



February 14, 2021

Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

Today's Worship Team

In the Pulpit: Rev. Scot Hull

Worship Associate: Deb Brod

Musicians: Katie Baar, Lynn Fisher McCanne, Linda O'Neill, Geoff Pynn, Tracey McFadden, Andy Montgomery, Will Sapet, Cynthia Spiegel, Tom Zimmerman, Mike Elliott

Technical Directors: Jeff Stibal, Cari Gesiakowski, Jamie Carroll

Upcoming Services:

Sunday, February 21: Guest-in-the-Pulpit: Rev. Verdis Robinson

Sunday, February 28: Rev. Scot Hull

Come as you are.

Order of Worship

Ringing the Bell Elaina Hruby

Call to Worship

Prelude Prelude No. 1 in B flat major, Gershwin; played by
Cynthia Spiegel and Tom Zimmerman

Welcoming Words

Chalice Lighting Ivy & Tim Benshoof

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.

Stewardship Drive 2021 Molly MacKay Zacker

Passing the Peace

For All Ages "The Girl and the Bicycle," 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 Montgomery Family

Offertory

Gratitude for the Offering

Reading

Musical Response "Happy Ways," Joe Walsh; performed by Andy Montgomery and Tom Zimmerman

Sermon "Who We Want to Be: The Sermon on the Amount"

Closing Hymn # "1021 Lean On Me," presented by the House Band: Geoff Pynn, Andy Montgomery, Tracey McFadden, & Tom Zimmerman

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 "Jeremiah Was a Bullfrog," music Hoyt Axton, new words Kathleen and Tracey McFadden; performed by Tracey McFadden and Mike Elliott

Community Announcements**Talk Back and Coffee Hour Breakouts****Contact Information**

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Cynthia Spiegel, Music Director

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Jeff Stibal, Technical Director

techdirector@uusg.org

Today & This Week at UUSG

uusg.org/calendar

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

Sunday, February 14

- 9:00 am RE Class K-2
- 10:00 am Online Worship Service
- 11:15 am RE Class 3-5
- 11:15 am RE Class 6-8
- 11:15 am RE Class 9-12
- 1:00 pm Parents Circle
- 2:00 pm Dungeons & Dragons Group

Monday, February 15

- 7:00 pm Bible Study for UUs Group

Tuesday, February 16

- 12:00 pm BYO Lunch with Rev. Scot
- 1:00 pm The Help Desk with Christine

Wednesday, February 17

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

Thursday, February 18

- 11:00 am Simply Sharing Circle
- 7:30 pm UUSG Family Game Night

Friday, February 19

Saturday, February 20

- 9:00 am Northern IL Food Bank

Sunday, February 21

- 9:00 am RE Class K-2
- 10:00 am Online Worship Service
- 11:15 am RE Class 3-5
- 11:15 am RE Class 6-8
- 11:15 am RE Class 9-12
- 1:00 pm Minister Coffee

Announcements

The For All Ages book today is "The Girl and the Bicycle" written and illustrated by Mark Pett, and published by Simon & Schuster. Wordless, timeless, and touching, The Girl and the Bicycle carries a message of selflessness and sweet surprises. It illustrates (pun intended) the reward of hard work and the true meaning of generosity. Thanks to Simon & Schuster 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.org allows your purchase to support the independent bookshop of your choice.

Guest-in-the-Pulpit, February 21 Join guest preacher, **Verdis L. Robinson**, as he tells of his ancestral journey to the red hills of Georgia and to a beloved community called "Old Field." Those who have come before us offered story and song as healing balms in difficult times. What messages do our ancestors have for us in these times? Let us draw upon the healing wisdom of the ancestors to build a beloved community. Verdis L. Robinson (He/Him) is the Lenora Montgomery Scholar of Excellence at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago where he is a candidate for a Master of Divinity. As a former Holiness-Pentecostal minister, Verdis is an Aspirant for the Unitarian Universalist ministry. Currently, Verdis is a ministerial intern at the Unitarian Church of Montpelier in Vermont. Verdis holds a BM in voice performance from Boston University, a BS cum laude and an MA in history from SUNY College at Brockport, and an MA in African American studies from SUNY University at Buffalo.

Wine Down Thursday You are invited every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7pm, to Happy Hour. Next date is **February 25**. Bring your favorite beverage and enjoy the company of other UUs as we talk about anything and everything. Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84241796675> Meeting ID: 842 4179 6675.

February "Beyond Our Walls" February's BOW recipient is Habitat for Humanity of the Northern Fox Valley. Your donations help families achieve the dream of owning a home. Habitat homeowners build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. With the organization's help, homeowners achieve the independence they need to build a better life for themselves and their families. Please give generously to this wonderful organization. Write "BOW" in the memo line.

Northern Illinois Food Bank Saturday, February 20, 9am-noon It is a brand new year. Hope is rising. But, there is immediate need now for our neighbors who have been hit hardest by the pandemic. Please sign up for the February volunteer shift. To make things easier, please list the names of everyone in your family if you are signing up more than one person. Please note that due to COVID-19 restrictions, we have a smaller number of shifts to fill. So, if you are looking to participate, sign up today! [Sign up here.](#)

Vaccinated? Let us know! In the spirit of optimism and hope in our community we are keeping a running tally of how many of our members and friends have received the COVID-19 vaccine. So far, we have 2 members vaccinated, we are so looking forward to being together again! Please let us know at admin.assistant@uusg.org.

Board Chat In an effort to make ourselves more accessible to the congregation, the Board will host a “chat room” on the 4th Sunday of each month. After the service, “click” on our breakout room and let’s chat it up! Want to ask a question? Bring something to our attention? We look forward to seeing you **February 28**.

BYOL (Lunch) with Rev. Scot: Tuesdays at Noon Rev. Scot will be hosting an open meeting on Zoom each Tuesday at noon. No agenda. No requirements. Come if you can, when you can. Just bring yourself, your concerns, your questions, your stories, your jokes—and your lunch—and join him (and your congregational friends!) in our virtual courtyard for an hour of conversation, connection, and community. Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5832903665>. Meeting ID: 583 290 3665, Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799 (Chicago).

Join your friends at UUSG for some game play fun! 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 7-8:30pm. Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83203291200>. Worried you won’t know how? No problem...come and learn! Your belly will thank you for filling it with laughter. To play, simply join the Zoom meeting on your computer or laptop and bring an iOS or Android smartphone or tablet, which players will use separately to participate in the games. No advance preparation is necessary. Mark your calendars for game nights the first and third Thursday each month. Next date is **February 18**. We look forward to seeing you. Be there or be square!

UUSG Discord The Communications Team has a new way to interact that is more fun than Facebook and Realm put together! There is a new Discord server set up for us at UUSG. Dave Davis, Com Team Leader, has created text chat rooms for teams and can set up any new room that members would like. It's a new way to hang out and not be bothered by ads or newsfeeds controlled by corporations. Think of it as Facebook lite. You can chat in text or voice or video. You can add folks as friends and have private discussions with them in your own two-person chat. You can use GIFs and pictures in your texts and you can even post YouTube or web links. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email Dave at davidbrucedavis@gmail.com. Join here: <https://discord.gg/nVaSJ4Sb>.

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 **March 31**. The Board of Directors has re-visited the June 2020 Board Statement and our plans for moving forward. Please read the letter and learn more about UUSG's plan for the future: [Updated "Navigating the Year Ahead: Board Statement on UUSG's COVID-19 Reopening Strategy."](#)

Women's Circle Restore and Renew: A February Celebration Saturday, February 27, 1-3pm via Zoom. So, what is a spiritual experience after all? And how could dreams be part of that? Well, have you ever had a dream that came true? Have you ever had a nightmare that helped you see beyond your fears? Or, have you ever had a dream that helped you create something important? Dreams can do all that. And more. If, that is, we know how to decode them. But how do we decode such mysterious messages? This is what we will be exploring and sharing together in our next UUSG Women's Circle meeting on Zoom, **February 27, 1-3pm**. All members and friends (new or longtime) identifying as female (18+) are invited. Please join us. [Sign up here for Zoom link and to RSVP.](#)

One Book One UUSG WOW is excited to host our second virtual book discussion group that will meet on **Wednesday, March 24**. We will discuss the realistic fiction book "The Dutch House" by Ann Patchett. All are welcome. Copies of the book are available at the many Fox Valley library systems for check-out. When shopping for this book, please consider patronizing our local independent bookshops: Harvey's Tales, Town House Books, and Anderson's Bookshop. You may also prefer to purchase online at [Better World Books](#), a used bookshop that supports literacy with each purchase. **Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 10**, and contact Glenda Peck (peckrglenda@gmail.com) with questions.

Chats with Rev. Scot, Sundays at 1pm

Rev Scot wants to connect with you! Join him in February for the following discussions:

Today: Parents Circle

Got kids? These are impossible times, and impossible times calls for coffee and community. If you can take an hour, come chat with Rev. Scot and other UUSG parents about what's on your head & heart.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84033914938>

February 21: Minister Coffee

Open Forum! For those of you that think those talk-back sessions are just a tad too short, this is for you. Bring your questions, your curiosity, and a cup of coffee, and we'll chat!

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87896751773>

Social Justice News

The Social Justice team appreciates the efforts of the following people who prepared lunches for Lazarus House Feb. 6: Gesiakowski family, Slaiher family, and Yurkewicz family. We also want to recognize the contributions of the Clements family, the Klein family, Sue Gately, Gail Tattersfield, Page Poris, and Molly MacKay Zacker, who provided dinners.

Action Alert: Before Feb. 16, you are invited to send a message such as the following to: jcar@ilga.gov

Dear members of JCAR,

I strongly support the Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning Standards for All Illinois Educators, which have been proposed by the Illinois State Board of Education. Requiring teacher preparation programs to train educators to treat students in a culturally responsive way demonstrates that every individual has dignity and worth. I believe that implementing these standards is one important step towards closing the opportunity gap for many students in our state.

Feb. 25: Help provide food for the Aurora Soup Kitchen. [Sign up here.](#)

From the Minister's Desk

Beloved Conversations Virtual: Registration is Now Open!

Racial justice, and the work of self-understanding that is essential to it, is the work of a lifetime. This unique antiracism program was designed by UUs and for UUs, and has been explored by thousands of UUs at over 250 congregations across the US. For this time of pandemic, this course has been fully updated and is now fully online, so that participants can engage with others all across the country. Note: there is a cost associated with this course. If that cost is a stumbling block, please reach out to Christine at office@uusg.org; we may be able to help. [Visit here for more information.](#)

***How to Be an Antiracist* - Dr. Ibram X. Kendi**

"In [How to Be an Antiracist](#), Kendi takes readers through a widening circle of antiracist ideas--from the most basic concepts to visionary possibilities--that will help readers see all forms of racism clearly, understand their poisonous consequences, and work to oppose them in our systems and in ourselves."

***Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* - Jason Reynolds and Dr. Ibram X. Kendi**

Great for YA readers! "Through a gripping, fast-paced, and energizing narrative written by beloved award-winner Jason Reynolds, this book shines a light on the many insidious forms of racist ideas--and on ways readers can identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their daily lives." [Visit here to purchase.](#)