



July 19, 2020

**Unitarian Universalist
Society of Geneva**

Today's Worship Team

In the Pulpit: Aaron Fogleman

Worship Associate: Diane Gallentine

Musicians: Sandra Anderson

Technical Directors: Jeff Stibal, Cari Gesiakowski

Upcoming Services:

Sunday, July 26: Rev. Linda Slabon

Sunday, August 2: Andrew deCoriolis

Come as you are.

Order of Worship

Call to Worship

Prelude *Mama*, Tchaikovsky

Welcome & Community Announcements

Chalice Lighting

Song of Praise

Praise God, the Love we all may share;
Praise God, the Beauty everywhere;
Praise God, the Hope of Good to be;
Praise God, the Truth that makes us free.

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.

Doxology

From all that dwell below the skies
Let faith and hope with love arise;
Let beauty, truth, and good be sung
Through every land by every tongue.

Offering

For All Ages: "How Coyote Scattered the Stars," presented by Will Sapet

Pastoral Prayer & Meditation

Shared Silence

Musical Response *The Little Shepherd*, Debussy

Reading

Hymn # 8 Mother Spirit, Father Spirit

Mother Spirit, Father Spirit, where are you?
In the sky song in the forest, sounds your cry.
What to give you, what to call you, what am I?

Many drops are in the ocean, deep and wide.
Sunlight bounces off the ripples to the sky.
What to give you, what to call you, who am I?

I am empty, time flies from me; what is time?
Dreams eternal, fears infernal haunt my heart.
What to give you, what to call you, O, my God?

Mother Spirit, Father Spirit, take our hearts.
Take our breath and let our voices sing our parts.
Take our hands and let us work to shape our art.
May we be peaceful and at ease and may we be happy.

Message “Jesus Is Female: Historical Image, Current Relevance”

Hymn # 274 Dear Mother-Father of Us All

Dear Mother-Father of us all forgive our foolish ways.
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find, in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word, rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee, O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity, interpreted by love.

Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of thy peace

Sending Our Light into the World

Release of Covenant

Board President: An interim period is a time of transition, a time between what was and what is not yet. As our Interim Ministers, Jennifer and Patrick came to UUSG to help us prepare for our next chapter of called ministry. When they arrived, they accepted the charge of guiding the congregation through known and unknown challenges, of honoring our strengths as individuals and as a congregation, and of preparing us for the future. From their first day as ministers of the congregation, they became full participants in the 1842 Covenant. They committed to being honest and open, to listening deeply to us, to learning from our wisdom, and to their own moral and religious improvement as individuals and as co-ministers. They promised also, that when our work was complete, they would leave clearly and completely, that our next chapter of ministry could begin.

Ministers: Friends, we have done well together, and whether or not our hearts are ready, our work together is complete.

Board President: Jennifer and Patrick you have offered us moral leadership, religious insight, learned wisdom, and spiritual guidance. You have helped us celebrate our strengths and address conflict and pain. We have done our best to remain in honest and open communication with you. We have tried to handle disagreements directly and with kindness, so that our shared wisdom could blossom into renewed vitality and vision for this congregation. We have done well together, and whether or not our hearts are ready, our work together is complete.

Ministers: Members and friends of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva, We release you from our covenanted relationship as Interim Co-Ministers and Congregation. May the work of this interim period continue to empower your congregational life. May the strengths you claimed and wisdom you attained continue to shape your relationships with one another, and give you energy and courage to live your values in the wider world.

Members of Congregation: Rev. Jennifer Innis and Rev. Patrick Price, on behalf of the congregation, we release you from our covenanted relationship as Interim Ministers and Congregation. We send you forth with gratitude and care. May you continue to bring both challenge and compassion to your next ministries, and may you always be surrounded by people who value your strengths, accept your foibles, and appreciate your gifts.

Benediction

Postlude *Peasant's Song*, Edvard Grieg

Today & This Week at UUSG

uusg.org/calendar

(All activities meet via Zoom. Contact your group leader for links.)

Sunday, July 19

- 10:00am Online Worship Service
- 4:00pm Car Parade for Revs. Jennifer and Patrick

Monday, July 20

- 7:00pm "Bible Study for UUs" Group

Tuesday, July 21

Wednesday, July 22

- 11:30am The Luncheonettes (online)

Thursday, July 23

Friday, July 24

Saturday, July 25

- 10:00am Facilities Work Day (rain-date backup)

Sunday, July 26

- 9:00am Summer RE: K-5
- 10:00am Online Worship Service
- 11:00am Summer RE: 6-8
- 12:00pm Summer RE: 9-12

Contact Information

Rev. Scot Hull, (starting 8.1.20) Senior Minister

Rev. Jennifer Innis & Rev. Patrick Price, Interim Co-Ministers
interim.coministers@uusg.org

Christine Imielski, Congregational Administrator
office@uusg.org; 630-232-2350, ext. 100

Lisa Rittenberry, Administrative Assistant
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Becky Hruby, Director of Religious Education
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Molly MacKay Zacker, Board President
boardpresident@uusg.org

Cynthia Spiegel, Music Director
music@uusg.org

Jeff Stibal, Technical Director, techdirector@uusg.org

Announcements

Congregational Administrator on vacation July 19-25. Christine will be on vacation this week. If you have announcements for the Mini-Pioneer or Weekly Email, please send them to Lisa at admin.assistant@uusg.org.

Navigating the Year Ahead: Board Statement on UUSG's COVID-19 Reopening Strategy As UUSG looks ahead to the coming year, we're thrilled to begin our new journey with Rev. Scot Hull. At the same time, unexpected and weighty decisions demand our attention about how we will do church and when we'll resume "normal," face-to-face worship and ministry practices. [Visit our website to learn more about UUSG's plan for the future.](#)

Black Lives Matter Signs Available If you'd like to purchase a Black Lives Matter yard sign, please contact Gail Tattersfield or Christine Imielski. Signs are \$5 and all proceeds will go towards a Black Lives Matter initiative. Further donations gratefully accepted.

The Board of Directors has extended our current stay-at-home practice including a continuation of virtual services, group meetings and other functions until at least September 30. Ongoing assessments are being monitored and further updates will be posted at uusg.org as relevant.

Rev. Scot is on the Move If you missed last Sunday's service, you also missed Rev. Scot Hull's update. In a nutshell: He and his family are on track to be here by August 1. They are anticipating that negotiations will be wrapped up this week on a home purchase in Batavia. He's looking forward to be physically present at UUSG and will be in the front office facing Second Street. The Facilities Team is currently sprucing up the space by decluttering, cleaning, & painting.

Meet and Weed with Adopt-a-Plot every Tuesday, 10am-12pm, on the UUSG grounds. Please wear a mask and socially distance appropriately. A great opportunity to see your UUSG friends and enjoy the beautiful landscaping! For more information please contact Karen Laukaitis at weeding@uusg.org. Also, please note we have a new toter for weeds and any other items that we would typically put in a paper bag. It is near the back door with the other toters.

Luncheonettes. No doubt we all miss seeing UUSG friends, but may not be ready for a 'live' group gathering. Let's 'do' lunch VIRTUALLY! Luncheonettes by Zoom, for those who identify as female, all ages welcome. Wednesday, July 22, 11:30-1:00. (4th Wednesday of the month) Sign up here at

uusg.org/luncheonettes. The sign up has the Zoom Link and it will also be emailed the day before. Questions? Contact Rhonda, 630-740-5765 or, rhondasuerobinson@gmail.com.

July 26: Rev. Linda Slabon served the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb for 26 years along with her spouse, Dr. Toni Tollerud, retired Music Director. Linda is now Minister Emerita and is also an Affiliated Community Minister with the UU Church in Rockford, IL. A Clinical Social Worker, Linda maintains a small private practice, serves on the DeKalb County Board, and is a Bionic Nana with titanium hips for games with her grand-daughter.

Bible Study for UUs. For UUs who simply want to learn more about the history of the Bible as literature, as well as early Christianity, "Bible Study for UUs" is on the third Monday of each month, 7-8:30pm. Our next meeting will be on July 20. We'll begin our discussion of "[The Origin of Satan: How Christians Demonized Jews, Pagans, and Heretics](#)" by Elaine Pagels. We'll meet using Zoom. For more info, please contact Jim Frazier biblestudy@uusg.org.

Religious Education The Religious Education Steering Team has decided to dedicate the entire summer to our first principle: "Each person is important". To that end, teachers are creating awareness of our words, attitudes and privilege; teaching about the importance of Black Lives Matter; and empowering our youth with knowledge to confidently counter prejudice.

As we prepare for fall, please consider helping support our RE program. We are in need of: middle school teachers, middle school youth group leader (social events), mentors for our Coming of Age (COA) program. Please consider how and where you may be able to help support our program.

Mutual Ground Quarantined recently? Found old jewelry you no longer want? State Street Jewelers will give \$CASH\$ to Mutual Ground, a local domestic violence shelter, for jewelry of ANY condition or value! Some jewelry may even be used in Mutual Ground's gala auction! If jewelry doesn't make a fashion statement at your home, Mutual Ground is also requesting donations of essential items found on their wishlist here.

Domestic and relationship violence cases have risen and increased in intensity during shelter-in-place guidelines. This has left shelters with an increased need for community support. Now is the time to give to these essential non-profits.

IMPORTANT: The Social Justice Team asks that donations are left inside of the blue plastic container located at the 110 entrance to the church. Mutual

Ground appreciates if jewelry donations are contained in a ziplock bag. Christine will use her superpowers to ensure that donations remain safe. For more information, email the Social Justice Team at socialjustice@uusg.org.

July “Beyond Our Walls” Members and friends donated \$1,978 in support of the Northern Illinois Food Bank in May. In this time of crisis, our donation had an immediate impact within this community. The graphic shows just how busy the NIFB was in May. July is going to be no different. The NIFB is continuously updating their safety information regarding operations. Please follow the supplied [link](#) if you have concerns.

Looking for a convenient way to fulfill your pledge or make a donation to UUSG during this time? Visit our website here to donate using your PayPal account, credit card, or debit card. You can also contribute to our monthly “Beyond Our Walls” collections here; be sure to include “BOW” in the special note instructions. Questions about donating online? Contact Christine at office@uusg.org. Checks may also be mailed to: UUSG, PO BOX 107, Geneva, IL 60134.

Want UUSG to be Recognized in the Broader Community? Here’s How:

You can help ensure that UUSG is recognized in the broader community. We have more of an impact when we work with other churches and non-profits. That is why we are a proud member of the Fox River Valley Initiative. This broad-based organization does a terrific job of training people to be community organizers. The next zoom training sessions will be 7-8:30, July 21, and 28.

Register here: contact Lucy Tarabour, admin@dupageunited.org

During the past 5 years, UUSG has been part of these successes:

- Since 2017, 170 police officers have been trained through Crisis Intervention to identify and de-escalate encounters with people suffering from mental illness or addiction
- Expanded and increased availability of a Crisis Stabilization Units offering people treatment instead of incarceration
- Helped create a Kane County Jail re-entry program linking ex-offenders with mental illness with appropriate treatment and housing
- Won 48 units of permanent supportive affordable housing units in Elgin

- Convinced law enforcement in the county to leverage their purchasing power to force gun manufacturers to create gun safety technologies