



January 31, 2021

Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

Today's Worship Team

In the Pulpit: Rev. Scot Hull

Worship Associate: Gail Tattersfield

Musicians: Sandra Anderson; Doria, Sophia, & Cynthia Spiegel

Technical Directors: Jeff Stibal, Cari Gesiakowski, Jamie Carroll

Upcoming Services:

Sunday, February 7: Rev. Scot Hull

Sunday, February 14: Rev. Scot Hull

Come as you are.

Order of Worship

Ringing the Bell Samantha Gesiakowski

Call to Worship

Prelude "Fire, Fire, Fire," Cynthia R. Crossen

Welcoming Words

Opening Hymn # 51 "Lady of the Season's Laughter"

Lady of the seasons' laughter, in the summer's warmth be near;
when the winter follows after, teach our spirits not to fear.
Hold us in your steady mercy, Lady of the turning year.

Sister of the evening starlight, in the falling shadows stay
here among us till the far light of tomorrow's dawning ray.
Hold us in your steady mercy, Lady of the turning day.

Mother of the generations, in whose love all life is worth
everlasting celebrations, bring our labors safe to birth.
Hold us in your steady mercy, Lady of the turning earth.

Goddess of all times' progression, stand with us when we engage
hands and hearts to end oppression, writing history's fairer page.
Hold us in your steady mercy, Lady of the turning age.

Chalice Lighting Simon Liang

Song of Praise

Praise God, the Love we all may share;
Praise God, the Beauty everywhere;
Praise God, the Hope of Good to be;
Praise God, the Truth that makes us free.

Our Covenant (written in 1842)

Being desirous of promoting practical goodness in the world,
And of aiding each other in our moral and religious improvement,
We have associated ourselves together -
Not as agreeing in opinion,
Not as having attained universal truth in belief
Or perfection in character -
But as seekers after truth and goodness.

Doxology

From all that dwell below the skies
Let faith and hope with love arise;
Let beauty, truth, and good be sung
Through every land by every tongue.

Passing the Peace

For All Ages "Stuck," read by Melissa Auer

Joys & Sorrows

Hymn # 123 "Spirit of Life"

Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

Testimonial Sandra Anderson

Offertory

Gratitude for the Offering

Reading

Musical Response "Water & Light," Michael Scott

Sermon "Groundhog Day"

Closing Hymn "We Are Gathered," music John Wyeth, new words
Amanda Udis-Kessler

We are gathered in the Spirit though our bodies are apart,
Filled with joy and touched with wonder, separate hands but
mingled hearts. Giving thanks and singing praises for the love that
calls us on. From our many different places we are gathered into
one.

We are gathered in our sorrow, we are gathered in our fear,
In our pain and in our worry, in our anger and our tears.
As we tend to one another with our gifts and with our care,
Our community is strengthened through the faith and hope we
share.

We are gathered in commitment to a planet that is whole.
Works of justice, acts of kindness bless the world and heal our
souls. As our voices join together, may our song of peace
resound. May we offer in abundance all the grace that we have
found.

Chalice Extinguishing and Unison Closing

Benediction

Postlude "Children's Song No. 7," Chick Corea

Community Announcements

Talk Back and Coffee Hour Breakouts

Contact Information

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Today & This Week at UUSG

uusg.org/calendar

(All activities meet via Zoom. Contact your group leader for links.)

Sunday, January 31

- 9:00 am RE Class K-2
- 10:00 am Online Worship Service
- 11:15 am RE Class 3-5
- 11:15 am RE Class 6-8
- 11:15 am RE Class 9-12

Monday, February 1

- 11:30 am Women's Circle Planning Meeting
- 7:30 pm Technology Team Meeting

Tuesday, February 2

- 12:00 pm BYO Lunch with Rev. Scot
- 1:00 pm The Help Desk with Christine
- 7:00 pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 3

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 7:00 pm UU Buddhism Meditation & Study Group

Thursday, February 4

- 7:30 pm UUSG Family Game Night

Friday, February 5

Saturday, February 6

Sunday, February 7

- 9:00 am RE Class K-2
- 9:00 am Styrofoam Sunday
- 10:00 am Online Worship Service
- 11:15 am RE Class 3-5
- 11:15 am RE Class 6-8
- 11:15 am RE Class 9-12
- 1:00 pm New UU? Q&A with the New Guy

Announcements

The Board of Directors has extended our current stay-at-home practice including a continuation of virtual services, group meetings, and other functions until at least **March 31**.

The For All Ages book today is “Stuck,” by Oliver Jeffers, published by Philomel Books. “Stuck” tells the story of Floyd getting his kite stuck high in a tree. He tosses up his shoe to knock it free, but that gets stuck too. In repetitive “Ground Hog Day” fashion, he keeps throwing all sorts of things, some quite unusual! Will Floyd ever get his kite back? A hilarious book with a wonderful surprise ending. Thanks to Philomel Books for their permission to share the book today. When shopping for books, please patronize our local independent bookshops: Harvey’s Tales, Townhouse Books, and Anderson’s Bookshop. If you prefer to shop online, Bookshop.org allows your purchase to support the independent bookshop of your choice.

Board Chat In an effort to make ourselves more accessible to the congregation, the Board will host a “chat room” on the 4th Sunday of each month. After the service, “click” on our breakout room and let’s chat it up! Want to ask a question? Bring something to our attention? We look forward to seeing you **February 28**.

The Green Sanctuary Team is planning to start regular meetings again in February. If you are interested in participating, please let us know. greensanctuary@uusg.org.

Wine Down Thursday. You are invited every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7pm, to Happy Hour. Next date is **February 11**. Bring your favorite beverage and enjoy the company of other UUs as we talk about anything and everything. Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84241796675> Meeting ID: 842 4179 6675.

BYOL (Lunch) with Rev. Scot: Tuesdays at Noon Rev. Scot will be hosting an open meeting on Zoom each Tuesday at noon. No agenda. No requirements. Come if you can, when you can. Just bring yourself, your concerns, your questions, your stories, your jokes—and your lunch—and join him (and your congregational friends!) in our virtual courtyard for an hour of conversation, connection, and community. Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5832903665>. Meeting ID: 583 290 3665, Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799 (Chicago).

Join your friends at UUSG for some game play fun! 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 7-8:30pm. Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83203291200>.

Worried you won't know how? No problem...come and learn! Your belly will thank you for filling it with laughter. To play, simply join the Zoom meeting on your computer or laptop and bring an iOS or Android smartphone or tablet, which players will use separately to participate in the games. No advance preparation is necessary. Mark your calendars for game nights the first and third Thursday each month. Next month's dates are **February 4 & 18**. We look forward to seeing you. Be there or be square!

Navigating the Year Ahead: Board Statement on UUSG's COVID-19 Reopening Strategy. The Board of Directors has re-visited the June 2020 Board Statement and our plans for moving forward. Please visit our website to read the letter and learn more about UUSG's plan for the future, or read it here: [Updated "Navigating the Year Ahead: Board Statement on UUSG's COVID-19 Reopening Strategy."](#)

Beyond Our Walls for January: Jane Adeny Memorial School (JAMS) in Kenya

When practically all of the schools in Kenya were closed for the pandemic, JAMS was unique – the teachers provided remote learning. They lived at the school and contacted the students twice a week through What's App. The school hand-delivered phones to girls living in the most remote areas of Kenya. As one of the students said recently, the teachers "would contact them and know whether they were alive or dead." Wendy Ochido, the student being sponsored by UUSG, wrote to tell us that she was balancing her classwork and house chores. She has also joined a group doing charity work like "helping the elder people in the village." She noted that "learning at home has been quite difficult" since the schools had only been in session for about a month before COVID closed them. She cannot wait to return to JAMS. Your donation will go towards her 4-year scholarship and to educational software.

Women's Circle Restore and Renew: A February Celebration Saturday, February 27, 1-3pm via Zoom. So, what is a spiritual experience after all? And how could dreams be part of that? Well, have you ever had a dream that came true? Have you ever had a nightmare that helped you see beyond your fears? Or, have you ever had a dream that helped you create something important? Dreams can do all that. And more. If, that is, we know how to decode them. But how do we decode such mysterious messages? This is what we will be exploring and sharing together in our next UUSG Women's Circle meeting on Zoom, February 27, 1-3pm. All members and friends (new or longtime) identifying as female (18+) are invited. Please join us. [Sign up here for Zoom link and to RSVP.](#)

Chats with Rev. Scot, Sundays at 1pm

Rev Scot wants to connect with you! Join him in February for the following discussions:

February 7: New UU? Q&A with the New Guy!

Are you new to Unitarian Universalism? New to UUSG? Want to know more? Join our new minister, Rev. Scot, for a monthly drop-in on the first Sunday of the month, at 1pm, after the service, coffee break-outs, and the talk-back. Bring your questions, your curiosity, and a cup of coffee, and we'll chat! Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85446292800>

February 14: Parents Circle

Got kids? These are impossible times, and impossible times calls for coffee and community. If you can take an hour, come chat with Rev. Scot and other UUSG parents about what's on your head & heart. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84033914938>

February 21: Minister Coffee

Open Forum! For those of you that think those talk-back sessions are just a tad too short, this is for you. Bring your questions, your curiosity, and a cup of coffee, and we'll chat! Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87896751773>

Social Justice News

An invitation to correspond with Wendi Amondi, the student whom UUSG is sponsoring at JAMS in Kenya: In early January, all grade levels returned to the Jane Adeny Memorial School campus. 100% of JAMS students are accounted for, thanks to the teachers who maintained contact with them when they were confined at home. This year we are able to send notes, letters, photos, and drawings to our JAMS student, Wendy Amondi, at any time during the year. They will be forwarded electronically. People of all ages are invited to communicate with Wendy. Mail on paper to **Friends of JAMS, P.O. Box 292, Sycamore, IL 60178**, or by email to DianaSwanson@JAMSKenya.org. If you do send something to Wendy, please tell Jean Pierce (jeanpierce@aol.com) so that you are kept in the loop when we receive a reply.

Calendar: Feb 6: Help in the fight against economic injustice by preparing a casserole or lunches for residents of Lazarus House Homeless shelter. [Sign up here](#). Questions? Contact socialjustice@uusg.org.

Feb. 25: Help provide food for the Aurora Soup Kitchen. [Sign up here](#).

One Book One UUSG In January, many of us enjoyed connecting through literature as we discussed “The Humans,” by Matt Haig. WOW is excited to host our second virtual book discussion group that will meet on Wednesday, March 24. We will discuss the realistic fiction book “The Dutch House” by Ann Patchett. All are welcome. Copies of the book are available at the many Fox Valley library systems for check-out. When shopping for this book, please consider patronizing our local independent bookshops: Harvey’s Tales, Town House Books, and Anderson’s Bookshop. You may also prefer to purchase online at Better World Book, a used bookshop that supports literacy with each purchase. Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 10, and contact Glenda Peck (peckglenda@gmail.com) with questions. **Following is a brief description of the book:** Ann Patchett’s “The Dutch House,” is a story of paradise lost, dusted with fairy tale. At the end of the Second World War, Cyril Conroy combines luck and a single canny investment to begin an enormous real estate empire, propelling his family from poverty to enormous wealth. His first order of business is to buy the Dutch House, a lavish estate in the suburbs outside of Philadelphia. Meant as a surprise for his wife, the house sets in motion the undoing of everyone he loves.