



July 25, 2021

## **Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva**

### **Today's Worship Team**

**In the Pulpit:** Rev. Julie Taylor

**Worship Associate:** Diane Gallentine

**Musicians:** Angela Salvaggione, Cynthia Spiegel, UUSG Choir

**Technical Directors:** Jeff Stibal, Cari Gesiakowski, Jamie Carroll

### **Upcoming Services:**

**Sunday, August 1:** Guest-in-the-Pulpit: Rev. Zsolt Elekes

**Sunday, August 8:** Guest-in-the-Pulpit: Rev. Verdis Robinson

*Come as you are.*

# Order of Worship

**Ringing the Bell** Theo, Quentin, & Autumn Yang

## Call to Worship

**Prelude** "Sung Outside the Prince's Door," Edward MacDowell

## Welcoming Words

**Opening Hymn** # 194 "Faith Is a Forest"

Faith is a forest in which doubts play and hide;  
insight can hear the still small voice deep inside.

Web of Life, may this thread I weave  
strengthen commitment to all I believe.

Vision be my guide as I seek my way,  
lead me into this tender day;

Speak through me in all I do and say.

Seeds of both meek and strong are scattered in air;  
dignity shines undimmed by bigotry's glare.

Web of Life, may this thread I weave  
help me bear witness to all I believe.

Justice be my guide as I seek my way,  
lead me into this tender day;

Speak through me in all I do and say.

Fortune and famine ride the swift winds of chance;  
sorrow and pleasure seem united in dance.

Web of Life, may this thread I weave  
mingle compassion with all I believe.

Mercy be my guide as I seek my way,  
lead me into this tender day;

Speak through me in all I do and say.

**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) Sam Gesiakowski

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**

#### **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.

### **Offertory**

#### **Gratitude for the Offering**

**Reading** "Illusions: Adventures of a Reluctant Messiah," Richard Bach

**Musical Response** "Glockengeläute," Edward Grieg

**Sermon** "Hanging On, Letting Go"

**Closing Hymn # 9** "No Longer Forward Nor Behind"

No longer forward nor behind I look in hope or fear;  
but, grateful, take the good I find, the best of now and here.  
I break my pilgrim staff, I lay aside the toiling oar;  
the angel sought so far away I welcome at my door.

For all the jarring notes of life seem blending in a psalm,  
and all the angles of its strife slow rounding into calm.  
And so the shadows fall apart, and so the west winds play;  
and all the windows of my heart I open to the day.

**Chalice Extinguishing and Unison Closing**

**Benediction**

**Postlude** “Sonata in E,” D. Scarlatti

**Community Announcements**

**Talk Back and Coffee Hour Breakouts**

**Contact Information**

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# Today & This Week at UUSG

[uusg.org/calendar](https://uusg.org/calendar)

## Sunday, July 25

- 10:00 am Online Worship Service
- 2:00 pm Social Justice Team Meeting (online)

## Monday, July 26

- 9:00 am Pioneer Newsletter Deadline

## Tuesday, July 27

- 7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting

## Wednesday, July 28

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 11:30 am The Luncheonettes
- 12:00 pm BYO Lunch with Julia Jones (online)
- 7:00 pm One Book One UUSG (at Geneva Public Library)

## Thursday, July 29

## Friday, July 30

## Saturday, July 31

- 9:00 am Northern IL Food Bank Group

## Sunday, August 1

- 9:00 am Styrofoam Sunday
- 10:00 am Online Worship Service

**Council will not meet during August** During these months, we ask that teams/committees still complete the Teams Report, since the Board will continue to meet and much of the information is important. Of course, if there is content/information that your Team would like to share with the Council, please email the Council at [council@uusg.org](mailto:council@uusg.org).

**Can't find something? Need a little more information?** Check out our website at [uusg.org](https://uusg.org) and our calendar at [uusg.org/calendar](https://uusg.org/calendar).

# Announcements

**"Hanging On, Letting Go"** Lao Tzu, founder of Taoism said, "When I let go of what I am, I become what I might be." However, change is easier said than done. This sermon will explore the dance of hanging on and letting go.

**Rev. Julie Taylor** is a Unitarian Universalist community minister specializing in critical incident response, community crisis and pastoral care. Rev. Taylor is the Senior Director of Contextual Ministry and an affiliate professor at Meadville Lombard Theological School. Agitating, preaching, and working towards dismantling systems of White Supremacy are key in Rev. Taylor's theology and work.

UUSG is now open for in-person meetings. [Please use the Room Reservation Form here](#). Please abide by these guidelines; all of us want to be together, but the safety of our staff and congregants is our #1 concern. Also, please remember that this is different than having in-person services, those are still online for now.

- Mask wearing is mandatory.
- Building usage is restricted to the Common Room.
- No food or drink consumption is allowed.
- The restroom closest to the kitchen is designated as the "Visitor Restroom" and the ONLY bathroom that should be used by any non-staff members
- Cleaning supplies will be clearly visible in the Common Room. It is necessary to wipe down all "used" surfaces after use.

## **The July BOW cause is the Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants**

ICDI provides a number of essential services for immigrants and asylum-seekers, including:

- Offering housing, financial assistance, and case management to people who would otherwise have been detained in traumatizing conditions
- Providing support to immigrants being held in ICE detention in county jails
- Accompanying immigrants in court and serve as observers to hold the Immigration Court system accountable
- Visiting migrant children apprehended by the US Government for crossing the border who are awaiting reunification with a family member.

## Religious Education News

**Volunteers Needed for Youth Programs** Religious education (RE) volunteers needed! Please help UU youth by volunteering your time and talents in any of the following ways:

**Teachers** For the 2021-22 school year, we are shifting to a middle hour RE program, so no more missing the church service (we continue to offer two services, before and after RE). Every classroom has two teachers, typically teaching twice per month. Everything you need is provided, including on-the-job training. You can start as the assistant teacher until you get to know the ropes. Grade levels of need include K-2 and 3-5. Number needed: 4 for a bi-weekly commitment

**Arts & Exploration (A&E) Volunteers** For our kids in K-5 who are unable to sit through an hour of church, we will offer A&E. This program will provide parents with their usual time to themselves during the service while providing the youth with social engagement. Ideas include play outside, go on a scavenger hunt, make a craft, do a puzzle, play a game, and more. Number needed: 8 for a monthly commitment

**Substitute Teachers** On occasion, one of our regular teachers may not be available or not feel well the morning of church. In that case, we need a list of volunteers to call upon. Once a background check has been completed, your name can be part of this list. Number needed: 6

**Nursery Care Employees** Upon reopening, we will need two nursery workers to be present for the duration of Sunday mornings. This is a paid position and ideally one of these people will be a consistent face in our nursery each week. The minimum age is 18 years. If you or anyone you know may be interested, please pass this on. The pay is \$13/hour. [Job Description and further details can be found here.](#)

Please contact Becky Hruby, Director of Religious Education for Children and Youth, at [dre@uusg.org](mailto:dre@uusg.org) if you are interested in helping or simply learning more about any of these opportunities.

**Please join us for Summer 2021 Family Ministry** Questions? Email Becky Hruby at [DRE@uusg.org](mailto:DRE@uusg.org). **Sunday, August 15: Pottawatomie Park, St. Charles:** Meet at the small playground across from the mini golf course, between the bathrooms and parking lot. While there, enjoy two shaded playgrounds, the Fox River Trail, pavilion, mini golf and snack bar. UUSG will pick up the tab on an ice cream at the snack bar.

**The Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee Needs YOU!** Anyone who is interested in helping plan and coordinate the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives at UUSG is invited to volunteer for the DEI committee by sending a message to [DEI@uusg.org](mailto:DEI@uusg.org). People who have contacted us before June 20 will help set the meeting times for the group.

**New Buddhist Book** "Pay Attention, for Goodness' Sake" might be something you remember hearing as a child. It's also the title of the next book that UUSG's Buddhist Group will read and discuss, by the wonderful author Sylvia Boorstein. **Join us on Zoom, first and third Wednesdays of each month at 7pm.** E-mail Lisa Gades at [uubuddhism@uusg.org](mailto:uubuddhism@uusg.org) for more information.

**Summer BYO Lunches on Zoom!** Julia Jones, Meadville Lombard seminarian and spouse to Reverend Scot, will be hosting our summer lunch program. 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 her (and your congregational friends!) in our virtual courtyard for an hour of conversation, connection, and community. Wednesdays at noon! [Zoom Meeting ID: 885 8448 0784](#).

## Social Justice News

**The Food Bank Group** is seeking new and repeat volunteers for its upcoming shifts. Ages 8 years old and up are welcome. COVID precautions are in effect, so masks must be worn until further notice. Please consider joining us **on July 31, Aug 21, and Sept 18**. Sign up at [uusg.org/food-bank-signup](https://uusg.org/food-bank-signup).

**August 7: Lazarus House Homeless Shelter** – Sign up to prepare lunches for 17 or to fix a casserole and salad for 12 or to stay overnight. 214 Walnut St., St. Charles. [Sign up here](#).

**Take Action!** Make sure our US Senators know that you appreciate their support of the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, both of which are essential for protecting the right to vote. [Contact for Senator Durbin](#), [Contact for Senator Duckworth](#)



**Sister Suppers are back!** Modeled on the traditional UU Circle Suppers, Sister Suppers are social gatherings for members and friends of UUSG who identify as women. They provide wonderful opportunities for connecting and reconnecting with other women within our church family. Sister Suppers are held in the fall. One person serves as the hostess, and each participant brings an item, generally an entrée, a vegetable, dessert, etc., but the menu is flexible. You can sign up as a participant or as an alternate who will be called if last-minute openings occur. You can participate in one each month, or only in months you choose. The hostess establishes the exact date of her Supper. You do not have to host to participate. There will be a few modifications to protect the health and safety of everyone:

- Three Suppers rather than four will be offered.
- Attendance will be limited to six.
- You must have had a COVID-19 vaccine to participate.

No late additions can be made as the scheduling process is complex and time-consuming, [so sign up today!](#) If you do miss the 7/23 deadline, contact Sherri Casterline ([scasterline@earthlink.net](mailto:scasterline@earthlink.net)) and she will add you as an alternate. If you need a ride, please check the box on the sign-up page, and we'll try to find one for you.

**Unsung Heroes** Many tasks and caring acts get accomplished by volunteers at our church unbeknownst to many of us. These people go above and beyond what is asked or expected of them. We would like to recognize these Unsung Heroes. If you would like to nominate one of these heroes, please submit their name to WOW leadership at [wow@uusg.org](mailto:wow@uusg.org). Please include a brief description of the “behind the scenes” unselfish acts. If you have a photo of your hero, please attach it. These entries will be included in our weekly Mini Pioneers.

**Summer Care and Conversation with Julia Jones!** Have something you're wrestling with? Something sitting on your heart? Some question burbling in your soul? Or maybe you just want someone to bounce it all off? I mean, it has been a year, right? This summer, we are delighted to have this support from Julia Jones! And every hour that we make use of her compassionate ear will count towards the fulfillment of her educational requirements. At the very least, you'll have a nice conversation with a compassionate listener! For details, or if you would like to schedule time with Julia, please reach out to her at [jjones@meadville.edu](mailto:jjones@meadville.edu).

**One Book One UUSG** Your WOW Leadership has chosen a new title for our One Book One UUSG Book Club. Please join us **at the Geneva Public Library, Study Room #4 on Wednesday, July 28, at 7pm** for a discussion on “Born a Crime,” by Trevor Noah. This is non-fiction, an autobiography written by an amazing young comedian. If you are interested in attending, kindly RSVP to [wow@uusg.org](mailto:wow@uusg.org). We prefer to have an accurate count of friends and members so that we can be better prepared. "Born a Crime" is the winner of the Thurber Prize. The compelling, inspiring, (often comic) coming-of-age story of Trevor Noah, set during the twilight of apartheid and the tumultuous days of freedom that followed.

**The Inclusion Bookclub** Join Rev. Scot, Lisa Gades, and UUSG members and friends in a monthly exploration of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Our meetings are on the **third Tuesday of every month at 7pm**; the next one is **August 17**. The next book will be “Rage Becomes Her,” by Soraya Chemaly. Anger in women and girls has long been less acceptable than anger in men and boys. And yet, anger is also a powerful signal that something is wrong, and action needs to be taken. Chemaly's book is important for anyone raised to suppress their anger and who now seeks to use it as a catalyst for change. [See Chemaly's TED Talk here](#). UUSG will have a limited number of copies of the book available. Please check with Christine to learn more or to sign up at [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org). [The link is here](#), Meeting ID: 869 8603 6292, Passcode: 1234. If you visit [uusg.org/calendar](https://uusg.org/calendar), and click on the event, the Zoom link will always be located there.

**Sacred Texts Study Group:** The Bible, and other sacred texts, can be challenging. We'll be using the Massachusetts Bible Society's What is the Bible? as our study guide (purchase is not required). For a Bible, Rev. Scot recommends the “Harper Collins Study Bible” or the “The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha.” We will meet on the 3rd Mondays of the month at 7pm, the next meeting is **August 16**, on Zoom. [Zoom Link Here](#). To be added to our email list, send a note to [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org).

**Have you been vaccinated?** Although masks will be required for any in-person activities, we are still keeping a running tally of how many of our members and friends have received the COVID-19 vaccine. So far, we have **139 members** vaccinated. Please send vaccination updates to [admin.assistant@uusg.org](mailto:admin.assistant@uusg.org).