

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.

Save the Date! Difficult Conversations UUSG and the UU Church of Bloomington-Normal are cosponsoring this seminar. A great opportunity if you missed out on our spring course! Sign up today. Difficult Conversations: The art and science of working together is an engaging, interactive workshop exploring a powerful set of principles and strategies that will allow you to approach difficult conversations in a radically new way - one that can heal divides and change hearts and minds. Plan on attending the complete three-part series which will be held on Zoom. The series will take place on the following dates:

Thursday January 27, 6:00-8:30pm

Tuesday February 1, 6:00-8:30pm

Thursday February 3, 6:00-8:30pm

signupgenius.com/go/508084fa9ae29a0fa7-difficult

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 **January 17**, on Zoom. More details in the weekly email.

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 19 Online Worship Service 11 am

- 10:00 am RE Social Justice Sunday (online)
- 12:30 pm Big Ideas Covenant Group (online)

Monday, December 20

Tuesday, December 21

- 7:00 pm The Inclusion Book Club (online)
- 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (off-site)

Wednesday, December 22

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting (online)
- 12:00 pm Re-Opening Meeting (online)
- 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (off-site)

Thursday, December 23

Friday, December 24

- 3:30 pm Carols & Cocoa
- 5:00 pm Worship Service (online)

Saturday, December 25 Christmas Day

Sunday, December 26 No Service

The office will be closed December 25 – January 3

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 19, 2021

December Theme: Joy

Today's Worship Team

In the Pulpit: Rev. Scot Hull

Worship Associate: Diane Gallentine

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

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

Upcoming Services:

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

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

Sunday, December 26: No Service, Church Closed

Sunday, January 2: Rev. Julie Taylor

Order of Worship

Ring the Bell

Call to Worship

Introit “Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!” Jule Styne
arr. Mike Springer

Welcoming Words

Opening Hymn “Jingle Bells”

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

RECap Kerry Sapet, Amanda Slaiher

Passing the Peace

Joys and Sorrows

Hymn #123 “Spirit of Life”

Offertory “(There's No Place Like) Home for the Holidays,” Al Stillman, Robert Allen, arr. Mike Springer

Reading #1 “Winter Solstice,” Rebecca Ann Parker

Hymn #235 “Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly”

Reading #2 “The Shortest Day,” Susan Cooper

Meditation

Responsive “O Christmas Tree,” Traditional arr. Mike Springer

Sermon “Another Trip to IKEA: A Christmas Story”

Closing Song “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas”

Chalice Extinguishing

Benediction

Postlude “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”

Announcements

The Re-opening Task Force has been meeting weekly. As you know, our current environment is full of unknowns and the safety and well-being of our congregation is always our top priority. We have re-examined the model that we have been utilizing for the past several months and have determined that it does not accurately reflect the percentage of those vaccinated in our congregation. We are in the time of mid-pandemic, when vaccinations are doing what they are supposed to AND new variants are arriving. Having said that, we are discussing utilizing other indices to determine if we can open. Instead of cases, we are looking at how many people are getting sick and whether or not there is adequate availability of the resources needed to tend to the sick. For now, these two metrics are showing us that we should be able to open. Given that we had to plan for Christmas services a few months ago, we will keep those online...BUT we are hoping that we will be able to gather again in person in January, fingers crossed.

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.

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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.

A quick update on our 3rd Street Property: Our UUSG Committee (Tom Lichtenheld, Bill Scown, Kevin O'Neill, Dave Tomell, Rev Scot and Molly MacKay Zacker) recently had a meeting with the Friends of the Viking Ship who are interested in relocating their vessel from Good Templar Park to our 3rd Street Property. While we have not entered into formal negotiations, we are providing property and lease details and continuing our discussions. We are also communicating with Geneva History Museum representatives as the FoVS have presented their proposed plan to the GHM Board. At this point, all parties see this a “win-win-win.”

We are hoping by now that you all have received our year-end donation (friendly!) reminder. Just want to reiterate that WE are the resources that fuel our mission and that the practice of stewardship is a gratifying way to strengthen our beloved community. Thank you for considering a gift to UUSG this holiday season.

Blue Christmas The joy of the holiday season is not always so straightforward. Sometimes we know the reasons - losses, grief, despair - and sometimes it's less clear why the sparkle of the season eludes us. If this resonates, you are not alone and you need not carry that burden, whatever it may be, by yourself. Join Julia Jones, Intern Minister at Beverly Unitarian Church, on Zoom on Tuesday December 21, at 7pm for a service of song and prayer marking the grief that can coexist with the ‘most wonderful’ time of the year. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6560884976>, Meeting ID: 656 088 4976