



June 2026

Gwinnett News for Unitarian Universalists

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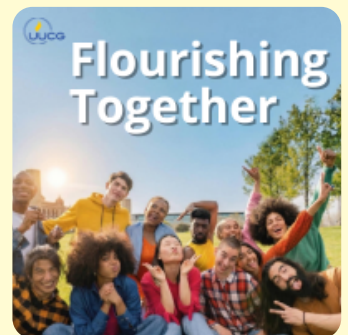


Clara Barton dedicated her life to helping those in need of immediate care and disaster relief following the American Civil War, eventually founding the American Red Cross.

This month we are Flourishing Together

"How we rise to what it means to be human in the highest sense of that, and also who we will be to each other, that is going to spell the difference between whether we experience flourishing as a species or whether we merely perhaps survive."

- Krista Tippett



We face a moment in time where the national and global emphasis is not focused on flourishing as a species, but rather to enrich ourselves as individuals. Where those with means seek to enhance their personal holdings rather than look to the welfare of those who may face insurmountable hardships. Which is why we, as a congregation and a community, need to strengthen our resolve to continue approaching each day with a sense of curiosity, courage, and compassion. The curiosity to ask ourselves, "where can I give my time and effort to best help us flourish together?" The courage to speak up when we see others beset by unjust harassment and persecution. The compassion to not close off our hearts despite the risk of pain that goes hand in hand with opening it to others. Now, more than ever, do we need to bolster the bonds of fellowship. To lend a comforting hand to all our neighbors on this blue boat home. So take my hand. Know that here, you are welcome. Know that here, you are safe. Know that here, you are loved.

Worship in June

Sundays at 11:00am
Theme: Flourishing Together
Join us in-person or via Zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/565460176>



June 7th

Flourishing Together: Volunteer Appreciate Sunday!

When a community comes together to embody an inclusive and defiant love, when we speak and act with curiosity, courage, and compassion, then we flourish! Come celebrate both what it takes to build this beloved community, and some of the leaders who help to make it so!

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

June 14th

Love Will Guide Us

Love will guide us, hope inside us will lead the way. The words from this hymn crystallize the central message of our faith and show us how to flourish together. Loving ourselves and loving each other is the way to Beloved Community. Sometimes, these are easier said than done. Whether it feels easy or impossible to you right now, join us to feel deeply and love strongly. Love will guide us through the hard night.

Ian Van Sice (he/him), Worship Leader

June 21st

Together Everywhere: Sharing in Worship with UUs Around the World

Sunday morning worship is the heart of the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly, drawing our entire community together in shared spirit. This year at UUCG, we get to participate from our home sanctuary and online, hosted by Rev. Nancy and Worship Associate Britt. Through music, preaching, and ritual, we will ground ourselves in our Unitarian Universalist faith and be renewed for the work of justice, compassion, and community in the world. Arrive at 10:30 to start singing, if you can, and be sure to stay for the whole service which ends at 12:30, followed by treats and conversation!

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

June 28th

How Could Anyone?

Your loving is a miracle. Let us explore the power and beauty of who we are as sacred community.

Bob Patrick (he/him), Worship Leader

Programs

Sundays at 12:30pm

1st Sunday, 6/7

- Potluck Lunch

2nd Sunday, 6/14

- Belief Explorers
- Spiral Scouts

3rd Sunday, 6/21

- Resisting Fascism Team

4th Sunday, 6/28

- "Good Trouble"
- Green Space Nature Activity





Worship and More

Give Away the Plate



Each quarter the Give Away the Plate Committee selects an organization that embodies UU values and is helping to build a world of freedom for all, and share our weekly collection with them.

The Give Away the Plate recipient for the second quarter of 2026 is GAIN, **Georgia Asylum and Immigration Network**.

GAIN's mission is to protect and empower immigrant survivors of crime and persecution. They do this by providing free immigration legal services and connecting their clients with the additional legal and social services they need to build safety, stability, and self-sufficiency.



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION Day

◆ SUNDAY, JUNE 7TH ◆

Come celebrate both what it takes to build this beloved community, and some of the leaders who help to make it so!

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JUNE 21, 2026

MEET THE MOMENT: TOGETHER EVERYWHERE

**Together Everywhere:
Sharing in Worship with UUs
Around the World**

Participate with us in person in the Sanctuary or online from your home.

10:30am - Community Singing
11:00am - Sunday Worship

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS BELIEVE
IN DEEDS OVER CREEDS,
BECAUSE ACTIONS SPEAK
LOUDER THAN WORDS.**

Message from the Minister

Flourishing Together!

by Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones (she/her)



In early May this year, we welcomed eight new members into this congregation, and a couple of weeks later, we dedicated five children into the care of this community. Wow! What tangible signs that we, as UUCG, are **flourishing together!**

To notice how and if we are flourishing together, we need to pause long enough to notice what really is blooming and growing and shining in our community—and where we want to give our loving attention.

So, as a spiritual practice, let's revisit the words we said—the invitations and promises we shared on Child Dedication Sunday. Let's reflect on the questions they raise. And let's see what will bloom!

The Invitation:

“We're about to do something so joyful and wondrous and life affirming—and so I invite us to ***slow down***.”

“Almost everything in our lives right now tells us to rush, to worry, maybe to despair and certainly to be fearful. So much tells us that we are not enough—we're not doing enough, we're not good enough or smart enough or engaged enough or loving enough or ... you fill in the blank.

“It is not true! **You are enough, I am enough, we are enough.** We're in extraordinary circumstances, and we don't know all that we need and would like to know, but we're learning and we'll keep learning. Just like our children, we are built to be curious, to ask questions, to experience new things, and to find our way.

“So let us slow down enough to hear every affirmation, every promise, and every blessing in this child dedication ceremony—and even as we give them to our children, let us also take what we need for ourselves. There is enough to go around and then some.”

Questions:

What speaks to you most deeply: The need to slow down? The constant pressure? The surprising truth that we are enough? The invitation to receive and to offer the same kinds of affirmation and support we give our children? Breathe into these thoughts and feelings.

Our Promises:

“We recognize the precious gift of life in every child; we honor the beauty and the fullness of the person that each child is—from the moment they are born throughout a whole lifetime of learning and loving and growing.”

Question:

Where and with whom do we need to stretch our curiosity and compassion so that we can honor the beauty and fullness of every person in our community?

Our Promises:

“We welcome you into this family, this congregation, and this community. We cannot promise you a smooth road through life, but we promise we will be there when it's bumpy. No matter how complicated or hard life gets sometimes, we affirm that it is wonderful to be alive, and we rejoice that you are here. We welcome your new life, new vision, and new hope.”

(continued on next page...)

Reflections

Flourishing Together!

by Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones (she/her)

(continued from previous page)

Questions:

How are we showing up for each other? Who needs reminding that it is wonderful to be alive (including yourself)? To whom do you need to say, "I rejoice that you are here"?

And Finally:

We conclude our child dedication ceremony with these words. Written for children to say, what if we adults take them as our covenant for how to be together?

"We promise to be kind to you, to be fair, and to respect you. When you need help, we will be there. We hope to play with you and to become friends as we all grow together."

Indeed, beloveds, this is how we flourish together!
I love you!

With hope and joy,
Rev. Nancy

The Altar of Compassion



An "Altar of Compassion" in Unitarian Universalism is a dedicated sacred space within a sanctuary where congregants can engage in personal meditation, grief, or celebration. Individuals are typically invited to visit the altar before or during a service to light a candle, symbolizing their personal joys, sorrows, and hopes.



**Association for
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
MUSIC MINISTRIES**

July 29 – August 2, 2026
First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee

Let's make music together in
MILWAUKEE!

Your Conference Planning Committee has created a vibrant gathering with workshops and repertoire for choral directors, song leaders and band leaders.

Our host church is the beautiful and historic First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee. You should plan to arrive in Milwaukee by mid-day on Tuesday, July 28 or Wednesday, July 29 and plan to depart late afternoon-early evening on Sunday, August 2.

If you will be attending the Professional Development Day, please arrive no later than Tuesday evening, July 28. PDD will be held from 9am - 3pm on Wednesday, July 29, at the conference hotel.

The conference will kick off with our Opening Celebration on Wednesday evening and sessions will begin Thursday morning, July 30. AUUMM Conference participants will take part in closing worship on Sunday, August 2, so you will want to plan your departing flights no earlier than about 2pm.

**Click this page for conference
details and to register**

From the Board



Spring Cleaning

by Dan Kelly, Board of Trustees President

“Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear.” - Mark Twain

On behalf of the 2025-26 Board of Trustees, thank you to the UUCG congregation for your trust, faith, kinship and partnership over the past year.

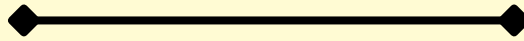
Leadership is an act of courage. Certainly, for me, it was a constant questioning of my own capacity: What if we hire the wrong staff person? What if we can't fix the roof? What if we are unable to find a way to unify the congregation in challenging times?

I found courage in the wisdom offered by those around me. The other Board members who proposed differing opinions. The Shared Ministry Council who provided comforting guidance.

Reverend Nancy, Christiana, and all the Staff who gave thoughtful perspectives and advice. And most of all, in the support of the congregation who offered their thoughts and hopes.

Congratulations to UUCG on the election of the 2026-27 Board of Trustees! We as a congregation will face similar questions of importance in the next year, and we have a truly courageous group of leaders to guide us. Excelsior!

In covenant,
Dan Kelly
UUCG Board President



From the incoming Board Members to the Outgoing Board Members:

by Ian Van Sice, Board of Trustees President-Elect

Thank you for serving. Volunteering your hearts and minds is an incredible gift to the congregation. We thank you for it. For giving so much of yourselves and your time alongside personal joys and sorrows, we remain grateful. Though our meetings are open to all, much of the work happens out of sight. Budgets, building maintenance, policies, and more must be dutifully considered. Through all these challenges, your commitment to

living our Unitarian Universalist values is clear. Your time on this Board is coming to an end, but you remain valued friends and congregational leaders. Enjoy your well-earned break from this burden. I'm sure we'll find something new for you to do soon!

With Love at the center,
Ian

THANK YOU!



Ministry of Radical Welcome

Pride Month

by Carol Underwood, Lay Minister for Radical Welcome



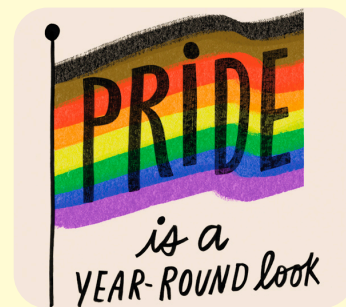
June is Pride Month, and this is a time, now more than ever, that we need to show up for our LGBTQIA+ folk. I have been learning about what it means to be a Welcoming Congregation and setting up our renewal. These are promises we have already made, but now we are renewing our commitment to being acknowledged as a Welcoming Congregation.

What is being a Welcoming Congregation? It is a UU program where congregations intentionally commit to being LGBTQ+ inclusive. There are many ways that we are being more inclusive. We have gender-neutral bathrooms with stalls having coverage all the way down to the floor. We have a program called the Trans Inclusive Workshop. We also have a group that meets once a month called Alphabet SoUUp. Where it is a space where LGBTQ+ can meet and know each other and support one another. We make sure we have all the pronoun identifiers for our name badges, and we offer pronouns from the services. But, it can all be more than these programs. We take the time to be there with each other. The way we treat each other means more than simply programs and bathrooms. We still need to keep working at becoming more and more inclusive. Understandably there is some history where we did not do our best, but we are continuously striving to be better and better.

Being an inclusive congregation is very important. We want our values to be representative in how we treat one another. In a time when trans youth, queer families, and bodily autonomy are under attack, being a welcoming congregation asks us about how brave and loving we can be as our values claim.

We can continue our journey by showing support to the programs offered, and being visually represented at the different Pride Days at local parks. We can show up for our community by being present at local events supporting the Pride community.

Pride month isn't only about behaviors that only reflect for one month. It is a year round commitment for being a Welcoming Congregation. Let this month be an inspiration for ways you can also be involved in the community representing the inherent dignity of each individual.



The UUCG Hospitality Team

We are seeking folks to assist with clean-up following Coffee Hour, and...

Other ways to contribute:

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

Which of your gifts will you share with the UUCG community? Reach out to [Carol](#) to learn more about how you can contribute to UUCG's dedication to a ministry of Radical Welcome.

Ministry of Green Space



Keeping it Green: a Green Space Ministry report *by Gary Kiel, Lay Minister for Green Space*



I Met a Toad Last Week...

We had some much needed rain last week. A small toad manifested on our back deck. I have never seen a toad on the wooden deck before, but he was enjoying some small puddles.

Since we had a toad house making

activity coming up, I took the opportunity to ask the toad what features they would find desirable in an abode. The toad said nothing, which I guess is to be expected from a toad. As a secondary resource, I referenced the internet.



Monthly Activity May 24, Toad House

The Green Team asked for your help in addressing the chronic problem of toad homelessness. With a few, dedicated toad home construction workers we made a difference!

Toads like to dig into the ground a bit to retain moisture. They also dig down in winter using the ground as heat. So the house had to be open on the bottom. Also, a nearby water source is helpful. I'll be placing my toad house near where my air conditioning condensation water exits.

Clay pot houses: If using a clay pot, it should be decorated or painted. Painting is very important because toads are terrible painters. We provided some clay pots for this activity.

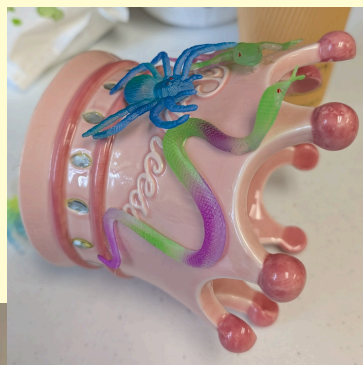
Wood houses: Natural looking, kind of small. Toads do come in a range of sizes.

I found some experimental toad home materials at a thrift store and was keen to see what our toad house crew came up with for decorations.

Here are some fantastic results from our talented toad abode creators.



*Counter-clockwise from left to right:
Toad Duplex;
Hard-working builders;
A nature princess loves spiders and snakes*



*Top to bottom on right:
Toad Abode artists at work;
Southwest-inspired Abode*



Ministry of Green Space

by Gary Kiel, Lay Minister for Green Space



Monthly Activity June 28, Mosquito Bucket of Doom!

I assume we will have had rain by June. Mosquitoes will be out and about, looking for blood. After a good meal, female mosquitoes find a place to lay eggs. They like still water, a little on the scuzzy side for this purpose. The larvae hatch and start eating algae and infusua in the water.

The larvae will grow, and metamorphosize to become more blood sucking adults. But no! That is where the “doom” part comes to play. The water will be treated with mosquito dunks that release BTI. BTI is an abbreviation for a long latin name (Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis). Anyway, BTI is a bacteria that kills mosquito larvae. No poison!

BTI does not attack any other organism. It preys only on mosquito larvae. This solution is non-toxic, unless you are mosquito larvae and in that case you are probably not reading this.

Materials provided:

- 5 gallon plastic bucket
- 1 mosquito dunk, divided into 4 pieces. One piece lasts a month.
- Water to fill 1/2 full, do this at home.
- A stick as an escape ladder for anything that falls in, or bees wanting to drink.
- Some leaves or grass clipping to make the water biologically active.



Blueberry Babies!

We have a blueberry bush in the gravel lot, up the hill toward the sidewalk. The berries are not yet ripe. However, there are some small blueberry bush volunteers coming up in the grass under the bush. Perhaps someone would like to rehome some of those?



Upcoming Events

- June 6: Tending Our Grounds
- June 20: Monthly Green Team Zoom Meeting
- June 28: Green Space Nature Activity- Mosquito Bucket of Doom!

Tending Our Grounds

2026 Dates

- ~~January~~
- ~~February~~
- ~~March~~
- ~~April~~
- ~~May~~
- June 6
- July 11
- August 1
- September 5
- October 3
- November 7
- December 5

Ministry of Spiritual Growth

Thoughts for June

by Lydia Patrick, Lay Minister for Spiritual Growth



In the poem by Shel Silverstein entitled "**Everything on It**" the rhyme goes from the sublime to the absurd. Take a look:

(Link to his website here for this book and his others as well: <http://www.shelsilverstein.com/>)

*I asked for a hot dog
With everything on it,
And that was my big mistake,
'Cause it came with a parrot,
A bee in a bonnet,
A wristwatch, a wrench, and a rake.
It came with a goldfish,
A flag, and a fiddle,
A frog, and a front porch swing,
And a mouse in a mask-
That's the last time I ask
For a hot dog with everything.*

For the month of June, we will look at the theme Flourishing Together. I wonder if that really does mean having it all? Having you cake and eating it too? Having the world as your oyster? Living in a place where every day is the best day ever? Can we have too much of a good thing?

I know I am feeling stretched, tired and worried just like many of us are with all of the uncertainty looming almost everywhere we turn. I hope that our skills honed the last few months on Practicing Resistance, Embodying Resilience, Paying Attention, Embracing Possibility, and Awakening Curiosity can enable us to flourish this month. To be grounded in our values that bedrock our faith and look around and find things to celebrate and enjoy together. Not the absurd and extreme, but the just enough to fill our need (and maybe a small piece of cake too).

May it be so.



“There are no happy endings.
Endings are the saddest part,
So just give me a happy middle
And a very happy start.”

-Shel Silverstein

Planting the Seeds of Spiritual Growth

Engagement Opportunities include:

Beacons, Worship Associates, Covenant Choir Singers,
Sweet MUUSIC musicians, and Faith Development
Program Facilitators

We look forward to
serving alongside you!



Click [HERE](#)



Ministry of Spiritual Growth

Faith Development: Tending the Flame

by Christiana Fernandez McQuain, Coordinator of Family Ministries

You may have noticed that we have a few new families joining us regularly. (Yours may be among them – welcome!) You may have even been present in the Sanctuary during the Congregational Business Meeting in early May when our group of young folks entertained the assembly during the brief break with a Democracy Dance Party. These wonderful young children, led by Diana, who often assists in the nursery, brought spontaneous joy to all of us.

It also brought up a concern. Our policies are written with the understanding that the childcare (nursery) space is organized, planned, and staffed to accommodate children under age 5. We have been flexible on that age limit in order to serve families with early-elementary-age children who cannot easily sit in the Sanctuary for the duration of a Worship Service, but with our population of babies, toddlers, and pre-schoolers growing, it will not be an accommodation we can make on an ongoing basis. It is simply not sustainable.

I believe that it is imperative that we create a welcoming environment for these new – and all – families with children over 5 and under 8, and I would like very much to offer a program for early-elementary age kids that gathers every Sunday during Worship so that they can play and learn in a UU-focused space that is designed just for them. In order to do this, we will need a roster of volunteers to facilitate such a space.

I invite those of you who may be interested in working with our 5 – 7 year-old UUs to reach out to me at cmcquain@uucg.org to express

(continued on next page...)

Faith
Development
resources
for exploring
Flourishing
Together

Check out Flourishing Together - Soul Matters June Playlist on [YouTube](#) or [Spotify](#).



Our love
is inclusive
and defiant.



O.W.L. Update

I know that many of you are as excited as I am for UUCG to offer OWL again. This year's OWL will begin in the early fall. Zack Parris and Crystal McAlpin, our OWL facilitators, are hosting an **informational meeting on Sunday, May 3rd at 12:30pm for parents or guardians who are or may be interested in enrolling their child(ren) in the upcoming OWL program.**

If you are interested in OWL for your age 12-15 child, or have any questions at all, please plan to attend this meeting. Feel free to reach out to Christiana at any time for more information.

Honest, accurate information about sexuality changes lives. It dismantles stereotypes and assumptions, builds self-acceptance and self-esteem, fosters healthy relationships, improves decision making, and has the potential to save lives. For these reasons and more, we are proud to offer Our Whole Lives (OWL), a comprehensive, lifespan sexuality education program for level 7-9 here at UUCG.



Ministry of Spiritual Growth

Faith Development: Tending the Flame

by Christiana Fernandez McQuain, Coordinator of Family Ministries

(Continued from previous page)

your interest (or to ask any questions you may have). If we can gather a team of four to six leaders for this program, we, as a congregation, can serve the families of young children and let them know how much we value their presence among us.

Children are not the future of the congregation. They are the now. Let us create programs and systems that serve them well.

Child Supervision Policy

As we move into the Summer months, it seems a good time to remind everyone of UUCG's policy regarding child supervision. This policy is in place for safety, and safety is paramount.

- All children under the age of 17 on the UUCG campus must be supervised at all times
- Parents & guardians may supervise each other's children, as they consent to do so
- Children in Faith Development programs will be supervised by a minimum of two background-checked adults at all times
- The childcare spaces are overseen by one paid staff member and one background-checked adult volunteer
- Childcare is provided on Sunday mornings during Worship Services only, for children under the age of 5



Choir Rehearsal

UUCG Covenant Choir Rehearsal will be on hiatus for the summer from June 2 through July 28.

They will return to the Sanctuary on August 4.

Ministry of Spiritual Growth

June Pagan's Guide

Summer Sun Catcher

Tie dried orange, lemon, lime, and grapefruit slices to a piece of wood and hang in your window. Add beads for decoration. Vary the string length to create shapes and movement.



Become the artist

Use outside safe paints on rocks you already have (don't remove them from nature trails!) and create an outdoor kitchen, or leave inspiring messages for others to find in your community.



Simmer Pot

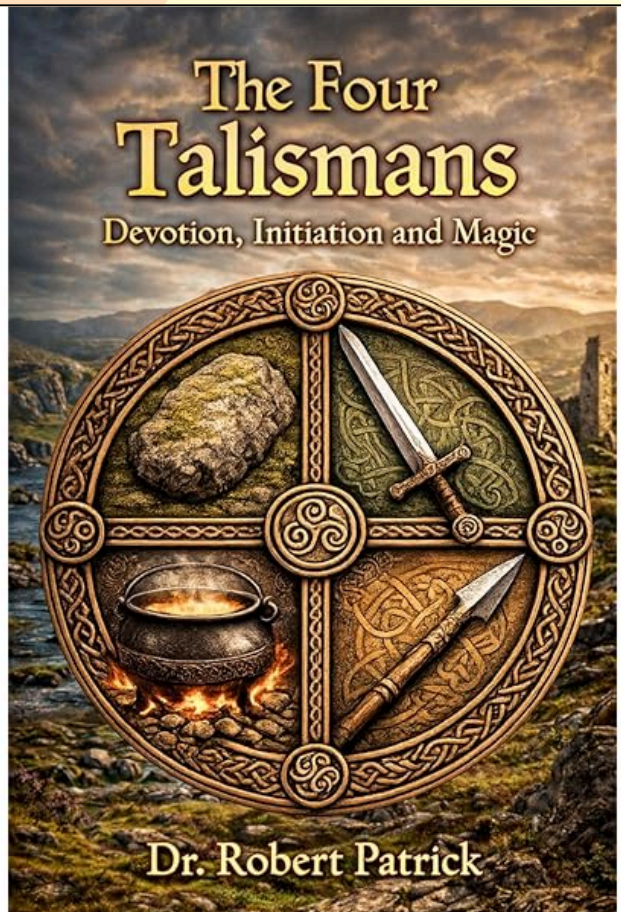
- Strawberries
- Basil
- Vanilla



Offering Ideas

Use your summer travels to find and curate unique offerings:

- sea glass or sea shells
- dried or fresh flowers
- fruits and teas
- rocks
- sun, moon, and storm water.



Working with the Four Talismans as Devotion

Saturday, June 6
3:00pm

This is a sneak chance to participate in Bob's Mystic South workshop before Mystic South, based on his book, *The Four Talismans: Devotion, Initiation and Magic*. This is an adults only workshop.



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

Reach out to sharedministry@uucg.org.

Ministry of Connecting Within



Dream a Little (or Big?) Dream with Me

by Lisa Kiel, Lay Minister for Connecting Within



"A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality."

~ Yoko Ono

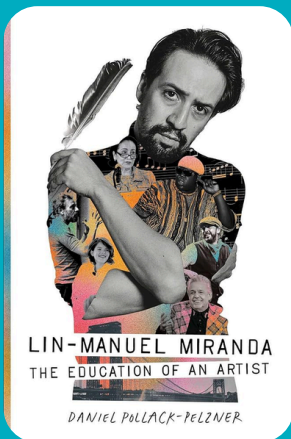
Book Group

Wednesday, June 24
at 7:00pm

[Online via Zoom](#)

June Selection:

Lin-Manuel Miranda: The Education of an Artist
by Daniel Pollack-Pelzner



How did Lin-Manuel Miranda, the sweet, sensitive son of Puerto Rican parents from an immigrant neighborhood in Manhattan, rise to become the preeminent musical storyteller of the 21st century? *Lin-Manuel Miranda: The Education of an Artist* is his incredible story as never told before.

[Read more here...](#)

This month marks my final month serving as this congregation's Lay Minister for Connecting Within. Looking back over the last four years, it has been a bit of a roller coaster ride. When I first started we were all still in lockdown. Within months, we transitioned to meeting in person. In those beginning days of being back together in the building, I'll never forget just how precious it felt to see one another again face to face. It felt like a true homecoming, and as time went by we began to see more and more folk bravely returning to the building. That, in and of itself, is a real success story. Sometimes, it's easy to forget that many churches and congregations did not survive the pandemic. Wisely, our leadership responded quickly, closing our doors to protect our members and beginning an online ministry immediately to keep us encouraged and connected.

After the doors opened, it became apparent that many people in the outside community were searching for community, shared purpose, and connection. Our numbers began to grow. First, more and more people moved from being strictly online to being in the building. Then, newcomers came into our building, and we were blessed with new faces, voices, and stories. We began to have potlucks and share time together. Some groups resumed in person meetings, and new groups formed. The months of our building standing silent were over. Instead, there is now excitement, noise, laughter, and music filling our space.

Through all this, I've been amazed by the willingness, dedication, and hard work of all the people who lead groups and meetings. We have so many people who volunteer their time to help in the kitchen, tend our grounds, repair our building, and care for children as well. I want to thank all the leaders and participants who are a part of the Ministry for Connecting Within. You made my job easier and enjoyable. I hope your groups flourish in the coming days and months.

Finally I want to return to Yoko Ono's quote. In order for a dream to become more than a dream, we need one another. Right now, there are positions available for folk to step up and help lead our congregation. Perhaps you think to yourself, "oh, I could never do that." I understand that. I thought that as well, but the truth is, you won't be alone. This community belongs to all of us, and only we can inspire it to flourish, bloom, and grow beyond its boundaries. The beauty is as we flourish together, we also flourish individually, finding we are capable of more together than what we once dreamed alone.

With joy,
Lisa

Ministry of Connecting Within

The Strength of Connection

Update for UUCG Zoom Users

Several groups and programs at UUCG use Zoom in order to connect with their members. **Due to recent security updates, their video meeting rooms now require either a waiting room or for users to enter a passcode in order to join.**

All rooms have defaulted to requiring a waiting room. If you are having trouble getting the waiting room to work or would simply like to change to the passcode method, please contact admin@uucg.org with your request and we will make the necessary changes.

Community Pantry



When the government shut down this past fall, some of our members lost food stamps. Others were furloughed from government jobs. We created an in-house pantry to help with their needs. Now the government has reopened, but we've decided to keep the pantry. Now it's a resource for all of our members & Friends.

Maybe you're a working parent, who stayed late for a meeting and didn't have time to get to the store. Feel free to pick up tomorrow's breakfast. Maybe you just made the best cookies ever. Gather the ingredients, along with the recipe, and leave for a member to find. Of course, if you need help making ends meet, the pantry is for you. Give and take at will.

Together, we're stronger. Together, we share.



If you need someone to talk with for emotional or spiritual support, please do call our Pastoral Care number: 770-217-7848. Christiana and Rev. Nancy check the messages on this line daily, and they will strive to connect you with someone who can help.



If you need practical help, our [UUCG Facebook group](#) is a great place to find people willing to lean in. And if you have a pastoral emergency—an illness, loss, or crisis for which you need Rev. Nancy's care—please do call the minister's cell phone at 678-558-4834. We are encouraging all of us to take part in this caring ministry, by checking in with neighbors, newcomers, long-timers, friends, and friends-to-be. This is a Community of Care sharing an inclusive and defiant Love. You are not alone.

Stewardship



A Truly Enchanted Evening

by Lorena Griffin, Board of Trustees Secretary

What does a picture of rocks have to do with the UUCG auction? Where else can you win a trip to the storage shed of a lifelong rockhound, who recently downsized from a house to a condo?



That's what I love best about the auction. Sure, it's the congregation's largest fundraiser of the year, but the most rewarding part is the connections that are made. I always meet new people and discover shared interests I would never have known about otherwise. On Saturday, May 16, I met with Sharon White, a new friend of UUCG for a dirty, sweaty dig through a storage shed. What a fun afternoon!

This year's auction was themed "Enchanted Forest." Guests arrived in Renaissance-ish, fairy-ish, and otherwise fantasy-ish garb for a delightful evening in a transformed space. Kelly Hahn and Lorena Griffin organized; Ally Perras handled food; Ian Van Sice was our auctioneer; Peggy Averyt, Britt Parris, and Xoe Kelly assisted in myriad ways. Sherree Bailey; Shelby Bouck, and visitor Tasha read tarot. Jody Ulibarri lead flower crown making and served as our very snailly mail delivery person. Tim Carver created amazing mocktails. Candice Carver took souvenir photos in front of our moon garden backdrop. And. And. And. Thank you to all those mentioned here, to all those who donated items for bid, and to those I surely (and regrettably) forgot.

Xoe Kelly won the costume contest for adults; Diana Pfeffer was our teen winner; and Linden Harris won the children's contest. Multiple people took away cakes from our raffle and goodies from the Pocket Lady.

And the whole church won with a takeaway of approximately \$6500, which will go toward next year's budget.

Phew! Thanks! Wow!

Creating Together



Chris and Allysa display their beautiful works of art from Paint Pouring Lessons, graciously donated by Peggy Averyt



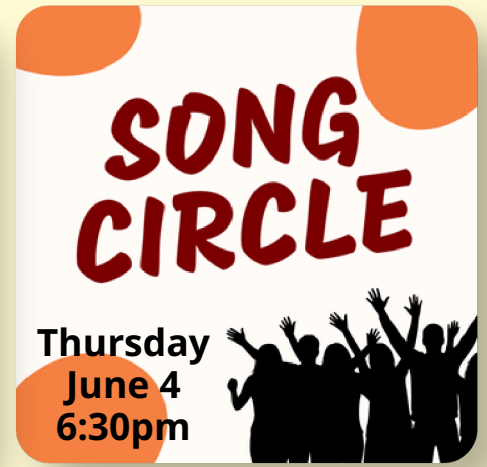
Making Connections



ALPHABET SOUP
Monday, June 1
6:30pm



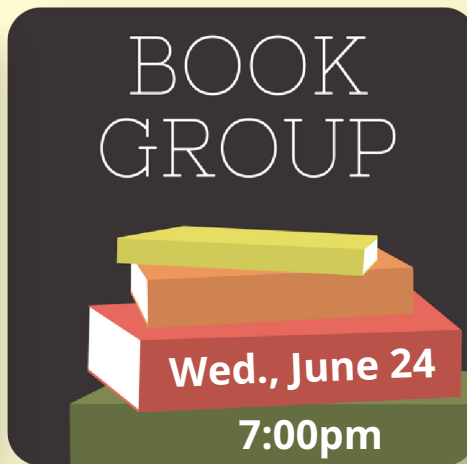
Yarns from the Heart
Wednesdays
June 3 & 17
10:00am



SONG CIRCLE
Thursday
June 4
6:30pm



UUCG Men's Group
Saturday, June 13
9:00am



BOOK GROUP
Wed., June 24
7:00pm



Green Space Nature Activity
Sunday, June 28
12:30pm

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

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: Online - 2nd and 4th Mondays at 7pm

Group B: In Person - 2nd Wednesdays at 7pm

Group C: Online - 2nd Thursdays at 10am (*group full - waiting list only*)

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

Online: 3rd Wednesdays at 7pm <https://zoom.us/j/93844952618>

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

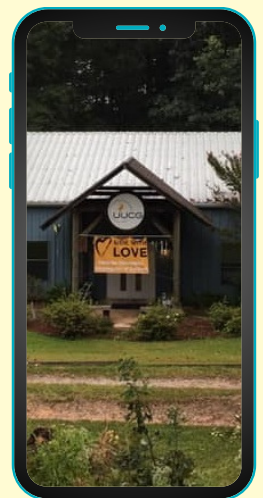
QUUest - Online: 3rd Fridays at 6:30pm, campaign for Adults

Spiral Scouts - In Person: 2nd Sundays following Worship Service

Walkers - In Person: 2nd Wednesdays and 4th Thursdays at 11am (*per the weather*)
email admin@uucg.org for contact information

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

FOR MORE INFO CHECK OUT THE CONNECTING WITHIN BULLETIN BOARD LOCATED BESIDE THE LIBRARY ENTRANCE!



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

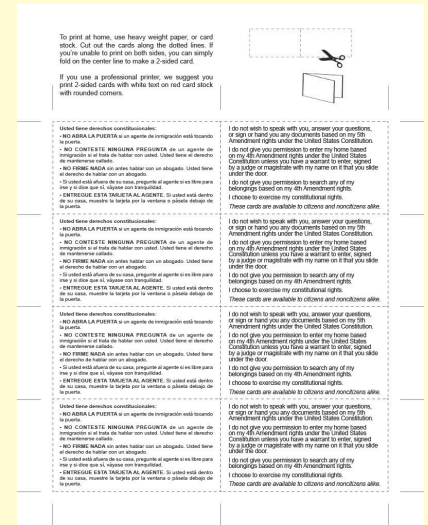


Familias Juntas es una coalición de personas interesadas y de comunidades de fe del Condado Gwinnett cuya meta es ayudar a los inmigrantes que estén en peligro o que sean afectados por separación de familias como resultado de políticas de inmigración inhumanas.

Familias Juntas is a coalition of concerned Gwinnett County individuals and faith communities, whose goal is to assist immigrants in danger of or affected by family separation, due to inhumane immigration policies.

Todas las personas en los Estados Unidos - sin importar su estatus migratorio - tienen derechos y protecciones bajo la constitución del país. Nuestras Tarjetas Rojas ayudan a los inmigrantes ejercer esos derechos y protegerse en muchas situaciones, como cuando agentes de inmigración visitan nuestras viviendas.

All people in the United States, regardless of immigration status, have certain rights and protections under the U.S. Constitution. The ILRC's Red Cards help people assert their rights and defend themselves in many situations, such as when ICE agents go to a home.



Click the image to download a copy of the ILRC's Red Cards



LAWRENCEVILLE CO-OP COMMUNITY FOOD BANK MINISTRY

Most Needed Food Items:

- Canned fruit/applesauce
- Rice
- Cereal
- Corn
- Snacks for summer lunch
- Canned chicken
- Pasta and pasta sauce

FOOD DISTRIBUTION HOURS

MONDAY 5-7pm
WEDNESDAY 9am-noon
FRIDAY 9am-noon

*[BY APPOINTMENT ONLY](#)

Most Needed Personal Care Items:

- Diapers-size 1, 2, 5 and up (they have size 3 and 4)
- Feminine pads

The Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry is a Christian organization providing food for people in need in Lawrenceville and Dacula.

Ministry of Connecting Beyond



Widening Our Circle

♥ SIDE WITH LOVE



The Gathering

Fortifying Ourselves for the Long Road Ahead

Declaration of Democracy

Monday, June 8 at 8:00pm ET / 7:00pm CT / 6:00pm MT / 5:00pm PT

This month, the Gathering will engage with the 250th anniversary of the United States and the prophetic call this moment places before us as people of faith. This is more than reflection. It is a faithful act of proclamation. As we mark this milestone in U.S. history, let us ask with spiritual clarity: What are we building for the future of democracy?

[Register to strengthen your spirit!](#)



The Woodlands

An all ages, monthly,
Trans* Spiritual Care Program

ON HIATUS FOR
THE SUMMER

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



The Woodlands is a monthly online gathering designed for trans children, youth, and adults—as well as the parents and caregivers of trans people.

Each session will begin with a shared message and grounding ritual, followed by breakout rooms tailored to different communities within the circle, and then come back together for a release. Sessions will be about an hour and a half.

Each breakout room—co-facilitated by two chaplains—will offer space for meaningful check-ins where we can honor our grief, celebrate our joy, and support one another. The spirit of each room will reflect the people within it.

[REGISTER TO JOIN](#)

All of those on the UUA staff who helped bring The Woodlands to life hope you'll find meaningful community and support in this shared space.

Ministry of Connecting Beyond



Truncated Lives: Reflection on a Recent Weekend at El Refugio

by Stephen Babb, Resisting Fascism Team

During a recent weekend spent volunteering at El Refugio in Lumpkin, I paired up with another volunteer to visit a young man from Iran who is being warehoused at Stewart Detention Center.

The visitation area houses five booths with plastic chairs, plexiglass barriers, and phones. Detainees sit on the far side of the plexiglass and converse with visitors by phone, with no contact allowed.

There are five cubicles, but one of the phones is on the fritz. The remaining phones are staticky, making it hard to hear each other.

The man we were visiting was awaiting us expectantly. We took turns talking with him in English, which he spoke well.

He recounted how he had been imprisoned and tortured by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard.

After he was released, he'd managed to leave Iran and make his way to the land of his dreams and present his asylum claim, only to be detained at Stewart, where he has languished for the past fourteen months.

During his detention, he has developed heart and kidney problems, which are going largely untreated and unmedicated.

He appeared to be doing everything in his power to suppress his despair and put on a brave front.

During the interludes when my friend spoke with him, I looked discreetly around the room at the other booths.

Two Hispanic families were visiting with middle-aged men.

The wives did most of the talking, while the children played, entertained each other, or acted out.

Occasionally one of the kids would steal a glance at their fathers, or say a few words to them over the phone.

The remaining functioning booth stood empty on the visitor's side, while a young Black man waited anxiously behind the plexiglass for his visitor to appear.

We were past the forty-minute mark of our one-hour visit when a young woman was escorted in looking frazzled and disconsolate.

She had been turned away earlier, and there had been a miscommunication about the time of her rescheduled visit.

She and her partner spoke intensely for the next twenty minutes, as if trying to make up for lost time, before being shut down.

As the metal gates clanked shut behind us, I thought how the man we'd visited would give anything to be in my shoes.

Over the weekend, I observed how several children visiting their parents in detention for the first time processed that experience.

I concluded that this is an experience no child should have to endure.

Over the next few days, Stewart provisionally released Rodney Taylor, a long-time Atlanta resident, barber, and community leader who is a double amputee, while a 33-year-old Cuban immigrant named Denny Adan Gonzalez died at Stewart under murky circumstances, making him the fifteenth detainee to die there.

At Stewart, everything from visitations to dreams to families to health to lives get truncated in the service of white supremacy, ethnic cleansing, and profit.

**Let Steve know at
resistingfascism@uucg.org
if you're interested in
volunteering at El Refugio on
August 1-2 or October 31-November 1**

Save the Dates...

Say NO to Endless, Lawless War!

The Peaceful Vigil against the War will
be on hiatus May 31st and June 7th;
We will restart the Vigil on June 14th.



Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Gwinnett
Sustaining a Community of Love Through Trust, Compassion, and Inquiry

Volunteer Workday

Saturday, June 13
@10:00am



Helping hands needed! Join Dan
and Ian as we continue to beautify
UUCG. Projects may include
washing windows, moving items,
and other necessary tasks.

UUCG Men's Group
Wednesday, June 17 @7pm



Join the UUCG Men's Group for their
monthly weeknight Zoom meeting!

From the Editor



Flourishing as an Introvert

by Jason Pfeffer, Office Administrator

I confess that I am struggling quite a bit in finding ways to embody this month's theme. I have always been a rather quiet, introverted, and somewhat socially awkward person. So the idea of "flourishing together" causes me to cringe just out of base instinct. Getting together in a large group, many of whom are complete strangers? Having multiple get-to-know-you conversations? There are certainly others in the congregation who break out into hives at the very prospect of being thrown into such a situation.

However, after taking several deep breaths into a paper bag, I was able to consider the theme with a more calm and rational mind. In order to flourish as a group - whether that be a community, a nation, or a species - one does not necessarily need to attend big rallies, local events, or conferences. There are a multitude of ways that we can help support others and make our voices heard that also require the minimum amount of human contact.

As a UU who possesses a strong sense of social justice, while also needing to limit my amount of social interaction, the Internet is an invaluable tool to help me stay connected and involved. The trick is to verify the information you find and not fall prey to the swaths of misinformation out there.

Here are some resources you can check out.
PSA - I am a fallible human, so if you catch any errors...I'm sorry.

[International Organization for Migration:](#)

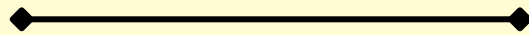
As a part of the United Nations system, International Organization for Migration works to support migrants across the world. The organization works to ensure humane and ordered migration across the world, and assists governments in maintaining human rights and dignity for migrants.

[National Alliance to End Homelessness:](#)

The National Alliance to End Homelessness utilizes research and data to discover solutions to homelessness and partners with federal and local partners to advocate for and provide resources to support solutions to end homelessness.

[National Disabilities Rights Network:](#)

The National Disability Rights Network is a national coalition that advocates for federally mandated Protection and Advocacy Systems and Client Assistance programs for individuals with disabilities. The organization works to protect people with disabilities against abuse and inequality and advocate for basic human rights.



Don't Panic! No, Wait...Do Panic!

June 18 is **International Panic Day**. So if you've been bottling up all that anxiety and worry for the past several months, this is the day to let it all out!






































Originally created as an ironic response to the pressure of keeping a stiff upper lip, the day serves as a practical opportunity to evaluate what stresses you out and find healthy ways to unwind.


























Way's to celebrate include:

- Acknowledge and vent your anxieties.
- Eliminate tasks or commitments causing you unnecessary anxiety.
- Engage in calming activities like yoga, meditation, or taking deep breaths.
- Raise awareness about panic attacks and panic disorders.

June 2026

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	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
	Sweet MUUusic Rehearsal	Musicians of all skill levels gather to play together.	In-Person
	Song Circle	Join us for a fun and restorative evening of communal song.	In-Person
	Tending Our Grounds	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/Online
	Green Team Event	Environmental Justice-focused group, all are welcome.	In-Person/Online
	Sylvan Sanctuary	Oak Grove Sylvan Sanctuary Druid Ritual celebrating the Sabbats.	In-Person
	Book Group	Monthly book discussion.	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
	QUUest & QUUest Jr.	Dungeons & Dragons campaigns (adult & youth), registration required.	In-Person/Online
	"Good Trouble"	Put your UU Values and Faith in Action to effect change in society.	In-Person/Online
	Women's Group	All who identify as women are welcome to join us in this safe space for sharing & connection.	In-Person
	Resisting Fascism Team	Social Justice-focused discussion group, all are welcome.	In-Person/Online
	Special Event	Unique event/holiday taking place at UUCG.	In-Person
	Sharing the Journey	4-session program to experience "deep listening and sharing practices"	In-Person/Online

Staff Schedules

Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones

Minister

revnpj@uucg.org | 678-558-4834

Tuesday thru Thursday:

email or text for appointment

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 | 770-717-7913

Tuesday (on-site): 10:00am-2:00pm

Wed. & Thu. (remote): 1:00pm-4:00pm

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

Third Sunday (on-site): 10:00-12:00pm

LaTreisha McKay

Bookkeeper

lmckay@uucg.org

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