



A Newsletter of  
The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

# THE PIONEER

April - May 2015

## The Paper Pulpit

the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates

May I ask a favor?

Would you, individually or as a family, please consider committing to just one Sunday in the course of the church year to serve as a Greeter?

It's one of the easiest and one of the most important tasks we do, welcoming members and friends and newcomers into our Sunday morning community. Recently we've been drafting the first folks to show up for services. That approach works, but it would be much better if we knew who would be greeting, could put your names in the Mini-Pioneer bulletin so folks would know who you are, could send you detailed instructions so you'd be confident you knew what you needed to do.

We need at least two people at each service, one to cover the main door and one to be at the Common Room door. Wearing your own name tag, you greet each arrival by name if they're wearing a name tag themselves. Ask if they need a name tag if they're not wearing one, and get them a temporary one. Hand out the Mini-Pioneers. Answer questions—easy ones, like "Where's the restroom?" or "Do you have a nursery?" Between services, invite arrivals to go get a cup of coffee at the Social Hour. During the service, you'll help latecomers find a seat, take the collection. At the early service, you bring the filled baskets to the front of the church and give them to the Worship Associate. At the second service, one of the Counters will be at the main door to take the baskets for counting. You'll count the attendance twice—once while you're taking up the collection and again after the children leave for church school. Record the two attendance numbers in the Greeters' Book, the blue binder on the credenza. Fill out the rest of the Greeters' Form.

Children make excellent greeters, both handing out the Mini-Pioneers and helping to receive the collection!

It's a great way to get more familiar with our church community, to learn a few more names, and to become better known yourself.

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If this is something you already know you enjoy doing, by all means sign up as many times as you'd like! The signup list is in the Common Room on the bulletin board on the east wall (or you can sign up online today by going to [www.uusq.org/greeting](http://www.uusq.org/greeting)). Please do add your name.

The ministry of making people welcome is the first ministry we offer, and it's one we're all responsible for. Thank you for taking your part!

Peace ~ 

P.S. Since I wrote the above, quite a few of you responded to Debbie Leoni and her clipboard and filled in most of May's greeting slots. Thank you! Now, if you're able to plan further ahead, how do your schedules look for June, July, and August, when we go to one Sunday service at 10am? Blessed are the Greeters, for they shall be met with many smiles!

# Religious Education Announcements

## May LRE Classes

LRE classes will not meet on Sunday, May 10. We encourage all children and youth to join the intergenerational service.

LRE classes will also not meet on Sunday, May 24 (Memorial Day weekend).

## 2015-2016 RE Registration

It is that time of year again! We will continue registration for next church school year on Sunday, May 17. See Michelle Gibson in the Common Room on May 17 and she will have your updated registration forms for you to review and sign! Or contact her at [LRE@uusg.org](mailto:LRE@uusg.org) to have your forms emailed to you.

## Junior High Youth Group

The next Junior High Youth Group activity is off-site on Saturday, May 16. We will go to Under the Big Top (go-karts, laser tag, and games) in St. Charles.

We will meet at the church at 7:30pm (leaving promptly) and return by 10:20pm. Please bring \$20 for entrance fee to Under the Big Top. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Gibson at [LRE@uusg.org](mailto:LRE@uusg.org).

## Graduating Seniors

We would like acknowledge our graduating high school seniors: Paula Amat, Aron Bartoszek, Angelo Fanella, Audrey Jonke, Anna Masini, David Montgomery, and Luci Whiting. We wish you all great success in the future!

## Religious Education Class Topics

RE classes will study the following topics in May:

Grades: K- 5th: Understanding Economic Disparity and Poverty, Appreciating People of Different Cultures, How to Deal with Bullies

Grades: 6th-8th: UU and the connections with all the faith traditions that we have studied this year

YRUU: 9th-12th: Habitat for Humanity, 7 Habits for Highly Effective Teens, social justice projects, issues regarding relationships, team-building

## Teacher Recognition Ceremony

On Sunday, May 17, our congregation will honor our Religious Education volunteer teachers at both services. Please plan to come and take part in this special event.

Those being recognized include our K through 8th grade Teachers, Substitute Teachers, YRUU Advisors, OWL facilitators, Nursery Caregivers, Adult RE facilitators, H4H chaperones, CON chaperones, overnight chaperones, Junior High Youth Group chaperones, OWL chaperones, social event coordinators, and Puppeteers. We thank you for choosing to support the growth of our young people!

Please see page 7 for a list of this year's teachers.

## Coming of Age

The Coming of Age group will meet on May 3, 17, and 31. Please note that the group will meet 11:15am-1:45pm on May 3 and 31, and 9:30am-12:15pm on May 17 (due to the annual meeting).

## LRE Volunteers Needed

Help support our Lifespan Religious Education Program! We are in need of volunteers for the 2015-2016 church year.

This month, you will see several different sign-up sheets on the LRE bulletin board in the Common Room. Some of the areas where you could volunteer your time next church year are: LRE Teacher, Substitute Teacher, Summer Classroom Clean-up, Library, Driver, Chaperone, and "Coming of Age" mentor.

*Thinking About Teaching?* We have exciting curriculum focused on our UU sources. In a teaching team of four people, you can pick your Sundays, teaching twice a month on average. If you are interested in contributing, please contact our Church School Administrator, Michelle Gibson, at [LRE@uusg.org](mailto:LRE@uusg.org).

## Love & Help Program – 2nd Graders

The Love & Help activity books are due back to your child's LRE teacher by May 3.

## “Be Our Guest” Day

Mark your calendars and start inviting your family and friends to “Be Our Guest” Day at both church services on Sunday, May 3.

We'll have a special Social Hour to give a warm welcome to our guests. You'll have a chance to introduce yourself and offer them the opportunity to let us know how they can best be served by UUSG.

If you love UUSG, there's no better time than now to share our time, talents, and treasures with all those who may never have experienced our worship and social time together.

Questions? Contact Cindy Vacek, Jennifer Klein, and Debbie Leoni at [BeOurGuest@uusg.org](mailto:BeOurGuest@uusg.org).

## Spring Spruce-Up

Even if you don't have a green thumb, we have lots of different jobs that need to be done during our Annual Spring Spruce-Up on Saturday, May 16.

This is also our monthly Day of Service when we practice practical goodness in our own back (and front) yard.

Arrive between 9am and 11am to lend a hand as we spruce up our UUSG grounds. The Hospitality & Fellowship Team will provide food and drinks. Sign up at [www.uusg.org/spring-spruce-up](http://www.uusg.org/spring-spruce-up) or in the Common Room.

## Slate of Candidates for the 2015-16 Board of Directors

The current Nominating Committee is pleased to present the slate for the FY2015-16 Board of Directors.

President: Bill Scown (1-year term)  
 Vice President, Program Council: Debbie Leoni (1-year term)  
 Vice President, Admin. Council: Hal Schulman (1-year term)  
 Secretary: Pat Vary (1-year term)  
 Treasurer: Bob Swanson (1-year term)  
 Assistant Treasurer: Jim O'Malley (1-year term)  
 Director: Patricia Burch (2-year term)  
 Director: Jennifer Klein (completing 2nd year of 2-year term)  
 Director: Dan Masini (2 year-term)  
 Director: Cindy Vacek (completing 2nd year of 2-year term)

### Nominating Committee

Chair: Jim Frazier  
 Member: David Tomell  
 Member: Jim King

Two more members of the Nominating Committee will be appointed by the Board of Directors in summer 2015.

Many thanks to the current Nominating Committee—David Tomell (chair), Trish Beckjord, Doreen Christiani, Jim Frazier, and Ellie Radvanovsky—for their hard work!

Additions to the slate may be made by petition of ten Voting Members and/or Student Members made to the Nominating Committee at least two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.

## Voting Members!

Our annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 17, immediately after the 2nd service.

To ensure that we have enough voting members in attendance to form a quorum, please sign up in the Common Room or at [www.uusg.org/annual-meeting](http://www.uusg.org/annual-meeting) to tell us whether or not you plan to attend. Please respond no later than May 4.

If you need childcare for your children ages 6 and under, please indicate that as well as it will be available for the first 8 children signed up.

Meeting materials, including the budget and annual report, will be available in early May.

## Our Newest Members

On Sunday, April 12, the following people signed “The Book” and became official members of UUSG. Welcome home!

Cathy Carpenter	Ann Holt-Harris
James Carroll	Charles Lantz
Jamie Carroll	Omar Mejia
James Cunningham	Steve Zrebiec

## New & Improved Directory, Now With Pictures!

The Spring-Summer 2015 Directory of UUSG Members & Friends is available in the Common Room (or, if you're in the directory, you received a PDF version via email recently). You'll want to see this version—it has pictures!

## Thank You, Kathy!

We would like to thank Kathy Bonea, who has been a UUSG Nursery Caregiver since 2012, for taking great care of our littlest UUs. Kathy left UUSG at the end of April to spend more time with her family. We wish Kathy well in the future!

## Upcoming Staff Time Off

Our Congregational Administrator, Katie Phillips, will be off work and out of the office Thursday, May 7 through Monday, May 11.

Our Senior Minister, the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, will be on Study Leave May 11-17.

All staff will be off and the office will be closed on Monday, May 25 in honor of Memorial Day.

## Can You Water Our New Grass?

Volunteers are needed to water the newly-seeded areas along the walkways. For now, we are on an every-other-day cycle unless Mother Nature helps us out. If you can help, please sign up in the Common Room or at [www.uusg.org/new-grass](http://www.uusg.org/new-grass).

We need to keep the areas evenly moist until all germination takes place and we have a good stance of grass established. Each watering will take 30-45 minutes.

Church member Velma Powers would be happy to meet with anyone who feels they could use some more guidance; she can be reached with an email to [newgrass@uusg.org](mailto:newgrass@uusg.org).

## Circles of Life

We were sorry to learn of the death of Vicky Wiss, daughter of the late Vera and George Wiss, long-time UUSG members who moved to Florida some years ago. We send our loving condolences to all their family and friends.

Congratulations to Don & Deb Brod on the arrival of their 4th grandson! Aaron Joseph Brod was born in North Carolina on April 3.

## Memorial Garden Dedication

The May 24 Memorial Garden Dedication Ceremony has been canceled (only 2 stones were ordered, and they will be dedicated privately).

## Thank You, Bridget!

Many thanks to Bridget Kancler, who has been leading our UUSG Choir for the past 3 years.

We appreciate all the time and energy she put into the music, the commute, and being here to lead the singers.

Bridget will direct the choir one more time, at the May 3 service, and then she is on to the many wonderful things ahead in her life. We wish her well!

## New Website Design

Our website, [www.uusg.org](http://www.uusg.org), has a new look—head on over to kick the tires! If you find any errors, broken links, etc., please send a note to our Congregational Administrator, Katie Phillips, at [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org).

## Nursery Caregiver Needed

Make a few extra bucks while helping out the littlest UUs! We're looking for someone to join our Nursery staff. If you would like to join our rotating group of childcare providers or know someone who might be a good fit in our Nursery, please contact our Church School Administrator, Michelle Gibson, at [LRE@uusg.org](mailto:LRE@uusg.org).

Although we're particularly looking for regular help, please also let us know if you can be called for special events or on short notice.

## Women's Guild Spring Luncheon

The Women's Guild of UUSG invites all interested folks to join them for lunch on Monday, May 11 at 12:30pm at Cooper's Corner in Winfield.

Please sign up in the Common Room or contact Winnie Blewitt if you plan to attend.

## Learning More About...

UUSG's Buddhist Meditation & Study Group meets for meditation and book discussion every Wednesday, 7-8pm, and is happy to welcome new members.

In a few weeks, they'll start a new book that is particularly suited to beginners: "Eight Mindful Steps to Happiness" by Bhante Gunaratana.

Questions? Contact Eric Bodwell and Lisa Gades at [uubuddhism@uusg.org](mailto:uubuddhism@uusg.org).



## Celebrating Spring With Music

It's been a rich musical bouquet this spring, kicking off with the beautiful pairing of violinist Honna Austin and pianist Patricia Arzaga, followed by the keyboard talents of Lynn Fisher McCanne adding a joyful ring to Easter. Pianist Geoff Pynn next brought lyrical beauty to classical selections and a tender rendition of perennial favorite "Shenandoah."

The congregation enjoyed becoming part of the musical offerings when Cynthia Spiegel and Lynn Fisher McCanne conducted a gorgeous program for Earth Day that added Cynthia's vocals to songs featuring FUUsion, comprised of Trish Beckjord, Pam Birch, Sara Hoerdeman, Susan O'Neill, Dawn Pokorny, Rhonda Robinson, and Pat Vary. Lynn, who played piano, is also part of the FUUsion chorus, and one of her lovely arrangements ended the service. The singers added percussion elements, with a little help from Eric Peterson. Tracy and Anna Rosenkrans provided bass and guitar accompaniment.

April ended on a high note with the vocals of Katie Baar, Kelly Herz, and Cynthia Spiegel, accompanied by the engaging UUSG One Voice Band, with Tracey McFadden, Andy Montgomery, John Rosenkrans, Tracy Rosenkrans and John Towell. Andy also shined on lead vocals, as the multi-instrumentalists played electronic keyboard, harmonica, guitar, and double bass. Sandra Anderson-Cordogan was also at the piano.

Looking ahead, Bridget Kancler will direct her last choir concert with the UUSG Choir, followed by our terrific UUSG Questioning Band, and keyboardists Patricia Arzaga, Tom Zimmerman, and Geoff Pynn.

Our one-of-a-kind Music Ministry is a reflection of the diverse beliefs here at UUSG. To share your own unique gift, share suggestions, or express your appreciation of our work, please reach out to Music Director Tracy Rosenkrans ([music@uusg.org](mailto:music@uusg.org)).

## Who Deserves a PPG Award?

Our weekly "Promoting Practical Goodness" Award is an opportunity to recognize our fellow church members and friends for the many small ways people give of themselves at UUSG. If you'd like to nominate someone, fill out a slip on the "PPG" display in the Common Room or send 1-2 sentences about what they do (or did) to Katie Phillips at [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org).

## Green Corner

### Earth Day Celebration at Peck Farm

The UUSG Green Sanctuary Team was represented, shared ideas, and sold Equal Exchange coffee during the Earth Day Celebration at Peck Farm on April 18.

They joined our other Spiritual Green Connection members of differing faiths in Fox Valley communities, nurturing green teams and congregations who are striving to be more sustainable.

### Green Tomato Grocery Co-op

The Green Tomato Grocery Co-op will again meet at UUSG on Thursday, May 7 at 7pm. Find them in the YRUU Room on the lower level. They will have slides or a Powerpoint presentation, followed by discussion.

Please consider joining us. When approaching 300 memberships, they will negotiate their location and organize the organic grocery. Be a participant.

### Got Batteries?

We're sorry, but our Green Sanctuary Team can no longer dispose of batteries; please do not leave your used batteries in the Common Room armoire.

On Green Sanctuary's bulletin board in the Common Room, you can find a "Kane County Recycles" list of guidelines. Thank you, Jennifer Jarland, Kane County's Recycling Director, for this helpful information!

Jennifer recommends checking out your town's or county's collection options (see Kane County info at [www.countyofkane.org/Recycling](http://www.countyofkane.org/Recycling)). Geneva's and Batavia's City Hall and Utility Department have drop-off bins just inside their doors. Or call your waste removal company for options.

### Supporting Conservation Efforts

Earth Month's social hour sales of green goods grossed \$214, with more anticipated. When dollars for consignment items are paid, the remaining balance will go to this month's chosen recipient, The Conservation Foundation, which is having a "3 for 1 Challenge." April's "Beyond Our Walls" dollars also have gone to this extraordinary organization.

## Social Justice News

### Liberate Your Home Library

UUSG will hold a Used Book Sale on Saturday, July 25, 9am-3pm. Set-up will be on July 24. The sale will take place on the weekend of the Geneva Art Fair.

This gives us three months to comb through our libraries for books to sell. Fox Valley Literacy Volunteers will benefit from the proceeds.

We are open to new ideas for making this event a success. Please contact Pat Ward at [usedbooksale@uusg.org](mailto:usedbooksale@uusg.org) to volunteer to help.

### Friday Flick: *Honor Diaries*

May 22, 7pm

Where is the line between politically correct respect for another's culture and human rights? *Honor Diaries* tells the story of 9 women living in the male-dominated culture of Saudi Arabia, where women are treated like property, forced into marriage, and subjected to female genital mutilation.

Winner of the Interfaith Award for Best Documentary at the St. Louis International Film Festival, this film asks whether culture is an excuse for abuse.

### UU Chic – Order a T-shirt in May

What do well-dressed UUs wear when they work in the pizza booth or attend a social justice rally?

Throughout May, members of the Social Justice Team will take orders for two kinds of t-shirts – one with the “Standing on the Side of Love” UUA logo and one with a chalice and the words of the 1st Principle: “Affirming the Inherent Worth & Dignity of Every Person.” Buttons can also be ordered.

Look for the display during Social Hour in the Common Room. To see the styles online, contact Jean Pierce at [socialjusticeleader@uusg.org](mailto:socialjusticeleader@uusg.org).

### May Day of Service

For May's Day of Service, we'll join the Facilities Team for the Spring Spruce-Up at UUSG on Saturday, May 16. We appreciate you lending your support to this important work day! See details on page 3.

### Commit to Knit

Making progress! On March 1, our group packed more than 20 knitted items for shipment to Women4Women Knitting4Peace, a grass-roots organization committed to helping women and children through non-violent, compassionate action. UUSG's donated items will be personally delivered to women and children in a global area of conflict.

And we are now officially a Peace Pod within Knitting4Peace. Check out our pod's description in the directory on the organization's website: [www.knitting4peace.org/join-us/create-with-a-group](http://www.knitting4peace.org/join-us/create-with-a-group).

Join us in the Common Room between services on the first Sunday of each month. All skill levels are welcome. Please contact Katherine Lyons ([knitting@uusg.org](mailto:knitting@uusg.org)) with any questions.

### Giving “Beyond Our Walls”

In March, we collected \$915 for the programs of the Chicago Workers Collaborative (CWC), which promotes full employment and equality for the lowest wage-earners in the Chicago region.

In April, we collected \$1,567.50 for the Conservation Foundation, one of the region's oldest and largest not-for-profit land and watershed conservation organizations.

### Food Bank Ministry

We will volunteer at Northern Illinois Food Bank on Saturday, May 9, 9-11:30am. Volunteers between the ages of 8 and 16 must be accompanied by an adult. To sign up, visit [www.uusg.org/food-bank](http://www.uusg.org/food-bank) or contact Kevin Beyer at [foodbankleader@uusg.org](mailto:foodbankleader@uusg.org).

### Supporting Our Homeless Neighbors

The Social Justice Team expresses appreciation to Chung Liang, who purchased pizzas for Lazarus House dinners; to Jean Pierce, who fixed lunches; and to Kurt Heinz, who stayed overnight.

## “Promoting Practical Goodness”

We send our heartfelt thanks to:

Sharon Hansen, Becky Hruby, Vicki Lantz, Vera Lind, Kathy Meier, Carol Myers, Renae Reardon, Nancy Russo, Kerry Sapet, Llona Steele, Ruth Wehling, and Molly MacKay Zacker, who hand-wrote “thank you” cards to all of our pledgers.

“Church Bell Ringleaders”: Jim Jenkins, Tom Lichtenheld, Patrick McGleam, and David Tomell. Our gratitude in particular to Jim Jenkins, who provided his considerable skills to fabricate a customized metal piece to repair the break in the wooden wheel that causes the bell to ring. Thank you all for your prompt actions to allow us to have our precious bell ring out again!

Martha Tabis and Andrea Gruszecki for the inspiration, leadership, and energy they put into starting a UUSG Drum Circle. How exciting to have another form of good music!

Tracy Rosenkrans and Molly MacKay Zacker, who “troll” during Social Hour, scan Facebook, and generally keep their ears alert for any circumstances in which a note of sympathy, encouragement, or congratulations would be appreciated. The notes are sent on a weekly (almost daily) basis and are welcomed by all.

Jeanne Neltner and Vohny Moehling, who provided refreshments for 75 people at an April 4 memorial service reception that we hosted for UUSG friends.

Greeters: Eric Jonke, and all our last-minute recruits

Hosts: Buddhist Meditation & Study Group, Christy Hickey, Jennifer Leisner, Friends of LRE (Becky Hruby, Jennifer Klein, Karen Laukaitis), Hospitality & Fellowship Team

Counters: Brad Lipman, Patrick McGleam, Dave Moore, Kevin O'Neill, George Tattersfield, the Finance Team

## WomenSpiritRising May Meeting

WomenSpiritRising will meet Thursday, May 7, with ingathering between 7:15pm and 7:30pm.

All women are welcome. Learn more about this group by visiting [www.uusg.org/womenspirit](http://www.uusg.org/womenspirit).

## Thank You, Volunteer Teachers!

Thank you to the outstanding 2014-2015 LRE classroom teachers. Your time, talent, and effort is very appreciated.

### K—Grade 2

Jaime Andersen  
Diane Handler  
Becky Hruby  
Chung Liang  
Katie Masini  
Carol Myers  
Sara Robbins  
Bill Scown  
Ilene Smit  
Jenna Webster

Shawn Thornton

Lyn Wilder-Dean

### Grades 6-8

Kate Johnson  
Kim McDuffee-Dotson  
Jenny Montgomery  
Anne Wilson-Dooley

### Grades 9-12

Nancy Christensen  
Mary Jonke  
Elba Karim  
Zia Karim  
Laura Laughlin  
Andy Montgomery  
Bill Pokorny  
Tom Zimmerman

### Grades 3-5

Lee Bernard  
Jennifer Klein  
Alice Martin  
Wendy Mosier  
Dawn Pokorny  
Geoff Pynn

## What Happens at Board Meetings?

To improve communication, the Board of Directors publishes a summary of each meeting (see the article below for information about the April meeting).

For a more detailed description of the Board meetings, see the official minutes online ([www.uusg.org/board-meeting-minutes](http://www.uusg.org/board-meeting-minutes)). Please note that these are posted later than the summary, after they have been approved by the Board the following month.

Members of the congregation are welcome to attend Board meetings, which are held at 7pm on 2nd Tuesdays.

## Board Meeting Summary

April 14, 2015

1. Motion passed to postpone April 21 meeting to discuss land donation
2. Budget challenges reviewed with Finance Team
3. Executive session on personnel issues
4. Voted on new Ministry on Ministries (“MOM”) members
5. Started actions to form team to propose new time table for UUSG goals and reports

## Find Your Inner Drummer

Celebrate the summer solstice at the Drum Circle on Friday, June 19, 7:30-9pm in the Memorial Garden (weather permitting; otherwise, we will be in the Sanctuary).

All ages welcome; no experience necessary. Bring a drum or percussion instrument. Some drums available to share on first-come basis. Be prepared to find your inner child!

## Wanted: Bulletin Covers

If you accidentally took home a laminated Mini-Pioneer cover and still have it, please bring it back—no questions asked!

## “Change for a Change”

The “Change for a Change” jar at the front of the Sanctuary is a year-round project that supports an organization chosen by students in our Religious Education Program.

This church year, contributions to the “Change for a Change” jar will support our Bridge family, Jasmine Cotton and her five-year-old twin boys, Jahki and Jahleel. Jasmine is earning high grades at DeVry Institute, where she is pursuing a nursing degree. Her active sons are attending day care and preschool. UUSG is partnering in this project with the DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church.

Support this family by dropping your spare change in the jar by June 30.

## Supporting NPR and UUSG

Thank you to everyone who contributed to NPR through UUSG last month. We collected \$90 in donations and the Communications Team pitched in an additional \$90.

As a corporate sponsor on WNIU and WNIJ, we can advertise UUSG fundraisers (including this summer’s Swedish Days Pizza Booth) on both stations.

## Weeds, Begone

Keep UUSG weed-free by signing up to care for the church grounds for one week this spring or summer. You won’t need to water— just come by when you can, for as long as you can, during that week and pull up some weeds. Sign up at [www.uusg.org/weeding](http://www.uusg.org/weeding) or in the Common Room.

## The Geezers Group

This self-named group welcomes retired and semi-retired UUSG men for lunch at Harner’s restaurant in North Aurora on the fourth Friday of each month at 11:30am. For more info, contact George Tattersfield at [geezers@uusg.org](mailto:geezers@uusg.org).

## Simplify Your Giving With Paypal

Would you like to automate your giving to UUSG? We now have a Paypal account, so you can set up a recurring payment to come from your checking account or be charged to your credit card.

You don’t have to remember to write a check and we don’t have to worry about a snow day throwing off our cash flow—everybody wins! Go to our homepage ([www.uusg.org](http://www.uusg.org)) and look for the yellow “Donate” button in the right-hand sidebar.

## MAD About (Supporting) You

You’ve seen the abbreviation, but what’s this “MAD Fund” really all about?

MAD stands for “Making a Difference” and it is our church’s fund to help those within our church community who are in need of one-time financial aid. We’ve helped church members avoid eviction, keep the heat on, and put gas in their car so they can get to work.

If you are reading this and struggling with a financial circumstance that seems insurmountable, remember that your church family is here to help you. MAD Fund gifts are just that—gifts, not loans. Requests and disbursements are confidential—only Lindsay will know.

Contact her directly (at [minister@uusg.org](mailto:minister@uusg.org) or 630-464-1668) if you could use assistance. Your church family is ready and willing to help you.

## Offering Envelopes

If you use an offering envelope to make your donation, first of all, thank you for your generosity! Secondly, please print your first and last name legibly so we can give you proper credit.



**MAY 2015**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>26</b> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> 9:30 AM &amp; 11:15 AM Worship &amp; Church School; Social Hour at 10:30 AM 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM Big Ideas Covenant Group 11:15 AM - 1:45 PM Coming of Age Program 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM Interweave Meeting 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM Social Justice Team Meeting 1:00 PM Mental Health Ministry Event: Adolescence</p>	<p><b>27</b> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> 9:00 AM PIONEER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7:00 PM Reiki Share (note date change) 7:30 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group 7:30 PM Online Covenant Group</p>	<p><b>28</b> 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Small Group Ministry 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Special Budget Board Meeting</p>	<p><b>29</b> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM GAS AA</p>	<p><b>30</b> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i></p>	<p><b>1</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i></p>	<p><b>2</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 7:30 PM - 10:30 PM Volunteer Teacher Wrap-Up Party (off-site)</p>
<p><b>3</b> 8:15 AM - 9:00 AM Choir Warm-Up 9:30 AM &amp; 11:15 AM Worship &amp; Church School; Social Hour at 10:30 AM 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM Finance Team Meeting (note date change) 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM Big Ideas Covenant Group 11:15 AM - 1:45 PM Coming of Age Program 12:30 PM Atheism, Humanism, &amp; Life Issues Study Group 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM Choir Party for Bridget Kancler 12:45 PM - 2:00 PM Ministry on Ministries Meeting 2:00 PM Lay Ministers' Meeting (note date change)</p>	<p><b>4</b> 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Check-In Meeting for UUSG Adult Group Facilitators 7:30 PM Technology Team Meeting</p>	<p><b>5</b> 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Program &amp; Administrative Councils</p>	<p><b>6</b> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM GAS AA</p>	<p><b>7</b> <i>Congregational Administrator Off Today</i> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Green Tomato Co-op Meeting 7:15 PM - 9:30 PM WomenSpiritRising</p>	<p><b>8</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i></p>	<p><b>9</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Food Bank Ministry</p>
<p><b>10</b> <i>Congregational Administrator Off Today</i> <b>Mothers' Day</b> 9:30 AM &amp; 11:15 AM Intergenerational Worship Service; Social Hour at 10:30 AM 10:45 AM - 12:30 PM Green Sanctuary Team Meeting 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM Big Ideas Covenant Group</p>	<p><b>11</b> <i>Congregational Administrator Off Today</i> <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i> 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM Women's Guild Spring Luncheon (off-site) 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Reiki Discussion Group 7:30 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM LRE Team Meeting</p>	<p><b>12</b> <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i> 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Girl Scout Service Unit Meeting 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Board of Directors</p>	<p><b>13</b> <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i> 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Heritage Team Meeting 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM FRVI Mental Health Team Meeting 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM GAS AA</p>	<p><b>14</b> <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i> 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Heritage Team Meeting 7:00 PM - 8:15 PM Meditation for Connection 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM Small Group Ministry 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Write Time Writers' Group</p>	<p><b>15</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i></p>	<p><b>16</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i> 9:00 AM Monthly Day of Service: Spring Spruce-Up &amp; Smorgasbord 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM UUSG Band Rehearsal 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Junior High Youth Group (note date change; meeting off-site)</p>
<p><b>17</b> <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i> 9:30 AM &amp; 11:15 AM Worship &amp; Church School; Social Hour at 10:30 AM 9:30 AM - 12:15 PM Coming of Age Program (note time change) 9:45 AM Hospitality &amp; Fellowship Team Meeting 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Reiki Share</p>	<p><b>18</b> 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM "Bible Study for UUs" Group</p>	<p><b>19</b> 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Online Covenant Group</p>	<p><b>20</b> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM GAS AA</p>	<p><b>21</b> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising</p>	<p><b>22</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 11:30 AM The Geezers Group (off-site) 7:00 PM Friday Flicks: "Honor Diaries"</p>	<p><b>23</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 10:00 AM Online Covenant Group</p>
<p><b>24</b> 9:30 AM &amp; 11:15 AM Worship; Social Hour at 10:30 AM 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM Social Justice Team Meeting 2:00 PM Memorial Garden Ceremony—CANCELED</p>	<p><b>25</b> <b>Memorial Day</b> <i>Office Closed / All Staff Off</i> 7:00 PM Reiki Share (note date change) 7:30 PM Online Covenant Group</p>	<p><b>26</b> 9:00 AM PIONEER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE (note date change due to holiday) 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Small Group Ministry</p>	<p><b>27</b> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM The Luncheonettes (off-site) 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Heritage Team Meeting 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM GAS AA</p>	<p><b>28</b> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 9:15 AM - 11:30 AM Simply Sharing Circle 7:00 PM - 8:15 PM Meditation for Connection 7:30 PM Online Covenant Group 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Write Time Writers' Group</p>	<p><b>29</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i></p>	<p><b>30</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i></p>
<p><b>31</b> 9:30 AM &amp; 11:15 AM Worship &amp; Church School; Social Hour at 10:30 AM 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM Big Ideas Covenant Group 11:15 AM - 1:45 PM Coming of Age Program</p>	<p><b>1</b> 7:30 PM Technology Team Meeting</p>	<p><b>2</b> 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Program &amp; Administrative Councils</p>	<p><b>3</b> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM GAS AA</p>	<p><b>4</b> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Green Tomato Co-op Meeting 7:15 PM - 9:30 PM WomenSpiritRising</p>	<p><b>5</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i></p>	<p><b>6</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i></p>

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**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.*

**Our Mission Statement**

(adopted by the congregation May 19, 1996)

*The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva is a diverse, welcoming community which endeavors to make its Covenant a living reality. We provide religious education and opportunities for spiritual growth. We encourage individual and mutual responsibility as together we work to be a liberal religious voice in the community and a force for compassionate social justice.*

**The next Pioneer deadline is May 26 at 9am.**

Guidelines for submissions are available at

[www.uusg.org/s/Pioneer-Guidelines.pdf](http://www.uusg.org/s/Pioneer-Guidelines.pdf).

Please send all articles to [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org).