



April 18, 2021

Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

Today's Worship Team

In the Pulpit: Rev. Scot Hull

Worship Associate: Diane Gallentine

Musicians: Helenna & Sarah Clark, Lynn Fisher McCanne, Sandra Anderson, Linda O'Neill, Cynthia & Sophia Spiegel

Technical Directors: Jeff Stibal, Cari Gesiakowski, Jamie Carroll

Upcoming Services:

Sunday, April 25: UU Justice Revival - Taking a Collective Breath

Sunday, May 2: Star Wars Day

Come as you are.

Order of Worship

Ringing the Bell Maissy & Harper Littlefield, Elaina Hruby

Call to Worship

Prelude “For the Beauty of the Earth,” in the setting of J.S. Bach's “Musette” from “English Suite No. 3,” Conrad Kocher, arr. Marilyn Reimer

Welcoming Words

Opening Hymn # 377 “In Greening Lands Begins the Song” set to Tallis’s Canon

In greening lands begins the song
which deep in human hearts is strong.
In cheerful strains your voices raise,
to fill the whole spring world with praise!

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 *Outside In!*, presented by Jaime Andersen & Devin Loughheed

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.

Offertory

Gratitude for the Offering

Reading

Musical Response “Carry Me Chant,” words & music by Linda O’Neill

Sermon

Closing Hymn # 163 “For the Earth Forever Turning”

For the earth forever turning; for the skies, for ev’ry sea;
for our lives, for all we cherish, sing we our joyful song of peace.

For the mountains, hills, and pastures in their silent majesty;
for the stars, for all the heavens, sing we our joyful song of peace.

For the sun, for rain and thunder, for the seasons’ harmony,
for our lives, for all creation, sing we our joyful praise to Thee.

For the world we raise our voices, for the home that gives us
birth;

in our joy we sing returning home to our bluegreen hills of earth.

Chalice Extinguishing and Unison Closing

Benediction

Postlude “Parting Glass, Pandemic Version,” Scottish traditional, arr.
Wailin Jennys, new words by Linda O’Neill

Community Announcements, Talk Back, and Coffee Hour Breakouts

Today & This Week at UUSG

uusg.org/calendar

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

Sunday, April 18

- 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, April 19

- 7:00 pm Sacred Texts Study Group

Tuesday, April 20

- 12:00 pm BYO Lunch with Rev. Scot
- 7:00 pm The Inclusion Book Club

Wednesday, April 21

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

Thursday, April 22

- 1:00 pm Memoir Writing Group
- 7:00 pm Wine Down Thursday

Friday, April 23

Saturday, April 24

- 1:00 pm Women's Circle

Sunday, April 25

- 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

The **For All Ages** book today is “**Outside In!**,” written by Deborah Underwood and illustrated by Cindy Derby, published by HMH Books for Young Readers. Today’s story is a mindful contemplation on the many ways nature affects our everyday lives, even when we’re stuck inside. Outside comes in to help and heal us, and reminds us that we are all part of a much greater universe. Thanks to HMH Books for Young Readers 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.

NEWS FROM THE **JOYFUL** PLEDGE DRIVE COMMITTEE

We are **JOYful** to report that the Pledge Drive results are almost complete. We are expecting a small number of pledges to come in from members/friends who are still figuring out what they can do during the 2021-22 fiscal year. As of Thursday, April 15, we have received **142** pledges totaling **\$331,218!** Many pledgers were able to increase their pledges; most **JOYfully** stretched as much as they were able; some needed to decrease. Please know that **every pledge** is truly important.

The committee members are tremendously grateful to everyone who pledged, and to Rev. Scot, Cynthia S., Christine I., Lisa R., Becky H., our talented musicians, and our excellent Technology Team, for wonderful (and JOYful) support of the effort! And the congregation and staff are tremendously grateful to the committee members, who graciously, **JOYfully** – and with pleasant persistence – contacted and connected with almost **190** “pledging units” (individuals and couples).

As committee chair, I say a resounding thank-you to all of the Pledge Drive Committee members! Please accept many, many virtual hugs from everyone for your enthusiasm and dedication. These wonderful humans are: Bev Coe, Bill Koehl, Brian Doyle, Craig Moore, David Tomell, Don Brod, Don Clements, Gail Tattersfield, Jane Willard, Jason Sapet, Jenny Montgomery, Kathy McFadden, Tracey McFadden, Kevin Beyer, Larry Escalona, Lisa Gades, Louise Haslett, Molly MacKay Zacker, Nancy Christensen, Pat Vary, Pat Ward, and Rev. Scot Hull.

With my personal thanks, admiration and blessings to all, *Kathy Cornell*

Board Chat In an effort to make ourselves more accessible to the congregation, the Board will host a “chat room” 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? **We look forward to seeing you April 25.**

The Bible, and other sacred texts, can be challenging. A solace for some and a weapon for others, these stories nevertheless underpin much of society and consciously and unconsciously inform our national debate. At the least, our familiarity can create flexibility and understanding; at the most, these texts can be deeply enriching, spiritual, and life-giving. As a UU, 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. Note: Yes, we are starting with the Bible, and starting completely from scratch! We’ll be using the Massachusetts Bible Society’s What is the Bible? as our study guide (purchase is not required). For a Bible, Rev. Scot recommends the “[Harper Collins Study Bible](#)” or the “[The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha](#).” **We will meet on the 3rd Mondays of the month at 7pm beginning April 19.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88101593697?pwd=ZjJlWlIiSEEx3K1BTUjhtTUx4WVROZz09>. Meeting ID: 881 0159 3697, Passcode: 215873. To be added to our email list, send a note to office@uusg.org.

April “Beyond Our Walls” UUSG’s membership in the Fox River Valley Initiative magnifies our social justice voice in the region while connecting us with like-minded congregations and nonprofits in our community to advocate for affordable housing, policies addressing needs of mentally ill individuals in the criminal justice system, and safe guns. <http://www.uusg.org/donate>.

Next Sunday, April 25, at 10am: UU Justice Revival - Taking a Collective Breath: Twenty-five Unitarian Universalist congregations in IL, the UU Advocacy network and UU Prison ministries are gathering to take a collective breath. As spring waits on the horizon, can we breathe? We can breathe as vaccines become available. We can breathe as we once again gather. We can breathe into a new administration, breaths of accountability, breaths of attention. We have work to do to create a just world where everyone can find their breath. It is time to breathe. Let us take a collective breath together. Click here on April 25 to join us via YouTube: <https://youtu.be/HvNIIMCjDk4>. Promo Video: <https://youtu.be/Ai3g3GbgDvc>.

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.

April Women's Circle: The Gifts Of Our Female Lineage, Saturday, April 24, 1-3pm via Zoom: In March, we reintroduced our early UUSG ministers, and Pat Ward shared contributions made by several female members from the mid 1930's and 40's. We were excited to have the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, Minister Emerita, share her memories of starting her ministry as a young woman in her first called position. In April, we will continue this topic by honoring our own female ancestors. In this participatory session, we ask everyone to do a little 'homework' preparation. Our discussions will include some of your own history; our 'assignment' is as follows:

1. Who are your ancestors? As you are able, make a list of the first names of female ancestors starting with mother, then grandmothers, then great grandmothers, go as far back as possible, using first names only. (Aunts, cousins, other special women may be included as necessary).
2. Tell "her" story. Choose one female ancestor and recall or share a short story about her. A written description or notes might help facilitate our group discussions; about 3 to 5 minutes. Photos may be shared at this time.
3. Write down a few ideas to answer the question "How does your preceding lineage impact how you are living your life today?"

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.](#)

Difficult Conversations: The Art and Science of Working Together 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. We're bringing this to our community as part of our ongoing commitment to living better, together, and with more compassion and connection. This workshop is split across 3 sessions: **May 1, 8, & 15, 1-3:30pm.** [Please sign up here.](#)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Resources #3 Perhaps you have read/viewed/watched some of the resources that have been suggested in prior newsletters. Perhaps you attended the “See Something, Say Something” workshop and are hungry to learn more. [Here are some antiracism resources that the DE&I team endorses](#) [insert link]. If you would like a copy of Resource Lists #1 and #2, please contact us at DEI@uusg.org.

Wine Down Thursday You are invited every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7pm, to Happy Hour. Next date is **April 22**. 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 84 members vaccinated**, we are so looking forward to being together again! Please let us know at admin.assistant@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.

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

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.**

Take Action on Climate Change All of us at UUSG can do our part to help fight climate change by supporting the Illinois Clean Energy Jobs Act. [Please click on](#)

[the link](#) to send a message to your state representative and the governor voicing your support. It only takes about two minutes.

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.

Social Justice

April 27, 9:45-10:30: Gun Safety Action sponsored in part by Fox River Valley Initiative. [Register here](#). An opportunity for you to do something important about gun safety! On April 27, join the Fox River Valley Initiative in a zoom action designed to pressure the gun industry to develop new gun safety products and procedures. The goal is to reduce unauthorized and accidental uses of guns.

Steps to take:

1. Recruit others to join you
2. [You and the people you recruit need to register separately in advance here.](#)
3. List your organization as Fox River Valley Initiative
4. Using the zoom link you are given, show up at 9:45 on April 27, to show your support.

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.

Chicago Area UU Council Spring Conference: Re-opening and Reimagining Church - A panel discussion on lessons from the pandemic. Saturday, May 8, 9:30-11:30am via Zoom. [More information and register here.](#)

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