

The Inclusion Bookclub Join 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 **December 21**. *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*. Zoom info available in the calendar.

DEI As our language has been shaped alongside a predominantly racist climate, it has absorbed some of the recollections from that period. On our journey to free our system of its prejudice, we must also purge our lexicons of the scars of the past which stoke buried hatred. Here are some phrases that you should immediately remove from your usage: <https://tinyurl.com/cr9bc4yr>.

Contact Information

Rev. Scot Hull, Minister, minister@uusg.org;
630-232-2350, ext. 103

Christine Imielski, Congregational Administrator
office@uusg.org; 630-232-2350, ext. 100

Lisa Rittenberry, Administrative Assistant
admin.assistant@uusg.org; 630-232-2350, ext. 101

Becky Hruby, Director of Religious Education
DRE@uusg.org; 630-232-2350, ext. 104

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, December 12 Online Worship Service 11 am

- 10:00 am RE Classes K-8 (online)
- 12:00 pm YRUU Class (online)
- 12:30 pm Big Ideas Covenant Group (online)

Monday, December 13

- 1:00 pm Finance Team Meeting (online)
- 7:00 pm Sacred Texts Study Group (online)

Tuesday, December 14

- 7:00 pm Board of Directors (online)

Wednesday, December 15

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting (online)
- 12:00 pm Re-Opening Meeting (online)
- 7:00 pm UU Buddhism Meditation & Study Group (online)
- 7:00 pm Facilities Team Meeting (online)

Thursday, December 16

- 11:00 am Simply Sharing Circle (online)
- 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (off-site)

Friday, December 17

Saturday, December 18

- 9:00 am Northern IL Food Bank Group

Sunday, December 19 Online Worship Service 11 am

- 10:00 am Religious Education Classes K-8
- 12:00 pm YRUU Class (online)
- 12:30 pm Big Ideas Covenant Group

Need a little more information? Check out our website at uusg.org and our calendar at uusg.org/calendar.

Donate via Tithely with the QR code below:



Welcome to This House!



Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

December 12, 2021

December Theme: Joy

Today's Worship Team

In the Pulpit: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

Worship Associate: Pat Vary

Musicians: Valerie Heinkel-Bollero, Cynthia Spiegel

RE: (10am) K-2: Amanda Slaiher, Cindy Duckworth; 3-5: Kerry Sapet, Dave Duckworth; 6-8: Kim McDuffee, Jenny Montgomery
YRUU (noon): Scott Dotson, Ashley Peterson

Technical Directors: Jeff Stibal, Jamie Carroll, Cari Gesiakowski, Doreen Rose Mace

Upcoming Services:

Sunday, December 19: Rev. Scot Hull, "Another Trip to IKEA: A Christmas Story"

Friday, December 24: 3:30pm: Carols & Cocoa

5:00pm: Online Service led by Rev. Scot Hull

Sunday, December 26: No Service, Church Closed

Order of Worship

Ring the Bell

Call to Worship

Welcoming Words from Rev. Scot Hull and Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

Introit “Un Flambeau,” Jeanette Isabella; French carol, arr. Phil Perkins

Chalice Lighting

Song of Praise

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

Passing the Peace

Joys and Sorrows

Hymn #123 “Spirit of Life”

Beyond Our Walls Mutual Ground, presented by Jean Pierce

Offertory “Let Christmas Come,” English melody

Reading #1: “Starfish”, by Eleanor Lerman

Hymn # 226 “People, Look East”

Reading #2: “Who am I not to be blessed?” by Rev. Chris Jimmerson

Meditation

Responsive “Ecce Novum,” by Ola Gjeilo

Sermon “Gratitude in 2021”

Closing Hymn

Chalice Extinguishing

Benediction

Postlude “Christmas Carillon,” by Stephan Esipoff

Announcements

December Beyond Our Walls. Mutual Ground Domestic & Sexual Abuse Shelter provides services to people throughout Kane and nearby counties:

•24-hour crisis hotline: Domestic Violence – 630-897-0080
Sexual Violence – 630-897-8383

•Residential services regardless of gender, race, religion, age, sexual orientation, or ability

•Counseling services for adults, teens, and children impacted by domestic and sexual violence

•Substance use services for individuals and families

•Family services intended to interrupt the cycle of abuse

•Legal advocates to help victims understand their rights and navigate the system

•Medical advocates providing crisis intervention, emotional support, and more

•Prevention education teaching students to recognize, refuse, and report abuse

Please give generously to this worthy cause.

Carols & Cocoa Join us Christmas Eve at 3:30pm for a Christmas Carol sing-a-long in the front yard at UUSG. We will provide the cocoa to keep us all warm, you provide the holiday joy to raise our spirits! This gives us the chance to celebrate together, even if it cannot be within our church walls. We will sing 3:30-4:30pm and have plenty of time to arrive home before our online 5pm service. We'll supply the carolers with lyrics.

Board Chat Due to the upcoming holidays and additional commitments, Board Chats will resume on Sunday, February, 20. As always, if you would like to ask a question or have a comment to share, please reach out to board@uusg.org or to Molly MacKay Zacker at molly.zacker@mackayco.com.

Save the Date! UU Church of Bloomington Normal and UUSG are co-sponsoring a three-part series of Difficult Conversations: The art and science of working together. If you missed this workshop last year, now is your chance to attend! UUSG members and friends are invited to take part. Save the date for **January 27, February 1 & 3**, 6-8:30pm via Zoom. Registration and more information will be available in the upcoming weeks.

Celebrating the Life of Al Drover: Memory Book Help us celebrate and remember the life of UUSG Member Al Drover by sending in memories, thoughts, photos and stories. Al and Ann's daughters are putting together a collection book that will be made available to all who would like a copy. If you'd like to contribute, you can email submissions to Christine Imielski at office@uusg.org, or drop off handwritten notes or photos at the church. Call (630-232-2350) or email Christine to arrange a time. The family welcomes all memories and stories, long or short, and humorous memories are especially welcome (with Al, there are probably many!). Please turn in submissions by **December 15**.

Week of Service 2022 We are looking for an **individual or a team** to help coordinate UUSG's annual Week of Service this spring. Coordinating the week involves planning a variety of volunteer opportunities, finding individuals to lead activities, organizing sign ups, and communicating information. Much of the planning is in place from past years, we just need a few more helping hands to keep our Week of Service tradition going. Training and administrative support are provided! If interested, contact Kerry Sapet at dayofservice@uusg.org.

Sacred Texts Study Group Whether a text is new to you or not, scripture can be challenging. This class will try to unravel things, at least a bit. No experience necessary! Meetings are on the 3rd Mondays of the month at 7pm. The next meeting is **December 13**, on Zoom. More details in the weekly email.

UUSG Cookie Walk, 2021

Submitted by Rhonda S. Robinson, Co-Chair

Our wonderful cookie walk tradition (almost 40 years?!) continued this December in spite of uncertainty and concerns. Our enthusiastic members and friends came together to create a special event and a very successful fundraiser, with returning 'regulars' and new people and practices in place. We all should be proud of our tradition and the public visibility and welcoming atmosphere we created.

What an amazing, thoughtful, energetic, and hardworking group assembled to create our special Geneva Christmas Walk event! Volunteers included almost 40 bakers, 10 folks to help set up the night before, and almost 30 Cookie Elves at the event, doing everything from greeting the guests, maintaining the line and crowd, taking money, filling boxes, keeping the cookie tables full and the trash cans recycled, clearing the mess and cleaning it all up at the end of the evening.

As a co-chair, I was very grateful for my cookie walk partner. Co-Chair Molly McKay Zacker absolutely rocked her first time organizing, and added special features which, for example, helped expedite our cookie box line. She, Dave, and their family along with Jennifer and Andy Montgomery and their family were key to our organized evening. AND, together, they baked 100 DOZEN cookies!

We had beautiful holiday decorations and banners thanks to the Facilities team, and images projected and music playing thanks to Jeff Stibal and later Jamie Carroll.

Cash, checks, and charges were handled by members of the Finance team. All of you, from greeters to box tapers, your great enthusiasm, patience, smiles, and just hard work made this a very successful evening!

Last but never least, we must thank our Congregational Administrator, Christine Imielski, and Administrative Assistant, Lisa Rittenberry, who kept us organized, filed paperwork, initiated publicity, made great suggestions, kept us aware of issues, answered a million questions, and

smiled through it all. It wouldn't have happened without their enthusiasm and talents.

We are so happy to have had the opportunity to work together to make Cookie Walk 2021 a success! THANK YOU! **As of Wednesday, Dec. 8, we have profited \$2746!**

And, using our Change for a Change container, we collected over **\$200 for our Dec. BOW organization, Mutual Ground.**

To all our volunteers, thank you. Please let us know if we missed your name here!

Jean Pierce, Sherri Casterline, Carol Myers, Patrick McGleam, Renee and David Tomell, Kathy Meier, Karen Moore, Jennifer Klein, Sherry Wilson, Kevin and Linda O'Neill, Diane Peters, Nancy Christensen, Cindy Duckworth, Pat Rouille, Sue Hedke, Gail Tattersfield, Taia Hollmeier, Jamie Carroll, Manya Prah, Kerry Sapet, Rhonda Robinson, Katie Yurkewicz, Susan O'Neill, Terri Stanley, Kimberly Harrison, Page Poris, Anna Yang, Mary Dorrell, Molly MacKay Zacker, Jenny Montgomery, Katie Baar, William Elbert, Jan Miller, Betty Bristol, Nancy Hollmeier, Cari and Sam Gesiakowski, Llona Steele, David deCoriolis, Teal Cyko, Page Poris, Anne Heavey, Tracey and Kathy McFadden, Ashley Peterson, Susan Williams, Kathy Dameron, Diane Peters.