



February 21, 2021

Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

Today's Worship Team

In the Pulpit: Rev. Verdis Robinson

Worship Associate: Diane Gallentine

Musicians: Rev. Verdis Robinson, Ingrid Unterseher, Ysaye Barnwell, Sandra Anderson

Technical Directors: Jeff Stibal, Cari Gesiakowski, Jamie Carroll

Upcoming Services:

Sunday, February 28: Rev. Scot Hull

Sunday, March 7: Rev. Scot Hull

Come as you are.

Order of Worship

Ringing the Bell Ivy & Tim Benshoof

Call to Worship

Prelude "Summertime" from "Porgy and Bess," Gershwin

Welcoming Words

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) read by Leo Yurkewicz
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 Kevin Beyer

Passing the Peace

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 The Montgomery Family

Offertory

Gratitude for the Offering

Reading

Musical Response “Eyes on the Prize,” sung by Verdis Robinson

Sermon “Building a Beloved Community on the Red Hills of Georgia”

Closing Hymn “Building a New Way”

We are building a new way.

We are building a new way.

We are building a new way,

feeling stronger ev’ry day,

We are building a new way.

We are working to be free.

We are working to be free.

We are working to be free,
hate and greed and jealousy.

We are working to be free.

We can feed our every need.

We can feed our ev’ry need.

We can feed our ev’ry need,
Start with love, that is the seed.

We can feed our every need.

Peace and freedom is our cry.

Peace and freedom is our cry.

Peace and freedom is our cry,
Without these this world will die.

Peace and freedom is our cry.

Chalice Extinguishing and Unison Closing

Benediction

Postlude “We Are,” Ysaye Barnwell, performed by Ysaye Barnwell & the UU General Assembly 2020 Virtual Choir

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, 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
- 2:00 pm Pledge Drive Training

Monday, February 22

- 9:00 am Pioneer Newsletter Deadline

Tuesday, February 23

- 12:00 pm BYO Lunch with Rev. Scot
- 7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting

Wednesday, February 24

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 11:30 am The Luncheonettes

Thursday, February 25

- 9:00 am Soup Kitchen Group
- 1:00 pm Memoir Writing Group
- 7:00 pm Wine Down Thursday

Friday, February 26

Saturday, February 27

- 1:00 pm Women's Circle

Sunday, February 28

- 9:00 am RE Class K-2
- 10:00 am Online Worship Service
- 11:15 am Board Chat
- 11:15 am RE Class 3-5
- 11:15 am RE Class 6-8
- 11:15 am RE Class 9-12
- 2:00 pm Dungeons & Dragons
- 2:00 pm Social Justice Team Meeting

Announcements

Guest-in-the-Pulpit Our guest preacher, **Verdis L. Robinson**, 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.

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.

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.

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 25 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. **March dates: March 4 & March 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."](#)

Green Action Alert Argonne National Laboratory is hosting a Director's Special Colloquium entitled "Energy Storage for a Changing World," Tuesday, February 23, 2:00-3:30pm. Attend virtually to learn more about how lithium-ion batteries and energy storage are key to fighting climate change. [Register here](#).

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 **today** for **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

Thank you! The Social Justice Committee appreciates the efforts of Lisa Gades and Kevin Beyer, The McFaddens, and Carol Myers who are providing items for lunches for the Soup Kitchen this month! **We still need people to sign up to provide 35 snack bars and 125 cookies to be delivered Feb. 25.** [Please sign up here.](#)

Calendar Feb 22: 7pm Geneva City Council discussion of Affordable Housing (See Action Alert) [Watch it here.](#)

Feb 19-26: [View “The Long Shadow,”](#) a film about one family’s legacy of white privilege in the context of a history of anti-Black racism in our country.

Feb 24: 7pm Interview of “The Long Shadow” film director Frances Causey, including questions submitted by the audience. [You must register in advance here.](#) (Note: the film is being sponsored by Wheaton, Aurora, and DeKalb libraries)

Feb 25: 9-10am Deliver food to the Soup Kitchen in Aurora

March 6: There is still an opportunity for someone to provide a casserole and salad for 12 for Lazarus House. [Please sign up here.](#)

Action Alert: One of the goals listed in Geneva’s Strategic Plan is to create more affordable housing in order to meet the state mandate and to provide for retiring seniors, young families starting out, and low-paid essential workers employed by schools, hospitals, and the government. A plan for a development of “Emma’s Landing” affordable townhomes has been approved by Geneva’s zoning commission for surplus city-owned property on Lewis Road. The plan will be discussed at a Geneva City Council Meeting of the Whole at 7pm on February 22. The opposition has been very vocal. **It is essential that your alderperson hears from you.** Public hearings will likely to ongoing for several weeks. [Please find your ward here.](#) [Find contact information for your alderperson here.](#) [There is more information on the project here.](#)

Green Sanctuary News

[The One Earth Film Festival](#), Mar 3-14, Free (with suggested \$8 donation). Check out all of the trailers, some of these films are great.

10th Annual Wine, Cheese, and Trees - the Virtual Event February 27, 7-9pm
A Zoom Invite will be sent to your email on file two days prior to the event. A Joint Venture of the Natural Resources Committee of Geneva and Geneva Park District Foundation. [Details here.](#)

Check out these articles:

[When Climate Change and Xenophobia Collide](#)

[Do We Need More Scary Climate Change Articles?](#)

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