

## December Services & Celebrations:

Please note there is no nursery care for our Christmas Eve Services. Children of all ages are welcome to join in our services.

Tuesday, **December 24:** Christmas Eve Services

**3pm:** Our “Family Friendly” service especially for young children

**8pm:** Service of Lessons and Carols: Seating in the Sanctuary is limited to 150 people, so get here early to get a good seat!

**11pm:** Candlelight Service: A contemplative, peaceful service for adults and quiet youth. Worship led by Geoff Pynn with classical guitarist Paul Sargent.

Sunday, **December 29,** 10am

Intergenerational Fire Ritual Service led by the Rev. Emmy Lou Belcher at 10am; potluck brunch at 11am

## Contact Information

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[www.facebook.com/uusg1](http://www.facebook.com/uusg1)

## Today & This Week at UUSG

[uusg.org/calendar](http://uusg.org/calendar)

### Sunday, December 22

- 11:15 am Big Ideas Covenant Group

### Monday, December 23

### Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve

- 3:00 pm Family Service
- 8:00 pm Service of Lessons and Carols
- 11:00 pm Candlelight Service

### Wednesday, December 25 Merry Christmas!

### Thursday, December 26

### Friday, December 27

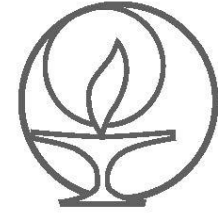
- 11:30 am The Geezers Group (off-site)

### Saturday, December 28

### Sunday, December 29

- 11:15 am Big Ideas Covenant Group

**Covenant Town Hall** The Transition Team invites everyone to the next town hall meeting at 1pm on January 19. Board President Brian Doyle and the Transition Team will introduce a Covenant on Diversity and Inclusion for the congregation’s consideration. This covenant is part of the next phase of study around welcoming and becoming aware of bias. A pizza lunch will be provided. See the Transition Team, Revs. Jennifer and Patrick, or Brian Doyle for questions. RSVP at [uusg.org/town-hall](http://uusg.org/town-hall).



December 22, 2019

**Unitarian Universalist  
Society of Geneva**

*Yuletide Celebration*

### Today’s Worship Team

**In the Pulpit:** Rev. Jennifer Innis

**Worship Associate:** Pat Vary, Diane Gallentine

**Greeter:** Jenny Montgomery

**Musician:** Sandra Anderson

**Counters:** David Moore, Karen Laukaitis

**Nursery:** Frank Coffey, Rachel Harbold

**Sunday Coordinator:** Becky Hruby

### Upcoming Services

December 24: **3pm** Family Friendly Service, **8pm** Service of Lessons and Carols, **11pm** Candlelight Service

December 29, **10am:** Intergenerational Fire Service led by the Rev. Emmy Lou Belcher; potluck brunch at 11am

*Come as you are.*

## Order of Worship

### Ingathering Music

#### Ringling of the Church Bell and Call to Worship

\***Opening Hymn** # 1008 "When Our Heart Is in a Holy Place"

#### Words of Welcome and Community Announcements

#### Congregational Greetings

**Chalice Lighting** *Christmas Chimes*, Niels W. Gade

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

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

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

#### SOLSTICE

**Musical Introduction** "The Holly and the Ivy" (insert)

**Story** "The First Song: A Tale of How Yule Got Its Name,"  
Andras Corben Arthen

\***Responsive Hymn** # 235 "Deck the Hall with Boughs of Holly"

#### CHANUKAH

**Responsive Reading** # 629 "Hanukkah Lights"

**Story** "Hanukkah Moon," da Costa, Mosz

\* **Hymn** # 400 "Shalom Havayreem"

#### Pastoral Prayer / Communion of Names

**Silence and Musical Meditation** *Mi Y'Malel* (Hebrew folk song)

**Offertory** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*, John Mason Neale, text;  
Thomas Helmore, music

#### ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

**Musical Introduction** # 226 "People, Look East"

**Reflection** "Myth and Miracle" from "A Small Heaven,"  
Rev. Jane Rzepka

**Responsive Reading** # 621 "Why Not a Star"

\***Closing Song** "Where is the Light?" Mayer (insert)

\***Extinguishing the Chalice** # 456

#### \*Benediction

#### Please be seated for our Postlude

**Postlude** *The Christmas Tree*, Niels W. Gade

\**Please stand as you are willing and able*

## Announcements

**Staff Time Off** Rev. Jennifer & Rev. Patrick will be on vacation December 25 - January 2. Our Congregational Administrator, Christine Imielski, will be out of the office December 24 - 25 & December 31 - January 1. Office hours December 23 - January 3, are by appointment only. Questions? Email [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org).

**End-of-year Contributions** Donors must deliver checks on or by December 31, to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2019. Checks that are placed in the church offering during the first worship service in 2020 will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in the previous year, even if the check is predated to 2019 or was written in 2019. However, checks that are written, mailed, and postmarked in 2019 will be deductible, even if they are not received by the church until 2020.

**An Evening of Folk Music** Join us for an Evening of Folk Music with February Sky on Friday, January 10, 2020, at 7pm, in the Sanctuary. February Sky features traditional singer and Celtic guitarist Phil Cooper with songwriter and singer Susan Urban. Free & open to the public. Cosponsored by the Geneva Park District. More details at [februarysky.com](http://februarysky.com).

**Women's Retreat 2020: Registration Now Open!** Are you a woman-identifying member or friend of UUSG? Would you like to deepen your connections within our community in a space created for relaxation, meditation, and fun? Please join us at the 7th Annual Women's Retreat, January 31- February 2, 2020. This year's theme is "Sourcing Our Strength: Our Selves, Our Sisters, Our Society." Reverend Jennifer will open the retreat Friday night, and we will continue to explore this theme through Sunday morning. We will also enjoy yoga, a gong and singing bowl meditation, and optional add-on services such as massage and reiki. And of course, we will spend time connecting with each other, sharing meals and conversation. The retreat will once again take place at the Nazareth Spirituality Center in Batavia. Both overnight and non-overnight spots are available. For more information and to register, visit the retreat page at [uusg.org/womens-retreat](http://uusg.org/womens-retreat). Questions? Contact the committee at [womensretreat@uusg.org](mailto:womensretreat@uusg.org).

**New UUs** Are you new around here? Have you been wondering what UUSG is all about? Are you looking for something to do on a Sunday afternoon? Would you like a free lunch? The UUSG Welcoming Team invites interested newcomers to attend our next New UUs session on Sunday, February 9, 2020. If you'd like to request childcare, please do so on the sign up. A minimum of two weeks' notice is needed to find available caregivers. Watch for more details in the Sunday Bulletin and listen for pulpit announcements as the date approaches. RSVP at [uusg.org/new-uus](http://uusg.org/new-uus). Questions? Please stop by the Welcome Center during Social Hour or contact Jim Frazier or Deb Brod at [welcoming@uusg.org](mailto:welcoming@uusg.org). More details in the weekly email.

**Beyond Our Walls.** This December, our BOW recipients are the Literacy Trivia Bee and Mutual Ground. The Trivia Bee benefits the Fox Valley Literacy Volunteers, who provide one-to-one literacy tutoring to adults in Kane County. Mutual Ground Shelter provides services in Kane and Kendall Counties for Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Their work has been severely hampered by deep budget cuts from the State of Illinois. Please make checks out to "UUSG" and write "BOW" in the memo line. Thank you for your generous giving!

**For UUs who simply want to learn more** about the history of the Bible as literature, as well as early Christianity, "Bible Study for UUs" will meet January 20, 7-8:30pm. We'll be discussing the prophetic books Ezekiel, Daniel and Zechariah which are frequently referred to in "Rabbi Jesus: An Intimate Biography" by Bruce Chilton. Need info? Jim Frazier [biblestudy@uusg.org](mailto:biblestudy@uusg.org).

**Anti-Racism Book Discussion** UUSG's Buddhist Group and Social Justice Team invite you to join us for an interfaith book discussion on fighting both systemic and personal racism. Discussion will be co-led by Lisa Gades and Myoyu Roshi of Great Plains Zen Center. Online meetings run from January through May. They will cover these two important books: *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of our Racial Divide*, Carol Anderson, and *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*, Robin DiAngelo. Please contact Lisa for more info ([uubuddhism@uusg.org](mailto:uubuddhism@uusg.org)). Full details are available in the weekly email.