

Women's Retreat 2019 Facilitated by Rev. Jennifer Innis.
Registration for the 6th Annual Women's Retreat is open through December 8, and there are still spots open although overnight spots are almost filled. Rev. Jennifer Innis will be facilitating. We look forward to continuing to provide a retreat that fosters connections, and a meditative and reflective space to rejuvenate ourselves. Sign up at uusg.org/womens-retreat. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Rachel Harbold at womensretreat@uusg.org.

Mental Health Ministry Presentation. On Sunday, December 16 at 1 p.m., Colleen Cushing and the Mental Health Ministry will present on the topic of recently approved and experimental treatments for depression and anxiety. Colleen will present on topics such as TMS (transcranial magnetic stimulation), vagus nerve stimulation, ketamine, and research into psychedelics. Please join us in the Common Room for this discussion, which is free and open to the public.

Contact Information

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Today & This Week at UUSG

uusg.org/calendar

Sunday, December 2

- 11:15 am Big Ideas Covenant Group
- 12:30 pm Religious Education Town Hall
- 12:30 pm Women's Retreat Planning Meeting

Monday, December 3

- 4:00 pm Steeple Walk Meeting
- 7:30 pm Technology Team Meeting

Tuesday, December 4

- 7:00 pm Program & Administrative Councils

Wednesday, December 5

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting
- 4:00 pm Heritage Team Meeting
- 7:00 pm UU Buddhism Meditation & Study Group

Thursday, December 6

- 6:00 pm Dungeons & Dragons Group (off-site)
- 6:30 pm Cookie Walk Set-Up
- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 7

- 4:30 pm Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 8

- 6:30 pm Middle School Youth Group (off-site)

Sunday, December 9

- 11:15 am Big Ideas Covenant Group
- 11:15 am Finance Team Meeting
- 12:30 pm Green Sanctuary Team Meeting
- 1:00 pm Planned Giving Discussion
- 2:00 pm Steeple Walk

November BOW: We raised \$781 for the Illinois Youth Center and \$798 for the Blinded Veterans Association. Thank you for your generous giving!

Welcome to This House!



December 2, 2018

Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

December Theme: Hope

Today's Worship Team

In the Pulpit: Rev. Patrick Price
Worship Associates: Pat Vary, Diane Gallentine
Musician: Lynn Fisher McCanne
Counter: Brian Doyle

Upcoming Services

December 9: Rev. Jennifer Innis and Rev. Patrick Price
December 16: Intergenerational Holiday Pageant

Come as you are.

Order of Worship

Ingathering Music

Ringling of the Church Bell and Call to Worship

***Song of Community** # 16 “’Tis A Gift to Be Simple”

Words of Welcome

Community Announcements

Congregational Greetings

Enter into Shared Silence at the sound of the Rin Gong.

Prelude *In Heavenly Peace/Silent Night*, Gruber, arr. Olson

Chalice Lighting

***Song of Praise** (see words inside front of gray hymnal)

***Antiphonal Reading** # 543 “Winter”

***Our Covenant** (see words inside front of gray hymnal)

***Doxology** (see words inside front of gray hymnal)

Intro to the Offering / Beyond Our Walls

Offering *Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella*, arr. Olson

Sacred Story Hanukkah and Advent

Children & teachers leave for religious education classes.

Children’s Departing Song: *As You Go*, Nancy Belt

“As you go, may love surround you, may truth be your guide, may peace be in your heart.”

Pastoral Prayer & Silent Meditation

Musical Response *Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring/It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*, Bach, Willis, arr. Rouse

Reading “The Battle for Christmas,” Stephen Nissenbaum

***Hymn** # 34 “Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire”

Sermon “Revels to Wrapping Paper: Origins of Modern Christmas”

***Hymn** # 128 “For All That Is Our Life”

***Unison Closing** # 456 “Extinguishing the Chalice”

***Sending Our Light into the World**

***Benediction**

Please be seated for our Postlude

Postlude *Adeste Fideles, Paraphrase*, Wade, arr. Vibac

*In body or in spirit, please stand as you are willing and able **

Announcements

36th Annual Cookie Walk 2018! It’s not too late to sign up for this year’s Cookie Walk on Friday, December 7. If you would like to bake or volunteer to work a shift as a “Cookie Elf,” please sign up today at uusg.org/cookie-walk or in the Common Room. The Cookie Walk is a long-held and cherished fundraising tradition at UUSG, and it is part of the Geneva celebration that welcomes in the holiday season with light, food, and festivities.

Religious Education Town Hall Today What do you love about children and youth education at UUSG? What could grow or change? Join us for the first in a series of conversations about life at UUSG. For children and youth programs, the Board needs your input as they put together a plan to add paid staff as quickly and as thoughtfully as possible. The Town Hall will run 12:30-2pm. Lunch is provided.

“Beyond Our Walls” This month, we’re collecting for our “Holiday Lights” Fund which will support the Literacy Volunteers of Fox Valley Trivia Bee, and to provide gifts to the YRUU Habitat for Humanity Family. You do not need to decide which of the two to support. All will benefit from your contribution unless you target your donation to one of the causes. Write checks to “UUSG” with “BOW” in the memo line.

A **“Promoting Practical Goodness”** award goes to Jamie Carroll, James Carroll, Ro Maziarz, Shawn Thornton, Tracey McFadden, Sherri Casterline, Larry Mathias, Tom Lichtenheld, and Kevin O’Neill for decorating our building and the Sanctuary for the holidays! Thank you for spreading the holiday cheer!

Holiday Food Drive It’s time for our 5th Annual Food Drive to support Humanitarian Service Project’s holiday programs! Pick up a brown paper bag in the Common Room today and bring it back filled with non-perishable food on December 9. **Only non-expired food, please!**

Steeple Walk Sunday, Dec. 9, at 2pm. UUSG and three other Geneva churches will host Steeple Walk. The program includes music at each venue with a guided stroll between the churches. Please contact Gail Tattersfield for tickets (\$15/each). Cynthia Spiegel, soprano, Elena Spiegel, violin, and Angela Salvaggione, piano, will perform at UUSG.

Thank you, Facilities Team for our Social Hour today! We are grateful for your generosity. We appreciate all who help provide Social Hours for our UUSG community.

Get Involved With Interweave We are a local group of LGBTQ members, friends and allies who meet once a month to have discussions and special events. We will meet Sunday, December 16, about 12:30 pm, to begin planning for the annual LGBTQ service scheduled for March 3, 2019. We will also have a holiday potluck lunch, so bring a dish to share. Chili and drinks will be provided. For information please contact Lynn Steele at interweave@uusg.org.

Don’t miss out! Circle Supper sign-up is happening now. Everyone is invited to participate in our small group dinners, once a month January through April. More information and sign up at uusg.org/circle-suppers. **Deadline to sign up is tomorrow, December 3!**

Volunteers Wanted in the New Year! Starting Jan. 6, 2019, UUSG will be hosting two social hours! The First Social hour, between services, will be hosted by our wonderful teams and committees. The Second Social Hour, will follow second service and we’ll need everyone’s help: families can sign up together, grab a few friends and host as a group, or just bring your favorite snack! Thanks for helping us test this new “relaxed” second Social Hour experience. Please sign up at uusg.org/hosting.

Stewardship Team Hosts Planned Giving Discussion Ted Kuczek of Kuczek & Associates will be giving a presentation on: will & living trust planning, charitable giving strategies, tax efficient charitable planning, and more. Please join us on Sunday, December 9, at 1pm, in the Common Room. All are welcome.

End-of-year Contributions Donors must deliver checks on or by December 31, to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2018. Checks that are placed in the church offering during the first worship service in 2019 will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in the previous year, even if the check is predated to 2018 or was written in 2018. However, checks that are written, mailed, and postmarked in 2018 will be deductible, even if they are not received by the church until 2019.