



THE PIONEER

February/March 2008

Paper Pulpit

The Rev. Adam Robersmith, Associate Minister

That You come to save me--
this is not my prayer; I ask
for strength to overcome.
You need not comfort me
by lightening my load;
I ask for strength
to carry my burden.

-- from a prayer-poem by Rabindranath Tagore

Tagore's cry for help is a hopeful, inspiring one – it doesn't ask that the impossible occur, that seas part and resurrection comes to our beloved dead. Tagore doesn't insist that legendary miracles are the only way to fix the world or to allow us to survive. Instead he asks for what we know is possible: the strength to live through the hardships.

As religious stories speak to us about the end of winter, the Exodus from slavery in Egypt, and the solemn observance of Lent before the joy of Easter, we are asked to wait, just a little while longer, before this time passes. We sit with the knowledge of illness, barrenness, death, and grief, when we would so much rather experience something else. The tragedy that occurred at Northern Illinois University is abominable and should never have happened. In the world we wish existed, such things would be unknown. Instead, we now have to live through this trauma and other ones as well – and we will live through it by giving each other the strength to carry our burdens. We will rely on each other, cry together, sing together, and make each other stronger.

The process of healing requires waiting and changing through time. We cannot have Passover or Easter or the Spring Equinox before their time – nor will everything that has been difficult fade away immediately. For those of us with strength to lend and joy to share, this is our time to offer others the hope and life that we sense so clearly. For those of us in need of healing, this is our time to accept help, to remember the blessings of life and love as offered by our community.

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Let us be gentle with ourselves and not too quick to demand that we are "back to normal." Let us not be trapped in fear and sorrow, but rather be aware of the hardships and the blessings. Let us seek the good and the loving. Let us come together for the sake of each other; let us offer our support to those we know who are in need of it. Let us be, for each other and for the world, a community of healing and comfort, strength and support, life and love.

In faith and in hope,

Religious Education Announcements And Upcoming Events

From the Rev. Adam Robersmith

We have real need of three more teachers – and although it may seem like I'm speaking to the congregation in general when I ask for volunteers to teach, I'm not! I'm asking you – yes, you, the one reading this right now! If you're on the fence about teaching, talk to Rev. Adam. Teaching is not as difficult as you may think, it is deeply rewarding, and it is a crucial part of the life of our children. Please consider volunteering to teach either PreK/K or 5th/6th at 9am, or 3rd/4th at 11am. Each of those classes only has **two** teachers, and we must have three in each team in order to give our teachers the type of relaxed and low-stress experience for which we hope. We need your help in these classrooms!

Speaking of up and coming UUs, our Junior High Youth group is active and growing. On 2nd Saturdays each month, Mary and Bob Swanson host a social get-together for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders after the Saturday evening worship service. All 6th-8th graders are invited to join in – and we have plans for a Bowling Night with Rev. Adam coming up on Saturday, April 12th. Join us, and you may just get to see Rev. Adam bowl very badly indeed.

Rev. Adam will also lead another session of "Making Peace with your Religious Past" over six weeks in March and April. "Making Peace" is a class designed to help participants examine their religious histories so that they can move forward with their religious lives now. This class is limited to eight participants, and we ask that participants make a serious commitment to attending each session. There are eight spots available and four are filled. You may sign up on the LRE bulletin board.

At 2:00pm on Sunday, March 16th, Don Myers will present a class on Taoist meditation techniques, sponsored by the UU Buddhist Meditation and Study Group. Although the group usually meets on Wednesdays, this class will be between 1.5 and 2 hours long, and offer another perspective on meditation. All members of the UUSG community are welcome! Please see the LRE bulletin board to sign up.

Finally, we need to note that the Theological Study Group will be taking a break for the spring and we'll re-evaluate how we do Wednesday evening Adult RE before the fall. This has been an important group for many people and a testament to Jim Verner, who led it for many years. Thanks to all those who have attended and helped it run, including Kathy Meier, for her dedication to keeping everyone informed.

Upcoming LRE Events

Feb 23, 7:00pm	YRUU Movie Night
Feb 26, 7:00pm	In the Name of Peace: Book Club & Shawl Ministry
Mar 5, 7:30pm	UU Paganism Study Group
Mar 8, 6:30pm	Junior High Youth Group
Mar 14, 6:00pm	OWL Overnight begins (in Elgin)
Mar 15, 10:30am	Adult RE – "Making Peace with Your Religious Past"
Mar 15, 2:00pm	Adult RE – "UU102"
Mar 15, 4:30pm	OWL Overnight ends (in Elgin)
Mar 15, 6:30pm	Games Night
Mar 16, 2:00pm	Introduction to Taoist Meditation
Mar 17, 7:00pm	UU Christianity Study Group
Mar 19, 7:00pm	LRE Committee Meeting
Mar 22, 10:30am	Adult RE – "Making Peace with Your Religious Past"
Mar 24, 7:00pm	4th Monday Small Group Ministry
Mar 25, 7:00pm	In the Name of Peace: Book Club & Shawl Ministry
Mar 29, 10:30am	Adult RE – "Making Peace with Your Religious Past"

Weekly Adult RE Opportunities

Every Monday at 7:00pm in the Common Room	"Still Living in the Present Moment"
Every Wednesday at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary	UU Buddhist Meditation & Study Group

President's Corner

We should all feel rightfully proud about the state of UUSG. We are a healthy, flourishing congregation, a place we call our spiritual home, a place of friendship, acceptance, and peace. And I am touched and honored that I have the privilege to be your president this year.

One of the duties of the leadership of this church is to identify the strengths and concerns of our community and try to bolster those areas where improvement is needed.

So, here we are in the New Year, and we have embarked on a revised way to do our canvass. A little background is in order.

Over the past few years I have been both an observer of and participant in the annual canvass and have been both impressed by the generosity and spirit of our community and increasingly concerned by the way we conducted the canvass. As our congregation has grown, we have outgrown the way we raise money for the needs of our expanding community.

We have greatly benefited by the addition of our Associate Minister, Rev. Adam. With Katie running the office, we have increased our ability to do our day-to-day business. And by buying the land directly adjacent to us, we have begun to lay the groundwork for our future growth. All of these accomplishments testify to our congregation's planning, foresight, and generosity. Now we have one task remaining to finish this preliminary work: a revisiting of the way we approach our canvass.

This year we're going to try a different approach. For starters, many of you have expressed the desire to return to the individual canvass, and this year we're going to do just that. Twenty members from our community have volunteered to canvass everyone in our community. Very shortly someone from the "Canvass Crew" will be contacting you to offer a face-to-face meeting to discuss the goals for the next church year. This is an opportunity for you to get the details on our goals for next year and to discuss your interests, concerns, and involvement in UUSG.

Please offer your time to our canvassers so that we can all learn and understand where we are headed and collectively meet next year's goals.

With this in mind, consider pledging early! Forms are available in the Common Room.

Mark your calendars for the next Canvass Event, which will take place on Sunday, April 13th.

David de Coriolis President, Board of Directors 2007-2008

Will This Be Your Last Paper Pioneer?!

No worries! We're switching over to an email-only newsletter beginning with the **March/April 2008 issue**.

If you currently receive the Pioneer via postal mail and we have an email address for you, you will receive the Pioneer as a PDF attachment, complete with all the contact information that is included in the paper version but that, for privacy reasons, we remove from the version posted on the website.

However, we will continue to send the paper version to those UUSG members and friends for whom we don't have an email address and to anyone who specifically requests it.

Thanks to the 224 people who already receive the Pioneer via email. Emailing all those copies instead of mailing them saves UUSG \$120 every month—that's \$1440 a year!

Missing Something? We STILL have a lovely digital camera, still and video, in a "BUYDIG.COM" case, with batteries & a couple of disks - and no ID! Is anyone able to claim it??? If it's not claimed, we'll try to look at the pictures to see if we can figure out whose camera it might be....

Welcome to Sandi Sumner, our new LRE Administrator!

Since October, we've been thinking about the type of support that would be most helpful for our Ministry of Lifespan Religious Education, and what skills and qualities we would find in the right person for the job. We're pleased to announce that our contemplation and search has brought us Sandi Sumner, our new LRE Administrator!

Having previously worked in the insurance industry, Sandi has the skills in administration, project management, and customer service that we need. Sandi will be working closely with Rev. Adam, our teachers and advisors, and members of the UUSG community who participate in our LRE Ministry. Sandi is a graduate of McHenry County College with an Associate in Arts degree and has direct experience in religious education, instruction, and lesson planning. She lives in Huntley with her husband, Mike, and their four children.

We're looking forward to Sandi's help in making LRE run more smoothly. She'll be at UUSG regularly during the week and on Sunday mornings, when she will be available to help teachers and families with church school needs. You can reach Sandi at 630-232-2350, ext. 224 or lre@uusg.org, but please introduce yourselves to her during our social time, too!

Volunteer Appreciation

A great big THANK YOU to some of this month's volunteers!

Deann Alleman and Karen Moore, for doing touch-up painting in the Sanctuary

Vince Schuster, for putting up a new and much-needed shelf in the nursery

Zia Karim, for his work getting a stronger wireless signal into the LRE Office

Peg Biagioni, for her assistance with the set-up of the new coffee machine

Everyone who donated to the new coffee system, for your generosity!

All our Greeters and Social Hour Hosts, for making UUSG a welcoming place

Making it Easy to Relax with a Cup of Coffee...

Imagine easily making a pot of coffee for Sunday social hour... or pushing a button for hot water to make a cup of tea to enjoy during your evening meeting... or simply hosting social hour because it's enjoyable!

All this is reality with our new coffee system! The new system sits permanently on the kitchen counter and is attached directly to a water line. To make a pot of coffee, simply fill the dispenser on top with grounds, put a pot underneath, press a button, and wait 3 minutes for your piping hot pot of coffee! The system can also provide a pot of hot water for tea or cocoa. There are instructions posted above the coffee machine.

The new pots (or airtots, as they're officially called) have a latch on top and a handle, so they're easy and safe to move from the kitchen to the Common Room. To dispense a cup of coffee, just press the lever on top!

Cleaning the new pots is easier, too. They just need to be rinsed out with hot water and baking soda and left open to dry.

The coffee machine has already been purchased and installed, but since this is an "off-budget" item, we're inviting your help to cover the cost! If you'd like to contribute to this cause, please write a check to UUSG with "Coffee System" in the memo line. Or look for the "New Coffee Maker Kitty" on the Coffee Table this weekend—any donation of any amount will help. And all coffee drinkers and social hour hosts thank you!

Circles of Life

This past month has been terribly hard on so many, within our community and beyond - may we hold one another in our hearts with compassion and grace, living out in our different ways the faith that reminds that the dayspring breaks, and the shadows do flee away.

We send our condolences and support to Lou Pierce, who lost his brother-in-law and his uncle recently, and to Joan McInnes, on the loss of her cousin.

We also send our encouragement and best wishes to Cindy Vacek, who had a successful surgery and is glad to be recovering at home.

Social Justice News

Social Justice Action Alert Do You Enjoy NPR and PBS?

This past week, the New York Times reported that the Bush administration has once again proposed deep cuts in federal funding for public broadcasting. Unfortunately, the cuts proposed this year are even more severe than in past years -- but with your help, we can convince Congress to restore this funding.

If it seems like we go through this process every year, you're not mistaken. For eight straight years, the President's budget requests have attempted to cut or entirely eliminate funding for public broadcasting. For seven of those years, Congress has responded to massive public pressure and restored the funding. Let's convince them to do it again.

Please go to www.credoaction.com; in the right column under "Credo Top Actions," click on "Tell Congress Reject Bush's cuts to public broadcasting." Working together, we can make a difference!!

Tracey McFadden, for the Social Justice Committee

March 2: Peace Wars – Can or Should “Just War” be Integrated with Pacifism?

In the fall, the congregation demonstrated that our beliefs about Peacemaking span the continuum from endorsing “just wars” to pacifism. As we discovered during the series of sermons addressing the various positions, there appear to be a world of difference among them, but there are also some profound similarities. This month, the *UU World* published an article by Paul Razor, who is considering whether it is possible to reconcile the “extremes.”

Razor notes that there is “no inevitable outcome, no single “right” answer... Unitarian Universalists have historically followed the just war model, but there have always been pacifists among us and we have long affirmed peace as a core value.”

Nevertheless, Razor does believe that “both pacifism and just war share several core commitments that are also reflected in Unitarian Universalist theological principles. By recognizing these commonalities, we can move beyond old divisions toward a position that integrates the two traditions.”

On Sunday, March 2, 12:30-1:30pm, Social Justice is sponsoring an open discussion of Razor's article, which can be found at <http://www.uuworld.org/ideas/articles/68490.shtml>. We invite anyone who is interested to gather in the Common Room to explore the implications of his ideas. It is anticipated that a group of people who would like to continue the discussion may “spin off” from this gathering.

March 14th Friday Flick

”What a Way to Live: Positive Responses to Global Problems”

On Friday, March 14, Social Justice will share videos of Frances Moore Lappe, Riane Eisler, and others who are raising voices of hope in our world as it confronts what some call a “Perfect Storm” of social, environmental, and political problems. We will see how ordinary individuals are having extraordinary effects on the world. See how others are answering the question, “What can I do to make a difference in the world?”

Join us at 7pm in the Common Room to view and discuss videos that explore this timely issue.

Giving “Beyond Our Walls”

In January, we collected \$817 for AmeriCares.

It's Time to "Choose or Be Chosen"!

In a community like ours, welcoming is everyone's ministry. "Choose or Be Chosen" is a way of simplifying the process of recruiting volunteers for the important weekly tasks of greeting and hosting the Social Hours. We're asking all our members and active friends to participate as they are able.

We're currently working on the schedule for March through May. If you haven't already, please sign up for one greeter slot or social hour host slot on the "Choose or Be Chosen" display in the Common Room.

Members and friends who haven't signed themselves up by March 2 will be assigned.

You'll have an opportunity at that time to switch dates or say "no, thanks," but it's easier if you sign yourself up now! Thanks for your help in making UUSG a welcoming place!

*****If you've shied away from being a Social Hour Host because of the awkward coffee urns, note that we have a new system that's easy to use! We encourage everyone to give hosting a try—you just might like it!*****

Upcoming Tenebrae Service

Join us for our annual Tenebrae "Service of the Shadows" on Good Friday, March 21st at 8pm.

This is a dark service (not suitable for younger children), acknowledging the suffering, the evil, the loss of hope that are realities in the world and a necessary prelude to Easter's celebration. This year, we're centering our service around the late Kurt Vonnegut's "Requiem: The Hocus Pocus Laundromat" (Vonnegut, as you may know, was a UU). The doors to the Sanctuary will be open at 7:30pm, with meditational music and time for quiet reflection. The service itself begins promptly at 8:00pm and will last about an hour. Childcare will NOT be provided.

Youth HFH Gallery Now Open

We invite everyone to come downstairs and see photos and trip summaries from all eight years of our completed trips. Each picture is a group shot of both teens and chaperones who proudly built a Habitat for Humanity house that July as representatives of UUSG. The gallery is in the hallway in the basement level. If you'd like to get involved with this active and important social justice mission, please send an email to habitat@uusg.org.

Celebrations of Naming & Dedication – March 29 & 30, 2008

It's time to plan ahead if you'd like your child(ren) to be part of our annual Naming & Dedication services (our UU rough equivalent of a Christian Baptism or a Jewish Naming ceremony or a Muslim *Akikah*). The entire service is devoted to welcoming the children into our UU community. Each family presents their child or children to the congregation with a reading (poetry, prose, a prayer, or prepared statement) or special music, and the members of each family make their individual promises of love and support to one another and to their children. The ceremony includes older siblings, grandparents, godparents or sponsors, and other special friends and relations. As a religious community, we all covenant to help in caring for all of our children, and whenever possible, the children in the church school classes come into the sanctuary for the actual ceremony of Naming and Dedication. The children being Named can be any age, may already have been baptized in a private service or a different faith community, and parents need not be Voting Members of UUSG – you need only want the support of our UU church family as you raise each child.

Right now, we have space for 2 more children at the 5pm service and 4 more at the 9am service – and since can't easily have more than 3 families at any one service, it's first-come, first-served on the schedule. We need to know who's interested in participating **by the end of February**. If you'd like to be included, or if you have questions, please call Rev. Lindsay at the church or email her at minister@uusg.org.

Coffee Wall Gallery

Currently featured in the Common Room are oil pastel paintings by Sandy Povall Smith. The Coffee Wall Gallery provides space for original art created by or from the collections of UUSG members. To arrange a time for showing work, please contact the church office.

Green Corner

"The Real Dirt on Farmer John" documentary

This remarkable story of the author of the famous organic cookbook, "Farmer John: The Real Dirt on Vegetables" will be shown free-of-charge at 7pm on Friday, February 22, at the Fox Valley Presbyterian Church, located at 227 East Side Drive in Geneva. The winner of over 30 awards, the film tells the inspiring personal story of John Peterson and his farm in northern Illinois, Angelic Organics. Film critic Roger Ebert rated the film with 3 1/2 stars and describes it as "a loving, moving, inspiring, quirky documentary ... Visionaries like Peterson are finding a way back to the land."

FREE!!! The Green Sanctuary Committee has acquired a few Kill-A-Watt meters to loan out to the congregation! It's a critical tool to audit how your electricity is being used or wasted. Use it for a couple weeks to see which appliances are secretly using up electricity so you can take corrective measures. Or test your next appliances before you buy them to see if they are energy wasters when off or even if they use more power than you expected. You can monitor an appliance over time to get a kWh reading, or check out instantaneous power consumption. Set aside some time to check everything in your house to see where you're leaking electricity. For loan details, email gsc@uusg.org or contact Dave Brink.

TIP OF THE MONTH: Take control over your home heating

There's a common myth that lowering your thermostat for only a few hours uses more energy to bring your home back up to comfort level than if it had been left at a constant temperature. This is not true. You'll use less energy overall. Here are some suggestions:

- 1) Try lowering your thermostat by 1 degree for a week. A well-insulated home should stay just as comfortable. Try going down by another degree each week and see how low you can go. The Department of Energy says you'll save 3% on your heating bill for each degree you lower your thermostat in the winter.
 - 2) Install a programmable setback thermostat to lower the heat by 5-10 degrees just as you're getting into bed at night, and turn it back up before you get up in the morning. You'll save 5-10% of your heating bill and may not even notice the change. Most programmable thermostats come with at least 2 setbacks, so you can also set back the thermostat during daytime hours when people are away. Some will allow you to program a different schedule on weekends.
- **Old-style thermostats contain mercury, though, so don't throw the old one out with your regular garbage.**** Ace Hardware Stores in Geneva, Batavia, and Aurora will take them. Also the Naperville household hazardous waste facility at 1971 Brookdale Rd. is open on Saturdays and Sundays, 9am-2pm.
- 3) When you're out for the evening, turn down the thermostat. If gone for a weekend or longer, turn it down to 55°. You'll save on heating but still be preventing frozen water pipes.
 - 4) If you heat with electricity, use the individual room thermostats to shut off unused rooms or to keep some rooms cooler than others.

The "Winds of Change" Are Blowing... The successful "Winds of Change" presentation and discussion, organized by Sandy Justis, was held at UUSG in January. It provided good information about wind as a renewable energy, replacing polluting forms of energy providers like coal-fired plants. Our church is a 100% wind energy subscriber through Community Energy and so are many members, whose subscription to wind energy is based on kWh used at their home. Are you one of them? If so, congratulations! If you're not yet a subscriber but are interested, just go to the GSC bulletin board to get an application form. You too can replace coal with the WIND!

Still Blowing... Also, lists of many easy-to-do conservation measures were given out at the event, and attendees were urged to contact their legislators' web pages and tell them about clean energy. It helps to get talking points from Action Alerts via Sierra Club or Environmental Law and Policy Center (ELPC). A mere five handwritten letters with talking points from these action alerts are considered a "tidal wave" when they arrive on the legislators' desks! Our children and grandchildren will thank you! And thanks from GSC to our helpers for the evening's presentation: Laura Bartoszek, Thom Thomas, Shawn Thornton, Barb McKittrick, Al Drover, and all others who gave their time.

Springing forward! Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 9th.



Keeping this House Neat and Tidy!

Since so many people and groups share the limited space in our buildings, we ask that you take special care to leave our rooms neat and tidy for the next group! Please clean up after yourself, return any items that you take from a classroom, and leave the building neater & cleaner than when you found it.

Right now, we're missing some important items, including a tuning fork from the Spirit Play classroom. If you have the tuning fork (or know where it is), please return it to the room outside Adam's office (no questions asked!).

Facilities Reminders!

You can help keep our church buildings looking good and reduce our maintenance expenses by keeping these actions in mind:

Carpet Spills

These will happen! Cleaning up spills immediately using *CLUB SODA* is the most effective method. Kits of club soda and clean rags are placed in the kitchen, the mini-kitchen downstairs and in the LRE Supply Room upstairs in Pioneer House. Instructions are with the kits: just rub the spot with some fizzy club soda. Cleanup is most effective if done immediately, before the spills soak into the carpet. If supplies are low, please notify the office.

Our Painted Walls

To protect our paint, please avoid sticking things on the walls. Use the tack strips that are in most rooms and hallways. **Please do not use tape on the painted walls.** Avoid leaning things against the walls.

Outlet Covers

All electrical outlets on the first floor need child protective covers for safety and to comply with fire department regulations. Extras are stored in the file cabinet (lower drawer), south wall of the Common Room.

Repairs and Maintenance Needs

When a need is noticed, please notify the office. It helps to have your name & the date the problem was noted.

Emergency Repairs

A procedure for emergency repairs is posted in the Common Room, on the door to the church office, and in PH-11. This lists whom to call when a problem requires immediate attention.

Mark Your Calendars! Plan to join us at the Canvass Community Tea and Celebration on Sunday, April 13.

The next Pioneer deadline is Friday, March 21 at 9:00 am.
Please send all articles to BOTH office@uusg.org AND minister@uusg.org.
This deadline is FIRM unless you make other arrangements with Katie!

Our calendar is provided on the next page, and is current as of February 20, 2008. For the most up-to-date calendar information, please visit our Website Calendar – go to www.uusg.org and follow the links to the Interactive Online Calendar. You can download a printable version if you like; the Calendar site has the instructions.

NEXT PIONEER DEADLINE

The deadline for submission to this monthly newsletter, the PIONEER, is generally 9:00 a.m. on the third Friday of the month.

The next deadline for articles is **Friday, March 21, at 9:00 a.m.**

MARCH 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24 9:00 AM & 11 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10 AM & NOON 11:00 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM Teen/Adult Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM New UUs Program (light supper at 5:30pm)	25 <i>Ministers' Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment" 7:30 PM 4th Monday Small Group Ministry	26 3:00 PM Staff Meeting (office closed until 4pm) 7:00 PM In the Name of Peace: Book Club & Shawl Ministry	27 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM Buddhist Meditation Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	28 <i>Associate Minister's Day Off</i> 9:15 AM Simple Living Circle 7:30 PM Last Thursday Group Hypnosis	29	1 1:00 PM Committee on Ministries Meeting 3:30 PM Teen/Adult Choir Rehearsal 5:00 PM Intergenerational Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM
2 8:15 AM Teen/Adult Choir Warm-up 9:00 AM & 11 AM Intergenerational Worship; Social Hours at 10 AM & NOON 11:00 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM Peace Wars: Can and Should "Just War" Be Integrated With Pacifism? 3:00 PM Private Child Blessing	3 <i>Associate Minister on Study Leave</i> <i>Ministers' Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment" 7:30 PM Technology Committee Meeting	4 <i>Associate Minister on Study Leave</i> 3:00 PM Staff Meeting (office closed until 4pm) 7:00 PM Sacred Harp Singing 7:30 PM Program & Administrative Councils	5 <i>Associate Minister on Study Leave</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM Buddhist Meditation Group 7:30 PM GAS AA 7:30 PM UU Paganism Study Group	6 <i>Associate Minister on Study Leave</i> 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising	7 <i>Associate Minister on Study Leave</i>	8 <i>Associate Minister on Study Leave</i> 5:00 PM Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM 6:30 PM Junior High Youth Group
9 <i>Associate Minister on Study Leave</i> Daylight-Saving Time Begins 9:00 AM & 11 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10 AM & NOON 11:00 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM Membership Committee Meeting 12:30 PM Social Justice Committee Meeting 12:30 PM Teen/Adult Choir Rehearsal 2:00 PM Lay Ministers' Meeting 7:00 PM 2nd Sunday (Story Tellers) Covenant Group	10 <i>Ministers' Sabbath</i> 1:30 PM Women's Guild 7:00 PM Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment" 7:00 PM Reiki Covenant Group	11 3:00 PM Staff Meeting (office closed until 4pm) 7:30 PM Board of Directors	12 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM Buddhist Meditation Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	13 <i>Associate Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM Reiki Share	14 6:00 PM OWL Overnight Begins (in Elgin)	15 10:30 AM Adult RE-- "Making Peace with Your Religious Past" 2:00 PM Adult RE--"UU 102" 4:00 PM OWL Overnight Ends (in Elgin) 5:00 PM Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM 6:30 PM Games Night!
16 Palm Sunday 9:00 AM & 11 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10 AM & NOON 10:30 AM Finance Committee Meeting 11:00 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM Communications Committee Meeting 12:30 PM Teen/Adult Choir Rehearsal 2:00 PM Intro to Taoist Meditation 7:00 PM Reiki Share	17 <i>Ministers' Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment" 7:00 PM UU Christianity Study Group	18 3:00 PM Staff Meeting (office closed until 4pm) 6:30 PM Leadership Working Dinner 7:00 PM Sacred Harp Singing	19 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM Buddhist Meditation Group 7:00 PM Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting 7:00 PM LRE Committee Meeting 7:30 PM GAS AA	20 <i>Associate Minister's Day Off</i> First Day of Spring 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising	21 Good Friday 9:00 AM PIONEER deadline 7:00 PM Friday Flicks 8:00 PM Tenebrae-- "Service of the Shadows"	22 10:30 AM Adult RE-- "Making Peace with Your Religious Past" 5:00 PM Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM 7:00 PM YRUU Movie Night
23 Easter Sunday 8:15 AM Teen/Adult Choir Warm-up 9:00 AM & 11 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10 AM & NOON 11:00 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group	24 <i>Ministers' Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment" 7:30 PM 4th Monday Small Group Ministry	25 3:00 PM Staff Meeting (office closed until 4pm) 7:00 PM In the Name of Peace: Book Club & Shawl Ministry	26 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 6:00 PM Pioneer Mailing Prep 7:00 PM Buddhist Meditation Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	27 <i>Associate Minister's Day Off</i> 9:15 AM Simple Living Circle 7:30 PM Last Thursday Group Hypnosis	28	29 10:30 AM Adult RE-- "Making Peace with Your Religious Past" 1:00 PM Lay Ministers' Spring Training & Inservice 5:00 PM Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM
30 9:00 AM & 11 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10 AM & NOON 11:00 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group	31 <i>Ministers' Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment"	1 3:00 PM Staff Meeting (office closed until 4pm) 7:00 PM Sacred Harp Singing 7:30 PM Program & Administrative Councils	2 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM Buddhist Meditation Group 7:30 PM GAS AA 7:30 PM UU Paganism Study Group	3 <i>Associate Minister's Day Off</i> 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising	4	5 10:30 AM Adult RE-- "Making Peace with Your Religious Past" 1:00 PM Committee on Ministries Meeting 5:00 PM Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM

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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

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.

— adopted by the congregation May 19, 1996

**To protect the privacy of our members and friends,
all personal phone numbers and email addresses
are removed from the online versions of our publications.**

**To reach anyone about items in this newsletter,
please call or email our church office.**

We'll pass your message along.

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