



May 9, 2021

Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

Today's Worship Team

In the Pulpit: Rev. Scot Hull

Worship Associate: Pat Vary

Musicians: Sandra Anderson, Diane Handler, & Cynthia Spiegel

Technical Directors: Jeff Stibal, Cari Gesiakowski, Jamie Carroll

Upcoming Services:

Sunday, May 16: Rev. Scot Hull, UU History: 60th Anniversary of the U+U Merger

Sunday, May 23: Rev. Scot Hull, Pentecost Sunday

Come as you are.

Order of Worship

Ringing the Bell Sam Gesiakowski

Call to Worship

Prelude "Turning of the World," Ruth Pelham, Performed by UUSG children in March of 2018, Directed by Sandra Anderson

Welcoming Words

Opening Hymn # 63 "Spring Has Now Unwrapped the Flowers"

Spring has now unwrapped the flowers, day is fast reviving,
life in all her growing powers toward the light is striving.
Gone the iron touch of cold, winter time and frost time,
seedlings working through the mold now make up for lost time.

Herb and plant that, winter long, slumbered at their leisure,
now bestirring green and strong, find in growth their pleasure.
All the world with beauty fills, gold the green enhancing;
flowers make glee among the hills, set the meadows dancing.

Chalice Lighting

Song of Praise arr. Phillip Keveren

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 arr. Phillip Keveren

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 "A Big Mooncake for Little Star," Grace Lin,
presented by Ali Lanthrum

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.

Beyond Our Walls Lazarus House, Jean Pierce

Offertory

Gratitude for the Offering

Reading

Musical Response "Mama," Tchaikovsky

Sermon

Closing Hymn # 357 "Bright Morning Stars Are Rising"

Bright morning stars are rising. (3x)

Day is a breaking in my soul.

Oh, where are our dear mothers? (3x)

Day is a breaking in my soul.

Some have gone to heaven shouting. (3x)

Day is a breaking in my soul.

Some are down in the valley praying. (3x)

Day is a breaking in my soul.

Bright morning stars are rising. (3x)

Day is a breaking in my soul.

Chalice Extinguishing and Unison Closing

Benediction

Postlude "The Pearls," Burgmuller

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, May 9

- 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
- 2:00 pm Dungeons & Dragons Group

Monday, May 10

- 1:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 11

- 7:00 pm Board of Directors

Wednesday, May 12

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 6:00 pm The Shared Pulpit - Sermon Seminar

Thursday, May 13

- 7:00 pm Re-Opening Task Force Meeting
- 7:00 pm Wine Down Thursday

Friday, May 14

Saturday, May 15

- 9:00 am Northern IL Food Bank
- 1:00 pm Difficult Conversations with Ken Beare

Sunday, May 16

- 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
- 12:30 pm Annual Congregational Meeting

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

Announcements

Official Notice of the Annual Meeting: Slate of Candidates for the 2021-2022 Board of Directors and Nominating Committee

This year's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 12:30pm via Zoom. All Members and Friends are encouraged to attend. Voting Members, [please RSVP here so we can ensure a quorum](#). Please RSVP today!

[Join Zoom Meeting](#). Meeting ID: 883 8386 7321

Proposed Slate of Candidates for 2021-2022 Board of Directors

Officers & Directors

President: Molly MacKay Zacker (1-year term) Vice President 1: Nancy Christensen (1-year term) Vice President 2: Jenny Montgomery (1-year term)
Secretary: Patricia Ward (1-year term)
Treasurer: Larry Escalona (1-year term)
Director: Jessica Littlefield (2-year term)
Director: Tom Lichtenheld (2-year term)

Directors Don Clements and Gail Tattersfield will be completing the 2nd year of their 2-year terms.

Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee Chair: David Tomell (1-year term) Nominating Committee Member: David de Coriolis (1-year term) Nominating Committee Member: Tracey McFadden (1-year term)
(Two remaining members of the Nominating Committee will be appointed by the newly elected Board after July 1, 2021)

The For All Ages book today is "A Big Mooncake for Little Star," written and illustrated by Grace Lin, published by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. Today's storytelling is a clever, radiant fable of mama and Little Star. In it, Big Mooncake is discovered waning from a full moon to a new moon. Little Star's childlike authenticity and loving relationship with mama create a warm and glowing modern myth, perfect for Mother's Day. Thanks to Little, Brown 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.

May “Beyond Our Walls” This month’s BOW offering is for Lazarus House Homeless Shelter, which is both an **Emergency Shelter** and a **Center for Transitional Living** located in St. Charles. Serving as an Emergency shelter involves being open 24 hours on Monday through Saturday and 16 hours on Sunday. They make available 3 meals a day, shower and laundry facilities, and personal hygiene items. The Center for Transitional Living provides individual rooms as well as space for families to stay together. The staff creates case management plans with the goal of helping their guests attain permanent independence. In addition, Lazarus House has arranged for health care, tutoring, haircuts, credit counseling, employment services, and more. Please contact socialjusticeleader@uusg.org to find out how you can volunteer to prepare meals or stay overnight to assist their staff. This month’s donations will be split evenly, one-half goes to UUSG’s fund for reimbursing our meal providers and one-half goes directly to Lazarus House programs.

UUSG Group Gatherings on Third Street We are thrilled to raise the tent once again. Our outdoor gathering place is up and available for use. Please keep in mind that some restrictions still apply and please adhere to those listed on the sign-up (required). [Please utilize the sign up](#) and let the safe gatherings begin. One small step for all of us...one giant step towards resuming some sense of normalcy!

Wine Down Thursday You are invited every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7pm, to Happy Hour. Next date is **May 13**. Bring your favorite beverage and enjoy the company of other UUs as we talk about anything and everything.

[Zoom Meeting](#) ID: 842 4179 6675.

The Bible, and other sacred texts, can be challenging. 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, [the next meeting is May 17 on Zoom.](#)** Meeting ID: 881 0159 3697, Passcode: 215873. To be added to our email list, send a note to office@uusg.org.

Women’s Circle has held six interesting and successful sessions this year, all on Zoom. Thank you to all who have participated and helped make these afternoons meaningful. We would love to celebrate spring and the new CDC guidelines with a safely designed outdoor May WC gathering in person. Saturday, May 22, IRL (in real life!) at Mount Saint Mary’s Park, St. Charles, 1:00pm. We have the large pavilion reserved until 4pm, so stay as long as you can even if it rains! We will follow CDC Guidelines in place. [Sign up here.](#)

One Book One UUSG WOW invites you to join us for our third ‘One Book One UUSG’ discussion group on **Tuesday, May 25, at 7:00pm** via Zoom. We will be discussing the book “A Place for Us,” by Fatima Farheen Mirza. The novel focuses on an Indian-Muslim family living in California, striving to find a balance between tradition and modernity. The family of five is left to search for home in a metaphorical and literal sense. The audience is given glimpses of the family life from their beginning to their three children later finding themselves stuck between living their own lives and the lives their parents and culture expect them to follow. **Please RSVP by May 18 to wow@uusg.org**. A Zoom link will be sent out closer to our meeting date. We look forward to a great discussion. We hope you can join us.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Resources # 4 Being an antiracist means more than just not being racist. Antiracism is the active dismantling of systems, privileges, and everyday practices that reinforce and normalize white dominance. As UUSG continues to focus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, we will be providing more resources to further our understanding of this important, critical work. [Some are provided here](#).

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 101 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.”](#)

The Inclusion Bookclub Join Rev. Scot, Lisa Gades, and UUSG members and friends in a monthly exploration of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Our meetings are on the **third Tuesday of every month at 7pm, the next one is May 18**. We will discuss “Caste: The Origin of Our Discontents” in May and June. The next book, starting in July, will be [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. UUSG will have a limited number of copies of the book available. Please check with Christine to learn more or to sign up at office@uusg.org.

Social Justice News

May 15, 9-12: Help the Hungry by Packing Food at the Illinois Food Bank. [Sign up here](#).

Lazarus House Commitment Need People to Stay Overnight The first Saturday of the Month, June 5, is UUSG's next opportunity to help our homeless neighbors at Lazarus House. [Sign up here](#) to prepare 17 sack lunches (a great task for families), to prepare a casserole for 12, or to stay overnight. Now that residents are returning to the shelter, we have been asked to arrange for individuals to stay overnight on the first Saturday to assist the staff in an emergency. Questions? Please contact socialjusticeleader@uusg.org.

Commit to Knit Resumes Our Commit to Knit program has created warm knitted items for a number of causes, including chemo caps for Halos for Hope and winter hats for boys at the Illinois Youth Center St. Charles. UUSG members created more than 50 peace shawls for Women4Women knitting4peace.org, a non-profit organization "dedicated to crafting hope, healing & peace one stitch at a time. . .[and] engaged in a compassionate fight for hope, healing, justice and peace for all women and children." You may designate that your project be donated to Women4Women Knitting4Peace. If you would like to donate a completed item while the church is closed, please contact socialjusticeleader@uusg.org.

HR40 Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act Urge your Congressional Representative to vote for HR40. [Find contact information here](#). This bill establishes the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans. The commission shall examine slavery and discrimination in the colonies and the United States from 1619 to the present and recommend appropriate remedies.

The commission shall identify (1) the role of the federal and state governments in supporting the institution of slavery, (2) forms of discrimination in the public and private sectors against freed slaves and their descendants, and (3) lingering negative effects of slavery on living African Americans and society. [Click here for text and actions](#).

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