



September 13, 2020

**Unitarian Universalist
Society of Geneva**

Homecoming Sunday!

Today's Worship Team

In the Pulpit: Rev. Scot Hull

Worship Associate: Melissa Auer

Musicians: The House Band: Tracey McFadden, Andy Montgomery, Geoff Pynn, Cynthia Spiegel, Tom Zimmerman

Technical Directors: Jeff Stibal, Cari Gesiakowski

Upcoming Services:

Sunday, September 20: Rev. Scot Hull, "Days of Awe"

Sunday, September 27: Rev. Scot Hull, "That All May be Saved"

Come as you are.

Order of Worship

Ringing the Bell

Call to Worship

Prelude "Don't You Need a Welcome," Hal Walker

Welcoming Words

Opening Hymn # 1008 "When Our Heart Is in a Holy Place"

Chorus: When our heart is in a holy place,
When our heart is in a holy place,
We are bless'd with love and amazing grace,
When our heart is in a holy place.

When we trust the wisdom in each of us,
Ev'ry color ev'ry creed and kind,
And we see our faces in each other's eyes,
Then our heart is in a holy place.

Chorus

When we tell our story from deep inside,
And we listen with a loving mind,
And we hear our voices in each other's words,
Then our heart is in a holy place.

Chorus

When we share the silence of sacred space,
And the God of our Heart stirs within,
And we feel the power of each other's faith,
Then our heart is in a holy place.

Chorus

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.

Passing the Peace / Greet Your Neighbor**For All Ages****Joys and Sorrows****Hymn #123, "Spirit of Life"**

Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

Testimonial**Offertory****Gratitude for the Offering**

Reading "All of Us Are Welcome Here," Rev. Erika Hewitt
"Community Means Strength," Starhawk

Musical Response "Home," Andrew Pearson & Greg Holden

Sermon "Home is Not a Noun," Rev. Scot Hull

Closing Hymn # 1021 "Lean On Me"

Sometimes in our lives
we all have pain,
we all have sorrow.
But if we are wise
we know that there's
always tomorrow.

Chorus: Lean on me when you're not strong
and I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on,
For it won't be long 'til I'm gonna need
somebody to lean on.

Please swallow your pride
if I have things
you need to borrow,
For no one can fill
those of your needs
that you won't let show.

Bridge: Just call on me brother when you need a hand.
We all need somebody to lean on.
I just might have a problem that you'd understand.
We all need somebody to lean on. **Chorus, Bridge**

If there is a load
you have to bear
that you can't carry,
I'm right up the road,
I'll share your load
if you just call me.
Call me... call me...

Chalice Extinguishing and Unison Closing

Benediction

Postlude "Shine Bright," Marcia Ball

Community Announcements

Talk Back and Coffee Hour Breakouts

Today & This Week at UUSG

uusg.org/calendar

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

Sunday, September 13

- 10:00 am Homecoming Sunday!

Monday, September 14

- 11:00 am Women's Circle Planning Meeting

Tuesday, September 15

- 1:00 pm The Help Desk with Christine

Wednesday, September 16

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 7:00 pm UU Buddhism Meditation & Study Group
- 7:00 pm Facilities Team Meeting

Thursday, September 17

- 11:00 am Simply Sharing Circle

Friday, September 18

Saturday, September 19

- 9:00 am Facilities Work Day

Sunday, September 20

- 10:00 am Worship Service

Contact Information

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Announcements

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month If you or someone you know is in an emergency, call The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-TALK (8255) or call 911 immediately. If you're uncomfortable talking on the phone, you can also text NAMI to 741-741 to be connected to a free, trained crisis counselor on the Crisis Text Line.

Suicidal thoughts, much like mental health conditions, can affect anyone regardless of age, gender or background. In fact, suicide is often the result of an untreated mental health condition. Suicidal thoughts, although common, should not be considered normal and often indicate more serious issues.

Every year thousands of individuals die by suicide, leaving behind their friends and family members to navigate the tragedy of loss. In many cases, friends and families affected by a suicide loss (often called "suicide loss survivors") are left in the dark. Too often the feelings of shame and stigma prevent them from talking openly. For more resources: nami.org/get-involved/awareness-events/suicide-prevention-awareness-month

Women's Circle Save the Date: September 26, 1-3pm via Zoom. All members and friends who identify as female are welcome to join us. Details and sign-up to follow. See you soon!

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 **November 30**. Ongoing assessments are being monitored and further updates will be posted at uusg.org as relevant.

Make A Difference at the Northern Illinois Food Bank! As the pandemic continues, the need for food assistance grows ever larger. Our next volunteer date is Saturday, September 19, 9am - 12 pm. Invite a neighbor, ask a co-worker, join as a family. [Sign up here](#).

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.](#)

Need a hymnal? As we continue our virtual services, we are happy to let members and friends "check out" a hymnal from the church. Please email Christine at office@uusg.org to arrange a time to stop by UUSG. We are also offering hymnal delivery for local members who are unable to travel. Email Cynthia Spiegel, music director, at music@uusg.org for more information.

People Who Made a Difference for Our Homeless Neighbors in September

The Social Justice Team sincerely appreciates the efforts of Ellie Fusaro, Christy and Anna Hickey, Page Poris, Sherry Wilson and Larry Escalona, who helped provide 60 dinners for Lazarus House.

Thank you, also, to the following families who provided lunches: Mylane and Quinn Bryant, Keith/Cari/Sam Gesiakovski and Becky/Sean/Cal/Elaina Hruby.

Thank you as well to all of the people who have volunteered at Northern Illinois Food Bank this summer: Katie Baar, Kevin Beyer, Anne Bike, Lowell Bike, Janie Bouzek, John Bouzek, Maya Bouzek, Owen Bouzek, James Carroll, Jamie Carroll, Mary Davis, Larry Escolana, Aaron Fogleman, Lucas Fogleman, Noah Fogleman, Spencer Fogleman, Dave Francis, Suzy Francis, Bonnie Hollister, Brenda Hollister, Karin Kemp, Merlin Kemp, Chung Liang, Leo Liang, Simon Liang, Vera Lind, Molly MacKay-Zacker, Carolyn McDonald, Mark McDonald, Andy Montgomery, Ellie Montgomery, Jenny Montgomery, Max Montgomery, Diane Peters, Tom Peters, Uta Ruett, Benedikt Stremper, Jeorg Stremper, Lennart Stremper, Cierra Welch, Sherry Wilson, David Zacker, Zoe Zacker

This week on the Social Justice Calendar:

September 17 at 7 pm: Fair Tax Explained Webinar with Ralph Martire

Ralph Martire is the executive director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, a bipartisan think tank. Mr. Martire will explain how the state got into an on-going fiscal crisis, how that impacts Illinois residents, and what can be done about it. He will discuss the proposed fair tax amendment to the Illinois constitution and the impact it could have on the Illinois economy.

[Register Here.](#)

Sign up Today as a Fair Tax Endorser: More than 16 UUSG members have already signed on as Fair Tax endorsers – meaning that their names can be used in ads telling friends and neighbors they support the Amendment. Sign up TODAY here: [Bit.ly/fairtaxendorse](https://bit.ly/fairtaxendorse)

Join Us in Writing “Get Out the Vote” Letters

We're off to a great start, and we'd love to have you join in! Voters who receive handwritten mailings are significantly more likely to vote, which helps counter voter suppression. We'll help you send letters targeting traditionally under-represented voters in Michigan or other states, and you'll tell them why voting is important to you. (This is very effective!) To join this effort, you can either go right to votefwd.org and follow the directions, or contact Nancy Dawn Van Beest for assistance. When you've addressed and sealed all your envelopes, let Nancy Dawn know so she can add the postage and hold them for the big “send date” in October. (It's important not to send them earlier.) NOTE: If you can't access the website, or need help with supplies (letters, envelopes, pens) you can get them from Nancy Dawn Van Beest at nandawn@gmail.com.

Beyond Our Walls Donations in September for the Northern Illinois Food Bank: Since March, our congregation has contributed more than \$4000 to the Food Bank. This is impressive. But the need is huge. In one month alone this summer, the Food Bank provided over 9.5 million meals. Please give generously. Our friends and neighbors are depending on us during this COVID crisis.

UUSG is offering two new convenient ways to give your pledge and donations – a mobile phone app and text-2-give. We assessed several companies that provide these services and selected Tithe.ly, a safe and secure giving platform. These giving methods are in addition to the existing options of mailing checks, transferring funds via online banking, and giving on UUSG's website using PayPal. Check out our [Donate Page](#) for more information.