



A Newsletter of  
The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

# THE PIONEER

March - April 2015

## The Paper Pulpit

the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates

Signs of a Healthy Church [anonymous]:

- People are constantly expressing disagreement, right out in the open!
- The ministers are always behind in their work.
- The Board can never seem to make ends meet while the church is forever giving money away.
- New groups keep cropping up and bumping into each other over schedules and competing over volunteers.
- A number of people occasionally miss meetings and insist on spending time with their families.
- The kids are noisy and all over the place, including worship.
- The carpeting is wearing out, the coffee hour is crowded and confusing, the front door is almost off its hinges, the electric bill is way over budget, and it seems that an awful lot of people are coming and going.
- The place is full of people who know they can't make it on their own, who are finding greater meaning in their lives in receiving and giving a lot of service, a lot of energy, a lot of love.....

No question but that the Canvass has been disappointing. Larger numbers than usual of our members and friends seem to be moving, retiring, looking for work, raising young families, supporting elderly relatives, and otherwise finding themselves stretched financially.

But it's healthier for a church to have dreams that outpace our means than the other way 'round. There will be noticeable cuts in programs in Church Year 2015-16 as we all share the results of our financial realities. So long as we remember money is not the only measure of generosity, so long as we keep our hearts open to one another, continue to show up for worship, church school, social activities, special programs, our Covenant Groups and Small Group Ministries, our Days of Service, and all the other opportunities we share for building community, we'll find the means to handle our financial challenges.

In *Choruses from "The Rock,"* T. S. Eliot asks, *When the Stranger says, / "What is the meaning of this [place]? / Do you huddle close together / because you love each other?" / What will you answer? "We all dwell together / To make money from each other"? / or "This is a community"?*

I think we all know the answer. This is, always and forever, a community.

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### Budgeting Begins

Our budgeting process has already started and we need to hear from everyone so we can determine what's possible in the coming year.

Whether you can pledge a little, a lot, or not at all this year, please let us know of your intentions by sending an email to Katie Phillips at [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org) or by going to [www.uusg.org/pledge-form](http://www.uusg.org/pledge-form).

Information about the 2015-16 budget will be made available soon. You are invited to attend a special Board Meeting on Tuesday, April 28 at 7pm. The Board will vote on the proposed budget at that time and all UUSG members are encouraged to attend, especially if you have questions about our income and/or expenses.

# Religious Education Announcements

## RE Music

RE Music students sang their hearts out during the services on March 8 with “I Can Feel the Friendship All Around!” It is such an awesome feeling when the congregation joins in and surrounds them with their love and voices in song. Students are enjoying the final few weeks of their music program by sharing their talents on various instruments during class.

## Spring Project

Beginning on Sunday, April 5, our Kindergarten to 5th grade youth will participate in curriculum about diversity. The curriculum features presentations by our puppeteers, led by Nancy Goodfellow.

Each week, students will learn about a different topic involving diversity. The topics are:

- We may have physical differences, but we are the same on the inside and we all have special talents
- What are stereotypes?
- Understanding economic disparity and poverty
- Appreciating people from different cultures
- How to deal with bullies

We are looking forward to presenting these lessons!

## “Our Whole Lives” Program

The next OWL overnight is April 10-11, beginning at 6:30pm on Friday and ending at approximately 4pm on Saturday. The OWL Recognition Ceremony will be Sunday, April 26 during the 11:15am service.

## Junior High Youth Group

Junior High Youth Group will meet at UUSG on Saturday, April 18 at 7pm.

**Attention 5th graders:** The Junior High Youth Group would like to invite you to join the group in April for a night of fun. We would like for 5th graders to experience what Junior High youth group is all about before they join us next year. We will have a fun night of flashlight tag, sardines, and sharing any cares or concerns. We are looking forward to having you visit with us!

## LRE Volunteers Needed

This month, you will see several different sign-up sheets on the LRE bulletin board. Some of the areas where you could volunteer your time next church year are: LRE Teacher, Substitute Teacher, LRE Team Member, Summer Classroom Clean-up, Library, Junior High Youth Group Leader, Play Date, Driver, Chaperone, and COA mentor.

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).

## Coming of Age

The Coming of Age program has begun. The group will meet on the following dates: April 12, 19, & 26, from 11:15am to 1:45pm in the Junior High Room. We would like to give a special thank you to our facilitators and mentors for making the program possible for our youth!

## 2015-2016 RE Registration

It is that time of year again! We will begin registration for next church school year on Sunday, April 12. See Michelle Gibson in the Common Room on April 12 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.

## Religious Education Class Topics

RE classes will study the following topics in April:

Grades: K- 5th: Spring Project (see article on this page for more details)

Grades: 6th-8th

- Atheism – guest speaker Peter Coe on April 12
- Paganism – guest speaker Jill Brown on April 26

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

**Intergenerational Service** On Sunday, April 19, LRE classes will not be meeting. We encourage all the youth to join the intergenerational service.

## Canvass Update

As of March 25, 173 households have pledged \$290,590. Many thanks to those who have already pledged:

47 Anonymous "Seekers After  
Truth & Goodness"

Melanie Abercrombie

Mark Adams & Eleanor Hamilton

Mark Alleman

Deann Alleman

Jaime Andersen & Steven  
Lougheed

Bob Atac & Lucy Thelin Atac

Katie Baar

Conor & Katherine Barry

Laura Bartoszek

Lindsay Bates

Trish Beckjord

Jenny Benjamin

Chris & Cindy Benshoof

Eileen Berman & Gerald

Guglielmo

Kevin Beyer & Lisa Gades

Dan & Sandy Bottoms

Anne Brink

Betty Bristol

Deb & Don Brod

Lesley Ronson Brown & Joe Eddy  
Brown

Bob Brubaker & Marilyn James

Patricia Burch

Jim & Linda Burke

James & Jamie Carroll

Sherri Casterline

Ruth Cavanaugh

Doreen Christiani

Steve Clevenger

Peter & Bev Coe

Kathy Cornell

Mary & David Davis

David de Coriolis & Rhonda  
Robinson

Jeff Dooley & Anne Wilson-Dooley

Ann & Al Drover

William Elbert

Shirley Ellsworth

Mary Enck

Wendy Evans-Glazier & Larry  
Glazier

Lynn Fisher McCanne & Tom  
McCanne

Aaron Fogleman & Vera Lind

Joani Foster

Kate & Jim Frazier

Terry & Marcia Friedman

Julia Friesen

Pam & Jay Galligan

Joe Gange & Sara Hoerdeman

Mary Garland

Keith, Cari, & Samantha  
Gesiakowski

Nancy Goodfellow

Andrea Gruszecki

Sharon & Dave Hansen

Katie Hansen & Jourdan  
McNamara

Michelle Haugen

Christy & Mark Hickey

Michele & Jude Hoecker

Kerry & Amy Hong

Kathy & Dave Houghton

Sean & Becky Hruby

John & Glen Jerrard

Kate Johnson

Eric & Mary Jonke

Karin Marshall Kemp

Jim King

Chuck & Vicki Lantz

Laura Laughlin

Debbie Leoni

Chung & Kim Liang

Tom Lichtenheld & Jan Miller

Brad & Doris Lipman

Gary & Jessica Littlefield

Katherine Lyons & Walter Pearson

Alice Martin

Rosemary Maziarz

Mike & Lisa McCarthy

Kim McDuffee-Dotson

Tracey & Kathy McFadden

Maureen McKeough

Kathy Meier

Omar & Samantha Mejia

Vohny Moehling

Jenny & Andy Montgomery

Dave & Karen Moore

Craig & Rose Moore

Fred & Wendy Mosier

Carol Myers

Barbara Napolitan

Jim & Pat O'Malley

Kevin & Linda O'Neill

Holly Orcutt & Dan Connelly

Julie Overcash

Glenda & William Peck

Diane & Tom Peters

Nancy Petersen

Jean & Lou Pierce

Mary Pope

Page Poris

Velma Powers

Bob & Manya Prael

Geoff Pynn & Roxanne Willis

Julie Riffle & Thom Thomas

John & Tracy Rosenkrans

Tom & Nancy Russo

Kerry & Jason Sapet

Hal & Chris Schulman

Bill & Jeannie Scown

Neill Shanahan

Amanda Slaiher

Craig & Ilene Smit

Cynthia & Marko Spiegel

Lynn & Llona Steele

Sue & Jeff Stibal

Gail & George Tattersfield

Shawn & Diane Thornton

Roger Tilbrook

Pam Tilbrook

Jim Toland

David & Renee Tomell

John & Beth Towell

Cindy Vacek

Pat Vary

Matt & Sara Vetter

Kris Webster

Ed & Ruth Wehling

Jane Willard

Dick Yingst

David Zacker & Molly MacKay  
Zacker

Steve Zrebiec

## Upcoming Staff Time Off

Our Church School Administrator, Michelle Gibson, will be off work March 27 - April 5.

Our Congregational Administrator, Katie Phillips will be off work on Easter Sunday, April 5.

Our Senior Minister, the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, will be on Retreat Leave April 20-27. In the event of an emergency or urgent matter while Lindsay is gone, you may call our Lay Ministries Coordinator Mark Alleman at 630-863-3569 or Lay Minister Jim Jenkins at 630-677-2232.

## Ready to Join UUSG?

If you are thinking about becoming a member of UUSG and you have attended at least some of the “New UUs” orientation sessions, you are invited to the Membership Prep Class on Sunday, April 12, 12:30-3pm.

This class is a requirement for church membership. A light lunch is included. We’re working to arrange childcare; let us know if you need it to attend. Sign up in the Common Room or at [www.uusg.org/mem-prep-class](http://www.uusg.org/mem-prep-class).

## Add Your Voice

Choir rehearsals for the May 3 performance begin on March 29 and continue on April 12, 19, and 26. If you’d like to add your voice to the mix, please sign up with an email to our Choir Director, Bridget Kancler, at [choir@uusg.org](mailto:choir@uusg.org).

## Paypal!

New this year—you can now pay your pledge via Paypal!

Just go to our homepage ([www.uusg.org](http://www.uusg.org)), scroll down, and look for the yellow “Donate” button on the bottom left of the page.

## Want to Know More?

Board Meeting Summaries & Minutes:

[www.uusg.org/board-meeting-minutes](http://www.uusg.org/board-meeting-minutes)

Team Reports: [www.uusg.org/team-reports](http://www.uusg.org/team-reports)

Financial Reports: [www.uusg.org/financial-report](http://www.uusg.org/financial-report)

## Memorial Service

On Saturday, March 28 at 3pm, we’ll gather in the Sanctuary to celebrate the life of long-time church member Jerry Henningson.

## Interested in LGBTQ Issues?

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.

They will meet at church on March 29 at 12:30pm to make plans for spring socials, review Interweave weekend programs, and discuss current issues. For more information, contact Lynn Steele at [interweave.leader@uusg.org](mailto:interweave.leader@uusg.org).

## Tenebrae Service

On Good Friday, April 18 at 8pm, we will hold our traditional Tenebrae (“Shadows”) Service. This dark service acknowledges the suffering, the evil, and the loss of hope that are realities in the world and a necessary prelude to Easter’s celebration.

The Sanctuary doors will open at 7:30pm, with meditative music and time for quiet reflection. The service begins promptly at 8pm and will last about an hour.

Please note that Tenebrae isn’t suitable for young children and we’re not able to provide childcare.

## “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).

## March Music

Our wonderful music lineup kicked off March with the happy return of vocalist Ben Walker, accompanied by pianist Dean Malambri.

The children in the RE Music Program won our hearts with a song about friendship led by Sandra Anderson-Cordogan. And in a rousing turn, the UUSG Time Bandits Band showed off the vocal and multi-instrumental skills of Tracey McFadden, Andy Montgomery, John Rosenkrans, and John Towell.

Our Music Director Tracy Rosenkrans sang in public for her first time ever in a rendition of Cyndi Lauper's "Time After Time," demonstrating that it's never too late to try something new; and Geoff Pynn added his talents in piano and percussion.

Cynthia Spiegel and Katie Baar led the musical part of the service on "Compassion," highlighted by an arrangement of "Swimming" by Cynthia that left many in tears after hearing the simplicity and tender vocal harmonies in contrast to Tracy's low bass accompaniment.

Pianist Lynn Fisher McCanne enhanced the Naming and Dedication Ceremony for Will, Sarah, and Helenna. She left the keyboard to join a special song performed by FUUsion in honor of one of their own, Sara Hoerdeman, whose son, Asher, was part of the Naming celebration. The gifted ensemble also included Trish Beckjord, Pam Birch, Susan O'Neill, Dawn Pokorny, Rhonda Robinson, and Pat Vary.

Looking ahead, we'll be treated to the music of violinist Honna Austin and Patricia Arzaga, Dean Malambri, Lynn Fisher McCanne, Geoff Pynn, and Sandra Anderson-Cordogan, plus the return of FUUsion and the one-and-only UUSG Band.

## Do You Want to Be in Our Directory?

Now that spring is here, it's time for the spring-summer 2015 UUSG Directory of Members & Friends.

Those of you who were in the last version recently received an email asking you to send us any changes, but this is an opportunity to add new households, too.

If you weren't in the last directory but would like to be in this one, please let us know with an email to Katie Phillips ([office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org)) by April 12.

## Memorial Stones—Order by April 1

Our annual Memorial Garden Dedication Ceremony is scheduled for May 24. However, no stones have been ordered yet; if fewer than 3 households order stones, we will install the stones this year but postpone their dedication until next year's service.

If you would like to remember a loved one with a carved stone, talk to our Congregational Administrator, Katie Phillips, or give her an order form ([www.tinyurl.com/aroy3fb](http://www.tinyurl.com/aroy3fb)) by April 1.

## Supporting NPR, Supporting UUSG

UUSG is a Corporate Sponsor of Northern Public Radio, which broadcasts WNIJ (89.5FM) and WNIU (90.5FM). As a sponsor, we can advertise UUSG fundraisers—including this summer's Pizza Booth—on both stations.

To help us continue this important publicity, we're asking for your help. Write a check to UUSG with "NPR" on the memo line, and the Communications Team will match your contribution (up to a maximum total match of \$250) by April 1.

## Would You Like Your Own Hymnal?



A number of people have indicated an interest in owning their own copy of the gray hymnal "Singing the Living Tradition" and/or the teal hymnal "Singing the Journey."

We are going to place a bulk order with the UUA Bookstore and split the shipping, so if you'd like to order one (or more), send your request to Katie Phillips ([office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org)) by April 1.

The gray hymnal is \$28 and the teal is \$18. Your total cost will depend on the shipping rate (which is determined by how many hymnals we order). Before the order is placed, you will be contacted with your total for final approval.



## Social Justice News

### Friday Flick: *Cowspiracy*

The UUSG Green Sanctuary Team will sponsor the Friday Flick during “Earth Month,” showing *Cowspiracy* on April 24 at 7pm.

This documentary takes on animal agriculture, which is the leading cause of deforestation, water consumption, and pollution, is responsible for more greenhouse gases than the transportation industry, and is a primary driver of rainforest destruction, species extinction, habitat loss, topsoil erosion, ocean “dead zones,” and virtually every other environmental ill. Yet it goes on, almost entirely unchallenged.

The Examiner raved, “A fresh take. Few films are brave enough to tackle a topic this controversial.”

### 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)).

### 7,000+ Pounds of Chicken Broth

Thank you to everyone who participated at the Northern Illinois Food Bank on March 7: Kevin Beyer & Lisa Gades; Kathleen Herrera & Jett Herrera-Glezen; Robert Keldeni; Andy, David, Ellie, Jenny, & Max Montgomery; Jeanne Neltnor; Nate Ng; Gary & Kathie Noll; Lou Pierce; Ramsey Rusef; Mary Swanson; Martha Tabis; Ed & Ruth Wehling; and Chris Weithers. Together, we relabeled 7,394 pounds of chicken broth!

### March Friday Flick: *Pay to Play*

The Friday Flick at 7pm on March 27 will be *Pay to Play*. Using the game “Monopoly” as a metaphor, the film looks at how corporations have taken over democracy in the U.S. John Nichols has called it “the best documentary about speaking truth to power since *The Big Lebowski*.”

See the difference that one person can make. Follow filmmaker John Ennis’ quest to find a way out from under the campaign finance threat in America.

### Giving “Beyond Our Walls”

On March 1, we collected \$479 for Youth Outlook, a local organization that supports LGBTQ youth.

So far in March, we have collected \$709 for the programs of the Chicago Workers Collaborative (CWC), which promotes full employment and equality for the lowest wage-earners, primarily temp staffing workers, in the Chicago region.

If you would like to support this important local ministry, you can do so during this Sunday’s services.

### Supporting Our Homeless Neighbors

The Social Justice Team appreciates the time, effort, and commitment from Vohny Moehling and her family, who prepared both lunch and dinner and stayed overnight at Lazarus House in March.

### Volunteering at the Food Bank

The next date when we will volunteer at the Northern Illinois Food Bank is Tuesday, April 21, 1-4pm. Children ages 8 and up are welcome with a parent. To sign up, go to [www.uusg.org/food-bank](http://www.uusg.org/food-bank). For more details, contact Kevin Beyer at [foodbankleader@uusg.org](mailto:foodbankleader@uusg.org).

### “Promoting Practical Goodness”

We send our heartfelt thanks to:

Vohny Moehling, who designed and created this year's canvass bulletin board and updated it regularly. Thank you for sharing your creativity with us, Vohny!

A huge “Thank You!” to Christy Hickey and Glenda Peck for coordinating the Canvass Ice Cream Social; William Elbert for the delicious baked goods; and George Tattersfield for providing the ice cream. Thank you to everyone who pitched in to make this event a success.

**Greeters:** Interweave Group, Jim King, Jason, Sapet, Julie Riffle, Sandy & Dan Bottoms, Eric Jonke, and any last-minute recruits

**Hosts:** Interweave Group, WOW Team, Membership Team, Ministry on Ministries, and Social Justice Team

**Counters:** Kevin O’Neill, Patrick McGleam, Dave Moore, Karen Laukaitis, Kevin Beyer, Brad Lipman, and Finance Team

### 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 March 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

March 10, 2015

1. Discussed recommendations from Finance Team about fiscal year 2015-2016 budget
2. Debated priorities for needed budget cuts
3. Updated Geneva Universal land donation progress
4. Updated MOM (Ministry on Ministries) charter

## Green Corner

### Lights Out!

Join the Green Sanctuary and Social Justice Teams at UUSG this Saturday, March 28, 7-8:30pm for an Earth Hour Celebration of adult and youth activities: meditation, storytelling, discussion, looking at the stars (with telescope), crafts, and refreshments.

Sign up at [www.uusg.org/earth-hour](http://www.uusg.org/earth-hour) by Thursday, March 26. Minimum of guests is 25, maximum is the more the better!

### Churches Join Together in “Spiritual Green Connection”

The Green Sanctuary Team’s affiliate, Spiritual Green Connection, represents greening churches in the Fox Valley and recently was invited to meet at UUSG.

Speaker Brian Sauder, Director of Faith In Place—Chicago’s “umbrella” organization assisting almost 1000 local congregations —discussed group expansion and successfully promoting environmental principles.

### Green Tomato Grocery Co-Op

The Green Tomato Grocery Co-op now will have two new members from UUSG. They will meet at church on Thursday, April 9 at 7pm in a Community Conversations session. Visitors are welcome!

Thanks, Green Tomato, for returning donations received from UUSG’s Harvest Supper to Green Sanctuary, toward these two church memberships. Come and hear their plans.

### Earth Month Is Coming

April is time for friendly reminders to be sustainable, such as: “Avoid unused water running down the drain.” or “Lights out when leaving rooms.” Sound familiar? Great!!

Enjoy greener events all April long: eco-sales during Social Hour; an inspiring environmental sermon, native plants to acquire, the *Cowspiracy* flick on April 24, environmental hymns, readings, green sales, and much more. So many things we can do to help reverse climate change. Celebrate Earth Month at UUSG!

## 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 in the Common Room or online at [www.uusg.org/spring-spruce-up](http://www.uusg.org/spring-spruce-up).



## Invitation to the Chautauqua Institution

An invitation from UUSG member Jim King

Our UU seminary, Meadville-Lombard, has announced an Institute for Lay Leaders to be held at the Chautauqua Institution August 8-15, 2015.

The cost to an individual for the week is \$1,300 (about \$200-\$300 additional for a spouse), which includes room and board on the campus. From having stayed in a B & B at Chautauqua once, I can assure you this rate is extraordinarily inexpensive.

I can wholeheartedly encourage you to attend. It is a wonderful campus stretched out on a lovely lake in western New York (if flying, your destination is either Buffalo or Erie, and there is of course van service to the campus). And I think it would terrific if our church were represented in this first seminar for lay leaders.

The historical Chautauqua Institution is a world-famous organization dedicated to promoting understanding of current affairs and directions in contemporary events. We are among the many denominations which maintain a presence on the campus—ours being named of course The Unitarian House.

Do Google the Institution to learn of the many programs and musical events offered and see if your public library has the CD which explains its mission and history and showcases the amazing campus.

Contact Roger Doebke ([rdoebke@meadville.edu](mailto:rdoebke@meadville.edu)) for further information and to reserve a place.

## Mark Your Calendar: Annual Meeting

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 [www.uusg.org/annual-meeting](http://www.uusg.org/annual-meeting) or in the Common Room 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 we are working to schedule childcare.

## UUs and the Bible

For UUs who simply want to learn more about the Bible as literature, our "Bible Study for UUs" group meets on the third Monday of each month, 7-8:30pm.

Their next meeting is April 20. They are currently reading "Understanding the Bible" by John Buehrens and will discuss pages 3-61. For more info, contact Jim Frazier at [biblestudy@uusg.org](mailto:biblestudy@uusg.org).

## Learning More About...

The WOW Ministry Team is a group of generous UUSG members and friends who provide practical assistance to others in our church community.

We work in harmony with Lay Ministry to help families or individuals in need, as well as recognize the joyous occasions of our congregants.

We always welcome requests as well as new members to share in the joy of serving. Contact us at [wow@uusg.org](mailto:wow@uusg.org) if we can help or you'd like to join our team.



## MARCH 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hour at 10:30 AM 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM "New UUs" Orientation Program 12:30 PM Atheism, Humanism, & Life Issues Study Group 12:45 PM Meeting 2:00 PM Ministry on Ministries Meeting 3:15 PM Mental Health Ministry Event: Psychological Treatment for LGBTQ Individuals	<b>2</b> 7:30 PM Technology Team Meeting-- CANCELED	<b>3</b> 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Program & Administrative Councils	<b>4</b> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	<b>5</b> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Fox River Valley Initiative Meeting 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising	<b>6</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i>	<b>7</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 9:00 AM Monthly Day of Service: Northern Illinois Food Bank 1:00 PM UUSG Band Rehearsal
<b>8</b> <b>Daylight Saving Time Begins</b> 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hour at 10:30 AM 10:30 AM Coming of Age Mentor Planning Meeting 10:45 AM Green Sanctuary Team Meeting 11:00 AM Finance Team Meeting 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM <b>Canvass Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social</b> 2:00 PM Lay Ministers' Meeting	<b>9</b> <i>Senior Minister On Study Leave</i> 7:00 PM Reiki Discussion Group 7:30 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group 7:30 PM LRE Team Meeting	<b>10</b> <i>Senior Minister On Study Leave</i> 9:00 AM Girl Scout Service Unit Meeting 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Board of Directors	<b>11</b> <i>Senior Minister On Study Leave</i> 4:00 PM Heritage Team Meeting 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	<b>12</b> <i>Senior Minister On Study Leave</i> 7:30 PM Small Group Ministry 7:30 PM Write Time Writers' Group	<b>13</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister On Study Leave</i> 6:30 PM "Our Whole Lives" (OWL) Program Overnight Begins	<b>14</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister On Study Leave</i> 1:00 PM Music Rehearsal 4:00 PM "Our Whole Lives" (OWL) Program Overnight Ends 7:00 PM Junior High Youth Group
<b>15</b> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</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 12:30 PM Groundskeeping Team Meeting 12:30 PM Membership Team Meeting 2:00 PM Private Recital 7:00 PM Reiki Share	<b>16</b> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> 7:00 PM "Bible Study for UUs" Group	<b>17</b> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Online Covenant Group	<b>18</b> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM Spiritual Green Connection Meeting (room reserved 6-10pm) 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	<b>19</b> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising-- CANCELED	<b>20</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i>	<b>21</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> Reserved for Circle Suppers (off-site) 1:00 PM Private Meeting
<b>22</b> 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hour at 10:30 AM 10:30 AM Facilities Team Meeting 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 11:15 AM Coming of Age Program 12:30 PM Drum Circle 12:30 PM Social Justice Team Meeting 1:00 PM Mental Health Ministry Event: The Importance of Getting Treatment 1:45 PM Coming of Age Parent Meeting 2:00 PM Worship Team Meeting	<b>23</b> 9:00 AM PIONEER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7:00 PM Reiki Share (note date change) 7:30 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group-- CANCELED 7:30 PM Online Covenant Group	<b>24</b> 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Hypnosis Info-Intake Session 7:00 PM Small Group Ministry	<b>25</b> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 11:30 AM The Luncheonettes (off-site) 4:00 PM Heritage Team Meeting-- CANCELED 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	<b>26</b> <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 Online Covenant Group 7:30 PM Write Time Writers' Group	<b>27</b> <i>Church School Administrator on Vacation</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 11:30 AM The Geezers Group (off-site) 7:00 PM Friday Flicks: "Pay to Play"	<b>28</b> <i>Church School Administrator on Vacation</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 10:00 AM Online Covenant Group 3:00 PM Memorial Service for Jerry Henningson (rooms reserved 12-5pm) 7:00 PM Earth Hour -- In the Dark (refreshments served at 6:30pm)
<b>29</b> <i>Church School Administrator on Vacation</i> <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hour at 10:30 AM 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 11:15 AM Coming of Age Program--CANCELED 12:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 12:30 PM Interweave Meeting 12:30 PM Women's Circle Planning Meeting	<b>30</b> <i>Church School Administrator on Vacation</i>	<b>31</b> <i>Church School Administrator on Vacation</i> 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis	<b>1</b> <i>Church School Administrator on Vacation</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	<b>2</b> <i>Church School Administrator on Vacation</i> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:15 PM WomenSpiritRising	<b>3</b> <i>Church School Administrator on Vacation</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 8:00 PM Tenebrae: Service of the Shadows (doors open at 7:30pm)	<b>4</b> <i>Church School Administrator on Vacation</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Visitation 3:00 PM Memorial Service

## APRIL 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> <i>Church School Administrator on Vacation</i> <b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hour at 10:30 AM <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>11:15 AM</b> Coming of Age Program—CANCELED <b>12:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>12:30 PM</b> Interweave Meeting <b>12:30 PM</b> Women's Circle Planning Meeting	<b>30</b> <i>Church School Administrator on Vacation</i>	<b>31</b> <i>Church School Administrator on Vacation</i> <b>10:30 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:30 PM</b> Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis	<b>1</b> <i>Church School Administrator on Vacation</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA	<b>2</b> <i>Church School Administrator on Vacation</i> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> <b>7:15 PM</b> WomenSpiritRising	<b>3</b> <i>Church School Administrator on Vacation</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <b>8:00 PM</b> Tenebrae: Service of the Shadows (doors open at 7:30pm)	<b>4</b> <i>Church School Administrator on Vacation</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <b>1:00 PM</b> - 3:00 PM Visitation <b>3:00 PM</b> Memorial Service
<b>5</b> <i>Church School Administrator on Vacation</i> <i>Congregational Administrator Off Today</i> <b>Easter</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hour at 10:30 AM <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>12:30 PM</b> Atheism, Humanism, & Life Issues Study Group <b>12:45 PM</b> Ministry on Ministries Meeting	<b>6</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> Technology Team Meeting	<b>7</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:30 PM</b> Program & Administrative Councils	<b>8</b> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> <b>2:00 PM</b> Heritage Team Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA	<b>9</b> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Green Tomato Co-op Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Heritage Team Meeting <b>7:30 PM</b> Small Group Ministry <b>7:30 PM</b> Write Time Writers' Group	<b>10</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <b>6:30 PM</b> "Our Whole Lives" (OWL) Program Overnight Begins	<b>11</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <b>4:00 PM</b> "Our Whole Lives" (OWL) Program Overnight Ends
<b>12</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hour at 10:30 AM <b>11:00 AM</b> Finance Team Meeting <b>11:00 AM</b> Green Sanctuary Team Meeting <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>11:15 AM</b> Coming of Age Program <b>12:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>12:30 PM</b> Membership Prep Class	<b>13</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Reiki Discussion Group <b>7:30 PM</b> Compassionate Communication Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> LRE Team Meeting	<b>14</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Board of Directors	<b>15</b> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA	<b>16</b> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> <b>7:15 PM</b> WomenSpirit Rising	<b>17</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i>	<b>18</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> Reserved for Circle Suppers (off-site) <b>9:00 AM</b> Monthly Day of Service <b>10:00 AM</b> Music Rehearsal <b>7:00 PM</b> Junior High Youth Group
<b>19</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> & 11:15 AM Intergenerational Worship; Social Hour at 10:30 AM <b>9:45 AM</b> Hospitality & Fellowship Team Meeting <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>11:15 AM</b> Coming of Age Program <b>12:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>12:30 PM</b> Facilities Team Meeting <b>12:30 PM</b> Membership Team Meeting <b>1:00 PM</b> -4:00 PM "Discovering Sacred Architecture" Open House <b>7:00 PM</b> Reiki Share	<b>20</b> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> "Bible Study for UUs" Group	<b>21</b> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> <b>9:00 AM</b> Girl Scout Service Unit Meeting (note date change) <b>10:30 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:30 PM</b> Online Covenant Group	<b>22</b> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> <b>11:30 AM</b> The Luncheonettes (off-site) <b>4:00 PM</b> Heritage Team Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA	<b>23</b> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> <b>9:15 AM</b> Simply Sharing Circle <b>7:00 PM</b> "Feel Good in the Present" Group Meeting <b>7:30 PM</b> Online Covenant Group <b>7:30 PM</b> Write Time Writers' Group	<b>24</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> <b>11:30 AM</b> The Geezers Group (off-site) <b>7:00 PM</b> Friday Flicks: "Cowspiracy"	<b>25</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> <b>10:00 AM</b> Online Covenant Group <b>1:00 PM</b> Music Rehearsal
<b>26</b> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> <b>9:30 AM</b> & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hour at 10:30 AM <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>11:15 AM</b> Coming of Age Program <b>12:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>12:30 PM</b> Interweave Meeting <b>12:30 PM</b> Social Justice Team Meeting <b>1:00 PM</b> Mental Health Ministry Event: TBD	<b>27</b> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> <b>9:00 AM</b> PIONEER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE <b>7:00 PM</b> Reiki Share (note date change) <b>7:30 PM</b> Compassionate Communication Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> Online Covenant Group	<b>28</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Small Group Ministry <b>7:00 PM</b> Special Budget Board Meeting	<b>29</b> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA	<b>30</b> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i>	<b>1</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i>	<b>2</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <b>7:30 PM</b> Volunteer Teacher Wrap-Up Party (off-site)

**The Unitarian Universalist  
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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 April 27 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).