the UU Georgia Legislative Action Network and partnerships with several other non-profit, activist organizations.

The focus of this work was to make as many Georgia voters as possible aware of the upcoming (November 4) elections of two commissioners to the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) and of the surprise application of Georgia Power (GP) to rapidly increase their energy capacity by adding more fossil fuel assets to their fleet, thereby increasing carbon emissions, risk of even higher electricity bills, increased energy burden on low-income customers and more climate/environmental injustice. Our presentation recounted the beginning of this project in the UUCG Climate Justice Revival in September 2024, the combining of this event’s aftermath with the parallel Good Trouble initiative and subsequent outreach to the other organizations. We also described the education of concerned citizens on the proposal and the mobilization to attend PSC hearings and give testimony as well as get out the vote efforts.

At the end of the presentation, UUA Side with Love Climate Justice Strategist, Rachel Misliv, informed us that we would receive an honorarium for the presentation which will go to the church. The second even bigger surprise was, that the overall body of work had earned UUCG the 2025 designation as a Green Sanctuary Congregation. Thanks to all who worked and are continuing to work on this important issue. Special recognition goes to Barbara Stahnke for her leadership and tireless outreach. I should also mention Jane Nelson of the UU Congregation of Atlanta who also helped with the presentation.



## Upcoming Green Team Events:

- **Saturday, Nov. 15:**  
**Green Team Meeting**  
online via Zoom  
at 9:30am
- **Saturday, Dec. 6:**  
**Tending Our Grounds**  
on-site at 10:00am

*Gary Kiel serves as the Lay Minister for Green Space*



# Ministry of Spiritual Growth

## Nurturing Gratitude

by Lydia Patrick, Lay Minister for Spiritual Growth



We have had such a busy year at UUCG and I am grateful to be part of this beloved community indeed.

The services this month of November will center on the theme of gratitude. I am reminded of this old hymn by Percival Chubb who was a founding member of the Fabian Society, (according to Google) an influential British socialist organization that aims to advance the principles of democratic socialism via gradualist and reformist effort in democracies. He was born in 1860 and died in 1960. He immigrated to the United States in 1889. He wrote this hymn, entitled **We Lift our Heart in Thanks**, which I share with you now.

*We lift our hearts in thanks today for all the gifts of life;  
and, first, for peace that turns away the enmities of strife.*

*And, next, the beauty of the earth, its flowers and lovely things,  
the spring's great miracle of birth, with sound of songs and wings.*

*Then, harvests of its teeming soil in orchard, croft, and field;  
but, more, the service and the toil of those who helped them yield.*

*And, most, the gifts of hope and love, of wisdom, truth, and right,  
the gifts that shine like stars above to chart the world by night.*

My take away will be to notice around me, both when we gather and when are are apart, how our beloved community fills me with thanksgiving coming and going. I hope to see often this month.

**Are you interested in learning more about serving in Lay Ministry at UUCG?**

**Reach out to [sharedministry@uucg.org](mailto:sharedministry@uucg.org).**

## Planting the Seeds of Spiritual Growth

Opportunities include:

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



Click [HERE](#)

We look forward to  
serving alongside you!



# Ministry of Spiritual Growth

## Blessing of the Animals

On Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Nancy held a Blessing of the Animals ritual for all furred, feathered, and scaled friends of UUCG. It was a lovely morning. We thank all who were able to join us this year.



## Faith Development

*by Christiana McQuain, Coordinator of Family Ministries*

As we welcome in this month of Nurturing Gratitude, I must take this opportunity to lift up my appreciation for our children and families. Though we only gather in a learning setting twice each month, I am always impressed by the amount of creativity, thoughtfulness, and insight our kids bring to the Religious Exploration space.

In conversation with several them at the end of October, we collaboratively came to the conclusion that they are ready to transition some of our gatherings from an RE-focused space to a Youth Group space. This means a shift from entirely learning-focused sessions to gatherings that nurture their autonomy and leadership capabilities, in addition to learning and living into our shared UU Values together.

I am looking forward to guiding our magnificent Youth through this next chapter of their growth.



*Chalices created by our RE group in October 2025.*



# Ministry of Connecting Within

## Small Group Ministry: UUCG Covenant Groups

**Covenant Groups** are small groups of eight to ten people who gather together once or twice a month for a couple of hours to explore our ministry themes and engage in deep, meaningful conversations. Joining a Covenant Group offers an opportunity for deep connection through exploration of your own spiritual life in a small group setting.



### **Covenant Groups Nurture Meaningful Connections**

Creating a sacred space, exploring our values through the sharing of our unique experiences, listening and talking together... Covenant Groups create the structure of a covenanted space for hearing the whispers of our own hearts as we listen deeply to each other.

Covenant Groups are open to everyone! Newcomers, long-time members, and everyone in between are welcome. It's a great way to build connections within our beloved community, and to explore our themes beyond Sunday morning.

Registration is available on a rolling basis and is open now. View the [Connecting Within](#) page of our website to access the form to register.

Happiness does  
not make us  
grateful,  
gratefulness  
makes us happy.

David Steindl-Rast



# Ministry of Connecting Within



## ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES



**Alphabet SoUUp** - In Person and Online: 1st Mondays at 6:30pm, potluck served!



**Book Group** - Online: 4th Wednesdays at 7pm  
<https://zoom.us/j/144736833>



**Covenant Groups** - Registration Remains Open! **Group A:** 2nd and 4th Mondays at 7pm Online; **Group B:** 2nd Wednesdays at 7pm In Person; **Group C:** 2nd Thursdays at 10am Online (waiting list only)



**Game Night** - In Person: 1st Fridays at 6:30pm, all ages welcome!



**Men's Group** - In Person: 2nd Saturdays at 9am



**QUUest** - *On hiatus until January 23*

**QUUest Jr.** - In Person: 2nd Fridays at 7pm, campaign for Youth



**Spiral Scouts** - In Person: 2nd Sundays following Sunday service

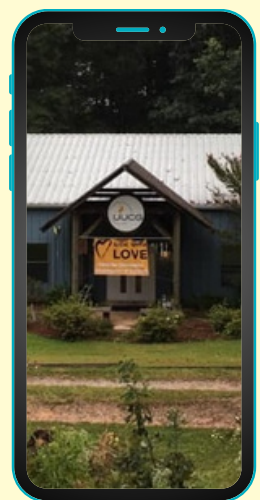


**Women's Group: The Open Circle** - In Person: 4th Saturdays at 10am



**Yarns from the Heart** - In Person and Online: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 10am  
<https://zoom.us/j/98096623472>

CHECK OUT THE CONNECTING WITHIN BULLETIN BOARD



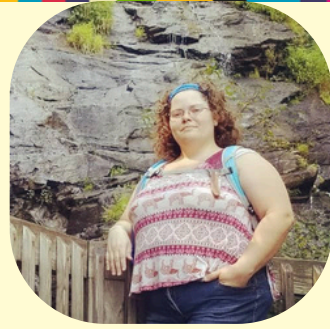
Connecting within starts with presence—pausing to breathe, reflect, and truly see the beauty around us. As you walk through the doors of UUCG, capture the moments that bring you joy and share in the collective appreciation of this sacred space.

# Ministry of Connecting Beyond



## After the First Hello: The Nurturing Work of Staying Connected

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



This year, more than 150 visitors have walked through the doors of UUCG. One hundred and fifty or more souls have entered our space, seeking something—a moment of peace, a sense of belonging, a glimpse of connection. Each one represents a spark of potential community. But the question before us now is not simply how many came—it's how many stayed, and just as importantly, who among us has drifted quietly away.

Nurturing gratitude begins with awareness, but it doesn't end there. The work of nurturing is the slow, intentional tending that happens after the first welcome—and long after the last handshake. It's what turns a passing moment into a relationship and a simple connection into a lasting sense of belonging. It's the smile across the sanctuary that silently says, "I'm glad you're here." It's the phone call or message that says, "Your presence matters." It's the postcard sent not out of obligation, but out of thankfulness for the ways someone's spirit has touched our community.

When we nurture gratitude, we deepen our sense of belonging and remind one another that every connection is a gift. Gratitude opens our hearts to notice the quiet blessings in our shared life—the faces we've grown to cherish, the voices we've missed, the moments that might otherwise slip by unspoken. It's easy to feel grateful when the sanctuary is full, when energy and joy are all around us. The deeper, quieter practice is to carry that gratitude forward—to remember those who haven't been with us lately, to reach out with appreciation and care, and to let them know they are still held in our hearts. That is the heart of nurturing gratitude.

Who do you find yourself grateful for in this community? Who hasn't been in your small group, at choir rehearsal, or at one of our gatherings lately? Maybe someone used to sit near you on Sunday mornings, helped in the kitchen, or shared a reflection that stayed with you. Have you reached out to them? Have you reminded them that their presence is a blessing to this community, even if we haven't seen them in a while? "Our love is inclusive and defiant." That is UUCG's vision of ministry this year, and nurturing gratitude is one of the clearest ways we live that truth. Defiant love refuses to take anyone for granted. It resists the indifference and isolation of the wider world by choosing to notice, to thank, and to care. Inclusive love extends beyond the first handshake and continues through the seasons of change and absence. It honors the truth that every member, new or seasoned, visitor or long-timer, brings something precious to this circle of care.

(continued on next page)



# Ministry of Connecting Beyond After the First Hello

*continued from previous page*

Through our practice of Connecting Beyond, we remind ourselves that nurturing gratitude does not stop at the threshold of our building. It reaches outward—to those we haven't seen, to those we hope to welcome back, and to those who are still discovering us for the first time. When we express gratitude for one another, we nourish the very soul of UUCG itself.

So let us continue to tend this living garden of community. Let us water the seeds of appreciation that have been planted and care for the roots that have grown deep over the years. The next time you notice an unfamiliar face—or an absent one—let that be your moment to nurture gratitude. That is how we keep our love alive. That is how we grow roots, not just numbers. And that is how we remember that every person who has crossed our threshold is a blessing in the heart of this beloved community.



An all ages, monthly, Trans\* Spiritual Care Program

**The Woodlands**

- Saplings - Trans Youth (13+/HS)
- Sycamores – Trans Adults (18+)
- Sequoias- Parents/Caregivers (attending solo)
- Sequoias Jr. – Parents/Caregivers (attending with kids)

**November 2, 2025**  
**4:00pm**

The poster features a green background with a large tree, a blue bird, and various woodland animals at the bottom.



♡ SIDE WITH LOVE

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

**The Gathering**

Fortifying Ourselves for the Long Road Ahead

**Elections and Democracy**

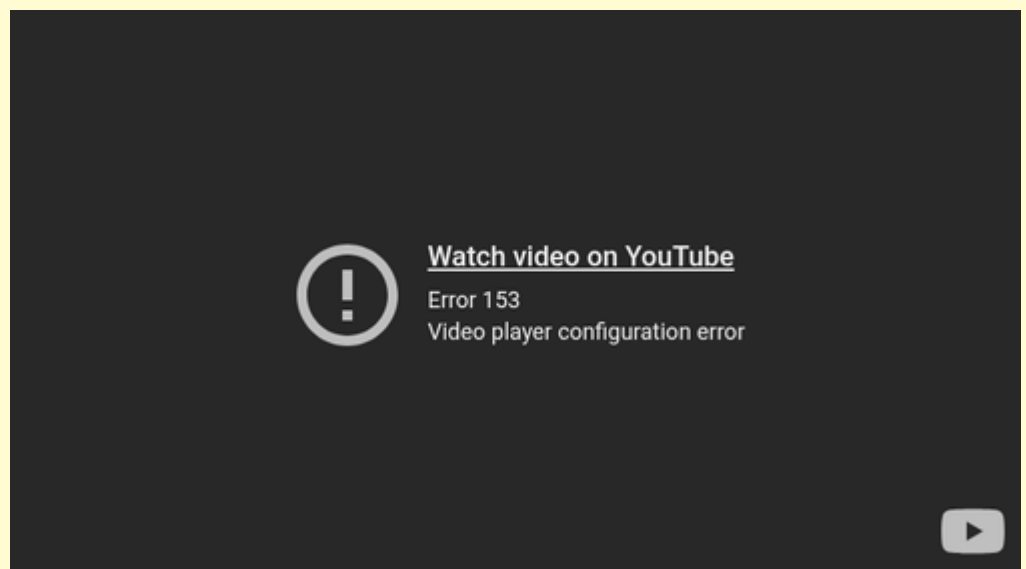
Monday, Nov. 10 at 8 ET • 7 CT • 6 MT • 5 PT • 4 AKT • 2 HT on Zoom

The poster has a dark background with orange and white text and a stylized sunburst graphic.

## Transgender Day of Remembrance

Transgender Day of Remembrance  
is on November 20th.

See the video for more information  
about this day of commemoration.



# Ministry of Connecting Beyond

## Opportunities to Connect with Our Wider Community

If you voted early, **THANK YOU** for supporting Democracy. If you are a Georgia Registered Voter and you have not already voted, please plan to vote on November 4, 2025. The Georgia Public Service Commission has two seats up for election. These are both **STATEWIDE** seats despite stating that they represent a District. Both seats will show up on your Ballot. If you want to learn more about this race, you can go to [GIPL.org](https://gipl.org) and search their Get out the Vote information about the Public Service Commission. Vote our Values of Equity, Justice, and Interconnection. This is your opportunity to make a difference.



### Claim Your Power!

Get out the Vote  
Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC)  
November 4th  
Early Voting October 13th - 31st

The Georgia PSC regulates electric, gas, telecommunications, and interstate transportation companies. Its five elected commissioners set utility rates and decide who pays for infrastructure projects and cleanup costs. The "who" is typically either customers or utility companies.

**Your power bill keeps going up  
because of the PSC! Vote for a  
change in leadership!**



<https://gipl.org/vote>



Unitarian Universalist Georgia  
Legislative Action Network  
3rd Annual Conference



**CONNECTING FOR A BRIGHTER GA FUTURE**

**November 14-16, 2025 (in-person in Savannah & online)**

Join fellow Unitarian Universalists in Georgia at the 2025 UUGALAN Conference, "**Connecting for a Brighter Future**," November 14-16! This inspiring weekend will include time for community building and strategic planning for the upcoming Georgia legislative session. Get ideas and energy from our intersectional panel exploring how solidarity across different issues is critical to protecting our democracy, with leaders from environmental justice, immigration, restorative justice, and bodily autonomy movements sharing insights on unified action. Attendees will also participate in hands-on skill-building sessions with Side With Love national staff using the **\*\*NEW\*\*** Side with Love organizing framework, develop congregational action plans, and learn practical tools for community engagement and base building. From the optional Friday evening welcome gathering to Sunday's optional beach cleanup and closing worship at Unitarian Universalist Church of Savannah, participants will connect with UU communities across Georgia, share successes from previous advocacy efforts, and prepare for the 2026 legislative landscape with new digital organizing tools and a clear roadmap for collective action for 2026! **Register today at [tinyurl.com/UUGaLANConf2025](https://tinyurl.com/UUGaLANConf2025)**

# Ministry of Connecting Beyond

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

TOGETHER, WE HAVE ALL WE NEED.

As you know, SNAP benefits end today until the government shutdown is resolved. There is no reason for anyone in America to go hungry, and so those of us with the means are called to care for those in need.

If you are dependent on food stamps; if you have been affected by government furloughs; if you simply need help with groceries, please let Rev. Nancy know. We are collecting gift cards to grocery stores. We also have shelf stable meals available to you. After service, please take whatever you can use of our meal kits. There is also some meat in the refrigerator for you.

If you have more that you need, please consider making a gift to the Minister's Discretionary Fund (MDF) by writing MDF on the memo line of your check or making note in your online donation to UUCG for this purpose. You may also choose to make a gift to the Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry (food bank) by scanning the Venmo or PayPal QR codes. Food banks can purchase in bulk, and so cash can go a long way. Food banks are expecting additional customers and need extra volunteers, so you can also assist by donating your time. For more information, go to <https://lawrencevilleco-op.org/volunteer/>.



**LAWRENCEVILLE CO-OP**  
COMMUNITY FOOD BANK MINISTRY

@LawrencevilleCo-op



**venmo**



**paypal**



## Fall Food Drive Greatest Needs

Applesauce

Canned tuna

Canned soup/stews

Pork n Beans

Canned fruit

Canned chicken

12 or 18 count egg cartons only



# Ministry of Connecting Beyond

## Looking Back on Pride

On Sunday, Oct. 12, UUs showed up to show our unwavering support for the Atlanta Pride Parade.





# Save the Dates

## Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, December 7th  
at 2:00pm

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

Oak Grove  
CHURCH

Yule &  
White Elephant  
Party

13th | 4:00  
Dec | PM

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












































## Sylvan Sanctuary Winter Solstice December 20th


























Gathering at 5:45 PM  
Ritual Starts at 6:00 PM  
*Potluck to proceed afterwards*

# November 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  						



	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/Online
	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.	In-Person/Online
	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/Online
	Spiral Scouts	All-gender scouting group for ages 3-12.	In-Person
	Covenant Groups	Small group ministry. Registration required.	In-Person/Online
	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.	In-Person/Online
	Green Team Meeting	Environmental Justice-focused group, all are welcome.	Online
	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
	G3T	Grand Green Get-Togethers: Movies and more with the Green Team.	In-Person/Online
	Worship Services	Sunday Morning Worship Services at 11:00am weekly.	In-Person/Online
	Family Game Night	Board and card games in community - all ages welcome.	In-Person
	QUUest & QUUest Jr.	D&D campaigns, registration required.	In-Person
	Good Trouble	4th Sundays 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 Team	Discussion group.	In-Person
	Special Event	Unique event/holiday taking place at UUCG.	In-Person

## Staff Schedules

### Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones *Minister*

revnpj@uucg.org | 678-558-4834

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday:

10:00am - 4:00pm

1st & 3rd Saturday: 10:00am - 2:00pm

### Christiana McQuain

#### *Coordinator of Family Ministries*

cmcquain@uucg.org

Tuesday (remote): 9:00am-4:00pm

Friday (on-site): 9:00am-2:00pm

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

### Jason Pfeffer

#### *Office Administrator*

admin@uucg.org

Tuesday: 10:00am-2:00pm

Friday: 9:00am-2:00pm

Third Sunday: 10:00-12:00pm

### LaTreisha McKay

#### *Bookkeeper*

lmckay@uucg.org

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

### Michael Parker

#### *Choir Director*

choirdirector@uucg.org

Tuesday (on-site): 1:00pm-6:00pm

### Becca Parker

#### *Choir Director*

choirdirector@uucg.org

Sunday (on-site): 9:00am-12:00pm