



July 18, 2021

Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

Today's Worship Team

In the Pulpit: Jen Raffensperger

Worship Associate: Gail Tattersfield

Musicians: Sandra Anderson, Kristen McFadden, Tracey
McFadden, Cynthia Spiegel

Technical Directors: Jeff Stibal, Cari Gesiakowski, Jamie Carroll

Upcoming Services:

Sunday, July 25: Rev. Julie Taylor, "Hanging On, Letting Go"

Sunday, August 1: Rev. Zsolt Elekes

Come as you are.

Order of Worship

Ringing the Bell Maissy & Harper Littlefield

Call to Worship

Prelude "In the Morning Light," Yanni

Welcoming Words

Opening Hymn # 1031 "Filled With Loving Kindness"

May I be filled with loving kindness. May I be well.

May I be filled with loving kindness. May I be well.

May I be peaceful and at ease.

May I be whole.

May you be filled ...

May we be filled ...

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) Montgomery Kids

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

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 Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants
presented by Jean Pierce

Offertory

Gratitude for the Offering

Reading "Phase One" by Dilruba Ahmed

Musical Response "For dine Fodder" (At Your Feet) Edvard Grieg

Sermon "Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself" (Matthew 22:39)

Closing Hymn # 1012 "When I Am Frightened"

When I am frightened, will you reassure me?

When I'm uncertain, will you hold my hand?

Will you be strong for me, sing to me quietly?

Will you share some of your stories with me?

If you will show me compassion,

then I may learn to care as you do,

then I may learn to care.

When I am angry, will you still embrace me?

When I am thoughtless, will you understand?

Will you believe in me, stand by me willingly?

Will you share some of your questions with me?

If you will show me acceptance,

then I may learn to give as you do,

then I may learn to give.

When I am troubled, will you listen to me?

When I am lonely, will you be my friend?

Will you be there for me, comfort me tenderly?

Will you share some of your feelings with me?

If you will show me commitment,

then I may learn to love as you do,

then I may learn to love.

Chalice Extinguishing and Unison Closing

Benediction

Postlude “Try a Little Kindness,” Curt Sapaugh & Bobby Austin

Community Announcements

Talk Back and Coffee Hour Breakouts

Contact Information

Rev. Scot Hull, Minister

minister@uusg.org; 630-232-2350, ext. 103

Christine Imielski, Congregational Administrator

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Lisa Rittenberry, Administrative Assistant

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Becky Hruby, Director of Religious Education

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Molly MacKay Zacker, Board President

boardpresident@uusg.org

Cynthia Spiegel, Music Director

music@uusg.org

Jeff Stibal, Technical Director

techdirector@uusg.org

Today & This Week at UUSG

uusg.org/calendar

Sunday, July 18

- 10:00 am Online Worship Service
- 1:00 pm Family Ministry Event – Wheeler Park

Monday, July 19

Tuesday, July 20

- 7:00 pm Inclusion Book Club (online)

Wednesday, July 21

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 12:00 pm BYO Lunch with Julia Jones
- 7:00 pm UU Buddhism Meditation & Study Group (online)
- 7:00 pm Facilities Team Meeting

Thursday, July 22

- 9:00 am Soup Kitchen Group (off-site)
- 1:00 pm DEI Meeting (online)
- 1:00 pm Memoir Writing Group (online)

Friday, July 23

Saturday, July 24

Sunday, July 25

- 10:00 am Online Worship Service
- 2:00 pm Social Justice Team Meeting (online)

Council will not meet during July and August During these months, we ask that teams/committees still complete the Teams Report, since the Board will continue to meet and much of the information is important. Of course, if there is content/information that your Team would like to share with the Council, please email the Council at council@uusg.org.

The Sermonators and the Sacred Texts groups will not meet in July but will meet in August.

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

Announcements

Guest-in-the-Pulpit: Jen Raffensperger "Are we loving our neighbors as ourselves? Arguably, we *are* doing that. Arguably, we have no idea how to care for ourselves. Arguably, we are terrified that loving ourselves is only centered in ego and self-glorification. But if we learn to love our every lump and scar, if we start to forgive ourselves for all the things we get wrong (we get so many things wrong!), then our hearts may settle into a deeper understanding of what that love is." Jen Raffensperger (she/her/hers) is a 2021 graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School, earning a Master of Divinity degree. She has served our faith as Youth Director at our congregation in Columbia, MD and as Intern Minister at our congregation in Frederick, MD. This spring she was received into Ministerial Fellowship and will be ordained this fall.

UUSG is now open for in-person meetings. [Please use the Room Reservation Form here.](#) Please abide by these guidelines; all of us want to be together, but the safety of our staff and congregants is our #1 concern. **Also, please remember that this is different than having in-person services, those are still online for now.**

- Mask wearing is mandatory.
- Building usage is restricted to the Common Room.
- No food or drink consumption is allowed.
- The restroom closest to the kitchen is designated as the "Visitor Restroom" and the ONLY bathroom that should be used by any non-staff members
- Cleaning supplies will be clearly visible in the Common Room. It is necessary to wipe down all "used" surfaces after use.

New Buddhist Book "Pay Attention, for Goodness' Sake" might be something you remember hearing as a child. It's also the title of the next book that UUSG's Buddhist Group will read and discuss, by the wonderful author Sylvia Boorstein. Join us on Zoom, first and third Wednesdays of each month at 7pm. E-mail Lisa Gades at uubuddhism@uusg.org for more information.

The Food Bank Group is seeking new and repeat volunteers for its upcoming shifts. Ages 8 years old and up are welcome. COVID precautions are in effect, so masks must be worn until further notice. Please consider joining us on July 31, Aug 21, and Sept 18. Sign up at uusg.org/food-bank-signup.

August 7: Lazarus House Homeless Shelter – Sign up to prepare lunches for 17 or to fix a casserole and salad for 12 or to stay overnight. 214 Walnut St., St. Charles. [Sign up here.](#)

The July BOW cause is the Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants

ICDI provides a number of essential services for immigrants and asylum-seekers, including:

- Offering housing, financial assistance, and case management to people who would otherwise have been detained in traumatizing conditions
- Providing support to immigrants being held in ICE detention in county jails
- Accompanying immigrants in court and serve as observers to hold the Immigration Court system accountable
- Visiting migrant children apprehended by the US Government for crossing the border who are awaiting reunification with a family member.

Religious Education News

Volunteers Needed for Youth Programs Religious education (RE) volunteers needed! Please help UU youth by volunteering your time and talents in any of the following ways:

Teachers For the 2021-22 school year, we are shifting to a middle hour RE program, so no more missing the church service (we continue to offer two services, before and after RE). Every classroom has two teachers, typically teaching twice per month. Everything you need is provided, including on-the-job training. You can start as the assistant teacher until you get to know the ropes. Grade levels of need include K-2 and 3-5. Number needed: 4 for a bi-weekly commitment

Arts & Exploration (A&E) Volunteers For our kids in K-5 who are unable to sit through an hour of church, we will offer A&E. This program will provide parents with their usual time to themselves during the service while providing the youth with social engagement. Ideas include play outside, go on a scavenger hunt, make a craft, do a puzzle, play a game, and more. Number needed: 8 for a monthly commitment

Substitute Teachers On occasion, one of our regular teachers may not be available or not feel well the morning of church. In that case, we need a list of volunteers to call upon. Once a background check has been completed, your name can be part of this list. Number needed: 6

Nursery Care Employees Upon reopening, we will need two nursery workers to be present for the duration of Sunday mornings. This is a paid position and ideally one of these people will be a consistent face in our nursery each week. The minimum age is 18 years. If you or anyone you know may be interested, please pass this on. The pay is \$13/hour. [Job Description and further details can be found here.](#)

Please contact Becky Hruby, Director of Religious Education for Children and Youth, at dre@uusg.org if you are interested in helping or simply learning more about any of these opportunities.

Please join us for Summer 2021 Family Ministry Events. We miss you and hope you can take advantage of one or more of these opportunities. Questions? Email Becky Hruby at DRE@uusg.org. **Sundays, 1-3pm, dates and locations:**

July 18, Wheeler Park, Geneva: Meet at the pavilion/playground area. Bring your frisbees for the free disc golf course if that's your thing. All youth will be treated by UUSG to a free round of mini golf. Bring money for the snack bar if desired. Enjoy the amenities: playground, trails, pavilion, shade & bathrooms.

August 15, Pottawatomie Park, St. Charles: Meet at the small playground across from the mini golf course, between the bathrooms and parking lot. While there, enjoy two shaded playgrounds, the Fox River Trail, pavilion, mini golf and snack bar. UUSG will pick up the tab on an ice cream at the snack bar.

The Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee Needs YOU! Anyone who is interested in helping plan and coordinate the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives at UUSG is invited to volunteer for the DEI committee by sending a message to DEI@uusg.org. People who have contacted us before June 20 will help set the meeting times for the group.

Summer BYO Lunches on Zoom! Julia Jones, Meadville Lombard seminarian and spouse to Reverend Scot, will be hosting our summer lunch program. 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 her (and your congregational friends!) in our virtual courtyard for an hour of conversation, connection, and community. Wednesdays at noon! [Zoom Meeting ID: 885 8448 0784.](#)

Sister Suppers are back! Modeled on the traditional UU Circle Suppers, Sister Suppers are social gatherings for members and friends of UUSG who identify as women. They provide wonderful opportunities for connecting and reconnecting with other women within our church family.

Sister Suppers are held in the fall. One person serves as the hostess, and each participant brings an item, generally an entrée, a vegetable, dessert, etc., but the menu is flexible. You can sign up as a participant or as an alternate who will be called if last-minute openings occur. You can participate in one each month, or only in months you choose. The hostess establishes the exact date of her Supper. You do not have to host to participate. There will be a few modifications to protect the health and safety of everyone:

- Three Suppers rather than four will be offered.
- Attendance will be limited to six.
- You must have had a COVID-19 vaccine to participate.

Deadline to sign up is Friday, July 23. No late additions can be made as the scheduling process is complex and time-consuming, [so sign up today!](#) If you do miss the deadline, contact Sherri Casterline (scasterline@earthlink.net) and she will add you as an alternate. If you need a ride, please check the box on the sign-up page, and we'll try to find one for you.

Unsung Heroes Many tasks and caring acts get accomplished by volunteers at our church unbeknownst to many of us. These people go above and beyond what is asked or expected of them. We would like to recognize these Unsung Heroes. If you would like to nominate one of these heroes, please submit their name to WOW leadership at wow@uusg.org. Please include a brief description of the “behind the scenes” unselfish acts. If you have a photo of your hero, please attach it. These entries will be included in our weekly Mini Pioneers.

Summer Care and Conversation with Julia Jones! Have something you're wrestling with? Something sitting on your heart? Some question burbling in your soul? Or maybe you just want someone to bounce it all off? I mean, it has been a year, right? This summer, we are delighted to have this support from Julia Jones! And every hour that we make use of her compassionate ear will count towards the fulfillment of her educational requirements. At the very least, you'll have a nice conversation with a compassionate listener! For details, or if you would like to schedule time with Julia, please reach out to her at jjones@meadville.edu.

One Book One UUSG Your WOW Leadership has chosen a new title for our One Book One UUSG Book Club. Please join us **in the Common Room** at UUSG on **Wednesday, July 28**, for a discussion on “Born a Crime,” by Trevor Noah. This is non-fiction, an autobiography written by an amazing young comedian. If you are interested in attending, kindly RSVP to wow@uusg.org. We prefer to have an accurate count of friends and members so that we can be better prepared. "Born a Crime" is the winner of the Thurber Prize. The compelling, inspiring, (often comic) coming-of-age story of Trevor Noah, set during the twilight of apartheid and the tumultuous days of freedom that followed.

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 **July 20**. The next book 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. Zoom Meeting, Meeting ID: 871 6716 7460, Passcode: 428914. If you visit uusg.org/calendar, and click on the event, the Zoom link will always be located there.

Sacred Texts Study Group: 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 **August 16**, on Zoom. Meeting ID: 881 0159 3697, Passcode: 215873. To be added to our email list, send a note to office@uusg.org.

Have you been vaccinated? Although masks will be required for any in-person activities, we are still keeping a running tally of how many of our members and friends have received the COVID-19 vaccine. So far, we have **139 members** vaccinated. Please send vaccination updates to admin.assistant@uusg.org.