



August 1, 2021

Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

Today's Worship Team

In the Pulpit: Rev. Zsolt Elekes

Worship Associate: Pat Vary

Musicians: Sandra Anderson and Cynthia, Doria, Elena & Sophia Spiegel

Technical Directors: Jeff Stibal, Cari Gesiakowski, Jamie Carroll

Upcoming Services:

Sunday, August 8: Guest-in-the-Pulpit: Rev. Verdis LeVar Robinson, "May This Be the Last Time?"

Sunday, August 15: Guest-in-the-Pulpit: Rev. Friederike 'Rica' Kaufel

Come as you are.

Order of Worship

Ringing the Bell

Call to Worship

Prelude "Dance of Butschum" (in Transylvania), from "Romanian Folk Dances," Bela Bartok

Welcoming Words

Opening Hymn # 352 "Find a Stillness"

Find a stillness, hold a stillness, let the stillness carry me.
Find the silence, hold the silence, let the silence carry me.
In the spirit, by the spirit, with the spirit giving power,
I will find true harmony.

Seek the essence, hold the essence, let the essence carry me.
Let me flower, help me flower, watch me flower, carry me.
In the spirit, by the spirit, with the spirit giving power,
I will find true harmony.

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.

Passing the Peace

For All Ages “Our Place in the Cosmos,” Erika A. Hewitt

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 “I Want to Be With People,” Dana E. Worsnop

Musical Response “Evening in the Country,” Bela Bartok

Sermon

Closing Hymn # 34 Though I May Speak With Bravest Fire

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all
inspire,

and have not love, my words are vain as sounding brass and
hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely
thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be
made whole.

Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are
freed.

Chalice Extinguishing and Unison Closing

Benediction

Postlude “Stick Dance,” from “Romanian Folk Dances,” Bela Bartok

Community Announcements

Talk Back and Coffee Hour Breakouts

Today & This Week at UUSG

uusg.org/calendar

Sunday, August 1

- 9:00 am Styrofoam Sunday
- 10:00 am Online Worship Service

Monday, August 2

- 7:30 pm Technology Team Meeting

Tuesday, August 3

Wednesday, August 4

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 12:00 pm BYO Lunch with Julia Jones (online)
- 4:00 pm Heritage Team Meeting
- 6:00 pm The Shared Pulpit-Sermon Seminar
- 7:00 pm UU Buddhism Meditation & Study Group

Thursday, August 5

- 7:00 pm Re-Opening Task Force Meeting (UUSG)

Friday, August 6

Saturday, August 7

Sunday, August 8

- 10:00 am Online Worship Service

Council will not meet during August During August 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.

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

Announcements

Transylvania is famous for many things, especially for, well, you know, vampires. But little do people know that the roots of our faith community cannot be found only in the United States, but especially on the distant land of Transylvania as well. More than 450 years ago the first important Unitarian movements began to emerge and thanks to it Transylvania became the first land in the world to establish, as an order of law, religious freedom for its citizens. If you ask yourself how is this possible, come join us for worship on Sunday, where a Transylvanian Unitarian minister will guide our worship.

My name is Zsolt Elekes, I was born in Brasov, Transylvania, Romania. I am engaged to my partner, and have two siblings. An ethnic Hungarian, I converted to Unitarianism at the age of 20, and soon began my seminary studies at the Protestant Theological Institute of Kolozsvár, Transylvania. During my seminary years I was granted a scholarship which gave me the opportunity to study for 3 years at Meadville Lombard Theological School of Chicago. During my studies in the United States I served part-time two congregations in the Chicago area for a year, besides many services at other congregations. I am looking forward excitedly to worship with all of you!

UUSG Re-Opening: Let's Get This Party Started!!

Homecoming is around the corner, and we are all excited to, once again, be together in our wonderful church building and seeing everyone in person.

To make that happen safely, smoothly, and inclusively, the Re-Opening Task Force is monitoring the news and the environment (the delta variant, potential return of mask mandates, the everchanging number of positive cases in our county) and while all of that will influence our final plans, right now... we are all systems GO!

In early August, the Task Force will meet to discuss the essential elements of the re-opening to be sure they are receiving the needed attention, including music, religious education, and of course, our Homecoming picnic.

Here's what we do know:

Homecoming Sunday, September 12, is happening! There will be a worship service! There will be a picnic in Wheeler Park! More details soon. Attending the Sunday morning services remotely will continue to be an option into the foreseeable future. The Board has committed to a big technology upgrade that will keep our "hybrid" worship services inclusive, interactive, and high-quality.

Religious education programming will begin on Homecoming Sunday! The Facilities Team, Rev. Scot, and other church members are working towards a Sanctuary refresh that will maintain our historic charm and provide an updated look.

Following guidance from the UUA, CDC, Chicago Public Schools, WHO, and others, face masks will be required in the building for everyone. We are so grateful that a large percentage of our congregation are vaccinated, but we know that those under 12 are not yet even eligible to receive a vaccination, and more, that there are members and guests who are not fully vaccinated. For now, we are asking that everyone mask up, regardless of their vaccination status, to help us welcome everyone safely.

Congregational Meeting

We will have 3 all-congregation meeting options (via Zoom) to provide an open forum for people to ask questions and learn more about the re-opening. You need not attend them all, but we are hoping that you will join us for one. Those dates are:

Wednesday, August 11, at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 12, at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, August 13, at noon

The Zoom Link is for all three meetings is below, and on our calendar:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88524354138>, Meeting ID: 885 2435 4138

Congregational Survey

To help us with our Fall planning, we would appreciate some feedback about your plans for attendance. [Please take our survey here.](#)

August Beyond Our Walls Hesed House in Aurora is a national model for ending homelessness – one person, one family at a time. They are the second-largest homeless shelter in the State of Illinois, and the largest shelter outside of the city of Chicago. The culmination of nearly three decades of strategic evolution. Their highly skilled professionals collaborate to provide the tools necessary to help individuals and families break free of the shackles binding them to homelessness. With the help of professional staff, alliances with outside agencies over a thousand people are served through Hesed House's shelter and three housing programs annually. At their Comprehensive Homeless Resource Center, people receive support related to housing, support systems, life skills, legal issues, physical/emotional abuse, mental/physical health, and much more.

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 Questions? Email Becky Hruby at DRE@uusg.org. **Sunday, 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 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 **August 17**. The next book will be "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](#). 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. [The link is here](#), Meeting ID: 869 8603 6292, Passcode: 1234. If you visit uusg.org/calendar, and click on the event, the Zoom link will always be located there.

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.

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](#).

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.

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.

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.

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 **142 members** vaccinated. Please send vaccination updates to admin.assistant@uusg.org.

Social Justice News

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 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](#).

Take Action in support of Actions of Immediate Witness Passed at the UUA Convention

- Make sure our US Senators know that you appreciate their support of the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, both of which are essential for eliminating voter suppression, ensuring fair legislative districts, demanding transparency with respect to ethics and campaign finance, and more! [Contact Senator Durbin](#), [Contact Senator Duckworth](#)
- Participate in [For The People Phone Banking sponsored by Common Cause](#). You would be trained to call voters in targeted states and connect them to their Senators to support the For the People Act and eliminate the filibuster.

Take Action to tell the St. Charles School Board that you support Culturally Responsive Instruction. School districts in Illinois are receiving pressure from individuals who oppose offering Culturally Responsive Instruction. At the most recent St. Charles School Board meeting, 150 members of the public showed up, with 2 to 1 voicing opposition. Plan on attending the next St. Charles School Board meeting: 7-9 pm, Monday, August 9, Haines Center, 305 S. 9th St., St. Charles

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.

Contact Information

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