



February 28, 2021

Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

Today's Worship Team

In the Pulpit: Rev. Scot Hull

Worship Associate: Gail Tattersfield

Musicians: Sam Gesiakowski, Cynthia Spiegel, Tom Zimmerman

Technical Directors: Jeff Stibal, Cari Gesiakowski, Jamie Carroll

Upcoming Services:

Sunday, March 7: Rev. Scot Hull

Sunday, March 14: Rev. Scot Hull

Come as you are.

Order of Worship

Ringing the Bell The Facilities Team

Call to Worship

Prelude "Variations on a theme of Corelli," Rachmaninov, op. 42;
theme and variation 14

Welcoming Words

Chalice Lighting Christine Imielski

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) presented by Will Sapet
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 The Spiegel/Zimmerman Family

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 Don Clements

Offertory

Gratitude for the Offering

Reading

Musical Response "Variations on a theme of Corelli,"
Rachmaninov, op. 42; variations 4, 9, and 5

Sermon "Coming Back to the Table"

Closing Hymn # 317 We Are Not Our Own

We are not our own. Earth forms us,
human leaves on nature's growing vine,
fruit of many generations,
seeds of life divine.

We are not alone. Earth names us:
past and present, peoples near and far,
family and friends and strangers
show us who we are.

Therefore let us make thanksgiving,
and with justice, willing and aware,
give to earth, and all things living,
liturgies of care.

Let us be a house of welcome,
living stone upholding living stone,
gladly showing all our neighbors
we are not our own!

Chalice Extinguishing and Unison Closing

Benediction

Postlude "Better Days," Pat Humphries & Sandy O

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 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

Monday, March 1

- 11:30 am Women's Circle Planning Meeting
- 7:30 pm Technology Team Meeting

Tuesday, March 2

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

Wednesday, March 3

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

Thursday, March 4

- 7:30 pm UUSG Family Game Night

Friday, March 5

Saturday, March 6

Sunday, March 7

- 9:00 am RE Class K-2
- 9:00 am Styrofoam Sunday
- 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 New UU? Q&A with the New Guy!

Announcements

The Nominating Committee is looking for a few good people. This is the time of year when we do the work of finding Board members for the upcoming fiscal year. If you're interested in getting involved in the Board of Directors or you'd just like more information, please send an email to nominating@uusg.org.

Week of Service UUSG's Week of Service will be **Saturday, March 20 to Saturday, March 27**. Members and friends are invited to promote practical goodness by volunteering in our community. The Week of Service will feature a mix of distanced, in-person activities, Zoom events, and opportunities to drop off supplies for our neighbors in need. You'll be hearing more in the coming weeks. For more information and to sign up visit uusg.org/week-of-service.

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 **March 11**. 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 51 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 **today**.

Vaccine Angels Available to Help If you need assistance in finding and scheduling a Covid vaccine appointment, WOW would like to help. We will pair you with a Vaccine Angel (a member or UUSG friend) who will help you navigate the process. Contact WOW at wow@uusg.org for assistance.

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](#).

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."](#)

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 March for the following discussions:

March 7: New UU? Q&A with the New Guy!

Are you new to Unitarian Universalism? New to UUSG? Want to know more? Join our new minister, Rev. Scot, for a monthly drop-in on the first Sunday of the month, at 1pm--after the service, coffee break-outs, and the talk-back. Bring your questions, your curiosity, and a cup of coffee, and we’ll chat! Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85446292800>

March 14: 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>

March 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

Thank you The Social Justice team appreciates the contributions of Cari Gesiakowski, Sherri Casterline, Kate Rodgers, and Betty Bristol, each of whom has volunteered to provide a casserole and salad for 12 for Lazarus House on March 6. We also thank the Clements, Slaiher, and Yurkewicz families, each of whom will deliver 17 sack lunches on March 6. We still need one more volunteer to provide a casserole and salad. [Please sign up here.](#)

Calendar

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

March 7 11:30 Zoom training for Bystander Intervention in situations of racial abuse to help people identify hate incidents as they happen and take action safely and effectively. Sponsored by the North Shore Unitarian Church. [Information and registration.](#)

March 10 7pm Batavia City Council Candidate Forum Livestream here: youtube.com/user/BATV1017

March 16 6pm St. Charles Candidate Forum (St. Charles Township, St. Charles Library District, Mayor, City Council/Aldermanic (all 5 wards) and St. Charles District 303 School Board) [will be livestreamed here.](#)

March 18 7pm Geneva Mayoral Candidate forum – [will be available AFTER the event here.](#)

HOA: Bystander Intervention to stop anti-Asian/American and xenophobic harassment Please join the North Shore Unitarian Church in this training Anti-Asian/American and xenophobic harassment are on the rise across the US, and the world. In this virtual Zoom workshop sponsored by Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Chicago, CAIR Chicago, and Hollaback!, you'll learn how you can intervene effectively as a bystander without compromising your safety. This one-hour, interactive training will teach you Hollaback!'s 5D's of bystander intervention methodology. They will start by talking about the types of discrimination that Asian and Asian American folks are facing right now - from microaggressions to violence. You'll then learn what to look for and the positive impact that bystander intervention has on individuals and communities. They will talk through five strategies for intervention: distract, delegate, document, delay, and direct; and how to prioritize your own safety while intervening. At the end of our practice scenarios, and you'll leave feeling

more confident intervening the next time you see Anti-Asian/American harassment. [Please sign up here](#). This training may not be ADA compliant.

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.

Check out these articles:

[When Climate Change and Xenophobia Collide](#)

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

Coming Soon to UUSG

The Inclusion Bookclub

In the spirit of salvation through bibliography, we're starting another book club! This monthly exploration will cover some of the many facets of diversity, equity, and inclusion. This is a fantastic first step for those just starting their journey with the ideas, stories, and challenges of become a more just and more equitable society, and a great refresher for those who have been "doing the work" for years. No prerequisite required – just a willingness to read and to listen. We'll be announcing the first several books in a week or so, and we're planning to have our first meeting in early April. If you're interested, want to know more, or want to sign up, send a note to Christine at office@uusg.org.

Difficult Conversations with Kern Beare.

Your boss. A rude neighbor. A challenging family member. Your childhood friend. Your parent, partner, child. Engaging, or staying engaged, with these regular figures in our daily lives can be a challenge. And when the conversation gets tough, what then? Neuroscience tells us that difficult conversations are difficult because they activate our fight/flee/freeze survival drive. In this workshop, you'll learn about three research-based strategies that counteract this ancient survival instinct, helping us to stay present and creative in any conversation.

This is a workshop for everyone, no-prerequisite required. We're bringing this to our community as part of our ongoing commitment to living better, together, with compassion and connection. All are welcome. Tentatively scheduled for: May 1st, 8th, and 15th. The workshop is 2.5 hours a day, across 3 Saturday afternoons. Stay tuned for more details and how to sign up.

Defense Against the Dark Arts: See-Something/Say-Something.

As Rev. Scot has said, antiracism isn't something that is one-and-done. Antiracism is a commitment to a program of "better personal hygiene", and therefore, something we have to practice regularly. This workshop is an excellent next step in our collective commitment to antiracism.

Many of us have the perfect thing to say when someone crosses a line. Unfortunately, our best stuff comes to us too late! In this workshop, we'll be talking about implicit bias, micro vs macro aggressions, and what we might do or say *in the moment* when someone crosses the line. These skills will help UUSG become a more hospitable and welcoming place to newcomers.

This workshop will be hands-on. All are welcome, though some familiarity with the ideas involved are recommended. Tentatively scheduled for a single Saturday afternoon in April. Stay tuned for more details and how to sign up.

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. Beloved Conversations is truly a unique antiracism program. It 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. Rev. Scot has taken this class as a student, and he has also led a cohort through it as a facilitator. He recommends it to any UU ready to take the ideals of diversity, equity, and inclusion from the classroom out into our larger world. He believes that taking this course is a significant statement about our shared commitment to the work of a Beloved Community, justice, and a more inclusive, welcoming, and engaged UUSG.

Beloved Conversations will also be offered virtually in the Fall of 2021, so if this Spring's timing isn't right, that's fine – you can certainly catch the next class. It is Rev. Scot's hope that over the next several seasons, a majority of our UUSG community will complete this course. What we're looking for, with this Spring 2021 cohort, are those who are ready to step into the work now and help lead the way.

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 are able to help. [Visit here for more information about the class and to register.](#)

Upcoming class with Rev. Scot

The Shared Pulpit: A Sermon Seminar

“Everyone has a truth to share.”

Have you ever wondered what goes into a sermon? What makes a sermon different from a talk? How to take your truth and shape it into something that is moving, comforting, inspiring, or challenging? In this workshop, we’ll explore the theory and theology of preaching, practice writing and speaking with authenticity, and gradually build toward composing quality 20-minute sermons.

Rev. Scot will be leading this workshop over Zoom, with times and dates depending on what will support the majority. Class size is limited. First session in early April. If you’re interested, want to know more, or want to sign up, send a note to Christine at office@uusg.org.

Contact Information

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