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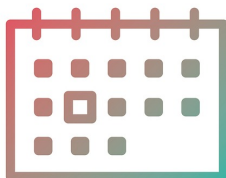
Unitarian Universalist
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Pioneer Newsletter

October - November 2018

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On the Journey

by Rev. Jennifer Innis

In September, Patrick and I outlined how we divide the areas of congregational life in our co-ministry with you. In the big picture of the organization, I focus on faith development, including pastoral care and stewardship as well as adult and children programs. Patrick focuses on public ministry and operations, including worship, staff supervision, social

justice, and the care of the building and grounds.

The foundation of any ministry depends on creating and taking care of relationships. Because Patrick and I still are meeting many of you and just learning your names, we invite you to reach out to us, also known as, When to Call the Minister.

When to Call the Minister

When you don't know us, but would like to.

When you have problems you would like to discuss . . . with your job, children, marriage, or anything else where a sympathetic ear might help.

When you are going to the hospital or someone else in the congregation is. (Please keep in mind that most local hospitals will only notify your minister if you ask them to do so.)

When someone close to you has died or is critically ill.

When you are planning to be married or divorced.

When you would like to have your child dedicated.

When you are expecting a new child in your life and are glad you are, or wish you weren't.

When you are not expecting a new child in your life, but wished you were.

When you are considering joining the congregation.

When a small gift from the ministerial assistance fund would help you survive.

When you are upset with one or both of the interim ministers.

When you would like to talk about religion.

When you have questions about changes to worship.

When you want the ministers to know how this congregation makes a difference in your life.

When you would like to discuss the changes of this congregation and your hopes and fears for the future.

In short, we welcome your calls, notes, emails, invitations to coffee and lunch as we continue this interim year together. More than a settled minister, we rely on you to approach us with your cares and concerns. Please let us know how we may be of service.

Themes for 2018-2019

The Interim Co-Ministers in collaboration with the Worship Team offer a monthly theme for the worship life of the church. These themes help us build a common vocabulary for spiritual exploration. The themes also let us discover words and ideas we may never have considered before they were right in front of us. Worship led by Rev. Jennifer and Rev. Patrick will be related to the theme. Other groups and classes are invited to include the theme in their discussion and programs. The themes for 2018-2019 are:

September: Faith

October: Death

November: Forgiveness

December: Hope

January: Justice

February: Love

March: Brokenness

April: Transformation
May: Transcendence

Theme for November: Forgiveness

In the All Souls worship on October 28, Rev. Price included ways to reflect on memory, healing, and thanksgiving. Such a worship serves as a bridge into the theme of forgiveness. The worship this month will build on exploring forgiveness as we move deeper into the holiday season. For this newsletter, we begin with recognizing our failings and vulnerability in this meditation by Elizabeth Tarbox, the late Unitarian Universalist minister and author of *Evening Tide: Meditations*.

PENITENT'S PRAYER

Meditation by Elizabeth Tarbox

It is an hour before sunrise. The waves keep coming, but each minute they make less progress than the minute before. As the tide goes out, the beach is exposed—a million pebbles just visible in the lifting of night, a periwinkle clinging to a rock, a horseshoe crab scrambling to catch the receding ocean—and I am exposed in all my hurts and frailties. My composure drains away with the tide, and the disheveled beach mirrors the ragged edges of my soul. The whole bay is my confessional, the breath of dawn my confessor.

I have been so consumed with my own hurts that I've forgotten to call a friend whose hurt is equal to my own. I put off doing those things that might bring healing to someone who is broken, or joy to someone who is sad, or compassion to someone who is at odds with the rhythm of life, because I cared more for my own loneliness. I refused the hand of one who reached out to me, clinging instead to old familiar ways. I chose to remain stuck inside a problem, rather than ask for help to solve it.

I pray that some benevolent spirit has listened to my heart's despair and judged me not. At the edge of the clouds a rim of cream appears. Night creeps away with my guilt beneath its cloak. Dawn sprinkles absolution, the earth has kept its promise. Forgiveness is at hand.



Circles of Life

We are deeply saddened to share that UUSG Member, Jill Brown, passed away on October 1. A Celebration of Life Service will be held at UUSG on Saturday, November 10, with visitation from 11am to 12pm in the Common Room, and the service beginning at 12pm. There will be fellowship and refreshments after the service. We welcome donations of food and beverages for the reception, [please sign up here](#) or in the Common Room. We send our loving condolences to Don and Jill's family and friends. May the upcoming days and months surround you with love.





Board Blog

Board Blog - "A Few Words About Democracy" by David de Coriolis, Board President

It's late October. One day just a week ago I was working in the yard and it was so hot, I had to rest between bouts of raking and window washing. Then yesterday Rhonda and I were comfortably tucked up in our family room and witnessed a snow squall, trees whipping and bending, giant flakes pummeling the house. Proves the adage, if you don't like the

weather here in Chicago-land, just wait an hour.

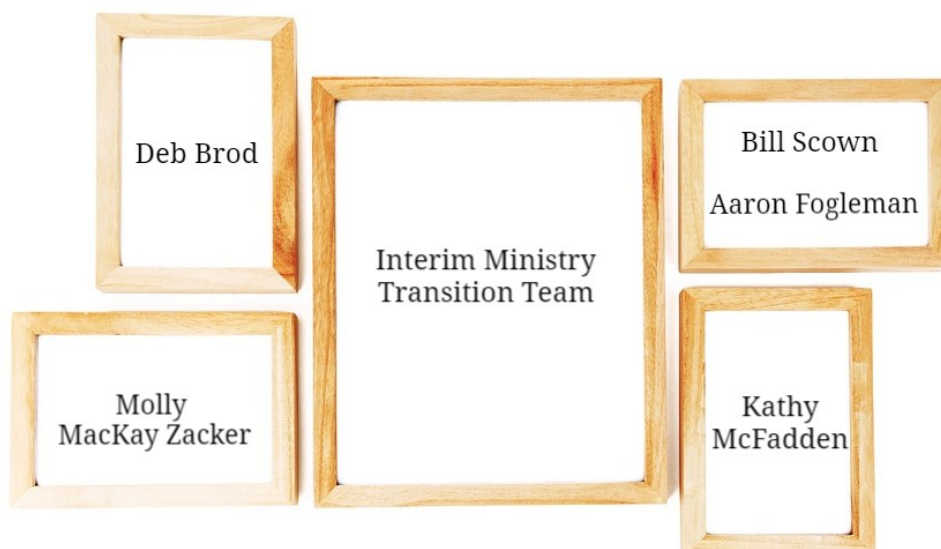
It's just October, and the Board has already been busy. For example, we were informed about staffing concerns for adding an after second service coffee hour. Along with unseasonable heat and snow showers, we have been challenged by congregational issues around forgiveness and redemption in the context of our covenant. What have we learned, and what do we want to suggest?

Difficult decisions are often best reached face to face, discussed over a cup of coffee or two.

And those difficult decisions are best reached with a group of committed fellow UUs like the groups I am privileged to serve with this year. I could not have asked for a better board. They are thoughtful, patient, direct and honest.

What about democracy? And what about democracy in our church? Each year the nominating committee puts up a slate of directors who are elected to the board. And they are entrusted by the congregation to deliberate over many issues, some involving matters that can only be handled in executive session. These sessions are held to consider personal issues that must remain private and confidential. In keeping with our covenant of being in right relation with one another, we are duty bound to keep these discussions closed and not to reveal them to the wider congregation. However, decisions reached in executive session appear in the minutes.

And your board, committed to the safety and prosperity of UUSG takes this responsibility with the utmost seriousness. So let's keep the coffee coming and keep the faith with one another over matters great and small no matter the weather. We have many issues to discuss with one another over this next year. Keep the coffee pot on.



Interim Ministry Transition Team

The board of directors appreciate all the nominations we have received for positions on the interim minister team. There were many outstanding candidates for this team. The following people were selected to serve in this very important role; Deb Brod, Bill Scown, Kathleen McFadden, Molly MacKay Zaker and Aaron Fogelman.



Our House

The Facilities Team hopes to finish the wood trim and touch-up painting around the porches on the Pioneer House on Saturday, November 3. If the weather doesn't cooperate, then our alternate date is Sunday, November 4. We can only hope the weather is as nice as it was when we installed the floor boards in September. Having a few more volunteers on November 3 or 4, would be a big help too! Let Kevin O'Neill know if you're available.

We are glad to announce that the roofing project over the Common Room has been completed.

Soon the Facilities Team will be turning its attention to interior projects, so if you'd like to see our historic site preserved, our meeting space improved, or our classrooms enhanced, then please contact Kevin O'Neill at facilities@uusg.org. We have a wide range of projects requiring varying levels of skill, so anyone can help.



Thanks for the Flowers

Over this past spring, summer and fall, Karen Laukaitis has coordinated the landscaping team. Now that the growing season has nearly passed, we wanted to give a big thanks to Karen for her diligence and commitment to keeping our planting areas beautiful. We also want to give a big thanks to Karin Kemp and Karen Moore for their efforts to keep the flower urns outside the sanctuary looking fresh and seasonal.



UUSG Music News

UUSG Music

As UUSG explores a reflective theme for October, services have been underscored with beautiful music, including a turn by the UUSG Choir. The skilled singers were led in inspiring selections by Cynthia Spiegel, including gorgeous piano accompaniment by Sandra Anderson.

Shining at the piano have been Lynn Fisher McCanne, Geoff Pynn and Angela Salvaggione, who brings her improvisational gifts to the forefront.

Looking ahead, we'll be treated to the rousing talents of The MUUSA Band featuring John Sandman, Jeff Teppema and Tracy Dullea; The RE Music Students led by Sandra; and The Jazz Combo with Michael Townley, Michael Bazan, Geoff and Tracy. Tracey McFadden will display his inventive flair as he leads the veterans day music with Brian Joose, and we will welcome back pianist Robert Vanderschaaf.

Be a part of the joy of music – there is a place for you in our Music Ministry! Students, amateurs, professionals, adults, and youth. Please contact Music Director Tracy Dullea at music@uusg.org today!



RE Music News

"I Have a Dream," we sing, we the young people of UUSG. We sing of "justice for all." We sing "let freedom ring." Come let us share this with you, and come share in our singing, during services, on Sunday November 4. RE Music Students, led by Sandra Anderson, with assistance from Dawn Pokorny and Parvaneh Smith.



Women's Circle: Nature's Gifts to the Soul

There are so many ways to experience the spiritual through nature that have been celebrated by different cultures around the world and through time. This month we'd like to expand on nature as a spiritual practice and talk at a more personal level of the gifts we receive in and through nature.

What speaks to you? A breath of air, the fragrance of a flower, the silken texture of a stone? Perhaps it is the night sky or the opportunity to experience a place of great natural beauty. In this Women's Circle

program we will share what we feel we receive from nature and – perhaps – what we miss when our access to it is taken away.

Before we gather, try to spend some time outside to reflect on nature. If you have a meditation practice try using a natural object as your focus. Or see if you can remember a time in nature when you have felt a deep sense of peace.

While many naturally move to nature to feel renewed perhaps this is not your source of spirit. Don't think that eliminates you from the conversation and absolute joy we receive from being together through our Women's Circle programs! Whatever your theology, we hope you are able to join us for our October program.

Be there! Saturday, October 27, 1-4pm, at UUSG.

Please bring something with you that represents what speaks most strongly to you about your experience of nature; a photograph, a stone, a feather, a flower.

Not signed up yet? [Please Sign Up Here](#). We are still looking for one more person to help with set-up and one more for clean-up. Thank you to those who have already registered! And while you're at it register for Saturday Nov. 17, on the calendar too! What a perfect time to talk about gratitude! November's date will be the last Women's Circle until February.



Mental Health Ministry: The Opioid Epidemic

On October 28, at 1pm, Roxanne Willis and the Mental Health Ministry will present on the topic of prescription opioids and heroin addiction in our local communities. Roxanne will present on the topic of prevalence, diagnosis, and treatment. Bill Scown will discuss possible responses our church might take in response to this crisis, particularly by working with the Fox Valley Initiative. Please join us in the Common Room for this important discussion, which is free and open to the public.



UUSG Circle Suppers 2019!

Circle Suppers involve revolving groupings of participants who take turns hosting or providing a part of the meal for each of four monthly suppers. Participating pairs or singles will be grouped with different participants for each of the four suppers, which are held in January, February, March, and April. This is a great opportunity to meet UUSG Members & Friends that you may not know! [Sign up online at uusg.org/circle-suppers](https://uusg.org/circle-suppers) or fill out a form in the Common Room. Questions? Contact Mary Swanson at circlesuppers@uusg.org.



Women's Retreat 2019: Registration Now Open!

[Registration for the 6th Annual Women's Retreat is now open here.](#) The retreat will be held February 1-3, 2019. Registration closes December 8. Make sure you sign up soon as spots fill up quickly. The retreat will be an exploration of "Awakening Joy by Embracing Change." Please contact Rachel Harbold at womensretreat@uusg.org if you would like more information.



Annual UUSG Thanksgiving Dinner

No plans for Thanksgiving? Family lives too far away? Then join fellow UUs for the 6th Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner. Family and friends are welcome. We usually have about 20-30 attendees. Turkey and ham will be

provided; please bring a dish to share. Dinner is located at UUSG Member Vohny Moehling's home: 205 Fellows Street in St. Charles. Doors open at 1:15 with snacks and beverages available. Dinner will be served at 2pm. We enjoy a bountiful dinner with fellowship before and after the meal. [Sign up here](#) or on the sign-up sheet in the Common Room.

What: Annual UUSG Thanksgiving Dinner/Feast
When: 2:00pm on November 22, Thanksgiving Day
Where: 205 Fellows Street, St Charles, IL
Who: YOU!



Help Getting to the Poll to Vote

If you, your friends or neighbors need help getting to the polls to vote on November 6 the Social Justice team is offering transportation and assistance. Send an email to socialjustice@uusg.org or call Bill Scown at 630-360-0905.



Adopt-a-Plot: Thank You to Our Wonderful Volunteers!

Adopt-a-Plot would like to thank the following "weeders" for their hard work and dedication the past seven months:

Nate Thomas, Jan Miller, Kathy Meier, Mary Swanson, Velma Powers, Melissa Auer, Clair Ryan, Carol Myers, Becky Hruby, Sean Hruby, Glenda Peck, Laura Bartosek, Renne Tomell, Marilyn Hebda, Mylane Bryant, Diane Galentine, Meredith Vandre, Llona Steele, Sally Jones, Ann Drover, Sherri Casterline, Bill Koehl, Shawn Thornton, Nancy Steinke, Ro Maziarz, Elke Chateau, and Stan Oke.

Our grounds look wonderful thanks to our dedicated volunteers and we appreciate all that you do! Thank you!



What Can Be Done?

Project SnowFall's Letter to Our Congregation #6

October 25, 2018

"The September temperature across global land and ocean surfaces was 1.40°F above the 20th century average of 59.0°F and tied with 2017 as the fourth highest for September in the 1880-2018 record." (1)

Our previous letters discussed the urgent need for action to fight climate change. The natural question is just what can be done?

The Project Drawdown answers exactly this question. For the past five years, hundreds of scientists have conducted research and compiled the data on hundreds of climate solutions. These are not concepts or prototypes. These were found “in applied, hands-on practices and technologies that are commonly available, economically viable, and scientifically valid.” (2)

They created detailed climate and financial models for each of these. A 120 member advisory board of a wide variety of earth scientists, economists, politicians and activists reviewed this work.

A book detailing this work was published last year with the subtitle: [*The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming.*](#) The project continues to collect and organize information with a much more extensive collection at drawdown.org.

The table of contents divides over 100 of these solutions into several areas including energy, food, women and girls, buildings and cities, land use and materials.

The projected cost to implement all of these solutions is \$129 trillion over thirty years. That is about \$440 per person per year. They also detail net cost of making these changes as compared to continuing business as usual. Making these changes would actually save \$74 trillion over thirty years. In other words, it costs much more to not make these changes.

The title Drawdown, refers to reducing the green house gases in the atmosphere. Simply reducing our current emissions is not adequate to end global warming. And it does not factor tipping points or cascading events like the loss of methane sinks or antarctic ice shelves. There is still urgency. But there is possibility, if we act.

The point is that not only is there a lot that can be done, there is a lot that is being done. The primary obstacle is political will, not technological prowess. We have to want this to happen.

(1) <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/news/global-climate-201809>

(2) [Drawdown, Edited by Paul Hawkins](#)



October Friday Flick: Almost Sunrise

This month's Friday Flick is hosted by the UUSG Veterans Group. Please plan on joining us in **the Common Room October 26, at 7pm**, for this informative film on awareness and treatment of Moral Injury.

Almost Sunrise tells the inspiring story of two young men, Tom Voss and Anthony Anderson, who, in an attempt to put their haunting Iraq combat experiences behind them, embark on an extraordinary journey – a 2,700 mile trek on foot across America.

The film also acts as an urgent call for communities to better understand these deep-seated psychic wounds caused by a condition called “moral injury.” Moral injury is a relatively new concept that involves psychological and spiritual wounds that result from experiences that conflict with one’s deeply held beliefs of right and wrong. The key precondition for moral injury is an act of transgression, which shatters moral and ethical expectations. The injury can arise in a variety of forms ranging from perpetrating, failing to prevent, bearing witness to, or learning about acts that transgress deeply held moral beliefs and expectations. It is the resulting loss of the sense of personal worth from the moral injury that leads to overwhelming guilt, depression, and thoughts of self-harm. And moral injury as a diagnosis separate from PTSD better explains some of the recent spike in veteran suicides. *Almost Sunrise* acts as an urgent call for communities to better understand these deep-seated psychic wounds, and for the government to acknowledge and finally treat moral pain by using methods other than pills. *Almost Sunrise* deftly and movingly demonstrates the promise of holistic healing practices which the VA and private counselors are using to address this newly recognized condition.



Green Sanctuary News

Save the Date for the UUSG Harvest Dinner, Saturday, November 10, at 5pm. All Are Welcome to Our Annual Harvest Supper! Have you signed up yet? Come enjoy delicious fare by signing up [here](#). The menu will be the same as in previous years: Crock-Pot soups, healthy salads, casseroles, homemade breads, and (of course) desserts. If you would like beer or wine, feel free to bring your own (or some to share). Our speaker this year will be: SOIL, Save Our Illinois Land. The Canadian Tar Sands pipelines are headed our way. What we can do to stop this. The UUA calls on everyone to assist the First Nation Peoples in their fight against the pipelines in the strongest possible way. Please note that we are not able to offer childcare for this event.

Citizens Climate Lobby Meeting Announcement: The November meeting has been moved up one week because of Thanksgiving. The meeting location alternates monthly between UUSG and Hawthorne Hills Nature Center. This month, the meeting is at UUSG. The next meeting is Wednesday, Nov. 14, at 6:30pm, in the Common Room.



**UUSG Auction 2018: "Auctions Speak Louder than Tweets!"
Saturday, November 3, 5-8:30pm**

For Families and Children: This year's auction has a number of items of interest to families – from a scavenger hunt to baskets of books, from the fixin's for s'mores to a bicycle! So plan on coming and bring your kids. We have special activities and food in children's rooms. Sign up on the bulletin board or contact auctionleader@uusg.org by October 28 to tell us your children are coming with you.

Advance Bidding begins Oct. 28: Catalogs will be available October 28, when everyone is welcome to begin bidding and even claim some items before the auction. Beginning October 28, Advance Bidding will be possible. Learn how at the Auction Table or email auctionleader@uusg.org.

Volunteers needed: We still need help with greeting people/check in and with selling raffle tickets. Contact Jean Pierce at auctionleader@uusg.org.

RSVP: Please tell us how many people to expect and what finger foods you will bring by signing up on the bulletin board or [online here](#).



November's Friday Flick: *Rise of the Superstorms*

In just one devastating month, Houston, Florida, and the Caribbean were changed forever. In summer 2017, three monster hurricanes swept in from the Atlantic one after another, shattering storm records and killing hundreds of people. First, Harvey brought catastrophic rain and flooding to Houston, causing \$125 billion in damage. Less than two weeks later, Irma lashed the Caribbean with 185 mile per hour winds - and left the island of Barbuda uninhabitable. Hot on Irma's heels, Maria intensified from a Category 1 to a Category 5 hurricane in just 15 hours, then ravaged Puerto Rico and left millions of people without power.

As the planet warms, are these superstorms the new normal? How well can we predict them and does the U.S. need to prepare for the reality of climate refugees? This documentary takes you inside the 2017 superstorms and the cutting-edge research that will determine how well equipped we are to deal with hurricanes in the future.

Please join us on Friday, November 23, at 7pm in the Common Room.



A Thank You from Gail Tattersfield

Dear Ones,

How do I begin to thank all of our people for making the Celebration of George's Life just perfect. Rev. Jennifer and Rev. Patrick lead the service....and did not bat an eye when things popped up that were off the schedule. Rev. Jennifer spent a large chunk of one afternoon learning as much about George as possible and then spent time talking to our children in person and by phone to learn even more about their dad.

Tracey Dullea corralled The Band, Tracey, herself, Tracy McFadden, Andy Montgomery, and Geoff Pynn. They were eager to play a group of songs that were a perfect mix of pieces from our Hymnal and some of my favorite non-traditional ones as well.

Vohny Moehling and Jeanne Neltor, with help from Kathy Meier, coordinated refreshments before and after the service with many food donations from friends. They had a challenging job with a large crowd.

The readers, Don Brod, Pat O'Malley, Melissa Auer and Thom Thomas presented the four chosen readings.

Patrick McGleam seemed to be everywhere leading the guests and finding seats for as many as possible in our modestly sized yet perfect church. I know others pitched in to aid with ushering, as well.

Jeff Stibal our Tech expert assembled an astounding number of photos sent to him from George's loved ones into a loop of memories.

Still others brought food, helped to move chairs, answered questions and did whatever they could do to help.

My family and out of town friends were floored by the loving kindness and support they could feel from all of you.

I have never felt so loved from any group...you all are just perfect. Thank you!



Get Involved With Interweave

Interweave is a local group of LGBTQ members, friends and allies who meet once a month to have time together for discussions and special events. We will meet Sunday November 18, after second service about 12:30pm, to discuss current events and share stories about lives and interests. We will make plans for our next social gathering scheduled for Sunday December 16. And we will discuss plans for our 2019 LGBTQ church activities leading up to the annual LGBTQ service. For information please contact Lynn Steele at interweave.leader@uusg.org.



Bible Study for UUs

For UUs who simply want to learn more about the Bible as literature, "Bible Study for UUs" is on the third Monday of each month, 7-8:30pm. Our next meeting will be on November 19. We will be discussing Exodus. For more info, please contact Jim Frazier biblestudy@uusg.org.



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. When purchasing items, please make your check to "UUSG" with "EE/ft" in the memo. Place checks in the coffee can in the armoire. Requests and suggestions are always welcome - please add them to the coffee can.

New offerings include: specialty coffees, trivets, boxed tea and 1 drum is remaining. Additional items will be added during the coming weeks. Start holiday shopping for yourself or others.



Veterans Day Service

At this year's Veterans Day service on November 11 we will once again have a rolling display with photos of veterans in the UUSG congregation, as well as family members who served in the armed forces in any country throughout the family history of congregation members. (We even have photographs of UUSG relatives who served in the Civil War.) If you would like to have your veteran family members in the display, please send Jeff Stibal (jtstibal@gmail.com) your images -- electronically, if possible, but that is not a must -- by Wednesday, November 7. If you have any questions, please contact Aaron Fogleman (aaronfogleman@niu.edu).



Emergency Response Team

Where Do We Congregate For a Fire Alarm?

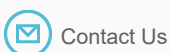
October is the annual Fire Safety and Prevention month. Thus, what a great time for this friendly reminder on our planned place to congregate should we have a fire alarm and/or another reason to vacate the building.

In particular, we are asked to go to the east sidewalk area of Patton House---the restaurant just south of Pioneer House. This is an important, safety-driven revision from our previous meeting places.

Please do not hang around just outside the exit doors, or on our sidewalks, or on the parking apron. Also, please do not cross 2nd Street. These taboo locations could endanger you and/or 1st responders.

As a further reminder, please do exit the building as safely and rapidly as possible. If you are able please do help others whom might need assistance, but not to your own detriment or to create further concerns. Please do not take the time to gather up personal belongings. If you are a parent, please know that the teachers have their procedure to ensure your child is safely accounted for, and they too will congregate in the same location.

Feel free to address any comments to Hal Schulman, ERT Head, ertleader@uusg.org.



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