



August 8, 2021

## **Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva**

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

**In the Pulpit:** Verdis LeVar Robinson

**Worship Associate:** Gail Tattersfield

**Musicians:** Lynn Fisher McCanne, Cynthia Spiegel, Tom Zimmerman, Eliza Thomas, Lincoln Centers, Verdis Robinson

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

### **Upcoming Services:**

**Sunday, August 15:** Guest-in-the-Pulpit: Rev. Friederike 'Rica' Kaufel: "The Greatest Common Denominator"

**Sunday, August 22:** Guest-in-the-Pulpit: Anthony Cruz

*Come as you are.*

# Order of Worship

## Ringing the Bell

## Call to Worship

**Prelude** "Solace," Scott Joplin

## Welcoming Words

**Opening 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 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)

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.

#### **Beyond Our Walls** Heses House

#### **Offertory** "Gather the Spirit," Jim Scott

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

#### **Reading** "It Is That Time and That Place," Rev. Dr. Qiyama Rahman

#### **Musical Response** "The Crucifixion," Samuel Barber

### **Sermon**

#### **Closing Hymn # 1021 "Lean on Me"**

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** "Every Time I Feel the Spirit, (excerpt) traditional, arr. Mark Hayes

**Community Announcements**

**Talk Back and Coffee Hour Breakouts**

# Today & This Week at UUSG

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

## Sunday, August 8

- 10:00 am Online Worship Service

## Monday, August 9

- 1:00 pm Finance Team Meeting

## Tuesday, August 10

- 7:00 pm [Board of Directors](#) – All are invited

## Wednesday, August 11

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 12:00 pm BYO Lunch with Julia Jones (online)
- 7:00 pm Congregational Meeting Open Forum

## Thursday, August 12

- 7:00 pm Congregational Meeting Open Forum

## Friday, August 13

- 12:00 pm Congregational Meeting Open Forum

## Saturday, August 14

## Sunday, August 15

- 10:00 am Online Worship Service
- 1:00 pm Summer Family Ministry Event:  
Pottawatomie Park

**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

**It can be argued that there is an inspirational connection** between early Christian martyrdom and the freedom fighters of the Civil Rights Movement. A question now lies before many: “for what cause could and would we lay down our lives for in this time and in this place?” This service offers a reflection on these sentiments and inspirations. **Verdis LeVar Robinson** (He/Him) is the Lenora Montgomery Scholar of Excellence at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago, where he is an Aspirant for the Unitarian Universalist ministry and a candidate for the Master of Divinity. 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. He currently serves as the ministerial intern for the Unitarian Church of Montpelier in Vermont.

**August Beyond Our Walls** Hesed House in Aurora is a national model for ending homelessness – one person, one family at a time. They are the second-largest homeless shelter in the State of Illinois, and the largest shelter outside of the city of Chicago. The culmination of nearly three decades of strategic evolution. Their highly skilled professionals collaborate to provide the tools necessary to help individuals and families break free of the shackles binding them to homelessness. With the help of professional staff, alliances with outside agencies over a thousand people are served through Hesed House’s shelter and three housing programs annually. At their Comprehensive Homeless Resource Center, people receive support related to housing, support systems, life skills, legal issues, physical/emotional abuse, mental/physical health, and much more.

**UUSG YouTube Channel - Sermons and More** Did you know UUSG has a [YouTube channel](#)? We post Rev. Scot's sermons, many of our guest speaker's sermons, UUSG member testimonials, and more! Thinking of inviting a friend to UUSG? Sharing a video is a great way for them to get an introduction to our church community. Remember to subscribe!

**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 **142 members** vaccinated. Please send vaccination updates to [admin.assistant@uusg.org](mailto:admin.assistant@uusg.org).

**New UUSG Adult Workshop: Assertion Training Group**, led by UUSG Member, Richard E. "DJ" Jensen, PhD, retired clinical psychologist. This 9 or 10 series of classes will be offered in the Fall and Spring, with a weekly meeting time of 7-8:30pm at UUSG. Specific dates TBD. The goal of Assertion Training is to acquire and enhance the ability to speak up for ourselves, to make known our preferences, and develop our ability to minimize verbal aggression from others while enhancing our feelings of personal confidence and comfort in interpersonal situations. Participation involves expressing our personal needs and preferences in a variety of situations. Participants will learn to analyze interpersonal situations and to understand the needs presented in a variety of different situations. Participants are involved in role-playing interactions similar to everyday life. This provides useful experience for the personal interactions of everyday life. Alternative assertions (different ways of saying it) are always welcome and group members will be called upon to help one another by playing roles needed to develop the skills of positive assertion. For more details and questions, please contact DJ at [rejensen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rejensen@sbcglobal.net).

**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.

**Sister Suppers** If you missed the July 23 deadline for signing up for Sister Suppers, there is some good news. There is one open spot that needs to be filled, [so sign up now](#). First come, first served. Others will be added as alternates.

**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.

## 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.



## **UUSG Re-Opening: Let's Get This Party Started!!**

Homecoming is around the corner, and we are all excited to, once again, be together in our wonderful church building and seeing everyone in person.

To make that happen safely, smoothly, and inclusively, the Re-Opening Task Force is monitoring the news and the environment (the delta variant, potential return of mask mandates, the everchanging number of positive cases in our county) and while all of that will influence our final plans, right now... we are all systems GO!

In early August, the Task Force will meet to discuss the essential elements of the re-opening to be sure they are receiving the needed attention, including music, religious education, and of course, our Homecoming picnic. This is a work in progress, and we appreciate your understanding.

### **Here's what we do know:**

Homecoming Sunday, September 12, is happening! There will be a worship service! There will be a picnic in Wheeler Park! More details soon. Attending the Sunday morning services remotely will continue to be an option into the foreseeable future. The Board has committed to a big technology upgrade that will keep our "hybrid" worship services inclusive, interactive, and high-quality.

Religious education programming will begin on Homecoming Sunday! The Facilities Team, Rev. Scot, and other church members are working towards a Sanctuary refresh that will maintain our historic charm and provide an updated look.

Following guidance from the UUA, CDC, Chicago Public Schools, WHO, and others, face masks will be required in the building for everyone. We are so grateful that a large percentage of our congregation are vaccinated, but we know that those under 12 are not yet even eligible to receive a vaccination, and more, that there are members and guests who are not fully vaccinated. For now, we are asking that everyone mask up, regardless of their vaccination status, to help us welcome everyone safely.

### **Congregational Meeting**

We will have 3 all-congregation meeting options (via Zoom) to provide an open forum for people to ask questions and learn more about the re-opening. You need not attend them all, but we are hoping that you will join us for one. Those dates are: **Wednesday, August 11, at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, August 12, at 7:00 p.m., Friday, August 13, at noon**

The Zoom Link is for all three meetings is below, and on our calendar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88524354138>, Meeting ID: 885 2435 4138

## 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 Aug 21, and Sept 18**. Sign up at [uusg.org/food-bank-signup](https://uusg.org/food-bank-signup).

**Take Action in support of Actions of Immediate Witness** Passed at the UUA Convention

- 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 eliminating voter suppression, ensuring fair legislative districts, demanding transparency with respect to ethics and campaign finance, and more! [Contact Senator Durbin](#), [Contact Senator Duckworth](#)
- Participate in [For The People Phone Banking sponsored by Common Cause](#). You would be trained to call voters in targeted states and connect them to their Senators to support the For the People Act and eliminate the filibuster.

**Women's Circle invites all UUSG members and friends identifying as female** to look for the announcements of our first Women's Circle session later in September. We have begun to outline our season and have some wonderful guest speakers and interesting new topics to help us all share and grow in our spirituality.

**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. Meeting ID: 881 0159 3697, Passcode: 215873.

**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](#).

**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](#). 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.

**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).

### **Contact Information**

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