



March 21, 2021

Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

Today's Worship Team

In the Pulpit: Rev. Dr. Nicole C. Kirk

Worship Associate: Pat Vary

Musicians: Katie Baar, Emily Clark, Angela Salvaggione, Cynthia Spiegel, Kimiko Shibata

Technical Directors: Jeff Stibal, Cari Gesiakowski, Jamie Carroll

Upcoming Services:

Sunday, March 28: Rev. Scot Hull

Friday, April 2: Tenebrae Service with Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates

Sunday, April 4: Rev. Scot Hull

Come as you are.

Order of Worship

Ringing the Bell & Call to Worship

Prelude "Elven Forest," written and performed by Angela Salvaggione

Welcoming Words

Chalice Lighting

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.

Stewardship Testimonial Gail Tattersfield

Passing the Peace

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.

Stewardship Testimonial Kerry Sapet

Musical Response "I Am Enough," written and performed by Kimiko Shibata

Sermon "Sowing Abundance"

Stewardship Testimonial Tom Lichtenheld

Offertory

Gratitude for the Offering

Chalice Extinguishing

Closing Hymn # 1064 "Blue Boat Home"

Though below me, I feel no motion standing on these mountains and plains.

Far away from the rolling ocean still my dry land heart can say:

I've been sailing all my life now, never harbor or port have I known.

The wide universe is the ocean I travel and the earth is my blue boat home.

Sun my sail and moon my rudder as I ply the starry sea,

leaning over the edge in wonder, casting questions into the deep.

Drifting here with my ship's companions, all we kindred pilgrim souls, making our way by the lights of the heavens in our beautiful blue boat home.

I give thanks to the waves up holding me, hail the great winds urging me on,

greet the infinite sea before me, sing the sky my sailor's song:

I was born up on the fathoms, never harbor or port have I known.

The wide universe is the ocean I travel, and the earth is my blue boat home.

Benediction

Postlude "Fantasy no. 8 in G minor," by Georg Philipp Telemann, performed by Angela Salvaggione

Community Announcements

Talk Back

Today & This Week at UUSG

uusg.org/calendar

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

Sunday, March 21

UUSG Week of Service

- 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 Pathway to Membership

Monday, March 22

- 9:00 am Pioneer Newsletter Deadline

Tuesday, March 23

- 12:00 pm BYO Lunch with Rev. Scot
- 7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting

Wednesday, March 24

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 11:30 am The Luncheonettes
- 7:00 pm Facilities Team Meeting
- 7:00 pm One Book One UUSG

Thursday, March 25

- 7:00 pm Wine Down Thursday

Friday, March 26

Saturday, March 27

- 1:00 pm Women's Circle
- 8:30 pm Earth Hour

Sunday, March 28

- 9:00 am RE Class K-2
- 10:00 am Online Worship Service
- 11:15 am Board Chat
- 11:15 am RE Class 3-5
- 11:15 am RE Class 6-8
- 11:15 am RE Class 9-12
- 2:00 pm Dungeons & Dragons Group
- 2:00 pm Social Justice Meeting

Announcements

Rev. Dr. Nicole C. Kirk Nicole Kirk is the Frank and Alice Schulman Professor of Unitarian Universalist History at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago and a Unitarian Universalist minister. She served congregations in Ohio and New Jersey before pursuing her doctoral studies in American Religious History. Her book "Wanamaker's Temple: The Business of Religion in an Iconic Department Store," explores the intersections of business and religion in John Wanamaker's Philadelphia department store was published in 2018 by NYU Press. Dr. Kirk's next book, "Railroad Religion: American Religion on the Move," traces the complex and surprising ways railroads transformed American religion and religious practice for people on the move.

Quick Pledge Drive Update The Stewardship Team is happy to report that as of today we have received around the same number of pledges as we had received this time last year, and many of the pledges include increases above last year's levels. We are hoping you will consider increasing the amount of your pledge by 5% this year, if you are able. Even more is even better (of course) and, happily, some pledges have gone above and beyond. We are poised to get ahead of the curve and make up for the challenges we had anticipated during the past two years. With Lindsay's retirement, our time with Interim Revs. Jennifer and Patrick (interim years are always challenging for congregations), and the intensity of the search process that resulted in our good fortune of hiring Rev. Scot, there was a lot going on. Add a pandemic for good measure, and here we are. All in all, we are doing great, and the pledge drive is reflecting our own "new normal." The Pledge Drive Committee members are having a wonderful time talking with everyone, and we truly appreciate your readiness to take the time for phone and/or email conversations. Special thanks to all who are making our Sunday services so engaging, and extra-special thanks to the young people who have contributed their talents for Sunday videos! **We have a lot to be grateful for and so much to look forward to.** Your pledges and ongoing support - time, talent and treasure - make all the difference in the world. **We cannot possibly thank you enough!** [Make your pledge online here.](#)

Week of Service UUSG's Week of Service will be through **Saturday, March 27**. Members and friends are invited to promote practical goodness by volunteering in our community. The Week of Service will feature a mix of distanced, in-person activities, Zoom events, and opportunities to drop off supplies for our neighbors in need. Sign up uusg.org/week-of-service.

Can't find something? Need a little more information? Check out our website at uusg.org and our calendar at uusg.org/calendar.

Pathways to Membership Today, 1-3pm! Are you new to Unitarian Universalism? New to UUSG? Interested in becoming a member? This class is for you!

Women's Circle- A March Celebration Saturday, March 27, 1-3pm, via Zoom. We will be examining the history, spirituality and journey of UUSG women, from Betsy Conant (1842), to Lindsay Bates (2018)...and beyond. All members and friends (new or longtime) identifying as female (18+) are invited. Please join us. [Sign up here](#).

Adopt-a-Plot Spring is on its way and so are our weeds! If you'd like to help with weeding the church grounds this year, please contact Karen Laukaitis at weeding@uusg.org.

Our annual Tenebrae service is a traditional service of descent into darkness held during the final three days of holy week before Easter. It is commonly practiced with solemn music, readings from scripture, and the progressive extinguishment of candles. It recognizes that the victory of Easter morning is always preceded by the despair of Good Friday. Tenebrae is an opportunity to sit with the difficult realities of our world, before the celebration of hope that arrives on Easter morning. **Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates** will observe this traditional UUSG event with us on **Good Friday, April 2**. Please join us at 7:30pm for music preceding the service, which begins at 8pm.

Vaccine Angels Available to Help If you need assistance in finding and scheduling a Covid vaccine appointment, WOW would like to help. We will pair you with a Vaccine Angel (a member or UUSG friend) who will help you navigate the process. Contact WOW at wow@uusg.org for assistance.

In February 2021 we raised \$1,840.32 for Habitat for Humanity of the Northern Fox Valley. Thank you for your generosity!

The UUSG "Beyond Our Walls" for March is actually a "Within Our Walls"
The UUSG "Make A Difference" (MAD) fund was established in 1996 to respond to requests from church members and friends for practical, short-term, one-time emergency financial assistance. We have been able to help many members since then. Visit uusg.org/donate to give. Thank you!

Wine Down Thursday You are invited every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7pm, to Happy Hour. Next date is **March 25**. 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.

Vaccinated? Let us know! In the spirit of optimism and hope in our community we are keeping a running tally of how many of our members and friends have received the COVID-19 vaccine. So far, **we have 80 members vaccinated**, we are so looking forward to being together again! Please let us know at admin.assistant@uusg.org.

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 **March 28**.

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. **April 1**, is our next playdate. 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 **May 31**. Please read the letter and learn more about UUSG's plan for the future: [Updated “Navigating the Year Ahead: Board Statement on UUSG’s COVID-19 Reopening Strategy.”](#)

The Inclusion Bookclub* We're still working on the title, but in the meantime – and in the spirit of “salvation through bibliography” – we're starting another book club because you can never have too many books or too many book clubs. Join Rev. Scot, Lisa Gades, and others in a monthly exploration where we will cover some of the many facets of diversity, equity, and inclusion. This is a fantastic first step for those just starting the journey with the ideas, stories, and challenges of become a more just and more equitable society – and a great refresher for those who have been “doing the work” for years. No prerequisite required – just a willingness to read and to listen. We'll be announcing the first several books in a week or so, and we're planning to have our first discussion meeting in early April. If you're interested, want to know more, want to sign up, send a note to Christine at office@uusg.org.

Difficult Conversations with Kern Beare Your boss. A rude neighbor. A challenging family member. A childhood friend. A parent, partner, child. Engaging, or staying engaged, with these important figures in our daily lives can be a challenge. And when the conversation gets tough, what then? Neuroscience tells us that difficult conversations are difficult because they activate our fight/flee/freeze survival drive. In this workshop, you'll learn about three research-based strategies that counteract this ancient survival instinct, helping us to stay present and creative in any conversation. This is a workshop for everyone, no-prerequisite required. We're bringing this to our community as part of our ongoing commitment to living better, together, and with more compassion and connection. All are welcome. This free workshop is split across 3 separate sessions: **May 1, 8, & 15, 1-3:30pm**. [Please sign up here](#).

See-Something/Say-Something: An Anti-Bias Workshop, April 10, 1-4pm

A little science, a little history & a lot of self-reflection are the key to creating a truly inclusive and equitable society. In this workshop, we will talk about implicit bias, micro vs. macro aggressions, and what we might do or say in the moment when someone crosses the line. These skills will help UUSG become a more hospitable and welcoming place to newcomers. This workshop will be hands-on. There is no cost to UUSG members and friends. All are welcome, though some familiarity with the ideas involved are recommended. Class size will be limited, so be sure to reserve your seat by [signing up here](#).

Photo Credits The “Spirit of Life” photo was taken by Tom Haslett, and the Song of Praise and Doxology photo is from Tom Lichtenheld.

Reading the Bible: A Class for the Skeptic, the Curious, and the Wandering Believer The Bible is a challenging book for a great many. A solace for some and a weapon for others, the stories and the sayings nevertheless underpin much of American society and our national debate. At the least, familiarity creates flexibility and understanding; at the most, the Bible can be deeply enriching, spiritual, and life-giving. As a UU, my approach to scripture has always been one of curiosity – I just kinda want to know what all the fuss is about. All are welcome. No previous exposure is required but would certainly be welcomed. If you're interested, please send a note to office@uusg.org to be added to the list. We'll be picking times/dates for meetings based on everyone's availability.

For the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Resources: Antiracism Website

Please join us on our journey to become antiracists in collective ways as well as individual ways. When we choose to be antiracist, we become actively conscious about race and racism and take actions to end racial inequities in our daily lives. Being antiracist is believing that racism is everyone's problem, and we all have a role to play in stopping it. Many educational resources are available through UUSG and other UU churches, through the UUA, on Netflix, on YouTube, at your local library or bookstore, etc. [Here are some easily accessible resources to increase your awareness.](#)

Contact Information

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Social Justice News

Thanks! The Social Justice Team salutes the 76 people who have signed up so far for UUSG's week of service! [There is still time to sign up here](#)

Calendar:

Now: [Request a Ballot by Mail for 2021 Consolidated Election](#). The last day a ballot can be mailed is **April 1**. Note: For Kane County, enter EITHER your street number OR the street name. Otherwise, you will be told "No records found," and you will need to call 630-232-5990.

Through April 5: Early Voting. [See times and locations here](#).

[Additional early voting locales open 3/22 in DuPage County](#).

Through April 6: Grace Period Registration and Voting – same locations as Early Voting

March 16: 6pm, St. Charles Candidate Forum (St. Charles Township, St. Charles Library District, Mayor, City Council/Aldermanic (all 5 wards) and St. Charles District 303 School Board) [will be available here](#) and [livestreamed here](#).

March 18: 7pm, Geneva Mayoral Candidate forum – [will be available AFTER the event here](#).

April 6: 6am-7pm [Polling places listed here](#).

Social Justice Calendar:

March 21, International Antiracism Day [You can watch this free broadcast here](#). Jeremy Gilley, the force behind the September 21 International Day of Peace, warmly invites you to virtually tune in, whether it's for 5 minutes or for the whole day today.

April 3: [Sign up here to provide a casserole and salad or lunches](#) at Lazarus House.