



A Newsletter of
The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

THE PIONEER

November-December 2014

Ruth

Sandra

Tracy

Sue

Lisa

Patricia

Leveta

Jamie

Holiday Greetings

Kerry

Jeff

from Your

Jenny

Veronica

UUSG Staff!

Tracey

John

May your holidays be filled

Gymn

Kate

with joy, hope, contentment,
and thanksgiving.

Jan

Cynthia

Dean

Geoff

Diane

Hinday

Paul

Kathy

Nancy

Dieta

Michelle

Inside this issue:

Search Update	2
Cookie Walk Results	3
Holiday Lights Fund	4
Christmas Eve Services	5
Interweave	6
Holiday Music	7
New Food Bank Ministry	8
December 2014 Calendar	9
January 2015 Calendar	10

December Services & Celebrations

Sunday, December 21: Intergenerational No-Rehearsal Pageants

Wednesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Services

4 pm Our "Family Friendly" service especially for young children

8 pm Candlelight Choir Service

Sunday, December 28

9:30am: Intergenerational Fire Ritual: "Releasing the Past"

10:30am: Holiday Brunch

No 11:15am service

See page 5 for information about staff hours, vacations, and availability during the holidays.

Religious Education Announcements

Intergenerational Services

LRE classes will not meet on Sunday, December 21 or Sunday, December 28. We encourage all children and youth to join the intergenerational services in the Sanctuary.

RE Music

Over the past four Sundays, many of our PreK-5th grade students have brought in their instruments to play for their classmates. Their presentations have been both entertaining and informative!

Appreciation is extended to the following students for preparing and sharing their musical ideas:

Erin Rosenkrans, cello	Declan Brown, piano
Nolan Brown, piano	Calvin Hruby, piano
Ivan Pynn, trombone	Noah Karim, string bass
Cameron Klein, trombone	Maissy Littlefield, voice

Junior High Youth Group

Our Junior High Youth Group will meet on Saturday, January 24 at 7pm. Hope you can join us!

A monk from Blue Lotus will be visiting the Junior High class on Sunday, January 25 at 11:15am.

Mid-Year Teacher Meeting

Our Mid-Year Teacher meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 26 at 7:30pm. Please be sure to RSVP to our Church School Administrator, Michelle Gibson, at LRE@uusg.org. We look forward to meeting with all of you!

OWL

The "Our Whole Lives" Program is scheduled for January 16-17, February 20-21, March 13-14 and April 10-11, 2015.

Michelle's Holiday Hours

In addition to her regular days off (Fridays & Saturdays), our Church School Administrator, Michelle Gibson, will be off on December 18, 24, 25, & 31 and January 1.

In addition, she will be working from home during the last 2 weeks of December.

Holiday Pageant

This year's Holiday Pageant is this Sunday, December 21. It will be a "no-rehearsal pageant."

For those of you who have seen it before, you will remember that it is loads of last-minute fun and merriment. It's intergenerational with roles for all ages. We are looking forward to a wonderful pageant full of fun for everyone!

Search Committee Update

With our freshly updated Congregational Record (profile) online, our application is now open for candidates.

This process is identical to last year; candidates have the opportunity to review Congregational Records and then submit requests to exchange packets. The process is similar to any online dating site...both parties are looking for the perfect match.

We have hopeful aspirations that the "perfect match" is out there and we will keep you posted on the progress of the process.

Religious Education Class Topics

The RE classes will study the following topics in January:

Grades K-2nd: Seeing God with an Inner Eye, God Is in All Beings of the Earth and Sky, Finding God in Silence, God Is Like Light

Grades 3rd-5th: Peace, Our New Year (Western Heritage), Huichol Indian Day (Earth-Centered Source), Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr. (Heroes and Heroines), Chinese New Year (Eastern Source)

Grades 6th-8th: Buddhism. A monk from Blue Lotus will be visiting the Junior High Class on Sunday, January 25.

YRUU (Grades 9th-12th): Planning projects for the coming year (social justice as well as social), welcoming new youth into our community, identifying processes to make the group a success, team-building

Cookie Walk Results: \$2,248.13 5,700+ cookies 62+ volunteers

A HUGE thank you to everyone who baked delicious & beautiful cookies, helped with set-up, worked during the event, and helped with clean-up—we couldn't have done it without you!

Special gratitude to Elba Karim and Sherri Casterline, who coordinated the fundraiser and worked hard to make this year's Cookie Walk a success.

If you helped out and aren't listed here, please let Katie Phillips know (office@uusg.org, 630-232-2350) so we can properly appreciate you!

Katie Baar	Sharon Hansen	Jeanne Neltnor	Christine Schulman
Katherine Benjamin	Christy Hickey	Kevin O'Neill	Bill Scown
Eileen Berman	Amy Hong	Glenda Peck	Llona Steele
Anne Brink	Becky Hruby	Diane Peters	Gail Tattersfield
Jill Brown	Monica Jenkins	Jean Pierce	George Tattersfield
Patricia Burch	Mary Jonke	Page Poris	Lucy Thelin Atac
Alex Cordogan	Cathy Kern	Manya Prael	Pam Tilbrook
Amber Dotson	Debbie Leoni	Julie Riffle	Roger Tilbrook
Al Drover	Jeanne Letizia	Rhonda Robinson	David Tomell
Ann Drover	Vera Lind	Anna Rosenkrans	Renee Tomell
Aaron Fogleman	Katie Masini	Erin Rosenkrans	Cindy Vacek
Salome Fogleman	Dane McKittrick	John Rosenkrans	Sarah Vetter
Julia Friesen	Kathy Meier	Tracy Rosenkrans	Molly MacKay Zacker
Lisa Gades	Jan Miller	Nancy Russo	
Madelyn Glazier	Karen Moore	Tori Saam	
Nancy Goodfellow	Carol Myers	Kerry Sapet	

Photo Finish

Have you had your picture taken yet?
 Did you miss the last photo sessions for the next directory?
 Do you want your college kids in your family's picture?
 Did you completely forget that we're even making a photo directory?

Fear not! By popular request, we have scheduled more dates—Sundays, December 21 & 28—for you to have your picture taken for the spring 2015 directory.

If you'd like to have your family's portrait in the directory, sign up in the Common Room or at www.uusg.org/directory-photos.

Kid-Friendly Events & Activities

Parents, would you like to receive announcements describing opportunities at UUSG that are especially designed for your children (beyond Religious Education)?

Find out about social justice opportunities for young people. Know what activities for children are being planned in conjunction with the church picnic, holiday decorating, auction, etc. Learn when childcare will be provided for free.

Team leaders at the church are inviting you to be part of an email list. Please sign up at www.uusg.org/opt-in to be included.

HVAC upgrades

After six months of reviewing proposals for replacing our HVAC systems, our Facilities Team selected a contractor (Confident Aire of Batavia) and presented a plan for approval by the UUSG Board in November.

We now have a new furnace in Pioneer House and a new furnace and air conditioner for the Sanctuary. A zoning system for the 1955 addition (Conant Room, kitchen, washroom, hallway, and north end of the Common Room) ties into the new Sanctuary units.

In addition, a heater/fan will be installed in the ceiling of the Sanctuary vestibule.

Thank you to everyone who contributed their time & energy to this project!

Social Justice News

Baby, It's Cold Outside!

Warm yourself in body and spirit by creating knitted gifts for others. Our handiwork goes to local services and to the non-profit Knitting4Peace (www.knitting4peace.org).

Work your own or join the "Commit to Knit" group during social hour on the first Sunday of each month. All skill levels are welcome, and help is available. Yarn donations are gratefully accepted.

Questions? Contact Katherine Lyons at knitting@uusg.org.



On December 14, four soft lap robes and four beautiful shawls were delivered to Geneva Care Center for their Christmas party. In addition, the group donated a huge box full of yarn to the girls at JAMS school in Kenya.

Volunteer Opportunity

There is still one volunteer slot available on February 8 for someone to help provide an entrée or a salad/vegetable for Lazarus House. Sign up today at www.uusg.org/lazarus-house.

Upcoming Days of Service

January 24, 9am-11:30am

- Northern Illinois Food Bank
- Ages 8 and older
- Sign up with an email to Lisa Gades at dayofservice@uusg.org.

February 7: Canvass Day of Service

- 9am: Clean and organize at Mutual Ground
- 10am: Pack gift bags for indigent seniors
- 1pm: Volunteer at the Habitat ReStore
- 1pm: Sort food at Northern Illinois Food Bank
- 1pm: Wrap birthday gifts for indigent children
- 2pm: Bingo at a retirement home
- Sign up at www.uusg.org/canvass-day-of-service.

Holiday Lights Collection

Throughout December, our "Beyond Our Walls" collections will support the following 3 causes:

- "Elba's Kids": Church member Elba Karim began this project to support neglected and abused kids.
- Pottawatomie Habitat gifts: We will purchase gifts for the family now living the newest St. Charles Habitat house: Cody and her two young sons, Jaxon, 6 and Jacob, 3.
- Bridge Communities family: UUSG is providing support for Jasmine Cotton and her twin 5-year-olds, Jahki and Jahleel. Your contributions will pay for gifts and winter clothes for these rapidly-growing boys.

Note: You do not need to choose among the causes, although you could earmark your donation for one of them if you like. 100% of the donations will go directly to the families identified.

Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, and Sugar

UUSG promotes the Equal Exchange Fair Trade Coffee Project by purchasing coffee, tea, and sugar for church use.

Coffee and some additional "EE/FT" items are available for purchase. These are priced with little or no mark-up. They are displayed in the Common Room in the armoire closest to the kitchen. When purchasing products, please put your checks in the silver coffee can on the top shelf. Write checks to UUSG with "EE/FT" the memo line.

Giving "Beyond Our Walls"

In November, we collected \$1,676.25 for Fisher House, which provides free housing so military families can be close to a hospitalized loved one.

Friday Focus: "Black Lives Matter"

On the fourth Friday in January, the focus will be on perspectives related to the "Black Lives Matter" campaign.

After watching Bill Moyers' show "The United States of Ferguson" (which features journalist Ta-Nehisi Coates talking about the nation's legacy of slavery and white supremacy), we will consider steps we can take to work towards creating a community that does not assume white privilege.

Christmas Eve Services

- 4pm: "Family Friendly" service especially for young children
- 8pm: Candlelight Choir Service
- Using all available seating, our Sanctuary holds an absolute maximum of 150 people, including the Choir.
- Understandably, the 8pm Choir Service is the most popular—for our own folks and for visitors.
- Once there are 150 people in the Sanctuary, our Greeters will direct people into the Common Room, where we'll broadcast the service.
- We strongly recommend that families with young children plan to attend at 4 o'clock.
- If you are planning to attend the 8 o'clock service, please do plan to arrive well before 8pm. Latecomers are almost guaranteed seating in the Common Room.

December Staffing

In addition to their regular days off (Fridays & Saturdays for Katie and Michelle; Wednesdays & Thursdays for Lindsay), the staff will be off on these days in December:

Katie

- Tuesday, December 23 - Saturday, January 3

Michelle

- Thursday, December 18
- Wednesday, December 24
- Thursday, December 25
- Wednesday, December 31
- Thursday, January 1

In addition, Michelle will be working from home during the last 2 weeks of December.

December Deadlines

Some upcoming deadlines have changed:

- December 28 Mini-Pioneer and December 29 weekly email: 9am on Monday, December 22
- January 4 Mini-Pioneer and January 5 weekly email: 9am on Monday, December 29
- Please send your submissions to office@uusg.org as usual.

Status, Please

Pledge status statements were emailed/mailed during the first week of December. If you have questions about your statement or didn't receive one (and were expecting to), please contact our Congregational Administrator, Katie Phillips, at office@uusg.org.

End-of-Year Donations

If you are planning to make a donation (toward your pledge(s) or otherwise), please keep in mind the following rules that UUSG is required to follow regarding end-of-year donations:

- The best way to make sure your donation is received in time is to mail it today!
- In order to be included as a charitable donation for 2014, your contribution must be delivered to UUSG on or by December 31.
- Please keep in mind that the church office will be closed on December 31.
- Checks that are placed in the church offering during the first worship service in 2015 will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2014, even if the check is predated to 2014 or was actually written in 2014.
- However, checks that are written, mailed, and postmarked in 2014 will be deductible in 2014 even if they are not received until 2015.

Christmas Eve Collection

This year's collection will be divided between the Humanitarian Service Project and our UUSG "Make a Difference" emergency assistance fund.

If you will be out of town or otherwise unable to attend Christmas Eve services but would like to make a donation to the Christmas Eve offering, please mark it "For Christmas Eve" and mail it in or drop it into the collection baskets.

February Sky Concert

UUSG is pleased to host another free winter concert from February Sky on Friday, January 9 at 8pm.

February Sky features traditional singer and Celtic guitarist Phil Cooper with songwriter and singer Susan Urban. For more details, go to www.februarysky.com.

Can You Greet This Sunday?

It's been terrific to have greeters signed up in advance each Sunday over the last month—thank you to everyone who has volunteered!

We're short-handed this Sunday (December 21), though, so this is a special plea for a few people to help out.

Please sign up today at www.uusg.org/greeting.

Winter Weather Closing Policy

As a regional congregation, with many of our folks traveling a considerable distance to get to Geneva, we do have a policy for winter weather:

- If the wind chill in the greater Chicago area is colder than 40 degrees below zero, or if travel advisories have been issued because of snow or wind, we cancel all church events, including any meetings, office hours, RE classes, and worship.
- If Sunday activities are canceled, we'll try to get that information onto our website and the Congregational Administrator's voicemail message (call 630-232-2350 and then press 1-0-0 to hear the message).
- During the week, if you're not sure about the severity of the weather, please check with your group's facilitator.
- When in doubt, please stay home!

Get Involved With Interweave

Interweave is a local group of LGBTQ members, friends, and allies who meet once a month to have discussions about issues and events interesting and important to the group.

In January, they will gather at the home of Steve Zrebiec on Sunday, January 18 at 4pm. They will make plans for the annual LGBTQ church service on March 1 and the Friday Flicks presentation on February 27. There will also be a potluck supper and time to socialize.

For more information, contact Lynn Steele at interweave.leader@uusg.org.

"Promoting Practical Goodness"

We send our heartfelt thanks to:

Sherri Casterline, who has co-coordinated our Cookie Walk fundraiser for more than a decade. Thank you, Sherri, for the time and energy you have given to make this event a celebrated tradition! Special appreciation to Diane & Tom Peters, who will step into Sherri's shoes starting next year. And continuing gratitude to Elba Karim, who has been co-coordinating for many years; we hope she'll keep doing so!

Doreen Christiani for her work installing the Small Business version of Microsoft Office 365 for UUSG staff. Now all administrative staff have modern versions of MS Office products as well as secure file sharing and backup, and even conferencing and email in the future.

Anna Rosenkrans and Ryan Thornton for sharing their time, talents, and appetizers in the childcare rooms the night of the auction.

Everyone who participated in the Food Bank Ministry's inaugural event: Mavra Ali; Kevin Beyer; James & Jamie Carroll; Rosana Bourg; Salome Fogleman; Meg Goings; Mary & Eric Jonke; Tom Lichtenheld; Vera Lind; Doris Lipman; Tracey McFadden; Sam & Omar Mejia; Jan Miller; Jenny, David, & Ellie Montgomery; Jeanne Neltner; Nate Ng; Kathie & Gary Noll; Ramsey Rusef; Ed Wehling; and Chris Weithers. UUSG teamed up with a group of Girl Scouts to pack 2,430 pounds of ice cream!

Lazarus House Volunteers: The Pynn/Willis family prepared lunches, and the Zacker and Montgomery families provided dinner.

Greeters: Sandy & Dan Bottoms, Jodi & Chris Brown, Sherri Casterline, Sally Jones, Vicki & Chuck Lantz, Linda & Kevin O'Neill, Chris Schulman, Gail & George Tattersfield, Pat Vary, Patricia Ward, and any last-minute recruits

Hosts: Technology Team, Social Justice Team, Worship Associates, Hospitality & Fellowship Team

Counters: Kevin Beyer, Brad Lipman, Kevin O'Neill, Patrick McGleam, George Tattersfield, Patricia Ward, the Finance Team

Giving Thanks

Last month's Thanksgiving gathering was a memorable event and a delight for all who attended—thank you to everyone for the delicious food, generous help, and frivolity!

Our Canvass Day of Service

Our Upcoming Canvass Day of Service is scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2015. This annual event has become such a success that we now need a few more volunteers to help the day run smoothly.

If you can help out with setting up for the activities at UUSG, transporting & storing items, or being a back-up "Point Person" for an activity, please sign up at www.uusg.org/canvass-dos-helpers.

Holiday Music

We've enjoyed delightful music this holiday season, beginning with the EnsAmble Ad-Hoc trio. It featured Ruth Cavanaugh on flute, Jose Luis Posada on guitar, and Franci Acosta with her percussion and crystalline vocals, sharing moving selections with a Latin beat.

Pianist Patricia Arzaga shone at the keyboard in Bach, Brahms, Chopin, and a masterwork by Rachmaninov. Carols for keyboard and strings were performed by the charming trio of pianist Sandra Anderson-Cordogan and sons Alexander and Stephan Cordogan on violin and cello, respectively.

We'll be looking ahead to music by Audrey Jonke; Patricia Arzaga; Anna & Dan Masini; David Dillenbeck; Dean Malambri; Andy, David, Ellie, & Max Montgomery; Tom Zimmerman; and Cynthia Spiegel.

And sharing their musical gifts on Christmas Eve will be Stella Childs, Wendy Evans-Glazier & Larry Glazier, Tracy & John Rosenkrans, and our UUSG Choir, directed by Bridget Kancler.

Our one-of-a-kind Music Ministry here is a reflection of the diverse beliefs 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).

Canvass Mailing Prep

It might feel too early to start thinking about canvass, but it's not! If you can help prep our mailings on the following dates, please contact Katie Phillips (office@uusg.org):

- Wednesday, January 7, 10am
- Wednesday, January 28, 10am

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 December meeting).

For a more detailed description of the Board meetings, see the official minutes online (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 7:30pm on the second Tuesday of each month.

Board Meeting Summary

December 2014

1. Moved to accept Senior Minister job description
2. Moved to accept Assistant Minister job description
3. Moved to accept Intellectual Property Policy
4. Discussed land donation in the context of the Finance Team's Report (report appended to the minutes)
5. Scheduled hosting of Social Hour on January 11, 2015
6. Planned to hear updates of Canvass and Assistant Minister search at next meeting

A New Partnership

The Green Sanctuary and Social Justice Teams have merged to create the Social Justice/Green Sanctuary Team.

Several members of the teams realized they have strong interests in the activities of both teams. Therefore, it seemed advantageous to merge the groups and capitalize of the additional people power.

As the leaders work out just how the partnership will optimize efforts, they will report them in the Mini-Pioneer and Pioneer. And Happy New Year to all!

Want to Know More? Board Meeting Summaries & Minutes: www.uusg.org/board-meeting-minutes
Team Reports: www.uusg.org/team-reports Financial Report: www.uusg.org/financial-report

Friends of New UUs

Would you like to meet new UUs? Introduce them to UUSG activities? Share a cup of coffee or lunch? Go for a walk or meet in the park with the kids for a playdate?

The Membership Team has developed a program for new folks who are interested in our church and/or want to know more about Unitarian Universalism. This new program pairs UUSG members with people who attend our "New UUs" Program.

Help them feel more welcome! Contact our Membership Team at membership@uusg.org for details.

Learning More About...

Recognizing that there can be no peace without justice, the Social Justice Team works to create a more just and peaceful world by leading the UUSG community in a variety of activities.

They promote practical goodness by coordinating opportunities for people to contribute time, effort, and money to worthwhile organizations. These include:

- volunteering for local nonprofits providing food, shelter, and basic supplies
- engaging in community organizing
- exploring and advocating regarding current issues
- purchasing fair trade products.

For more info or to get involved, contact Team Leader Jean Pierce at socialjusticeleader@uusg.org.

Holiday Shopping

When you Holiday shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to UUSG! Just visit <https://smile.amazon.com/>.

You need to select "Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva" before you begin shopping for the church to receive donations from eligible purchases. This process works with your existing Amazon.com account. Just remember to select items via the Amazon Smile website.

New Food Bank Ministry!

Do you love volunteering at Northern Illinois Food Bank as much as we do? Then you can be in on the ground floor of a new ministry forming at UUSG. We have an e-mailing list for sending out dates available for volunteering; you can sign up as you are available.

Currently, upcoming dates include January 24 and February 7. We'll volunteer once a month on a Saturday as well as occasional days during the week.

For more information or to join the mailing list, contact Kevin Beyer at FoodBankLeader@uusg.org.

Circles of Life

We celebrated with Sara Hoerdeman and Joe Gange as they welcomed their son, Asher Joseph Hoerdeman, into the world on December 2! He was 18 inches long and 7.4 pounds. We can't wait to meet him!

Congratulations and best wishes to Lisa & Braden Rittenberry, who renewed their vows on their 20th wedding anniversary, December 9.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Melissa Auer, whose father died last week. Our thoughts and prayers are with Melissa, Patrick, Jessica, and Ali during this holiday season.

To all those who are having medical adventures right now, we send our prayers and healing thoughts that the new year be one of health and happiness.

Zen Buddhism Workshop

On December 14, UUSG's Buddhist Meditation & Study Group welcomed Jeff Slepak of the Great Plains Zen Center for an Introductory Workshop on Zen Buddhism.

Attendees reviewed many basics of Buddhist philosophy, explored traditional Zen postures, and meditated together. Thank you to the 23 members and friends who made Jeff feel welcome!

Affordable Care Act Enrollment

UUSG is hosting two more dates when people can sign up for Affordable Health Care coverage. To register, contact Bill Scown (wncscown@comcast.net or 630-360-0905) Sessions are scheduled for: January 10, 10am-3pm (coverage will begin February 1) and February 14, 11am-4pm (coverage will begin March 1).

DECEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hour at 10:30 AM 11:00 AM Canvass Team Meeting 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM Board Meeting 12:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	1 <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> 7:30 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group 7:30 PM Technology Team Meeting—CANCELED	2 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Program & Administrative Councils	3 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 4:00 PM Fox Valley Interfaith Meeting 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	4 <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 9:15 AM Simple Living Circle (note date change) 6:30 PM Cookie Walk Set-up 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising	5 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 4:30 PM Cookie Walk	6 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i>
7 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hour at 10:30 AM 11:00 AM Finance Team Meeting 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:15 PM Women's Retreat Planning Meeting 12:30 PM Atheism, Humanism, & Life Issues Study Group 12:30 PM OWL Parent Slide Presentation 12:30 PM Steeple Walk (see your tickets for exact time) 2:00 PM Ministry on Ministries Meeting--CANCELED	8 4:00 PM Steeple Walk Planning Meeting 7:00 PM Reiki Discussion Group 7:30 PM LRE Team Meeting	9 9:00 AM Girl Scout Service Unit Meeting 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Private Event 7:30 PM Board of Directors	10 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 5:00 AM - 10:00 PM ERT Meeting (details TBD) 11:30 AM The Luncheonettes (off-site) (note date change due to holidays) 4:30 PM Heritage Team Meeting (note time change) 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	11 <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Heritage Team Meeting 7:30 PM Small Group Ministry	12 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM Music Rehearsal	13 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Affordable Care Act Enrollment Counseling (advance registration required) 9:00 AM Food Bank Ministry 2:00 PM Zen Practice Workshop 7:00 PM Junior High Youth Group
14 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hour at 10:30 AM 11:00 AM Green Sanctuary Team Meeting 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 12:30 PM Membership Team Meeting 12:30 PM Mental Health Ministry Meeting 7:00 PM Music Rehearsal	15 9:00 AM PIONEER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE (one week earlier than usual) 7:00 PM "Bible Study for UUs" Group	16 10:30 AM Staff Meeting	17 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	18 <i>Church School Administrator Off Today</i> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM "Feel Good In the Present" Group Meeting (note date change) 7:00 PM Fox River Valley Initiative Leadership Meeting 7:30 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group 7:30 PM Write Time Writers' Group	19 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 11:00 AM Music Rehearsal 11:30 AM The Geezers Group (off-site) (note date change)	20 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 9:00 AM Monthly Day of Service: Illinois Youth Center
21 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Intergenerational Worship; Social Hour at 10:30 AM 9:45 AM Hospitality & Fellowship Team Meeting 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM Atheism, Humanism, & Life Issues Study Group 12:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Reiki Share	22 9:00 AM December 28 Mini-Pioneer Deadline (early due to holidays)	23 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> 7:00 PM Small Group Ministry	24 Christmas Eve <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> 4:00 PM Family Service 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM GAS AA 8:00 PM Candlelight Choir Service	25 Christmas Day <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> <i>Office Closed / All Staff Off</i>	26 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i>	27 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i>
28 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> 9:30 AM Intergenerational Worship Service (no 11:15am service today) 10:30 AM Potluck Brunch	29 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> 9:00 AM January 4 Mini-Pioneer Deadline (early due to holidays) 7:00 PM Reiki Share (note date change)	30 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> 7:30 PM Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis	31 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> New Year's Eve <i>Office Closed / All Staff Off</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:30 PM GAS AA	1 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> New Year's Day <i>Office Closed / All Staff Off</i>	2 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i>	3 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i>

JANUARY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> 9:30 AM Intergenerational Worship Service (no 11:15am service today) 10:30 AM Potluck Brunch	29 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> 9:00 AM January 4 Mini-Pioneer Deadline (early due to holidays) 7:00 PM Reiki Share (note date change)	30 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> 7:30 PM Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis	31 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> New Year's Eve <i>Office Closed / All Staff Off</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:30 PM GAS AA	1 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> New Year's Day <i>Office Closed / All Staff Off</i>	2 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i>	3 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i>
4 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hour at 10:30 AM 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:15 PM Women's Retreat Planning Meeting 12:30 PM Atheism, Humanism, & Life Issues Study Group 2:00 PM Ministry on Ministries Meeting	5 7:30 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group 7:30 PM Technology Team Meeting	6 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Program & Administrative Councils Meeting	7 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	8 <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Heritage Team Meeting 7:30 PM Small Group Ministry 7:30 PM Write Time Writers' Group	9 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 5:30 PM 2nd Annual UUSG Women's Retreat Begins (off-site) 8:00 PM February Sky Concert	10 2nd Annual UUSG Women's Retreat—all day <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 10:00 AM -3:00 PM Affordable Care Act Enrollment Counseling (advance registration required)
11 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hour at 10:30 AM 11:00 AM Finance Team Meeting 11:00 AM Green Sanctuary Team Meeting 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:00 PM 2nd Annual UUSG Women's Retreat Ends 12:30 PM Membership Team Meeting 12:30 PM YRUU Reunion 2:00 PM Lay Ministers' Meeting	12 7:00 PM Reiki Discussion Group 7:30 PM LRE Team Meeting	13 9:00 AM Girl Scout Service Unit Meeting 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Board of Directors	14 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 4:00 PM Heritage Team Meeting 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	15 <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:30 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group	16 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM "Our Whole Lives" (OWL) Program Overnight Begins	17 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> Reserved for Circle Suppers (off-site) 10:00 AM "Our Whole Lives" (OWL) Program Overnight Ends
18 <i>Congregational Administrator Off Today</i> 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hour at 10:30 AM 9:45 AM Hospitality & Fellowship Team Meeting 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 11:30 AM Pledge Team Training 12:30 PM Atheism, Humanism, & Life Issues Study Group 12:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 4:00 PM Interweave Meeting (off-site; note date/time change) 7:00 PM Reiki Share	19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 7:00 PM "Bible Study for UUs" Group	20 10:30 AM Staff Meeting	21 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	22 <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 9:15 AM Simply Sharing Circle 7:00 PM "Feel Good in the Present" Group Meeting 7:30 PM Write Time Writers' Group	23 <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 Focus: "Black Lives Matter"	24 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 9:00 AM Monthly Day of Service: Illinois Food Bank (note date change) 7:00 PM Junior High Youth Group (note date change)
25 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hour at 10:30 AM 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 11:30 AM Pledge Team Training 12:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 12:30 PM Facilities Team Meeting 12:30 PM Social Justice Team Meeting 1:00 PM Mental Health Ministry Event: TBD	26 9:00 AM PIONEER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7:00 PM Reiki Share (note date change) 7:30 PM Teacher Mid-Year Meeting	27 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Small Group Ministry 7:30 PM Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis	28 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 11:30 AM The Luncheonettes (off-site) 4:00 PM Heritage Team Meeting 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	29 <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i>	30 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i>	31 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 1:00 PM UUSG Band Rehearsal

**The Unitarian Universalist
Society of Geneva**

102-112 S. 2nd Street
P.O. Box 107
Geneva, IL 60134-0107

Office: 630-232-2350

Email: office@uusg.org

Website: www.uusg.org

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/uusg1>

Our Staff

Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, *Senior Minister*

minister@uusg.org

Office Hours: by appointment

Katie Phillips, *Congregational Administrator*

office@uusg.org

Office Hours: Sunday-Thursday, 9am-2pm

Michelle Gibson, *Church School Administrator*

LRE@uusg.org

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 9am-2:30pm

Lisa Rittenberry, *Office Assistant*

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 January 26 at 9am.

Guidelines for submissions are available at

www.uusg.org/s/Pioneer-Guidelines.pdf.

Please send all articles to office@uusg.org.