



February 7, 2021

## **Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva**

### **Today's Worship Team**

**In the Pulpit:** Rev. Scot Hull

**Worship Associate:** Pat Vary

**Musicians:** Sandra Anderson, Lynn Fisher McCanne, Amanda Thomas, Cynthia Spiegel, and the UUSG Choir: soloist Mary Davis, Mark Adams, Katie Baar, Roger Gallentine, Jessica Littlefield, Andy Montgomery, Linda O'Neill, Rhonda Robinson, Kate Rogers, Pat Vary, Tom Zimmerman

**Technical Directors:** Jeff Stibal, Cari Gesiakowski, Jamie Carroll

### **Upcoming Services:**

**Sunday, February 14:** Rev. Scot Hull

**Sunday, February 21:** Guest-in-the-Pulpit: Rev. Verdis Robinson

*Come as you are.*

# Order of Worship

**Ringing the Bell** Simon & Leo Liang

## Call to Worship

**Prelude** "Eyes On the Prize," traditional spiritual, arr. Sandra Anderson

## Welcoming Words

**Opening Hymn** # 1040 "Hush," led by Amanda Thomas, Music Director  
Second Unitarian Church of Chicago

Hush, hush, somebody's callin' my name.

Hush, hush, somebody's callin' my name.

Hush, hush, somebody's callin' my name.

Oh my Lord, oh my Lord, what shall I do?

Sounds like freedom, somebody's callin' my name...

Sounds like justice, somebody's callin' my name...

Soon one mornin', death comes creepin' in my room...

I'm so glad that trouble don't last always...

**Chalice Lighting** Theo & Quentin Yang

## 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** “The Undefeated,”

### **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.

**REcap** Chung Liang, Jaime Andersen

### **Offertory**

### **Gratitude for the Offering**

### **Reading**

**Musical Response** “Our People Gonna Rise,” Pat Humphries & Sandy Opatow, UUSG Choir, Mary Davis, soloist

**Sermon** “Black Lives Still Matter”

**Closing Hymn # 168** One More Step, Joyce Poley, arr. Elisabeth Alexander

One more step,  
we will take one more step,  
‘til there is peace for us and everyone,  
we’ll take one more step.

One more word,  
we will say one more word,  
‘til every word is heard by everyone,  
we’ll say one more word.

One more prayer,  
we will say one more prayer,  
‘til every prayer is shared by everyone,  
we’ll say one more prayer.

One more song,  
we will sing one more song,  
‘til every song is sung by everyone,  
we’ll sing one more song.

## **Chalice Extinguishing and Unison Closing**

### **Benediction**

**Postlude** “We Resist,” Mark Miller, virtual choir of Northern Illinois UU  
Music Directors

### **Community Announcements**

### **Talk Back and Coffee Hour Breakouts**

### **Contact Information**

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# Today & This Week at UUSG

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

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

## 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 Green Sanctuary Team Meeting
- 1:00 pm New UU? Q&A with the New Guy

## Monday, February 8

- 1:00 pm Finance Team Meeting

## Tuesday, February 9

- 12:00 pm BYO Lunch with Rev. Scot
- 1:00 pm The Help Desk with Christine
- 7:00 pm Board of Directors

## Wednesday, February 10

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting

## Thursday, February 11

- 7:00 pm Wine Down Thursday

## Friday, February 12

## Saturday, February 13

## Sunday, February 14

- 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
- 1:00 pm Parents Circle
- 2:00 pm Dungeons & Dragons Group

# Announcements

**For All Ages: “The Undefeated”** is a poem to celebrate the creativity, presentation, perseverance, grit, and impact of Black Americans on the history of the United States of America. Written by Kwame Alexander and illustrated by Kadir Nelson, published by HMH Books, the author’s live reading is so impactful, we chose to share it for today’s For All Ages. It is both a call to action and a reminder to all that we must never give up. Thanks to HMH 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.

**Guest-in-the-Pulpit, February 21** Join guest preacher, **Verdis L. Robinson**, as he tells of his ancestral journey to the red hills of Georgia and to a beloved community called “Old Field.” Those who have come before us offered story and song as healing balms in difficult times. What messages do our ancestors have for us in these times? Let us draw upon the healing wisdom of the ancestors to build a beloved community. Verdis L. Robinson (He/Him) is the Lenora Montgomery Scholar of Excellence at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago where he is a candidate for a Master of Divinity. As a former Holiness-Pentecostal minister, Verdis is an Aspirant for the Unitarian Universalist ministry. Currently, Verdis is a ministerial intern at the Unitarian Church of Montpelier in Vermont. Verdis holds a BM in voice performance from Boston University, a BS cum laude and an MA in history from SUNY College at Brockport, and an MA in African American studies from SUNY University at Buffalo.

**The Green Sanctuary Team** will meet at 1:00 via zoom. This is the first meeting almost a year. All are welcomed to listen or contribute. Zoom link here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87476525040>

**Board Meeting Tuesday, February 9:** Open to all UUSG Members and Friends. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85641657846>. Meeting ID: 856 4165 7846.

**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.

**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**.

**February “Beyond Our Walls”** February’s BOW recipient is Habitat for Humanity of the Northern Fox Valley. Your donations help families achieve the dream of owning a home. Habitat homeowners build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. With the organization’s help, homeowners achieve the independence they need to build a better life for themselves and their families. Please give generously to this wonderful organization. Write “BOW” in the memo line.

**Northern Illinois Food Bank Saturday, February 20, 9am-noon** It is a brand new year. Hope is rising. But, there is immediate need now for our neighbors who have been hit hardest by the pandemic. Please sign up for the February volunteer shift. To make things easier, please list the names of everyone in your family if you are signing up more than one person. Please note that due to COVID-19 restrictions, we have a smaller number of shifts to fill. So, if you are looking to participate, sign up today! [Sign up here](#).

**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 date is **February 18**. We look forward to seeing you. Be there or be square!

**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. 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."](#)

**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:

#### **Today: 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

**Appreciation:** The Social Justice team appreciates the efforts of the following people who provided food for lunches for the Aurora Soup Kitchen: Larry Escalona and Sherry Wilson, Ann Wilson Dooley, and Carol Myers.

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

**Social Justice Action Alert:** Before Feb. 16, you are invited to send a message such as the following to: [jcar@ilga.gov](mailto:jcar@ilga.gov):

Dear members of JCAR,

I strongly support the Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading Standards for All Illinois Educators, which have been proposed by the Illinois State Board of Education. Requiring teacher preparation programs to train educators to treat students in a culturally responsive way demonstrates that every individual has dignity and worth. I believe that implementing these standards is one important step towards closing the opportunity gap for many students in our state.

**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 Books, a used bookshop that supports literacy with each purchase. **Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 10**, and contact Glenda Peck ([peckglenda@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## Short version of board minutes of January 12, 2021:

**Update on Year-End Gifts** Kathy Cornell reported year-end gifts of various amounts, totally almost \$6,000. The largest single gift was \$1,000.

**Extension of Building Closure** The Board voted to extend the building closure through March 31, 2021.

**Monthly Board Presence After Church Service** President Molly MacKay Zacker will make herself available on the 4th Sunday of each month after the service in a breakout room to talk to members and friends. Board members Don Clements and Gail Tattersfield may join her in the breakout session.

**Personnel Committee becomes the Human Resources Committee** The Board voted to change the name of the Personnel Committee to the Human Resources Committee.

**Review of Church Policies** The Board has a goal of reviewing all church policies by the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2021) to determine if updates or revisions should be made. Reviews are being made by small teams of 2 or 3 directors per policy.

To view the full board minutes, please visit <http://www.uusg.org/minutes-and-reports>.

### From The Minister's Desk

#### **Beloved Conversations Virtual: Registration is Now Open!**

Racial justice, and the work of self-understanding that is essential to it, is the work of a lifetime. This unique antiracism program was designed by UUs and for UUs, and has been explored by thousands of UUs at over 250 congregations across the US. For this time of pandemic, this course has been fully updated and is now fully online, so that participants can engage with others all across the country. Note: there is a cost associated with this course. If that cost is a stumbling block, please reach out to Christine at [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org); we may be able to help.

<https://www.meadville.edu/fahs-collaborative/fahs-curriculum-catalogue/beloved-conversations/>

## ***How to Be an Antiracist***

**Dr. Ibram X. Kendi**

"In *How to Be an Antiracist*, Kendi takes readers through a widening circle of antiracist ideas--from the most basic concepts to visionary possibilities--that will help readers see all forms of racism clearly, understand their poisonous consequences, and work to oppose them in our systems and in ourselves."

<https://bookshop.org/books/how-to-be-an-antiracist/9780525509288>

## ***Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You***

Jason Reynolds and Dr. Ibram X. Kendi

Great for YA readers! "Through a gripping, fast-paced, and energizing narrative written by beloved award-winner Jason Reynolds, this book shines a light on the many insidious forms of racist ideas--and on ways readers can identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their daily lives."

<https://bookshop.org/books/stamped-racism-antiracism-and-you-a-remix-of-the-national-book-award-winning-stamped-from-the-beginning/9780316453691>