



September 5, 2021

Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

Today's Worship Team

In the Pulpit: Rev. Michael Dowd

Worship Associate: Gail Tattersfield

Musicians: Sandra Anderson, Cynthia Spiegel, UUSG Choir

Technical Directors: Jeff Stibal, Cari Gesiakowski, Jamie Carroll

Upcoming Services:

Sunday, September 12: Rev. Scot Hull, Homecoming Sunday!

Sunday, September 19: Rev. Scot Hull

Come as you are.

Order of Worship

Ringing the Bell

Call to Worship

Prelude "Sunlit Rain," Jeanine Yeager

Welcoming Words

Opening Hymn # 1055 "How Sweet the Darkness"

When windows that are black and cold are lit anew with fires of gold;
when dusk in quiet shall descend and darkness come once more a friend;

When wings pursue their proper flight and bring not terror but delight;
when clouds are innocent again and hide no storms of deadly rain;

And when the sky is swept of wars and keeps but gentle moon and stars,
that peaceful sky, harmless air, how sweet, how sweet, the darkness there.

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

For All Ages “You Are Bigger, Older, and Have a Much Weirder Family Than You Know!”

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 Joanna Macy

Meditation

Sermon “How to Stay Positive in Abruptly Disturbing Times”

Closing Hymn # 163 “For the Earth Forever Turning”

For the earth forever turning; for the skies, for ev’ry sea;
for our lives, for all we cherish, sing we our joyful song of peace.

For the mountains, hills, and pastures in their silent majesty;
for the stars, for all the heavens, sing we our joyful song of peace.

For the sun, for rain and thunder, for the seasons’ harmony,
for our lives, for all creation, sing we our joyful praise to Thee.

For the world we raise our voices, for the home that gives us
birth; in our joy we sing returning home to our bluegreen hills of
earth.

Chalice Extinguishing and Unison Closing

Benediction

Postlude “Be the Change,” Marc Kaplan & Colin Britt; UUSG Choir

Community Announcements

Talk Back and Coffee Hour Breakouts

Today & This Week at UUSG

uusg.org/calendar

Sunday, September 5

- 9:00 am Styrofoam Sunday
- 10:00 am Online Worship Service
- 12:00 pm Social Justice Retreat

Monday, September 6

- 6:00 pm Fox Valley Jewish Neighbors Service

Tuesday, September 7

- 7:00 pm Council Meeting (online)

Wednesday, September 8

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting
- 12:00 pm Re-Opening Meeting
- 7:00 pm DEI Team Meeting (online)

Thursday, September 9

- 12:00 pm Special Board Meeting (online)

Friday, September 10

Saturday, September 11

Sunday, September 12

- 9:00 am Worship Service
- 10:00 am Religious Education Classes K-12
- 11:00 am Worship Service
- 1:00 pm Homecoming Picnic

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

Do you want to make donations via Tithely? Check out the Tithely QR Code.



Announcements

Our guest speaker today is the Rev. Michael Dowd. Since April 2002, Michael and his wife (UU science writer and fellow climate activist Connie Barlow) have traveled North America delivering talks in some 500 UU congregations, summer camps, and minister retreats, as well as for other religious and secular groups. Their pro-science, pro-future ministry was featured as the cover story of our national membership magazine, UU World, in the spring of 2006. They've also been featured in major media throughout the U.S. and Canada, and Michael and Connie were honored as 2016 "UU Religious Humanists of the Year" at General Assembly in Columbus, Ohio. Michael will engage in a discussion of his 25-minute video presentation, "[Serenity Prayer for the 21st Century: Pro-Future Love-in-Action](#)," which you are invited to watch between now and then. That program expands on content in his two TEDx talks and his book, Thank God for Evolution, which was endorsed by 6 Nobel Prize-winning scientists, noted skeptics, and by religious leaders across the spectrum. Date is TBA.

September Beyond Our Walls: Lazarus House At a time when we are celebrating homecoming, we remember people who have no home to which they can return. Three hundred of our neighbors are being served currently, and they need our help. The first Saturday of each month volunteers from UUSG provide lunches, dinners, and stay overnight. Families have found that it is a great project to prepare 17 sack lunches. Others fix a casserole and salad for 12. And now once again we need a volunteer who will stay overnight in a separate room and be available to assist the staff member in an emergency. Please sign up at the UUSG website – click on "Get Involved." But all this takes money, so in September, our Beyond our Walls offering will go to our Lazarus House ministry. Half will go directly to meet the needs of the shelter, and half will replenish our funds to reimburse UUSG chefs or provide meals. [Please give generously here.](#)

UUSG Homecoming Picnic! Come join your UUSG Community at Wheeler Park Pavilion on Sunday, September 12, at 1pm for food, fun, music, and games. This year we are doing Bring Your Own Lunch, but we'll be providing sweet treats! Please [RSVP here to let us know you can attend.](#)

A Celebration of Life Service for UUSG Member Nancy Goodfellow will be held in our Sanctuary on Saturday, September 25. The visitation will begin at 10am with the service to follow at 11am. If you have any questions, please contact Christine in the office at office@uusg.org or 630-232-2350.

UUSG Members and Friends! Our fall 2021 Homecoming Weekend with services at our church and a picnic at Wheeler Park is coming up soon. We hope we get to see each other, and enjoy our service in our sanctuary, masked and careful! The Worship Team with Rev. Scot has started discussing our UUSG worship year and the themes, holidays, and special topic services we might enjoy. We also will seek new guest speakers and are considering additions to our usual service, music, speakers, visuals, and participants. It's a new year, with our new minister, and we would love to have some new ideas from members of the congregation. **Please consider joining our small Worship Team to help imagine the new church year!** The Worship Team meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. If you are interested, please connect with Rhonda Robinson or Rev. Scot.

Women's Circle starts the new church year with a very special first session! WC seeks to help members and friends connect, learn, share, and explore new ideas, develop our own spirituality and become familiar with others' beliefs. We offer six sessions per church year to all who identify as female. Our first session, Saturday, September 25, 1-4pm, will be held safely outdoors at the Les Arends Forest Preserve property shelter in Batavia. Our special guest for September will be Julia Jones, speaking about the impact of our last 18 months: Acceptance: Facing Factual Reality. We know many of you have had an opportunity to meet Julia this summer, and we are excited she has offered to launch our 2021-22 year. We hope to see many of you, 9/25, 1-4pm at the Les Arends Forest Preserve property Shelter (25731 Rte 31, Batavia, on the river, west side, just before Moosehart). [Please sign up here to let us know you can attend.](#)

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 **September 20**, on Zoom. Meeting ID: 881 0159 3697, Passcode: 215873.

UUSG Member and Friends Directory! You should have recently received an email with our draft directory entries. Please review your entry and let Christine Imielski at office@uusg.org know if any updates are needed by Wednesday, Sept 15. If you'd like to be included in the upcoming directory, please send your name and contact information to Christine as well.

Volunteers Needed for Youth Programs Religious education (RE) volunteers still needed:

Teachers: All RE classes will be held at 10am this year, in the hour between the two Sunday morning worship services. Teaching is a twice per month commitment. No experience is necessary. **We need one additional teacher in grade 3-5.**

Arts & Exploration (A&E) Volunteers: For grades K-8, we are excited to offer A&E. A&E allows our kids, those who would otherwise be too young or too wiggly to make it all the way through a worship service, a place where they can play, interact, and be in community. During this time of heightened restrictions, A&E has been expanded to include all ages not yet eligible for a vaccine (12 and under) as well as their classmates (all middle school youth). Please sign up to help for just one hour. You'll be free to attend the other service. 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 these opportunities.

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.

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!

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 **September 21**. 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.

Assertion Training Group led by UUSG Member Richard E. "DJ" Jensen, PhD, Retired Psychologist. This group has a start date and time of Tuesday, Sep. 28, 7-8:30pm at UUSG, and meets weekly on Tuesday evenings for 9 or 10 sessions until December 7. No meeting week of Thanksgiving. Please direct questions to DJ at rejensen@sbcglobal.net. The goal of Assertion Training is to acquire and enhance our ability to speak up for ourselves, to make known our preferences, and develop our ability to work out arrangements to achieve commonly agreed goals. And, very importantly, to do this while enhancing our feelings of personal confidence and comfort in interpersonal situations. Participation involves sharing 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 engaged 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 welcomed and needed, and group members are called upon to help one another by playing roles needed to develop the skills of positive assertion. Please complete the [Application for Enrollment](#), to be considered for group membership, by September 21.

One Book One UUSG The WOW Team is happy to announce that the new book title for our next One Book One UUSG book discussion is "We Two Alone" by Jack Wang. Jennifer Klein will be our discussion leader on the evening of **Monday, October 4, at 7pm via Zoom**. This title is a newer book and may be a bit more difficult to get from your local library, however Townhouse Books, and Barnes and Noble have some copies. Certainly, this title can also be ordered at other bookstores. As always, we appreciate an RSVP to wow@uusg.org if you intend to attend that night. If you have questions, just drop us an email at the same address. Looking forward to seeing you and having another great discussion.

"We Two Alone," by Jack Wang. A young boy jeopardizes his life to play hockey in 1920s Canada. A couple is caught in Shanghai in the midst of war. An actor in New York tries to keep his career afloat while his relationship crumbles. Threaded throughout these poignant short stories is the Chinese immigrant experience, as Wang paints a picture of life in diaspora throughout time. Capturing hope, pain, and sacrifice, these stories weave a story of those who journey into the unknown.

Social Justice News

Sept. 18 9-12 Northern Illinois Food Bank Anyone 8 and older is welcome to help pack food for families who are in need. uusg.org/foodbank

Sept. 23 9-10 Soup Kitchen in Aurora Sign up to provide 80 items: either water bottles, fruit, cookies, or snack bars. uusg.org/soup-kitchen

Contact Information

Rev. Scot Hull, Minister

minister@uusg.org; 630-232-2350, ext. 103

Christine Imielski, Congregational Administrator

office@uusg.org; 630-232-2350, ext. 100

Lisa Rittenberry, Administrative Assistant

admin.assistant@uusg.org; 630-232-2350, ext. 101

Becky Hruby, Director of Religious Education

DRE@uusg.org; 630-232-2350, ext. 104

Molly MacKay Zacker, Board President

boardpresident@uusg.org

Cynthia Spiegel, Music Director

music@uusg.org

Jeff Stibal, Technical Director

techdirector@uusg.org