

Commit to Knit Join Emily Clark and other crafty UUs to knit or crochet scarves, hats, and shawls for immigrants coming to Illinois from warmer climates. Emily will help with finding patterns and teaching knitting. She will be in the Heritage Room most Sundays from 9:30 until 10:15am.

Lazarus House Volunteers - January 7. Help the Homeless by preparing 20 lunches or casserole and salad for 12. Sign up at uusg.org/Lazarus-house.

Mutual Ground is our BOW cause for December. Mutual Ground Domestic and Sexual Abuse Shelter provides many services to people throughout Kane and nearby counties: 24-Hour Crisis Hotline: Domestic Violence: 630-897-0080, Sexual Violence: 630-897-8383, Residential Services, Counseling Services, Substance use services, Family Services, Legal advocates, medical advocates, Prevention Educators. Please give generously to this worthy cause.

An Evening of Folk Music Join us for an Evening of Folk Music with February Sky on Friday, January 20, at 7 PM in the Sanctuary. February Sky features traditional singer and Celtic guitarist Phil Cooper with songwriter and singer Susan Urban. Free & open to the public. Cosponsored by the Geneva Park District. More details at februarysky.com.

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

admin.assistant@uusg.org

Becky Hruby, Director of Religious Education

DRE@uusg.org; 630-232-2350, ext. 104

Nancy Christensen, 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 18

- 9:30 AM RE Social Justice Activity
- 6:00 PM Blue Lotus Buddhist Meditation

Monday, December 19

- 9:00 AM Pioneer Newsletter Deadline
- 1:00 PM Staff Meeting
- 2:00 PM Weekly Worship Meeting

Tuesday, December 20

- 7:00 PM The Inclusion Book Club -online

Wednesday, December 21

- 3:00 PM Heritage Team Meeting
- 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation & Study Group -online
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 22

- 11:00 AM Blue Christmas Service with Julia Jones -online

Friday, December 23

Saturday, December 24

- 4:30 PM Carols and Cocoa
- 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service

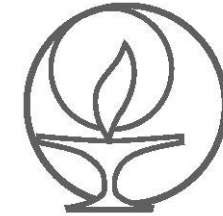
Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day / Office Closed

Thank you! The Social Justice Team appreciates the donations from the following members who helped provide treats for Holiday presents for boys incarcerated at the Illinois Youth Center: Melissa Auer, Sherri Casterline, Louise Haslett, Debbie Leoni, Carol Myers, Barbara Ovesen, Jean Pierce, and Pat Ward.

Social Hour Sign Up. Grab a few friends and promote some practical goodness by signing up to host a social hour! Reach out to Jamie Carroll with questions. Sign up at uusg.org/hosting.

Welcome to This House!



Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

December 18, 2022

Soul Matters Theme: Wonder

Today's Worship Team

In the Pulpit: Rev. Scot Hull

Musicians: The UUSG Intergenerational Band, led by Michael Mackey: Tracey McFadden, guitar; Will Sapet, percussion and vocals; John Rosenkrans, bass; Val Heinkel-Bollero, piano; Cindy Duckworth, vocals; Cynthia Spiegel, recorder and vocals; Cal Hruby, accordion, Linda O'Neill, violin

Sunday Coordinator: Becky Hruby

Technical Directors: Jeff Stibal, Jamie Carroll, Scot Dotson, Cari Gesiakowski, Gina Grupe, Doreen Rose Mace

Upcoming Services:

Thursday, December 22: Julia Jones "Blue Christmas"

Saturday, December 24: 4:30 PM "Carols & Cocoa"

5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, January 1: 11 AM Potluck

Many Paths • One Church

Order of Worship

Prelude “Wassail, Wassail,” Chip Davis, “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,” Phil Perkins; Valerie Heinkel-Bollero, piano

Ring the Bell

Words of Welcome

Chalice Lighting

Opening Hymn #224 “Deck the Halls”

Music “Jingle Bell Rock,” Tim Benshoof, electric guitar

Story “How the Grinch Stole Christmas,” Rev. Scot Hull, Molly MacKay Zacker, Michelle Slaiher

Music “Up on the Housetop,” Eric Yurkewicz, cello; Leo Yurkewicz, voice; Katie Yurkewicz, violin

Story “A Coyote Solstice Tale”

Offertory “Christmas Lullaby,” Chip Davis; Valerie Heinkel-Bollero, piano

Music “Sussex Mummers Carol,” The UUSG Intergenerational Band

Video “A Charlie Brown Christmas Linus Speech”

Music “The Holly & The Ivy,” The UUSG Intergenerational Band

Homily “How Unitarians Saved Christmas,” Rev. Scot

Music “Jingle Bells,” Genevieve Cullom, clarinet

Music “Christmas Time is Here,” by Vince Guaraldi; Ben Holish, piano

Benediction

Celebrations Video

Music “Children Go Where I Send Thee,” The UUSG Intergenerational Band

Announcements

Keeping Our Community Healthy A friendly reminder to please join us online if you are feeling under the weather. Thank you for helping us keep our congregation healthy.

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 us on Thursday, December 22, at 7 PM on Zoom, when our guest, Julia Jones, Minister at the UU Fellowship of DeKalb, hosts a service of song and prayer marking the grief that can coexist with the ‘most wonderful’ time of the year. Link at uusg.org/upcoming-services.

Christmas Eve with UUSG Please join us on Saturday, December 24, as we celebrate the holiday with carols, cocoa, and candles! Beginning at 4:30pm in our courtyard (weather permitting) our Music Director Cynthia Spiegel will lead us in singing some of our favorite carols. Hot cocoa will be served! At 5pm we will move into the Sanctuary as Rev. Scot, Cynthia, and our UUSG Choir lead us in our family friendly service that will include lessons, more beautiful music and carols, and a special candlelight carol concludes the evening.

Christmas Eve Offering: Make a Difference Fund (MAD). The fund was established in 1996 to respond to requests from church members and friends for practical, short-term, one-time emergency financial assistance. We have been able to help many members since then.

UUSG New Year's Day Potluck Join your UUSG Community in welcoming in the new year with food and fellowship! In lieu of service on January 1, we will be having a potluck beginning at 11 AM, in the Common Room. Join us and RSVP at uusg.org/potluck.

Decorate the Mitten Tree! This year, we are covering the tree with mittens, hats and scarfs. It will create a festive symbol of our community's generosity and provide much needed warmth for residents at Hesed House. Please purchase these most requested items for the tree by Dec. 25.

New Year Buddhist Blessing Ceremony January 8, at 6 PM in the Common Room — Save the Date! Bring a friend! More information will be coming soon.

One Book One UUSG The WOW Team is happy to announce another opportunity to read an excellent book and gather with friends for a discussion. Carol and Glenda have chosen *A Yellow Raft in Blue Water* by Michael Dorris This is an older book and should be easily accessible at the public library, however, if you choose to purchase it, please remember our independent bookstores, ‘Townhouse’ in St. Charles and ‘Harvey's Tale’ in Geneva. We will meet on Thursday, January 19, at 7pm in the Common Room. We would appreciate an RSVP to peckrglenda@gmail.com by Monday, January 16, so we can plan for our evening.

The Shared Pulpit: How to Give a Sermon Have you ever wondered what goes into a sermon? Or what makes a sermon different from a lecture or speech? Have you been curious how to move, comfort, inspire, or challenge an audience? Or just want to learn a new way to express yourself? In this workshop, you'll explore the theory and practice that is the storied art of preaching, gradually crafting your own quality sermon experience! Rev. Scot will be leading this workshop over a course of 8 sessions. Sessions will be every other Thursday, from 6:30-9pm, from January 26th to May 4th. Some sessions will be Zoom-only, and some will be in-person and will include time in the UUSG pulpit! Class size is limited! Course workbook, [*The Shared Pulpit* by Erika Hewitt](#) is strongly recommended. If you're interested, want to know more, or want to sign up, send a note to Christine at office@uusg.org.

Buddhist Meditation, Sundays, 6-7 PM Every Sunday evening in the Common Room, monks from the Blue Lotus Buddhist Temple lead visitors and guests through an hour of meditation and spiritual discussion. New to meditation? New to Buddhism? All levels of experience are welcome! No cost; donations appreciated. The link to register is in the weekly email and on the UUSG website, but drop-ins are expected!