



August 15, 2021

Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

Today's Worship Team

In the Pulpit: Friederike 'Rica' Kaufel

Worship Associate: Melissa Auer

Musicians: Sandra Anderson, Michael Mackey, the McFadden Family, Cynthia, Doria, Elena & Sophia Spiegel

Technical Directors: Jeff Stibal, Cari Gesiakowski, Jamie Carroll

Upcoming Services:

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

Sunday, August 29: Guest-in-the-Pulpit: Elizabeth Mount

Come as you are.

Order of Worship

Ringing the Bell

Call to Worship

Prelude "Midsummer," Edward MacDowell

Welcoming Words

Opening Hymn # 363 Alleluia! Sang Stars

Alleluia! sang stars that gave us birth!
Alleluia! resounds our home, the earth!
Alleluia! shall echo 'cross the skies.
Alleluia! when peace has shown us wise.
Amen.

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.

Offertory "The Gift of Love," arr. Hal Hopson

Gratitude for the Offering

Reading "Faith and belief, or why Sometimes grabbing on to what appears most solid is exactly the wrong thing to do" Rev. Jackie Clement

Musical Response "About Foreign Lands and Peoples," Robert Schumann

Sermon "The Greatest Common Denominator"

Closing Hymn # 1051 We Are...

For each child that's born,
a morning star rises and
sings to the universe
who we are.

For each child that's born,
a morning star rises and
sings to the universe
who we are.

We are our grandmothers' prayers
and we are our grandfathers' dreamings,
we are the breath of our ancestors,
we are the spirit of God.

We are mothers of courage and fathers of time,
we are daughters of dust and the sons of great visions,
we're sisters of mercy and brothers of love,
we are lovers of life and the builders of nations,
we're seekers of truth and keepers of faith,
we are makers of peace and the wisdom of ages.

We are our grandmothers' prayers
and we are our grandfathers' dreamings,
we are the breath of our ancestors,
we are the spirit of God.

For each child that's born,
a morning star rises and
sings to the universe
who we are.

Chalice Extinguishing and Unison Closing

Benediction

Postlude "Go Lifted Up," Mortimer B. Barron

Community Announcements

Talk Back and Coffee Hour Breakouts

Contact Information

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Today & This Week at UUSG

uusg.org/calendar

Sunday, August 15

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

Monday, August 16

- 7:00 pm Sacred Texts Study Group (online)

Tuesday, August 17

- 7:00 pm The Inclusion Book Club (online)

Wednesday, August 18

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting
- 12:00 pm BYO Lunch with Julia Jones (online)
- 4:00 pm Heritage Team Meeting
- 6:00 pm The Shared Pulpit Sermon Seminar (online)
- 7:00 pm UU Buddhism Meditation & Study Group (online)
- 7:00 pm Facilities Team Meeting

Thursday, August 19

- 11:00 am Simply Sharing Circle
- 7:00 pm Veterans Planning Meeting

Friday, August 20

Saturday, August 21

- 9:00 am Northern IL Food Bank (off-site)

Sunday, August 22

- 10:00 am Online Worship Service
- 11:15 am Board Chat (online)
- 2:00 pm Social Justice Team Meeting (online)

Can't find something? Need a little more information? Check out our website at uusg.org and our calendar at uusg.org/calendar.

Announcements

The Greatest Common Denominator When meeting those unknown to us, those we deem 'other,' sometimes focusing on our perceived similarities, on the common ground we share, seems like the safest bet. But what if instead we took the leap and embraced each other's differences? And how far can this embrace of difference go without putting our own values in question? **Friederike 'Rica' Kaufel**, who was born and raised in Germany, graduated from Meadville Lombard Theological School and completed her internship with Orange Coast UU Church in 2020 and was ordained by the same church in January of this year! She is the part time minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Anaheim and also works as a lecturer for Academic English at the University of California in Irvine, and she is doing a part-time consultantship with the Unitarians in Germany. Frequently she volunteers with the California Conference For Equality and Justice, taking teenagers from all over Southern California to the mountains for a weekend to teach them about systems of oppression and how to dismantle them. Her favorite thing in the world is spending time with her daughter Elise.

Please join us today for Summer 2021 Family Ministry 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.

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 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.

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 **144 members** vaccinated. Please send vaccination updates to admin.assistant@uusg.org.

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.

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.

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 if you are interested in helping or simply learning more about any of these opportunities.

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!

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.

Social Justice News

Thanks The Social Justice team appreciates the help of following people who volunteered at the Northern Illinois Food Bank on July 31: Kevin Beyer, Betty Bristol, Jamie Carroll, Don Clements, Scott Dotson, Cari Gesiakowski, Keith Gesiakowski, Sam Gesiakowski, Kurt Heinz, Doreen Mace, Molly MacKay Zacker, Aiden Tu, Bella Tu, Victoria Tu, Pat Vary.

August 21, 9-12: Northern Illinois Food Bank Help the hungry by packing food. Children age 8 and up are welcome to volunteer with a parent. Please wear close-toed shoes. 273 Dearborn Ct., Geneva. [Sign up here.](#)

September 3, Any time: Prepare Lunch for Lazarus House Great project for families! Prepare and deliver 17 sack lunches. [Details and sign-up here.](#)

September 4, 6-7pm: Prepare and deliver a casserole and salad for 12.
[Details and sign-up here.](#)

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! LAST DATE IS THIS WEDNESDAY AUGUST 18. 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. [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. Meeting ID: 869 8603 6292, Passcode: 1234. If you visit 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.