



Unitarian Universalist  
Society of Geneva



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# Pioneer Newsletter

## December - January 2017

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### [UUSG Calendar](#)



### **From the Pulpit** the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates

Someone asked me recently, What part of our various winter holiday celebrations do I enjoy most? What do I look forward to as we move through the season – the decorations in the Sanctuary? the fun everyone has with the No Rehearsal Pageant? the special music on Christmas Eve? colorful lights making the dark drives home in December feel more friendly, maybe even festive?

I do love all of those. But what I've long loved most is the half-hour or

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so after the Candlelight Service ends. I'm always the last one out of the building on Christmas Eve. That final closing of the church on Christmas Eve is my job – getting things put away, being sure the candles are all safely extinguished, double-checking the locks on the doors. But the best part is just sitting in the empty Sanctuary, with the tree lights still glowing, enjoying being there. There's a magic – a spirit – a holiness that lingers in the sanctuary after the candles are all extinguished. It's there before the service, too, but I'm too preoccupied with the last-minute details to notice it. I hope it's there during the service, but I'm working, and I'm too busy to feel it. It's afterwards, when the room is still warm from everyone's presence, the pews are covered with Orders of Service, the furnace is shutting down, and all Geneva is falling silent that I have my Christmas. It's a privilege and a joy – and I think I'm not describing it well. But this year, I am ready – more than ready – for that time.

A colleague called my attention to the words of the late Paul Carnes, President of the UUA more than 30 years ago. I pass them along to you:

As the winter solstice turns our earth and early twilight closes down the day, while all about December snowfall covers our streets and walks with its frosty garment, we come together as people have done from earliest times to celebrate with flame the waning winter and rejoice that our globe now swings once more toward the light. As our burning candles bespeak this

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ancient faith, so may it express our prayer that the power that directs our planet in its path will set such a solstice for our hopes for our future. From the dark hours of perversity and wrath, we pray that sad humanity may be guided in the path of peace, that like our earth we may emerge from darkness to a brighter day.

So indeed may it be – and may the peace and the joy of these Holy Days be with you all –

Blessed Be.

Lindsay



**Scott's REgards**  
the Rev. Scott Talbot Lewis

New Year's Resolutions don't work! At least not for me they don't. One slip-up and gosh the guilt is intense. So I think of the New Year as a time of "New Starts"; a time to make new habits and concentrate on growing in a way we hadn't thought of before.

One thing I'm planning to do is continue with my new yoga practice. I've learned about Hatha Yoga, which as it was presented to me is more about breath and meditation than it is about acrobatics. Whew... now I can love yoga!

Beginning with yoga I'm going to be kinder to my body... In Christian tradition the body is considered corrupt and unworthy of veneration. Today, more of us see the mind and body as interconnected. Being kinder to and bringing

attention to our bodies allows us to be kinder to ourselves in totality. When we care for our imperfect bodies, we can better love our imperfect selves.

News flash: Human beings no matter how hard we may try will never be perfect, no matter what we want to believe. Some of us grew up in homes where no one admitted to vulnerability. Where pride ruled and imperfection was never acknowledged. "Be perfect, but don't be a perfectionist," was the message we received.

Acknowledging our imperfections has an added bonus. When we are more compassionate with ourselves, we can easily be more compassionate with one another. Compassion is perhaps the greatest of human qualities. Theologian and religious historian, Karen Armstrong tells us that compassion is a value sacred to all religions. In the coming days we will need to be compassionate to maintain our humanity.

I fear that we are in a time when animosity will continue to escalate. We will need compassion to remember the humanity of others. Especially in the face of contempt and arrogance. We, each of us, need to be at the center of our own ever-widening circle of love, acceptance and compassion.

With joy, love and gratitude,

Rev. Scott

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### **boardblog - Gail Tattersfield**

At the beginning of our 175th year, let's count our many blessings, randomly remembered:

- Our Beautiful antique little church with amazing history.
- Excellent messages through sermons...some make us cry, many make

us laugh and all make us think!

- Varied music and gifted performers who enhance our services.
- Acceptance!
- Yummy treats and beverages at Coffee/Social hour that fill our tummies!
- Vibrant conversations at Social hours that start up or enhance friendships.
- Always a warm welcome at the door.
- Children's books that offer positive messages during For All Ages.
- Committees that support our church within our walls and in the wider world.
- Social Justice reaching out and encouraging us to help others.
- Friday Flicks teaching us about issues in the world and inviting the community to share with us.
- Supporting Lazarus House.
- Welcoming Team planning to educate new attendees about our church and religion and making them feel at home.
- Hospitality Team organizing social events...like Social Hours and the fall picnic open to all.
- Organizers to facilitate warm receptions after memorial services.
- Our UUSG Administrator and her assistant always willing to help and direct when asked.
- A large group of our members who offer their time to instruct our youngsters.
- An impressive program for our high schoolers where they learn inclusiveness and spend a summer week building through Habitat for Humanity.
- The winter holiday party organized for the young men at the Illinois Youth Center.
- Cookie Walk.
- Swedish Days Pizza Booth.
- Homecoming Sunday.
- Our Pioneer Newsletter and weekly Orders of Service.
- The Old Geezers and the Luncheonettes.
- Women's Circle and Women's Retreat.
- Bible Study from a unique perspective.
- Monthly group Hypnosis
- Meditation opportunities.
- WOW, where we can't begin to count how many have been helped.
- Simply Sharing.
- Choir.
- Christmas Eve Services.
- Bell Ringing and Chalice Lighting when the younger children are the stars.
- Steeple Walk.
- Auction fundraiser.
- Giving for the support of each other.
- Willing members who serve as volunteers, team leaders, on Council and on our Board Of Directors.
- Challenges that make us stretch and grow.
- The 7 Principles to guide us.
- Our Covenant and our unique History.
- Our custodial staff.
- Commit to Knit for others.
- Northern Illinois Food Bank packers.

- Youth Outlook.
- Doggie friends at church.
- Technology that challenges some of us.
- Holiday Lights Fund.
- Mental Health support.
- Friendships that develop.
- Memorial Garden.
- Memorial Services that truly honor.
- Folks willing to plan for us in case of emergency.
- Folks who work hard each spring to beautify our property.
- Financial types who keep our expenses in order.
- Heritage team that maintains our history.
- Make a Difference (MAD) to assist the needy privately.
- Church photos taken and ancient ones restored.
- Personnel Team that interview, recommend hiring and work with employees when needed.
- Worship Associates who guide the beginning of our services.
- Interweave for our GLTBQ members and friends.
- Reiki Groups.
- Nursery Caregivers.
- Circle Suppers and Sister Suppers.
- Puppet shows.
- Support for our planet's environment.
- Songs and special readings in our church hymnal.
- THIRTY EIGHT years of continuous pastoral leadership.

This list of blessings might not cover everything we have at UUSG, but as my list grew, it was pretty impressive...all that our church members, friends and staff accomplish throughout the year. Is there any doubt that we are quite amazing? Happy 175th Anniversary to the Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva.

Gail Tattersfield, Board of Directors

Questions or comments? Contact the [Board of Directors](#).



**Holiday Services Calendar - Please Join Us!**

- 12/24            4pm Family Christmas Eve Service
- 12/24            8pm Candlelight & Choir Christmas Eve Service
- 12/25            9:30am informal Christmas Morning service followed by a pot-luck brunch (no 11:15 service; come join us for brunch & fellowship!)
- 1/1/17           9:30am informal New Year's service with Fire Ritual followed by a pot-luck brunch (no 11:15 service; come join us for brunch & fellowship!)
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## December Music at UUSG

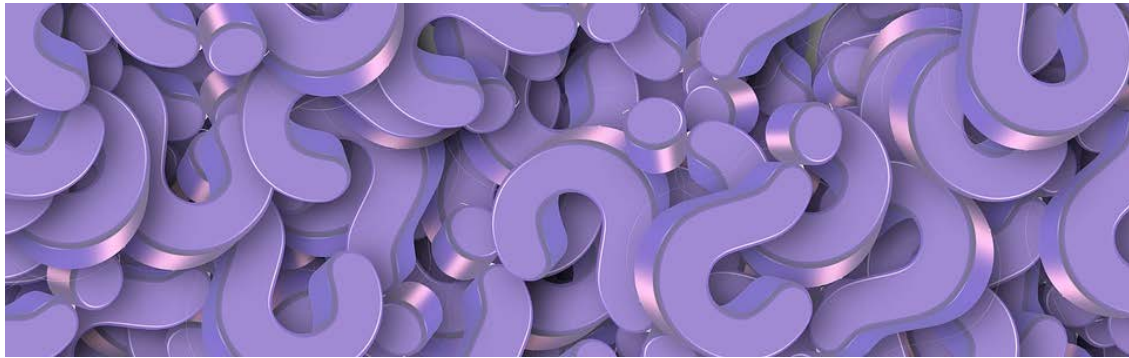
In a season of glorious music, we've been treated to the sublime harmonies of FUUsion, featuring Trish Beckjord, Pam Birch, Sara Hoerdeman, Lynn Fisher McCanne, Susan O'Neill, Dawn Pokorny, Rhonda Robinson, Shawna Tiffin and Pat Vary.

Pageant Sunday brought us wonderful selections both from vocalist and pianist Ellie Montgomery and the UUSG Pageant Band with Tracey McFadden, Andy Montgomery, Tracy Rosenkrans and Liam Johnson, with John Rosenkrans at the electronic keyboard. They rocked "The Grinch" and "Run, Run Rudolph," and led the congregation in carols shimmering with bells.

Showing their impressive talents at the keyboard have been Tom Zimmerman, Patricia Arzaga and Lynn Fisher McCanne.

We'll be unwrapping more musical gifts with the special Christmas Eve lineup of Ruth Cavanaugh leading the UUSG Choir, joined by string musicians Wendy Evans-Glazier, Larry Glazier, Stella Childs and John Rosenkrans and Lynn Fisher McCanne at the piano. Coming up will be vocalist Cynthia Spiegel, Tracy Rosenkrans and Meredith Vandre, as well as pianists Sandra Anderson-Cordogan, Geoff Pynn, Tom Zimmerman and Dean Malambri.

There's nothing else like the eclectic presentation of music, musicians, talents and collaboration at UUSG. To share your own special gift, offer suggestions, or express your appreciation of our work, please reach out to Music Director Tracy Rosenkrans at [music@uusg.org](mailto:music@uusg.org).



### **Information, Please?**

Are there issues, questions, concerns you have about how things are going around UUSG? Sometimes things happen, decisions get made, off-hand comments are overheard, and then folks start wondering what's going on. There is a solution! There are quite a few of us who'd be very glad to listen, pass along questions and information, help address concerns. Any member of our Board of Directors, our MOM team (Ellie Radvanovsky, Molly MacKay, Pat Ward, Patrick McGleam, Sean Hruby, and Bev Coe), our Personnel Team (Neill Shanahan, Lucy Thelin Atac, Walter Pearson, George Tattersfield), and of course Rev. Scott and Rev. Lindsay are glad to spend time listening and talking with you. Just let us know.

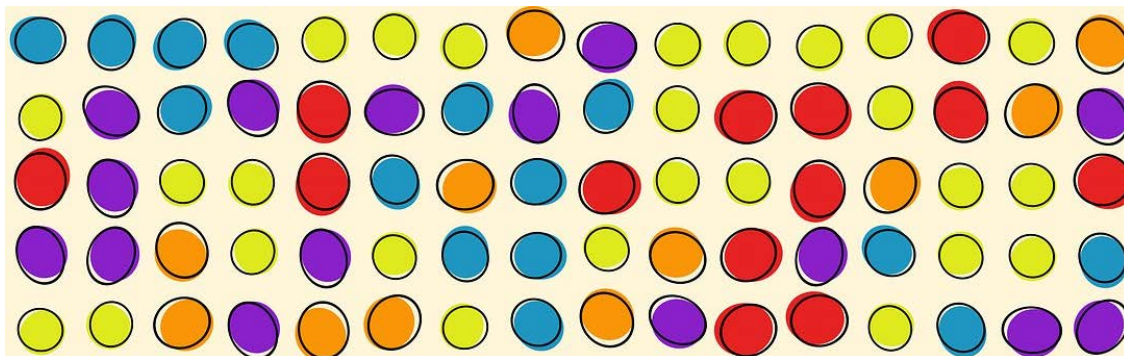




## RE Music at UUSG

Sundays in December have been filled with musical sounds of volunteer students on their chosen instruments: Kudos go to Adam Kuc on recorder, Maissy Littlefield on violin, Leo Liang on piano, Erin Rosenkrans on trumpet, and Corey Klein on trumpet, for gifting us with their musical sharings! RE Music resumes January 8, 2017.

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### Upcoming Office Closures & Staff Time Off

Christine Imielski, Cathi Plass, and Lisa Rittenberry will be off and the office closed on December 25-26 and January 1-2. There will be no regularly scheduled office hours December 26-30, all meetings are by appointment only. Thank you!

Rev. Scott Talbot Lewis will be on vacation December 26-31.

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### Seating in the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve

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 also for visitors looking for a

place to go on Christmas Eve.

Once there are 150 people in the room, our Greeters will have to turn people away. We'll broadcast the service into the Common Room for those who choose to stay and listen, but it's not ideal. We strongly recommend that families with young children plan to attend at 4 o'clock. That service contains all the central Christmas Eve elements, but is paced for shorter attention spans and lasts no more than an hour.

If the 8 o'clock service is your only option, please do plan to arrive well before 8pm. Latecomers are almost guaranteed seating in the Common Room.



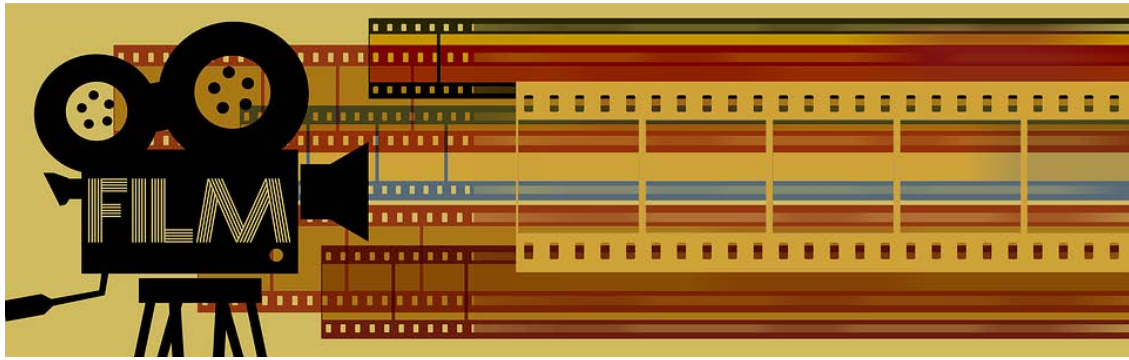
### **Winter Weather Closing Policy**

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 committee meetings, office hours, Sunday morning religious education, 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!

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## **Friday Flicks - Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War**

Friday, January 27, 2017 at 7:00pm  
UUSG Common Room

January's film is a documentary co-directed by Ken Burns and Artemis Joukowsky about a little-known but important mission by an American minister and his wife to rescue refugees and dissidents in Europe before and after the start of World War II.

The 90-minute film tells the story of Waitstill and Martha Sharp, a Unitarian minister and his wife from Wellesley, Massachusetts, who left their children behind in the care of their parish and boldly committed to multiple life-threatening missions in Europe. Over two dangerous years they helped to save hundreds of imperiled political dissidents and Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazi occupation across Europe.

"The story of Waitstill and Martha Sharp is one of the most incredible tales of compassion, sacrifice and heroism that I have ever heard, and I was completely unaware of it until five years ago when Artemis Joukowsky first shared it with me," said Ken Burns. "Nearly three years before America as a nation became involved in the Second World War, these two unassuming, so-called 'ordinary' Americans gave up everything they knew and loved and risked their lives to become involved in a war 4,000 miles away because they knew there were people in grave danger who needed help."



## Circles of Life

We send our loving sympathies to Gina Grupe and her family. Gina's dad passed away earlier this month after a long illness.

Congratulations, best wishes, and much joy to Rev. Scott Talbot Lewis and Tony Gibbons, married by Rev. Lindsay at their home on December 9. Also a thank you to them both for the Open House the following day ~ wonderful food, wonderful company, and a lovely home. May they have many, many years in it!

News about George Hickman from his daughter, Sally: Dad celebrated his 97th birthday on Saturday. He continues to love life and his family, just as he always has. Dad lived with me in Oakland for three years after leaving Batavia. A year and a half ago we moved him to a retirement community called Sunrise. He is well cared for and loved by staff and his friends. My sister Annie and her husband Allynn and my brother Andy visited recently, and my daughter, grandsons, & I see him often. We send love and best wishes to our good friends at UUSG.

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## Annual Day Of Service

Our Annual Day of Service will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2017. We hope you'll mark your calendar to join us for a volunteer effort, for dinner, or for both! If you're interested in joining the planning team, there are a variety of ways to get involved.

Contact Lisa Gades [dayofservice@uusg.org](mailto:dayofservice@uusg.org) if you'd like to help.

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### **Kicking off our 175th Anniversary year!**

We are ushering in our year-long celebration of UUSG's 175th anniversary with New Year 2017! Keep an eye on the Mini-Pioneer, weekly emails and the UUSG calendar for announcements of special events as we recognize and honor this significant milestone.

We hope you have had a chance to admire the enlargements of one of the historic photos of the church, and of the historic architectural drawing, both on display in the Common Room. Many thanks to Pat Ward for helping select a sampling of historic photos and documents from the Heritage Team's archives. And special thanks to Patrick McGleam for creating the beautiful enlargements. The photo from the late 1800's shows the fence that once surrounded the church yard to keep the cows out - apparently they roamed the streets of Geneva during pioneer days! Throughout our 175th year we will be displaying more photos and documents to remind us of our long and wonderful journey.

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### **IYC - Thank You!**

A big thanks to all who helped share some holiday fun with a group of young men incarcerated at the Illinois Youth Center in St. Charles: Melissa Auer, Deb Brod, Don Brod, Kevin Beyer, Sapphire Ciesielczyk, Colleen Cushing, Kendra Dicker, Brian Doyle, Catherine Eaton, Jeff Eaton, William Elbert, Mary Enck, Debra Fleischman, Aaron Fogleman, Diane Handler, Sharon Hansen, Alma Hidalgo, Kate Johnson, Cathy Kern, Keith Knazze, Bill Koehl, Deb Leoni, Steve Lougheed, Pat McGleam, Heather Michael Heather Vohny Moehling, Lauren Richards, Christina A. Robledo, Ericka Sasso, Robert Savage, Bill Scown, Jeannie Scown, Toussaint Smith, Gail Tattersfield, Shawn Thornton, Pat Vary, and Susan Weimer. A good time was had by all. Some people assisted at the party while others baked/bought cookies, donated items or helped with preparations. Prior to the party, over 125 gift bags were assembled, containing items such as body wash, playing cards, comic books, candy and socks, and will be delivered to the Center in time for Christmas. For over 20 years, members of UUSG have held a holiday party at the Youth Center, reminding these youth that they are not forgotten. UUSG contributions have made a difference for these young men. Thanks so much to everyone who made this event possible.

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## Commit To Knit

Warm hands, warm heart -- For some of us, this means creating peace and hope one stitch at a time. Please join us in knitting, crocheting, and quilting items for distribution to women and children around the country and the world through [knitting4peace.org](http://knitting4peace.org). Usually we gather in the Common Room between services on the first Sunday of each month, but at the beginning of 2017 we're moving to January 8 to avoid the holiday.

For more information, contact Katherine Lyons ([knitting@uusg.org](mailto:knitting@uusg.org)).

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# LEADERSHIP

## Church Leadership and YOU

Have you thought about serving in church leadership someday? We're looking for members who are interested in serving on the Board of Directors. We aren't necessarily talking about next year, but maybe a few years out. Being on the board may not work for you right now, but perhaps it's something that you'd like to explore in the future. We'd love to give you more information, with no commitment from you.

If you'd like to know more, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee: Jim Frazier (chair), Jim King, Ali Lanthrum, Lucy Thelin Atac

and Eric Jonke.

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**"UUism in 4 Easy Lessons" – With Rev. Scott Talbot Lewis**

Wednesdays, January 18 & 25 and February 8 & 15  
7:30 pm in the Servetus Room

After people join the church they usually want to know what's the best way to get integrated into church life. One excellent choice is UUism in 4 Easy Lessons. Modified from a UUA Adult Enrichment program, "4 Lessons" is a fun and easy way to know about the history, values, beliefs and church governance in Unitarian Universalist congregations all over the United States and Canada. It is a strongly recommended program for new members, but pillars of the UUSG have really enjoyed it too. (Registration is limited to 12 so please notify our Church School Coordinator as soon as you can to claim your spot, [lre@uusg.org](mailto:lre@uusg.org))

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**Food Bank Group News**



Thank you to the following people who volunteered at the Northern Illinois Food Bank in December. Together they packed Holiday Meal Boxes filled with **10190 lbs of food!** James Carroll, Jamie Carroll, Salome Fogleman, Cari Gesiakowski, Griffin Johnson, Liam Johnson, Kate Johnson, Eric Jonke, Ethan Jonke, Aidan Leggett, Amy Leggett, Dylan Leggett, Ti Leggett, Vera Lind, Doreen Mace, Andy Montgomery, Ellie Montgomery, Jenny Montgomery, Max Montgomery, Nate Ng, Diane Rodi, Nancy Steinke, Susan Weimer, and Joyce Whitehead.

In the past twelve months the UUSG Food Bank Team has performed **810 hours of volunteer service** at the Northern Illinois Food Bank. In that time we processed **88,582 pounds of food**. That is more than 44 tons! Our UUSG friends and family have made a meaningful difference in the lives of our neighbors in need.

We also had a record number of individuals participating this year with **114 people**. Thank you Mark Adams, Mavra Ali, Allyson Armstrong, Katie Baar, Kevin Beyer, Jenn Borchek, Lisa Brennan, Maddison Brennan, Mike Brennan, Betty Bristol, William Brodeur, James Carroll, Jamie Carroll, Elke Chateau, Nancy Christensen, Lia Conklin, Kathy Cornell, Teal Cyko, Huli Davalos, Dave Davis, Mary Davis, Elizabeth Fanella-Brennan, Halley Fogarty, Salome Fogleman, Lisa Gades, Diane Gallentine, Roger Gallentine, Joni Garcia, Cari Gesiakowski, Kieth Gesiakowski, Eleanor Hamilton, Kate Herrera, Jett Herrera-Glezen, Justine Jennings, Griffin Johnson, Kate Johnson, Liam Johnson, Audrey Jonke, Bryce Jonke, Eric Jonke, Ethan Jonke, Mary-Margaret Jonke, Sarah Jonke, Mohammad Khan, Chuck Lantz, Karen Laukaitis, Shannon Laukaitis, Aidan Leggett, Amy Leggett, Dylan Leggett, Ti Leggett, Harrison Lemme, Vera Lind, Brad Lipman, Doris Lipman, Amanda Littauer, Gary Littlefield, Maissy Littlefield, Doreen Mace, Mike Machnik, Molly MacKay Zacker, Dan Masini, Katie Masini, Carolyn McDonald, Matt McGahan, Omar Mejia, Samantha Mejia, Andy Montgomery, Ellie Montgomery, Jenny Montgomery, Max Montgomery, Nate Ng, Jeevan Noel, Gary Noll, Kathie Noll, Alec Palmer, Elena Palmer, Evan Palmer, Hugh Palmer, Lou Pierce, Cathi Plass, Emily Plass, Ellie Radvanovsky, Tim Riley, Yvonne Riley, Diane Rodi, Anna Rosenkrans, Erin Rosenkrans, John Rosenkrans, Tracy Rosenkrans, Hamid Rusef, Ramsey Rusef, Tom Russo, Craig Smit, Ilene Smit, Zoe Steele, Nancy Steinke, Amy Swanson, Bob Swanson, Mary Swanson, Martha Tabis, Scott Talbot Lewis, Ryan Thornton, Evelyn Tomchek, Pat Vary, Susan Weimer, Chris Weithers, Quinn Welsh, Ed Wheling, Ruth Wheling, Josh White, Joyce Whitehead, David Zacker, and Zoe Zacker.

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## **New2U - A Fresh Start to the New Year!**

Ahhh . . . The hectic holidays are behind us -- time to make more room for living by clearing out the basement, attic, closets! And, while you're at it, make some cash for UUSG, while getting a tax deduction for yourself, by listing on New2U. N2U accepts items with a minimum value of \$25; for items that sell for \$100 or over, you can opt to split the proceeds with N2U. It's easy! [Get started](#). Questions? Contact [New2U](#).

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## **Equal Exchange Fair Trade**

EQUAL EXCHANGE/fair trade: UUSG supports Equal Exchange fair trade by purchasing coffee, tea and sugar for church use. In addition EE/ft products are for sale to the Congregation and friends at no or very low mark-up. These products are displayed in the Common Room north Armoire.

NEW offerings include: milk and dark chocolate bars, extra virgin olive oil, peppermint tea, dark chocolate cocoa and SALE items. The dark chocolate cocoa is delightful in chili and coffee and sprinkled on just about anything.

Are you concerned about lead and cadmium levels in some dark chocolate? Please see the 2-page response from Equal Exchange posted in the armoire.

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## **Warmth for the Homeless**

If you have old warm coats, jackets, hats, gloves, socks, sweatshirts and sweatpants, sweaters and even old WARM blankets, please consider donating to the homeless in Elgin, who can really use these items this winter. Contact Gail Tattersfield to make arrangements for delivery or pick up. Thank you!

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### **Giving “Beyond Our Walls”**

This month, we’re collecting for our “Holiday Lights” Fund, which will provide holiday gifts for the following:

- (1) “Elba’s Kids”: neglected and abused children and teens;
- (2) Gifts to the children of the families living in the Habitat for Humanity houses built by our YRUU youth, young adults, and local Pottawatomie Habitat chapter.

You do not need to decide which of the two to support. All will benefit from your contribution unless you target your donation to one of the causes.

Write checks to “UUSG” with “BOW” in the memo line.



## Get Involved with Interweave

Interweave is a local group of GLBTQ members, friends and allies who meet once a month to have time together for discussions and special events. We will meet at 12:30 after second service on Sunday, January 15 to plan for our annual LGBTQ Friday Flicks and church service. For information please contact Lynn Steele at [interweave.leader@uusg.org](mailto:interweave.leader@uusg.org).

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## Elba's Kids - You Can Make A Difference

Many in our congregation know that I work with neglected/abused children and traumatized families. It is clear that these children and families are marginalized in many ways. They have suffered unspeakable atrocities, and many are on the verge of giving up hope. Would you like to join me in helping these children and families to know that they matter, that they are important, that others have compassion for their circumstances? If so, please donate to the Holiday Lights Collection or visit the [Amazon Wishlist at Elba Karim](#) and enter [elbajkarim@gmail.com](mailto:elbajkarim@gmail.com) to purchase targeted gifts. In addition, gift cards in any denomination towards food (Aldi, Meijer, Caputo's), gasoline, discount stores (Target, Meijer, Kohls, etc.), craft stores (JoAnns, Michael's) or community outings (movies, bowling, go-karting, haircuts, restaurants) and donations of money are greatly appreciated (please designate Elba's Kids, Holiday Lights on your check). Kohl's cash is especially useful, as well.

Please know that it is usually the teenagers that suffer most, as they not only realize the impact of their outcries of abuse, but are usually the last to be offered items for the holidays. If you have new or very gently used, gift-worthy items such as a used iPod or iPod Touch, costume jewelry, craft supplies, etc., you can contact me directly to arrange for pick-up, or leave them clearly labeled in the YRUU room. Items are needed year-round, but the holidays take a special toll on these families. Items intended for this holiday season would best be contributed by December 21, 2016 so that they can be sorted and delivered, although giftcards and money are welcome at any time. Thank you for your help. - Elba Karim

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### Keep it together, people!

It takes teamwork to keep our buildings in good repair, and the team that does it has openings for new members. Your facilities team manages contractors and volunteers who maintain and repair every aspect of the UUSG buildings, and the historic nature of our buildings makes this a creative, educational endeavor. If you're interested in project management or any aspect of home repair, make your interest more meaningful by joining the UUSG Facilities Team. Contact us at [facilities@uusg.org](mailto:facilities@uusg.org).



### Thanksgiving 2017

**THANKSGIVING 2017:** is Thursday 11/23. Mark your calendar for the 5th Annual UUSG Thanksgiving Day Dinner. Site and details shared in

October 2017.

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**The Office Report**  
Christine Imielski  
Congregational Administrator

What a busy month it has been at UUSG! When I first started back in May, many of you told me that summers were quiet compared to the rest of the year. While I thought the summer months were plenty busy, in retrospect they are quiet compared to the excitement and cheer of the Holidays here. With the Auction, Thanksgiving Dinner, Cookie Walk, Food Drive, Christmas Eve Services, and various other activities, I continue to be in awe of all the involvement and dedication of the UUSG Congregation to the Church. To see how many of you volunteer your time and talents to the Church and community at large is quite inspiring. Gail's list in the Board Blog this month was right-on-target!

With 2017 a few days away, I'd like to highlight some upcoming projects that I will be completing and/or sending out in January:

- The 2017 UUSG Directory
- Year-End Donor Statements
- Budget Requests to Team Leaders and Group Facilitators for the FY 2017-2018 budget

As always, please feel free to contact me at [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org) or 630-232-2350. I wish you all a very Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Also, if anyone has seen our moving dolly, please let me know.

Warm wishes,

Christine



Website



Podcast



Contact Us



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