



October 18, 2020

Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

Today's Worship Team

Guest In the Pulpit: Matthew Aspin

Worship Associate: Pat Vary

Musicians: Lynn Fisher McCanne; Ruth Cavanaugh, flute;
Sophia Spiegel, cello; Cynthia Spiegel

Technical Directors: Jeff Stibal, Cari Gesiakowski

Upcoming Services:

Sunday, October 25: Democracy Revival - Regional Multi-Congregational Service

Sunday, November 1: Rev. Scot Hull

Come as you are.

Order of Worship

Ringing the Bell

Call to Worship

Prelude “Largo,” from “Sonata in D minor, op. XIII,” Michel Corrette

Welcoming Words

Opening Hymn # 352 “Find a Stillness”

Find a stillness, hold a stillness, let the stillness carry me.

Find the silence, hold the silence, let the silence carry me.

In the spirit, by the spirit, with the spirit giving power,

I will find true harmony.

Seek the essence, hold the essence, let the essence carry me.

Let me flower, help me flower, watch me flower, carry me.

In the spirit, by the spirit, with the spirit giving power,

I will find true harmony.

Chalice Lighting “Why We're Here,” Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom

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

For All Ages "The Rabbit Listened," Cori Doerrfeld,
presented by Tom Lichtenheld

Joys & 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 "Listen," Dr. Ralph Roughton and "Emergent Strategies,"
Adrienne Maree Brown

Musical Response "Allegro," from "Sonata in D minor, op. XIII,"
Michel Corrette

Sermon "If Only We Could Listen"

Closing Hymn # 318 "We Would Be One"

We would be one as now we join in singing
our hymn of love, to pledge ourselves anew
to that high cause of greater understanding
of who we are, and what in us is true.

We would be one in living for each other
to show to all a new community.

We would be one in building for tomorrow
a nobler world than we have known today.

We would be one in searching for that meaning
which bends our hearts and points us on our way.

As one, we pledge ourselves to greater service,
with love and justice, strive to make us free.

Chalice Extinguishing and Unison Closing

Benediction

Postlude “Adagio and Allegro,” from “Sonata in D minor, op. XIII”
Michel Corrette

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, October 18

- 9:00 am RE Class K-2
- 10:00 am Online Worship Service
- 11:15 am RE Class 3-5
- 12:00 pm RE Class 6-8
- 12:00 pm RE Class 9-12

Monday, October 19

- 7:00 pm Bible Study for UUs Group

Tuesday, October 20

Wednesday, October 21

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

Thursday, October 22

Friday, October 23

Saturday, October 24

- 1:00 pm Women’s Circle

Sunday, October 25

- 9:00 am RE Class K-2
- 10:00 am Online Worship Service
- 11:15 am RE Class 3-5
- 12:00 pm RE Class 6-8
- 12:00 pm RE Class 9-12

Announcements

Guest Speaker Today, Matthew Aspin: We are living in times of high anxiety. Our current direction seems to be leading us into deeper and deeper trouble, and it is getting harder each day to know what to believe from the cacophony of noise bombarding our senses. Might listening to the knowing whispers of the long-marginalized help us find our way back to peace? **Matt Aspin** earned his Masters of Divinity degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School. He was granted Preliminary Fellowship by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, and will soon be ordained by his home congregation in West Seattle, WA. He is currently residing in Milwaukee, WI, and recently accepted a position as the Interim Dir. Of Religious Exploration for the Auburn UU Fellowship in Alabama, where he will be serving remotely for the remainder of the 2020-21 year.

Democracy Revival On Sunday, October 25, we will join fifteen other Unitarian Universalist congregations across Illinois for a "Democracy Revival"! We are coming together to be that faithful voice for democracy, to lift up our values, and to center principles that have always been at the core of our faith. Come and be with our larger community, be inspired by our people, our stories, and some great music, as we encourage each other to continue our work to create a better world.

The For All Ages book today is "The Rabbit Listened," written and illustrated by Cori Doerrfeld, published by Dial Books. It's a reminder for all of us that listening means not solving someone's problems, not telling someone how to feel and, often, not even talking. The emotionally packed, must-read backstory behind the book reveals why it's so compelling. [You'll find it here](#). Thanks to Dial Press for their permission to share the book today. When shopping for books, please patronize our local independent bookshops: Harvey's Tales, Townhouse Books, and Anderson's Bookshop. If you prefer to shop online, bookshop.mymustreads.com/ allows your purchase to support the independent bookshop of your choice.

For All Ages Opportunity Are you interested in an opportunity to read a "For All Ages" story during a Zoom Sunday service? Please let the newly formed "For All Ages Team" of Rhonda Robinson, Tom Lichtenheld and Becky Hruby know! Whether you want to read alone or with a loved one, there will be stories to tell. Please let us know if you would like your name on the list of potential readers. There will be many opportunities throughout the year. Also note whether you prefer a solo gig or have other voices in your home that would like to join you. Please contact Becky Hruby at DRE@uusg.org.

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.

Help Getting to the Polls With the election just weeks away, we want to make sure everyone is able to **VOTE**. If you need assistance getting to the polls, please let our WOW team know. You can contact our WOW Team Leaders, Glenda Peck and Carol Myers at wow@uusg.org, or the office at 630-232-2350, office@uusg.org.

How do we combat the injustices in our country? Stand up for others? Use our voices to speak for those unable to do so? In the words of Nelson Mandela, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." To that end, Religious Education has collected [several anti-racism books for the UUSG library](#). From child and teen to adult audiences, the UUSG library has a nice selection of new titles to share. Books are available in a bin on the front porch of the Pioneer House. Please sign out the books you borrow on the log on the clipboard (inside the box). Try to return the books within a month to give others the chance to read as well. May you find inspiration and hope throughout the pages.

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 October 19. We'll continue our discussion of "[Peter, Paul and Mary Magdalene: The Followers of Jesus in History and Legend](#)" by Bart Ehrman. We'll be discussing Paul. We'll discuss Mary Magdalene in November. We'll meet using Zoom. For more info, please contact Jim Frazier biblestudy@uusg.org.

Women's Circle Restore And Renew: An October Celebration Saturday, October 24, 1-3pm, via Zoom. Late October traditionally marks the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter. This special time of the year is known as Samhain in the pagan religion and originates from an ancient Celtic spiritual tradition. Find out more about this celebration and other pantheistic-pagan traditions at our October Women's Circle. All members and friends (new or longtime) identifying as female (18+) are invited. If possible, please bring the following to the meeting: a candle, items from a nature walk (colored leaves, a stone, berries, or an acorn are good examples), a fall fruit or vegetable. [Sign up here to receive the Zoom link.](#) **"See" you October 24, 1-3 on Zoom.**

October Beyond Our Walls: The Humanitarian Seniors Project With your support, every month the Humanitarian Service Project's volunteers deliver fruits and vegetables, meat, bread, non-perishables, paper products, and more to the low-income seniors in their Senior Citizen Project. In past UUSG Days of Service, friends and members of the church have helped assemble hundreds of bags with essential supplies. Although it is doubtful that UUSG will be able to sponsor a Day of Service in the spring, our senior neighbors need our support now more than ever.

From the Minister's Desk

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and is part of an annual international health campaign organized by major breast cancer charities to increase awareness of the disease and to raise funds for research into its cause, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure. Please visit nationalbreastcancer.org for more information on screening, education and support.

October is also Bullying Prevention Month Every day, thousands of young people experience bullying from their peers while at school, after school in their neighborhoods, and even when they are at home, through social media and texts. There are many ways to support bullying prevention as an individual or with friends and family, and within your school or community. Please visit pacer.org/bullying/nbpm/ to learn more and for ways to get involved.

October is also LGBT History Month This is an annual month-long observance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history, and the history of the gay rights and related civil rights movements. Founded in 1994 by Missouri high-school history teacher Rodney Wilson, LGBT History Month provides role models, builds community, and represents a civil rights statement about the contributions of the LGBTQ+ community. Every day this month, a different video story will be highlighted at lgbthistorymonth.com.

October is also Clergy Appreciation Month Your new clergy person wants you to know that you are loved, that you are seen, and that you are appreciated. If you're so moved to return that compassionate understanding, he wants you to know that his job would be impossible without the amazing staff at UUSG and suggests that your continuing expressions of gratitude and thanks to them would be a tremendous gift.

Trick or treating may look different this year. But, chocolate is the same tasty treat it has always been. Something else is also the same – child labor and deforestation are still ingredients in big name chocolate bars. [We made this cheat sheet so you can easily spot chocolate brands doing chocolate better.](#) Many of these companies are also Green Business Members of Green America, and all of these chocolates are available for purchase online! During the pandemic, child labor in cocoa has risen by an estimated 20% and small businesses everywhere are struggling, so using your purchasing power this Halloween is even more important than usual. Whether you are spending Halloween at home or discovering new ways to safely pass out candy, we hope that our '[Trick or Treat Cheat Sheet](#)' helps you pick chocolate that you can feel good about eating.

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.

Social Justice News

Pick up your **Vote Yes for Fair Tax** Sign at 1931 W. Galena Blvd, Aurora, 11am-5pm.

Thank you to Nancy Dawn Van Beest and Lisa Gades who coordinated our Get Out the Vote Campaign. In addition to Nancy and Lisa, the following members and friends participated: Kevin Beyer, Lisa Brennan, Louise Haslett, Michelle Haugen, Vera Lind, Carol Myers, Tom and Lynn McCanne, Candace Moline, Jean Pierce, Kerry and Jason Sapet. They sent 200 postcards and more than 500 letters!

Thank you to Carol Myers, who has already signed up to deliver lunch items for the Soup Kitchen in Aurora on October 22, **and to Mike Clements, Glenda Peck, and the Gesiakowski family** who have signed up to provide meals for Lazarus House Nov. 7. There are still opportunities for more people to sign up for both of these opportunities to make a difference during the COVID crisis.

Calling all musicians: Please tell socialjustice@uusg if you are willing to provide music in person at the Illinois Youth Center for the boys sometime during the holiday season. Music would not need to be limited to Christmas carols.

This week on the Social Justice Calendar:

Tuesdays on the Bridge 4-5 pm on the Geneva Bridge on State Street, Geneva

Thursdays on the Bridge 4-5 pm on the St. Charles Bridge – Main Street, St. Charles. Rally for candidates and issues. Wear a mask and be prepared to socially distance, please. Bring signs.

Voting by mail is continuing – Contact your Board of Elections

[To request a Vote by Mail ballot in DuPage](#)

[To request a Vote by Mail ballot in Kane](#)

Mail Drop Boxes:

- Kane County Clerk's Office (Inside) 719 S. Batavia Ave., Bldg. B, Geneva Aurora
- Satellite Office (Inside) 5 E. Downer Pl., Suite F
- City of Elgin (Inside) 150 Dexter Ct, Elgin, IL 60120

October 19: Grace Period Registration and Voting at more locations

- Kane County Clerk's Office (719 S. Batavia Ave., Bldg. B, Geneva)
- Aurora Satellite Office (5 E. Downer Pl., Suite F)

Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 8:30am-4:30pm; Wed. 8:30am-8pm

October 22 Soup Kitchen Lunches: Volunteer to provide items for 15 lunches for soup kitchen: water bottles, snack bars (granola/trail mix), cookies and fruits with peels (bananas, cuties). [Sign up here](#).

November 7, Dinners for Lazarus House: Volunteer to prepare a casserole and salad for 12. [Sign up here](#).

Learn about Candidates Here: illinoisvoterguide.org/ Enter your address, then click on Research Ballot.

Candidate Forums:

[See one Kane County Forum here:](#) Kane County Bd. members, State's Attorney, Recorder

[See another Kane County Forum here:](#) Auditor, Circuit Clerk, 16th Judicial, Kane Co. Bd. Chair

[See the Illinois General Assembly Candidate Forum here:](#) State Legislators for House 49, 50, 65 and Senate 25

[See the Congressional District 6 Forum here](#)

[See the Congressional District 14 Forum here](#)

Election Protection: From the Chicago Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights: Report any suspected attempt to disenfranchise here: 866-OUR VOTE [Sign up here to help with Election Protection](#). They have two types of volunteer opportunities.

Call center volunteers answer calls from voters across Illinois and Indiana to the 866-OUR-VOTE hotline from their computer and provide assistance to help access the polls. This is a virtual volunteering opportunity. On-call field volunteers are trained to respond in person to issues at polling places in Illinois. You must be a registered voter in Illinois to be a field volunteer.

Many shifts can be done from your home. For all other volunteer opportunities, they will be following CDC guidelines and recommended protocols to protect all participants, including wearing masks and maintaining social distance. All volunteers must complete an online training. If you know any volunteer lawyers available to help on election day, contact Julie Sampson, Julie@citizenaction-il.org.

Contact Information

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Cynthia Spiegel, Music Director

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Jeff Stibal, Technical Director

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We are so pleased to announce that we have established (and erected!) an outside gathering place for UUSG congregants!

On our 3rd Street property, our Swedish Days/Pizza booth tent is the new home to our outdoor, COVID-safe space. With just a quick sign-up and a promise to follow the rules, you and nine others can gather. Please utilize the sign-up here, pick a date to gather and have fun! This may be the perfect cure to that “lack of seeing” feeling that many of us have been experiencing. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the Re-Opening Task Force.

Rev. Scot Hull, minister@uusg.org

Molly MacKay Zacker, boardpresident@uusg.org

Brian Doyle, (email in directory)

Diane Gallentine, (email in directory)

Becky Hruby, dre@uusg.org

Christine Imielski, office@uusg.org

Lisa Rittenberry, admin.assistant@uusg.org

Guidelines for Small Group Gatherings on 3rd Street Property

1. All youth aged K-12 are welcome to use the tent with a parent or guardian present.
2. Use of the tent is limited to parties of 10 or less.
3. Do not come if you feel sick (e.g., fever, cough, shortness of breath, etc.)
4. Masks must be worn at all times and must cover your nose and mouth.
5. Maintain social distance (min. 6 feet)
6. Do not consume food and drinks under the tent (as these will require you to remove your mask.)
7. Bring your own chair.
8. Regarding trash, if you bring it in, take it out.
9. Please note that the church building remains closed to everyone except UUSG staff. (Bathroom facilities will be unavailable.)
10. Have fun!

[Sign Up Here](#)