



March 28, 2021

Passover Service

Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

Today's Worship Team

In the Pulpit: Rev. Scot Hull

Worship Associate: Gail Tattersfield

Musicians: Sandra Anderson, Calvin Hruby, Cynthia Spiegel

Technical Directors: Jeff Stibal, Cari Gesiakowski, Jamie Carroll

Upcoming Services:

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

Sunday, April 4: Easter Sunday Service, Rev. Scot Hull

Sunday, April 11: Ramadan Service, Rev. Scot Hull

Come as you are.

Order of Worship

Ringing the Bell & Call to Worship

Prelude "Mazurka Op. 7 No. 2," Chopin

Welcoming Words

Chalice Lighting Mikey Clements

Nine Reasons Superhero Video

Stewardship Testimonial Kenna Powell

Passing the Peace

Honoring Women

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.

Reading

Musical Response "Hosanna In the Highest," from "Gesangbuch der Herzogl," arr. Phillip Keveren

Sermon

Stewardship Testimonial Kathy Cornell

Offertory

Closing Hymn # 104 “When Israel was in Egypt’s Land”

When Israel was in Egypt’s land,
let my people go;
oppressed so hard they could not stand,
let my people go.

(Chorus)

Go down, Moses,
way down in Egypt land,
tell old Pharaoh,
to let my people go.

The Lord told Moses what to do,
let my people go;
to lead the tribe of Israel through,
let my people go. **(Chorus)**

For you the cloud shall clear the way,
let my people go;
a fire by night,
a shade by day,
let my people go. **(Chorus)**

We need not always weep and moan,
let my people go;
and wear these slav’ry chains forlorn,
let my people go. **(Chorus)**

Benediction

Birthdays

Postlude “Bring Out the Festal Bread” Hebrew Folk Song

Community Announcements

Board Chat

Today & This Week at UUSG

uusg.org/calendar

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

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

Monday, March 29

Tuesday, March 30

- 12:00 pm BYO Lunch with Rev. Scot

Wednesday, March 31

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting

Thursday, April 1

Friday, April 2

- 8:00 pm Tenebrae Service

Saturday, April 3

Sunday, April 4

- 9:00 am Styrofoam Sunday
- 10:00 am Online Worship Service
- 1:00 pm New UU? Q&A with the New Guy!

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

Announcements

Pledge Drive Thoughts as We Wrap Up:

Many, many thanks to you if you have submitted your pledge for the '21 – '22 fiscal year! We've had a number of new pledges, and a large overall percentage of pledges were increases above last year's levels.

Thank you if you are still deciding or thinking about what more you might be able to do to put us over the top! Here are some things to consider:

- Did your investment fund(s) do well as the stock market continues to bounce back from the COVID-19 crash?
- Do you need a tax-free place to invest your IRA or 401K Required Minimum Distribution?
- Did Uncle Harry and Aunt Agnes leave you an inheritance that you weren't expecting and *don't really need*?
- Did you win the lotto?
- Did you get a pay increase that bumps you into a higher tax bracket?
- What money did you not spend during the past year due to the pandemic? For example:
- *Did you work from home, thus saving money on commuting / buying lots of new business-casual clothes to augment your wardrobe?
- *Did you dine at home almost always, preparing your meals or ordering delivery, thus saving on the more expensive option of going out to restaurants, buying that lovely glass of wine or refreshing beer, and tipping your servers generously?
- *Did you not attend concerts, plays, the opera, live theatre, or movies?
- *Did your vacation get cancelled due to the pandemic?
- *Did your cruise get cancelled due to the pandemic?
- *Did you postpone traveling to visit your relatives or friends out of state?

*Everything --- everything we do at UUSG and through UUSG is financed solely by our own fundraising. The vast majority of our funding comes through pledges and corresponding pledge payments. We are it! **Kudos and thanks to all of the Pledge Drive Committee volunteers and to all of our wonderful members and friends who are JOYfully giving of time, talents and treasure!***

We cannot possibly thank you enough! [Make your pledge online here.](#)

Board Chat Today! 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 **today**.

Tenebrae Returning to UUSG On the evening of Good Friday, April 2, adults are invited to a Zoom Tenebrae Service presented by Rev. Scot, members of our Worship Team, and **Minister Emerita, Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates**. The Zoom Sanctuary will open at 7:30 for quiet reflection with meditative music. The service itself will begin at 8pm. Tenebrae is the Service of the Shadows, the reminder of life’s harshness and pain without which Easter’s stories of new life and new hope are meaningless. The text comes from Rev. Lindsay. Cynthia Spiegel is arranging live and pre-recorded music, and Deb Brod, Geoff Pynn, and Rhonda Robinson join Rev. Scot and Rev. Lindsay as Readers. If you would like to attend, we encourage you to have tea lights on hand to join our Ritual of the Candles, remembering the lights that have left our world. Please arrive and remain muted through the service, to honor the somber nature of the Tenebrae observance. This service is intended for adults. If you are actively grieving loss, please note Tenebrae is a funeral service for the world. We always end on a note of hope - but the journey is in the darkness of sorrow. Follow this Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/662227931>

Interested in Shakespeare? Want entertainment as well as to learn his philosophy? Let's get together. You'll receive the name of a play to read or watch, and then afterwards we'll get together in a discussion group. All are welcome and there is no cost, but please send an email, so we can choose a day and time to get started. Contact Rose Doreen Mace at shakespeare@uusg.org.

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.

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!

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.

Wine Down Thursday You are invited every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7pm, to Happy Hour. Next date is **April 8**. 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 82 members vaccinated**, we are so looking forward to being together again! Please let us know at admin.assistant@uusg.org.

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."](#)

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. Final meeting before Summer sign-off is April 27.

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](#).

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

Please join us on our journey to become antiracists both collectively and individually. [Here are some resources to help us move forward along this path](#). Space is still available. To learn more or to sign up, please send a note to office@uusg.org.

Update: Date now set! [Sacred Texts Study Group](#) 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 (Rev. Scot's) 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. **We will meet on the 3rd Mondays of the month at 7pm beginning April 19.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88101593697?pwd=ZjJjWjIiSEEx3K1BTUjhtTUx4WVR0Zz09>. Meeting ID: 881 0159 3697, Passcode: 215873. To be added to our email list, send a note to office@uusg.org.

Update: Shared Pulpit: A Sermon Seminar “Everyone has a truth to share.”

Have you ever wondered what goes into a sermon? What makes a sermon different from a talk? How to take your truth and shape it into something that is moving, comforting, inspiring, or challenging? In this workshop, we'll explore the theory and theology of preaching, practice writing and speaking with authenticity, and gradually build toward composing quality 20-minute sermons. Rev. Scot will be leading this workshop over Zoom, **beginning April 14, and meeting the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month**. If you're interested, want to know more, or want to sign up, send a note to Christine at office@uusg.org.

Update: The Inclusion Bookclub We have our first roster of books, and we're so excited to share them with you! Join Rev. Scot, Lisa Gades, and UUSG members and friends in a monthly exploration of diversity, equity, and inclusion. We plan to have **our first meeting on Tuesday, April 20, at 7pm via Zoom, with meetings thereafter on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm.** UUSG will have a limited number of copies of each book available. Please check with Christine to learn more or to sign up at office@uusg.org. Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87167167460?pwd=eStBK1cxNFpwWU9SaHcwMEVUbzNpZz09> Meeting ID: 871 6716 7460, Passcode: 428914

Caste: The Origin of our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson

Wilkerson illuminates an unspoken caste system operating in America--one that cuts across race, class, and other factors. [Hear an interview with Wilkerson on NPR's Fresh Air.](#)

[Redefining Realness: My Path To Womanhood, Identity, Love & So Much More](#)

by Janet Mock. Mock shares her experiences of growing up young, multiracial, poor, and trans. Her story encourages all of us to be more accepting and real.

[Rage Becomes Her](#) by Soraya Chemaly

Anger in women and girls has long been less acceptable than anger in men and boys. And yet, anger is also a powerful signal that something is wrong, and action needs to be taken. Chemaly's book is important for anyone raised to suppress their anger and who now seeks to use it as a catalyst for change. [See Chemaly's TED Talk here.](#)

[An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States](#) by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

Dunbar-Ortiz presents a history of the United States from the perspective of Indigenous peoples, highlighting our nation's colonialist policy. Not the history you learned in school.

[Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth](#) by Sarah Smarsh

By telling the story of her life, Smarsh brings America's class divide into sharp focus. She gives voice to the many hard-working people whose labor we take for granted and who deserve better.

If you visit uusg.org/calendar, and click on the event, the Zoom link will always be located there.

Social Justice News

April 3: [Sign up now to provide a casserole and salad for Lazarus House](#) NOTE: Lazarus House also needs people to stay overnight the first Saturday of each month to assist in emergencies.

[Recording of Batavia Mayoral Candidate Forum](#)

[Recording of Geneva Mayoral Candidate Forum](#)

[Recording of St. Charles Candidate Forum](#)

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

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

Contact Information

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