



THE PIONEER

November-December 2014

The Paper Pulpit

the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates

On November 23, folks at church had the opportunity to write down some of the things for which they are thankful. This isn't the complete list, but it covers all the themes that were shared many times over, like family and health and people we love, and a few that the rest of us might never have considered... Let all be thanks and the giving of thanks! Happy Thanksgiving!

- this community that cared and supported me through some hard times.
- my family and our happiness together
- grandbabies!
- our (new) home
- my new job
- a job in which I can excel and provide everything my family needs
- my health
- the opportunity to sing again
- friends
- companionship
- spiritual evolution
- natural world
- my sweet child and the joy she brings to the world and to me
- my mom and dad
- people to love and be loved by
- my 1st grade teacher and my new Magic Tree House books and all my hugs and kisses
- I am thankful for Doggie and our family.
- a warm home and safe neighborhood
- those with courage to continue trying to make a change
- carousels
- patience and understanding
- retirement – stress-relief
- I am thankful for music especially, and dancing.
- a carefully written chapter that describes the oscillation of solar neutrinos
- the community of UUSG
- safe return of nephew in the Army
- my life!
- bonds of kinship and friendship that grow stronger and sweeter over time
- for my wonderful husband
- for my wonderful wife
- for our children and the time to be with them and get to know them even better
- my sister
- my brother
- for those in this and other countries, who seek to better the lives and futures of human- and non-humankind, for love, for freedom, for forgiveness, imagination, compassion, for the joy of living, for hope
- I am thankful for having all this food we have and having animals.
- the beautiful singing voice of the woman singing behind me
- that grief is gone and life goes on
- I am thankful for Netflix and Troye Sivan.
- my father's piano
- Dickens is a therapy dog and will begin helping folks on December 4.
- that I can plant my own garden and decorate my own soul
- the support of family and friends in hard times
- fractured family relationships that are slowly mending
- becoming more of who I really am
- having the honor to support others to experience more peace, calm, and joy
- My continued opportunity to hear people tell their life stories
- my newfound physical and mental strength
- I'm thankful that there's a place where I can share my spirit, where I know the possibility exists to make the world a better place, spreading out in a ripple from all of us, like a pebble dropped in water.
- for my ability to express myself and for the chance to make a difference in the world
- I am thankful for the warmth, love, & support of my UUSG family – I feel loved and valued here and I need that.
- to be given the gift of a healthy romantic relationship
- to delight in our togetherness
- the church which has nurtured, sustained me and, yes, sure frustrated me at times
- reasonably healthy investment portfolio
- those that made it possible for me to leave behind my old life and start a new one
- thankful we can stay here
- I'm thankful for Life, the Universe, and Everything!

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Religious Education Announcements

“Our Whole Lives” (OWL) Program

The OWL parent slide show presentation has been rescheduled for Sunday, December 7 at 12:30pm in the YRUU room on the lower level.

It is mandatory that a parent attend an informational meeting prior to their child participating in the OWL Program. If you were unable to attend the meeting on October 27, please attend on December 7.

OWL is scheduled for: January 16-17, February 20-21, March 13-14, and April 10-11, 2015. Registration needs to be completed by December 14.

Please contact our Church School Administrator, Michelle Gibson, at LRE@uusg.org for registration forms or if you have any questions.

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.

Junior High

The Junior High class has been busy exploring our neighboring faiths with the “Building Bridges” curriculum. In October, they visited Beth Shalom Congregation in Naperville for a Friday night worship service. It was a warm and welcoming experience and interesting since two youth from their congregation led part of the service in preparation for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

In November, they toured BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Bartlett and also participated in Sunday morning worship. Our youth and teachers found the Hindu religion very interesting and had lots of good questions. They’re looking forward to exploring the next bridge!

Michelle’s Holiday Hours

In addition to her regular days off (Fridays & Saturdays), our Church School Administrator, Michelle Gibson, will be off on December 24, 25, & 31 and January 1. In addition, she will be working from home during the last 2 weeks of December.

Junior High Youth Group

Our Junior High Youth Group will be meeting on Saturday, December 13 at 7pm at the church. Hope you can join us!

Religious Education Class Topics

The RE classes will study the following topics in December:

Grades K-2nd: Different Points of View, UUs Have Different Ideas About God

Grades 3rd-5th: Hanukkah (Jewish Heritage), Posadas (Christian Heritage)

Grades 6th-8th: The Junior High class will continue learning about other faith traditions.

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 making the group a success, team-building

RE Music

Our PreK through 5th grade students shared the traditional song “I Know Your Name” with the congregation during both services on November 2. The congregation joined in on the choruses, for a fun-filled and touching experience.

In the weeks since, students have been invited to sing and play instruments for each other. So far, the following students have shared their skills, knowledge, and ideas with their peers: Calvin Hruby (piano), Declan Brown (piano), Nolan Brown (piano), and Erin Rosenkrans (cello). Their thoughtful and enjoyable presentations have been very well received by their classmates!

Holiday Pageant

This year’s Holiday Pageant will take place on 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!

32nd Annual Cookie Walk

This year's Cookie Walk is **Friday, December 5**, and as always, we need bakers and helpers.

The Cookie Walk is a long-held and cherished fundraising tradition at UUSG, and it is part of the Geneva celebration that welcomes in the holiday season with light, food, and festivities. It's also a lot of fun—in one evening, we sell over 7,500 beautiful holiday cookies!

Sign up in the Common Room or online at www.uusg.org/cookie-walk.

You can help by doing any of the following:

- * Bake cookies (6, 12, or 18 dozen—or more!)
- * Set up for the event on Thursday, December 4, 6:30-8:30pm
- * Work at the event itself: 3:45-5:30pm or 5:15-7pm
- * Post flyers around town before the event

Want to Bake?

- Please make festive holiday cookies (the plain ones, as tasty as they may be, just don't sell as well).
- Bring your goodies in disposable containers (shirt boxes, disposable plates, etc.—things that you do not want back and are recyclable). Make sure your cookies are well-protected, and enclose a piece of paper with the name of the cookies.
- We have two duplicate tables of cookies (to reduce the wait time for Cookie Walkers), so please provide two identical sets of whatever you bring so that we can put one plate or box on each table.
- Drop off your cookies on Thursday, December 4 between 6:30pm and 8:30pm. If you're not able to make it to UUSG on Thursday evening, contact Katie Phillips in the church office to make arrangements to bring your cookies earlier in the week. *No one will be at UUSG to accept cookies on Friday.*



Not a Baker? Set Up for or Help at the Event

- Help with set-up on Thursday, December 4, 6:30-8:30pm. Set-up includes assembling boxes, setting up tables, arranging the cookies, etc. The tasks are simple, we go at a leisurely pace, and we talk a lot. You may sit or stand as you prefer. Broken cookies may be sampled this night only.
- Help during the event on Friday, December 5, 3:45-5:30pm or 5:15-7pm. Helping at the event itself is a little more hectic, but great fun! There are a couple of sitting jobs, but for most of them you must stand. Tasks include keeping the cookie tables filled with cookies, taping boxes, recycling containers, and handing out gloves.

Other Ways to Help

- Post flyers (available in the Common Room) in coffee shops, businesses, grocery stores, etc. in Geneva, St. Charles, and Batavia.

Questions? Need a Recipe?

Contact Elba Karim or Sherri Casterline at cookiewalk@uusg.org.

New Members

The following people signed "The Book" on November 23, 2014 and become official members of UUSG—welcome home!

Alistair Betts
Cathy Kern Betts
Patricia Burch
Eric Jonke
Mary Jonke
Carol Myers
Nancy Peterson
Velma Powers
Martha Tabis
Jenna Webster
Kris Webster

Actors Needed

Our Emergency Response Team is looking for volunteer "role actors" to participate in a safety & security training exercise with the Geneva Police Department.

UUSG is hosting this mock training on Wednesday, December 10. The training is from 7am to 4pm, however, part of the time might work. If you'd like to participate or want more information, please contact Hal Schulman at ERTLeader@uusg.org.

Holiday Greeters

If you're planning to attend our family-friendly 4pm service on Christmas Eve, consider being a greeter! If you can help, sign up at www.uusg.org/greeting.

Social Justice News

Day(s) of Service

Through the end of November, our Social Justice Team is collecting non-perishable and unexpired food items for Humanitarian Service Project's Christmas food drive.

Please place items in the designated bin in the Common Room.

Recommended items include: canned soups, tuna, fruits and veggies; cereals; pancake mix; pasta and sauce; boxed meals and sides; peanut butter and jelly; condiments; cookies; crackers; and hot chocolate.

For more information, please contact Lisa Gades at dayofservice@uusg.org.

Commit to Knit

Fall is the perfect time to "Commit to Knit" (and crochet) with soft, colorful yarn. Choose to craft a scarf, hat, blanket, shawl, stuffed toy, mittens, or socks for the non-profit project Knitting4Peace (www.knitting4peace.org).

This group meets in the Common Room between services on the first Sunday of each month. Donated yarns, needles, and patterns are available to help you get started.

All skill levels are welcome, and beginners are invited to request individual attention.

For more information, please contact Katherine Lyons (knitting@uusg.org).

Affordable Care Act Enrollment

On December 13, navigators from VNA Health Care will be at UUSG, 9am-1pm. If you, your family, or your friends need help understanding the alternative insurance plans, costs, and subsidies available from "Obama Care," this is a wonderful opportunity to get one-on-one help from trained counselors.

This event is free and open to everyone, but advance registration is required. For an appointment, please contact Bill Scown at wncscown@comcast.net or 630-360-0905 by December 9.

Illinois Youth Center Party Needs

Our Social Justice Team is looking for volunteers. Please note that all expenses will be reimbursed.

Contact Jean Pierce at socialjusticeleader@uusg.org to sign up to help in any of these ways:

By 11am on Sunday, December 14, purchase and bring:

- 70 small "golf" pencils (not colored lead)
- 35 small packs of Oreo cookies

At 11:15am on Sunday, December 14:

- help fill 35 gift bags with items that were purchased

By 8:15am on Saturday, December 20:

- purchase and bring nine 64-oz. chilled bottles of pop
- bake and bring dozens of cookies

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 a mailing list, much like the WOW Team uses, for sending out dates available for volunteering; you can sign up as you are available.

Currently, dates include December 13, 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, please contact Kevin Beyer at FoodBankLeader@uusg.org.

Tell Us About Your Volunteer Efforts

Do you volunteer "on your own" beyond our walls for hospice or CASA or any of a number of other worthy causes in the region?

Please tell us so that we can add your efforts to a tally of ways in which members and friends of UUSG volunteer in the broader community. Contact Jean Pierce at socialjusticeleader@uusg.org to tell us what you're do-

Giving "Beyond Our Walls"

In October, we collected \$1,707.50 for the Illinois Youth Center and their Jump Start Program.

So far in November, we have collected \$1,425 for Fisher House, which provides free housing so military families can be close to a hospitalized loved one. We'll accept donations for this organization through November 30.

Church Holiday Decorating

November 29, 10am-1pm

The Hospitality & Fellowship Team invites UUSG members, friends, and families to join in decorating the church and making handmade ornaments for our trees this Saturday.

There will be craft stations for children of all ages, and lunch will be provided. Sign up online at www.uusg.org/holiday-decorating.

November Staffing

- Our Senior Minister, the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, is on vacation through December 1.
- In the event of an emergency or an urgent matter in Lindsay's absence, please contact our Lay Ministries Coordinator, Mark Alleman, at 630-863-3569 or Lay Minister Jim Jenkins at 630-677-2232.
- The office will be closed and all staff off on Thursday, November 27.

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

- 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.



End-of-Year Donations

Pledge status statements will be emailed (if we have your email address) or mailed (if we don't) during the first week of December.

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

- 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.

December Services

Sunday, December 7: the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates will speak on "The Battle for Christmas"

Sunday, December 14: the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates will speak on "Practical Goodness #3: Holiday Lights"

Sunday, December 21: Intergenerational No-Rehearsal Pageant

Wednesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Services
 4pm Our "Family Friendly" service especially for young children
 8pm Candlelight Choir Service

Sunday, December 28:
 9:30am: Intergenerational Fire Ritual: "Releasing the Past"
 10:30am: Holiday Brunch
 No 11:15am service

December Deadlines

Due to the holidays, some deadlines have changed:

- Pioneer newsletter: 9am on Monday, December 15
- 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

Saturday Night Feverish Auction

The Saturday Night Feverish Auction 2014 "FUNraiser" brought memories of the '70s as well as an impressive amount of revenue both for UUSG and for charities "Beyond Our Walls." UUSG earned \$6,000 for our operating fund, while over \$5,000 will be split between Lazarus House and Mutual Ground shelters.

In addition to the people and merchants who donated amazing contributions, the following people donated their time



and talents: Deann Alleman; Betty Bristol; Anne Brink; Mylane Bryant; Sherri Casterline; Al Drover; Sharon & Dave Hansen; Anna, Christy, & Mark Hickey; Chenda Hong; Isaac & Zia Karim; Chung Liang; Tom Lichtenheld; Kathy & Tracey McFadden; Patrick McGleam; Jan Miller; Vohny Moehling; Ellie & Jenny Montgomery; Jean & Lou Pierce; Page Poris; Riley Rooney; Anna Rosenkrans; Tom Russo; Kerri & Jason Sapet; Alex & Jake Schuster; Chris & Jeff Stibal; Ryan Thornton; Cindy Vacek; Jack Webster; and Zoe & Molly MacKay Zacker.

In order to find out who made the winning bids for your auction item, follow these directions:

- (1) Go to www.togetherauction.com/uusg.
- (2) At the top, click on "My Statement."
- (3) Enter your phone number in the following format: (630) 555-1234.
- (4) Enter your pin as the last four digits of your phone number (in this example, 1234).

Several people have asked if they could bid on the Saturday Night Fever Poster. The first person to contact Jean Pierce at auctionleader@uusg.org with a bid of \$10 will receive the poster.

Would you like pictures of the auction? We have them! They're available for purchase, with proceeds going to UUSG. Go to www.mcgleamstudios.com, click Menu, click Client Proofs, and then enter "uusg" as the password. You can pay either with a credit card using Paypal or with a check after submitting your order. Many thanks to Patrick McGleam for sharing his talent with us!

"Promoting Practical Goodness"

We send our heartfelt thanks to:

Jean Pierce for pulling off this month's amazing "Saturday Night Feverish Auction" fundraiser! There were several people working on the event, but Jean did the VAST majority of the work and she deserves a gold star. Silver stars to co-chair Jan Miller and everyone else who helped out, set up, donated, cleaned up, or otherwise contributed to the success of the auction.

Jodi Brown, who is a relatively new member at UUSG and yet has really made a commitment to make this her home by stepping up to co-lead our Lifespan Religious Education Team and serve as a member of our Search Committee.

Nancy Goodfellow for her amazing dedication to UUSG. In one fall weekend alone, she helped host the Harvest Dinner, set up for the Simple Living Group's Social Hour, and jumped in to substitute for a sick LRE teacher.

Sherri Casterline, Ann Drover, Sally Jones, Chuck Lantz, Patrick McGleam, Kathy Meier, Velma Powers, and Liona Steele for watering (or offering to water) our new grass.

November Lazarus House Volunteers: Holly Orcutt & family prepared lunches; Betty Bristol and Page Poris provided dinner; and Jeanne Neltner stayed overnight.

November Greeters: Debbie Leoni, Manya & Bob Prael, Vicki & Chuck Lantz, Kathy Meier, Julie Riffle & Thom Thomas, Karen Laukaitis, Sally Jones, Sherri Casterline, Sean & Becky Hruby

November Hosts: the Green Sanctuary Team, the Buddhist Meditation & Study Group, the Membership Team, the Nominating Committee, the Technology Team

November Counters: Karen Laukaitis, Brad Lipman, Dave Moore, Ellie Radvanovsky, George Tattersfield, the Finance Team

Beautiful Sanctuary, Beautiful Music

Steeple Walk Tickets are now available. This annual event returns on Sunday, December 7, 2-4:30 pm. Tickets are \$12.

Contact Gail Tattersfield or Linda Valentine for tickets and information.

Giving Thanks Together

Our 2nd Annual UUSG Thanksgiving Dinner will be served at 2pm in the Common Room. The doors open at 1:15pm, and beverages and nibbles will be available by 1:30pm. So far, the communal buffet includes turkey, cranberry sauce, and a pie or two.

Sign up at www.uusg.org/thanksgiving, and let us know what dish (made or purchased) you'll share and how many people you'll bring. UUSGers plus family and friends of all ages are welcome!

Questions? Contact Jeanne Neltner and Vohny Moehling at thanksgiving@uusg.org.

Looking for Leaders

This time of year, our Nominating Committee determines which Board members plan to continue in the upcoming fiscal year and who might require replacement. Then they start to think about who in the congregation to approach to fill any openings.

If you're interested in getting involved in the Board of Directors or you'd just like more information, please send an email to nominating@uusg.org or talk to any member of the Nominating Committee: David Tomell (chair), Trish Beckjord, Doreen Christiani, Jim Frazier, and Ellie Radvanovsky.

Helping "Elba's Kids"

Trauma affects all types of people. As part of our Holiday Lights giving this year, we are collecting the following toward gifts/meals for families in our community who are affected by trauma.

- toys
- handheld games
- DVDs
- jewelry
- books
- tickets for outings
- gas cards
- Kohl's cash
- gift cards (from Target, Aldi, Meijer, Kohl's, TJ Maxx, Marshalls, craft stores, etc.)
- money (please write your check to UUSG with "Holiday Lights—Elba's Kids" in the memo line)

For targeted giving, see the Amazon Wishlist under "EJ Karim." Questions? Contact Elba Karim (elba@uusg.org). Gifts are needed year-round, but please leave holiday donations in the YRUU room by December 15. Thank you for your generosity.

Introduction to Zen Practice

Mark your calendars for a December 13 workshop offered by the Buddhist Meditation and Study Group. They'll meet 2-5pm and welcome Jeff Slepak, an advanced student of Susan Myoyu Andersen, Roshi at the Great Plains Zen Center. Jeff will speak on the history of Zen Buddhism and introduce Buddhist practice from the Zen point of view.

Cost is \$25; scholarships are available from Rev. Lindsay for those needing assistance. For more information, please contact Lisa Gades and Eric Bodwell at uubuddhism@uusg.org.

What Happens at Board Meetings?

To improve communication, the Board of Directors publishes a summary of each month's meeting (see the article below for information about the November 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

November 2014

1. Motion passed to replace furnace and AC in Sanctuary (\$16,391).
2. Motion passed to replace fire extinguishers and first aid kits (\$250-\$300)
3. Motion passed to recommend accepting land gift offered to UUSG by Geneva Universal
4. Board agenda will be sent to congregation via Mini-Pioneer and weekly email
5. Update on progress from Emergency Response Team
6. Call for volunteers in training session on "People Safety" with Geneva Police Dept.

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

In Appreciation

The Membership Team would like to extend its thanks to the Facilities Team for their generous support in making our new Welcome Center a reality! In addition to consulting on the furniture selection, they made the purchase financially possible.

We are also indebted to all the Team representatives who explained their ministries to the attendees of our Fall “New UUs” Program. We gratefully acknowledge Jean Pierce, Llona Steele, Bill Scown, Jenny Montgomery, George Tattersfield, Hal Schulman, Deann Alleman, Cindy Vacek, and (as always) Rev. Lindsay.

Musical Gifts

We've had much to be grateful for in the last month of musical offerings, starting with works by Aaron Copland beautifully played by flutist Ruth Cavanaugh and pianist Lynn Fisher McCanne. Alex Cordogan at the keyboard deftly accompanied the RE Music Program students in a song led by RE Music Director Sandra Anderson-Cordogan.

The powerful service for Veterans' Day featured nostalgic turns by vocalist and guitarist Tracey McFadden, mandolinist Brian Joosse, and drummer Chris Stibal, with Patricia Arzaga at the piano and Trish Beckjord reprising the famous song “Lili Marlene.” The trumpet for “Taps” was played by Dawn Pokorny.

Mother and daughter Cynthia and Elena Spiegel shone as a team, with Cynthia on vocals and piano, and lovely violin playing by Elena. As Cynthia led the congregation in a Taize-style hymn, Geoff Pynn accompanied on piano.

In a charming three-hand piano piece, Erin Rosenkrans provided two, with one-hand assistance by Sandra Anderson-Cordogan.

We'll be looking ahead to music by the wonderful EnsAmble Ad-Hoc trio of Ruth Cavanaugh, José Luis Posada, and Francy Acosta, followed by performers including Audrey Jonke, Anna Masini, Dan Masini, and David Dillenbeck.

Our Music Ministry is as diverse as our individual beliefs here at UUSG. To share your own unique gift or provide feedback for the one-of-a-kind ministry, please reach out to Music Director Tracy Rosenkrans (music@uusg.org).

Last Chance for the Photo Directory!

By popular request, we'll take more pictures for the spring 2015 directory on Sundays, December 21 and 28!

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.

Circles of Life

Congratulations to the Moore Family—Dave & Karen's daughter Susan will be married at UUSG next summer—and to the Schulman Family—Hal & Chris' son Rob recently got engaged!

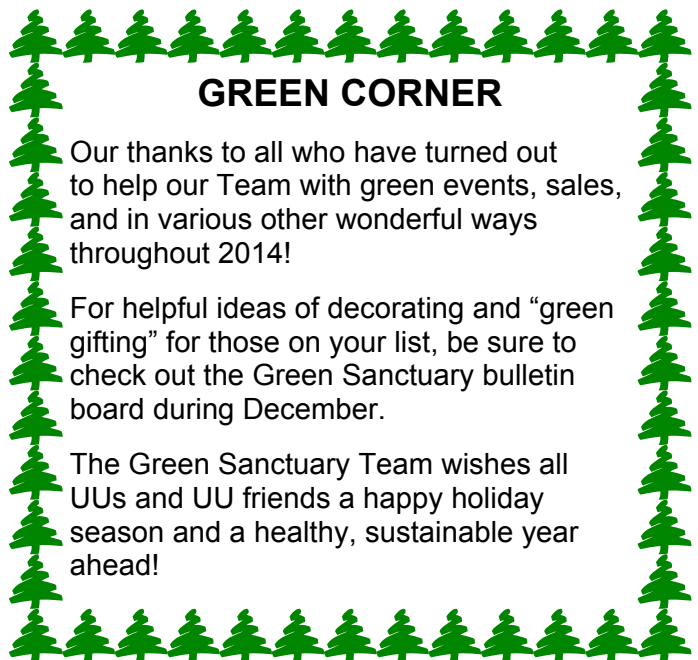
We send our condolences to Jennifer Klein on the death of her father. Our thoughts & prayers with Melissa Auer, whose father, as of this writing, is in hospice care in Texas.

We're Welcoming!

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to greet—it is much appreciated!

One reason it's important to sign up in advance to greet on Sunday mornings is because welcoming people into our church (and helping them find the nursery and—most importantly!—the bathroom) is a vital part of our ministry.

Sign up today at www.uusg.org/greeting.



GREEN CORNER

Our thanks to all who have turned out to help our Team with green events, sales, and in various other wonderful ways throughout 2014!

For helpful ideas of decorating and “green gifting” for those on your list, be sure to check out the Green Sanctuary bulletin board during December.

The Green Sanctuary Team wishes all UUs and UU friends a happy holiday season and a healthy, sustainable year ahead!

Do You Have a Taste for Cookies?

After over a decade of co-chairing the Cookie Walk with Elba Karim, Sherri Casterline has decided to let someone else have the fun.

This year, Sherri will train you and next year she will participate to give guidance as needed. Processes are in place that make the job quite easy, and people will be so grateful for your help running the Walk.

Talk to Sherri or let the church office know of your interest. It's really a great way to invest your time and talents.

Winter Weather Closing Policy

Because we're 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 Team meetings, office hours, Sunday morning religious education classes, and Sunday worship.

During the week, if you're not sure about the severity of the weather, please check with your group's facilitator before heading to a meeting.

If Sunday activities are canceled, we'll try to get that information onto our website and the Congregational Administrator's voicemail message (call the church office at 630-232-2350 and then press 1-0-0 to hear the message). But when in doubt, please stay home!

Learning More About...

- In October, our Green Sanctuary Team hosted a Harvest Dinner enjoyed by 40 guests. Contact them at greensanctuary@uusg.org for more details about what they do at UUSG, and watch for sales of eco-friendly gift items this fall.
- The UUSG Buddhist Meditation & Study Group meets on Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the Sanctuary, offering an opportunity for members and friends to practice meditation and learn about Buddhism through book discussion. They are always open to new members! Feel free to drop in or contact Lisa Gades and Eric Bodwell at uubuddhism@uusg.org to learn more.

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 and storing birthday gifts and gift bag items, or being a back-up "Point Person" for an activity, please sign up at www.uusg.org/canvass-dos-helpers.

Defaulting to Email

One of the recent revisions to our bylaws makes email (instead of postal mail) the default method of communication with our members.

Any communications from UUSG (including pledge statements) will be via email unless you specifically request otherwise.

Pledge statements will be sent in early December; if you would prefer to receive yours via postal mail, contact our Congregational Administrator, Katie Phillips, at office@uusg.org.

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.

Canvass Mailing Prep

If you can help prep our canvass mailings on the following dates, please contact Katie Phillips (office@uusg.org):

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

**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 December 15 at 9am.

Guidelines for submissions are available at

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

Please send all articles to office@uusg.org.