



April 11, 2021

Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

Today's Worship Team

In the Pulpit: Rev. Scot Hull

Worship Associate: Pat Vary

Musicians: Andy Montgomery, Angela Salvaggione, Cynthia Spiegel, Elena Spiegel, Sophia Spiegel, Tom Zimmerman

Technical Directors: Jeff Stibal, Cari Gesiakowski, Jamie Carroll

Upcoming Services:

Sunday, April 18: Earth Day Service, Rev. Scot Hull

Sunday, April 25: UU Justice Revival - Taking a Collective Breath

Come as you are.

Order of Worship

Ringing the Bell Will Sapet

Call to Worship

Prelude "Fish and Whistle," John Prine, extra verse by Linda O'Neill

Welcoming Words

Opening Hymn # 1032 "Daoona Nayeesh"

Daoona nayeesh beesalaam;
daoona nayeesh Beeamaan;
daoona nansij;
Ahlaam;
daoona namoot beesalaam.

Translation:

Let us live in peace.
Let us live in inner peace.
Let us weave our dreams together.
Let us die in peace.

Chalice Lighting Simon Liang

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 "A Kite for Moon" presented by Elliot & Cynthia Slaiher

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 Fox River Valley Initiative, Larry Escalona

Offertory

Gratitude for the Offering

Reading

Musical Response "An April Pastoral," Thomas Dunhill

Sermon

Closing Hymn # 188 "Come, Come, Whoever You Are"

Come, come, whoever you are,

wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving.

Ours is no caravan of despair.

Come, yet again come.

Chalice Extinguishing and Unison Closing

Benediction

Postlude "Reitak Ma Na'ref Wen (I Wish I Knew Where You Are),"

Lotfi Boshnak, arr. Wajdi Abou Diab

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, April 11

- 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, April 12

- 1:00 pm Finance Team Meeting

Tuesday, April 13

- 7:00 pm Board of Directors

Wednesday, April 14

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

Thursday, April 15

- 11:00 am Simply Sharing Circle
- 7:00 pm Re-Opening Task Force Meeting

Friday, April 16

Saturday, April 17

- 9:00 am Northern IL Food Bank

Sunday, April 18

- 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

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

Announcements

The For All Ages book today is “A Kite for Moon,” written by Jane Yolen and Heidi E.Y. Stemple, illustrated by Matt Phelan and published by Zonderkidz. Dedicated to Neil Armstrong, “A Kite for Moon” helps celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first United States moon landing. What would it be like if the moon was your friend? Find out as you walk alongside a little boy who journeys through life to achieve his dream of becoming an astronaut. Thanks to Zonderkidz 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.

Board Meeting Tuesday, April 13 Open to all UUSG Members and Friends. Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85641657846>. Meeting ID: 856 4165 7846.

April “Beyond Our Walls” UUSG’s membership in the Fox River Valley Initiative magnifies our social justice voice in the region while connecting us with like-minded congregations and nonprofits in our community to advocate for affordable housing, policies addressing needs of mentally ill individuals in the criminal justice system, and safe guns. <http://www.uusg.org/donate>.

UU Justice Revival - Taking a Collective Breath: Sunday, April 25 at 10am. Twenty-five Unitarian Universalist congregations in IL, the UU Advocacy network and UU Prison ministries are gathering to take a collective breath. As spring waits on the horizon, can we breathe? We can breathe as vaccines become available. We can breathe as we once again gather. We can breathe into a new administration, breaths of accountability, breaths of attention. We have work to do to create a just world where everyone can find their breath. It is time to breathe. Let us take a collective breath together. Click here on April 25 to join us via YouTube: <https://youtu.be/HvNlIMCjDk4>. Promo Video: <https://youtu.be/Ai3g3GbgDvc>.

Interested in Shakespeare? Want entertainment as well as to learn his philosophy? Let's get together. You'll receive the name of a play to read or watch, and then afterwards we'll get together in a discussion group. All are welcome and there is no cost, but please send an email, so we can choose a day and time to get started. Contact Rose Doreen Mace at shakespeare@uusg.org.

Adopt-a-Plot Spring is on its way and so are our weeds! If you'd like to help with weeding the church grounds this year, please contact Karen Laukaitis at weeding@uusg.org.

April Women's Circle: The Gifts Of Our Female Lineage, Saturday, April 24, 1-3pm via Zoom: In March, we reintroduced our early UUSG ministers, and Pat Ward shared contributions made by several female members from the mid 1930's and 40's. We were excited to have the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, Minister Emerita, share her memories of starting her ministry as a young woman in her first called position. In April, we will continue this topic by honoring our own female ancestors. In this participatory session, we ask everyone to do a little 'homework' preparation. Our discussions will include some of your own history; our 'assignment' is as follows:

1. Who are your ancestors? As you are able, make a list of the first names of female ancestors starting with mother, then grandmothers, then great grandmothers, go as far back as possible, using first names only. (Aunts, cousins, other special women may be included as necessary).
2. Tell "her" story. Choose one female ancestor and recall or share a short story about her. A written description or notes might help facilitate our group discussions; about 3 to 5 minutes. Photos may be shared at this time.
3. Write down a few ideas to answer the question "How does your preceding lineage impact how you are living your life today?"

All members and friends (new or longtime) identifying as female (18+) are invited. Please join us. [Sign up here for Zoom link and to RSVP.](#)

Difficult Conversations: The Art and Science of Working Together Your boss. A rude neighbor. A challenging family member. A childhood friend. A parent, partner, child. Engaging, or staying engaged, with these important figures in our daily lives can be a challenge. And when the conversation gets tough, what then? Neuroscience tells us that difficult conversations are difficult because they activate our fight/flee/freeze survival drive. In this workshop, you'll learn about three research-based strategies that counteract this ancient survival instinct, helping us to stay present and creative in any conversation. This is a workshop for everyone, no-prerequisite required. We're bringing this to our community as part of our ongoing commitment to living better, together, and with more compassion and connection. All are welcome. This free workshop is split across 3 separate sessions: **May 1, 8, & 15, 1-3:30pm.** [Please sign up here.](#)

Board Chat In an effort to make ourselves more accessible to the congregation, the Board will host a “chat room” the 4th Sunday of each month. After the service, “click” on our breakout room and let’s chat it up! Want to ask a question? We look forward to seeing you **April 25**.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Resources #2 The more we know, the more we realize how little we know. Continuing on our journey to becoming antiracists, UUSG presents more resources to facilitate awareness and knowledge. [Here are some more that we recommend](#). We certainly don’t expect you to watch/listen to/read each one -- pick ones that interest you. As you continue to learn and reflect with us, you will want to learn even more. Questions? Email the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Group at dei@uusg.org.

The Bible, and other sacred texts, can be challenging. A solace for some and a weapon for others, these stories nevertheless underpin much of society and consciously and unconsciously inform our national debate. At the least, our familiarity can create flexibility and understanding; at the most, these texts can be deeply enriching, spiritual, and life-giving. As a UU, Rev. Scot’s approach to scripture has always been one of curiosity – “I just kinda want to know what all the fuss is about.” All are welcome. No previous exposure is required but would certainly be welcomed. Note: Yes, we are starting with the Bible, and starting completely from scratch! 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 beginning April 19.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88101593697?pwd=ZjJJWXlISEx3K1BTUjhtTUx4WVR0Zz09>. Meeting ID: 881 0159 3697, Passcode: 215873. To be added to our email list, send a note to office@uusg.org.

Wine Down Thursday You are invited every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7pm, to Happy Hour. Next date is **April 22**. Bring your favorite beverage and enjoy the company of other UUs as we talk about anything and everything. Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84241796675> Meeting ID: 842 4179 6675.

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 84 members vaccinated**, we are so looking forward to being together again! Please let us know at admin.assistant@uusg.org.

Vaccine Angels Available to Help If you need assistance in finding and scheduling a Covid vaccine appointment, WOW would like to help. We will pair you with a Vaccine Angel (a member or UUSG friend) who will help you navigate the process. Contact WOW at wow@uusg.org for assistance.

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.”](#)

BYOL (Lunch) with Rev. Scot: Tuesdays at Noon Rev. Scot will be hosting an open meeting on Zoom each Tuesday at noon. 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 him (and your congregational friends!) in our virtual courtyard for an hour of conversation, connection, and community. Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5832903665>. Meeting ID: 583 290 3665. **Final meeting before Summer sign-off is April 27.**

Take Action on Climate Change All of us at UUSG can do our part to help fight climate change by supporting the Illinois Clean Energy Jobs Act. [Please click on the link](#) to send a message to your state representative and the governor voicing your support. It only takes about two minutes.

Social Justice

Thank you to the people who provided meals for Lazarus House April 3: Susan Gately, Aaron Fogleman, Carol Myers, Page Poris, Gail Tattersfield, and the Sapet family.

Every Monday at 4pm: Bridge Brigade, State Street Geneva bridge

The Inclusion Bookclub We have our first roster of books, and we're so excited to share them with you! Join Rev. Scot, Lisa Gades, and UUSG members and friends in a monthly exploration of diversity, equity, and inclusion. We plan to have **our first meeting on Tuesday, April 20, at 7pm via Zoom, with meetings thereafter on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm**. UUSG will have a limited number of copies of each book available. Please check with Christine to learn more or to sign up at office@uusg.org. Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87167167460?pwd=eStBK1cxNFpwWU9SaHcwMEVUbzNpZz09> Meeting ID: 871 6716 7460, Passcode: 428914

Caste: The Origin of our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson

Wilkerson illuminates an unspoken caste system operating in America--one that cuts across race, class, and other factors. [Hear an interview with Wilkerson on NPR's Fresh Air.](#)

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.

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.](#)

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

Dunbar-Ortiz presents a history of the United States from the perspective of Indigenous peoples, highlighting our nation's colonialist policy. Not the history you learned in school.

Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth by Sarah Smarsh

By telling the story of her life, Smarsh brings America's class divide into sharp focus. She gives voice to the many hard-working people whose labor we take for granted and who deserve better.

If you visit uusg.org/calendar, and click on the event, the Zoom link will always be located there.

[Revolutionary Love: The Courage to Imagine. A Virtual Conference on April 15-18, 2021.](#)

Living in these times has been challenging, disorientating and deeply divisive for all of us. The litany of threats and concerns runs long: A divisive government; the devolution of our understanding of truth; expanded economic disparity; the rollback of voting rights; the blatant expressions of racism and xenophobia; the assault on our environment; the impact of a pandemic and the very dismantling of democracy has resulted in fear, alienation, explosive violence and institutional collapse. The abandonment of moral principles and the absence of a unifying national vision has left the search for the common good in tatters.

And yet, we stand on the precipice of something new: In this moment, our ability to imagine a loving future is more crucial than ever. We will never secure the just world we all deserve if we don't have the moral courage to dream what it will look like. In April, we will gather artists, activists, faith leaders, present-day prophets and anyone whose conscience has been set ablaze. Together, we'll chart a course to take us there. We'll particularly focus on artists' roles in our collective dreaming, and the power of writing new stories—and lifting up new storytellers!—to change our collective narrative.

The Revolutionary Love Conference is an annual event, hosted by Middle Collegiate Church and the Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis. Speakers will include the Rev. Dr. William Barber II, Sister Simone Campbell, Rev. Dr. Miguel De La Torre, The Very Reverend Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas, Aunjanue Ellis, John Fugelsang, Robert P. Jones, Van Jones, Valerie Kaur, Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III, Ruby Sales, Linda Sarsour, Kirsta Tippett, and more.

This year's fully virtual conference will feature transformative artists, justice-oriented public servants, inspirational educators and faith leaders from many traditions. Our diversity in speakers will be exceeded only by the diversity of our attendees. Together, we will imagine the world as it should be.

Conference Ticket Price: \$75/person. Group rates are available in sets of 5 or more. If you're interested in a Group Rate ticket, send a note to office@uusg.org ASAP.

NOTE: All ticket holders will receive video of every conversation so you can watch anything you missed—and rewatch your favorite sessions as much as you'd like!

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