

The Gazette



April 23, 2023— Volume 20, Issue 15

SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, April 23, 11:00 am

Our Social Justice Service on April 23 featuring speaker UF student Melanie Schepmans will offer a young person's perspective on Climate Change.

Throughout her life, Melanie has been drawn to opportunities to connect with and protect the environment around her. At the University of Florida she pursues a major in sustainability, with minors in environmental justice and policy, agriculture and natural resource ethics and policy, and religion. With her passion for the environment and her drive to make a difference, Melanie is committed to share what she has learned about the importance of actions to prepare for and mitigate climate change.

Our speaker and readers represent a diverse mix of ages from Youth to Young Adults. They will speak to their futures and what we can do in the present to address the problems of the Climate Crisis. Please attend! Liz Stewart serves as worship associate, and James Chase provides our story for all ages. Please remember to bring a mask

Live Stream

If you're unable to attend, you may watch our live streaming service starting at 10:50 am this Sunday on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/UUGainesville>

Starting at 10:50 am each Sunday, you can use this link to go directly to the live broadcast:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSnQkwxBNGT-H1RLSg6lRfA/live>

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, May 7, 12:15 pm

Members, please mark your calendars to attend our Fellowship's annual congregational meeting in the Sanctuary following the May 7 Sunday service.

Martha Soles' letter to the congregation distributed this past week is on page 2.

TOWN HALL MEETING

Sunday, April 23, 12:15

Members, please attend a Town Hall on Sunday, April 23 after the service to update the congregation on where the Board is in the process of hiring a minister. Your presence is important.

If you have questions, please let me know at marthajsoles@gmail.com.

~ Martha Soles

BELTANE SERVICE & RITUAL

Sunday, April 30

11:00 am ~ "Dirt Girl in the Trees"

Sometimes called "May Day," Beltane is an ancient Pagan holiday that marks the midpoint between the spring equinox and summer solstice.

On Sunday, April 30, our Sacred Oak CUUPS chapter facilitates service. Debra Neill-Mareci is in the Fellowship's pulpit; her sermon is "Dirt Girl in the Trees." Deborah McEdward and Leah Cobb Lee serve as worship associates, and James Chase provides our story for all ages. Our Chalice Choir sings under the direction of Derek Nirenberg. This service includes burning votive and very short candles lit at the front of the Sanctuary. Please remember to bring a mask.

7:00 pm ~ Fire Circle Ritual

Sacred Oak CUUPS is also facilitating a Beltane ritual celebration at our Fire Circle, starting at 7 pm on that Sunday evening. All are welcome to attend. Please bring a portable chair if you wish for comfortable seating. Our Fire Circle is located south of our classrooms near the labyrinth.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

May 7, 2023

Dear UUG Members:

Our annual meeting will be held Sunday, May 7, in the Sanctuary following service (12:15 pm).

At this meeting, you will have the opportunity to vote on the following:

- Our operating budget for fiscal year 2023-2024
- The slate of positions on the Governing Board for fiscal year 2023-2024
- Nominations to the Leadership Development Committee
- Changes to bylaws to reflect current leadership practices
- Guidance for our delegates at the UUA General Assembly, regarding proposed Article II revisions

Please plan to attend this important meeting. Childcare will be provided. We will have a short break after service for people to have a snack outside before the meeting begins. Cookies and coffee will be available, but please bring a bag lunch for yourself and your children if needed.

Information Packet

An informational packet about the meeting will be made available Thursday, April 27. Typically, this informational packet is made available two weeks prior to the meeting; the slight delay this year stems from a need of more time to recruit people for the slate of positions on the Governing Board. We appreciate your patience as we ready this packet for you. The digital packet will be emailed to members and posted on the Fellowship's website (uufg.org), and a paper copy will be available for anybody who wants one (please call or email the office to request a paper copy). The packet will include:

- The agenda for the congregational meeting
- The minutes of the May 22, 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting for approval
- The draft operating budget as approved by the Governing Board on April 17, 2023
- Information about nominated and continuing elected leaders. Nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting, with the consent of the person being nominated
- Proposed bylaws changes
- Information about proposed Article II revisions
- Absentee ballots

Unitarian Universalist Congregations are democratic and self-governed. We set our own priorities and choose our own ministers, staff and leadership. Our Annual Congregational Meeting is a time to come together in Fellowship and have an opportunity to vote our values. I look forward to seeing you on May 7.

In Fellowship,



Martha Soles, Congregation President

NEW NAMETAGS COMING!

Thanks to a grant from the UUG Foundation, we are ordering very soon new nametags for all members and supporting friends of our Fellowship. These nametags will include our new logo and pronouns as indicated.

If you haven't already submitted your nametag information during our recent stewardship drive, please use the link below:

<https://forms.gle/9Y1RGXmu3gptQwru6>

GAZETTE SUBMISSIONS

The Gazette is reserved for UUG business and concerns submitted to the office (email uoffice@uufg.org) for editing by noon on Wednesdays. Please put "for Gazette" in your subject line. Your submissions will be posted up to three times, inserted on dates you indicate.

MARY KEITH ACCEPTS MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRSHIP



Please welcome Mary Keith, our new Membership Committee Chair, who joined UUFG last fall at our most recent New Member Worship Service. A long-term Unitarian Universalist, her last congregation was the UU Fellowship of Bay County in Panama City, but she has been active in congregations across the country, from New York to Hawaii.

Mary comes to us with much experience in UU membership, growth, and development and has already been active in recent UUFG Stewardship and membership activities. I have been meeting with Mary to help her become familiar with the mission and procedures of the Membership Committee at UUFG.

Please take the opportunity to get to know Mary and hear her terrific ideas as she takes on this new responsibility. Her contact information is mcpk@comcast.net and 850-319-6043.

In Fellowship,
Harry Mangle, former Membership Chair

CHOIR SHOWCASE CONCERT

Saturday, May 6, 6:30 pm

Members of our Chalice Choir are busy preparing for a concert at our Fellowship on Saturday, May 6, at 6:30 pm. Please “mark your calendars” and watch news and needs and the April 30 Gazette for more information!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Please wish “happy birthday” Judi Oltmans, Wanda Turner, Jonathan Coron, Michael Moulton and Lynn Jamieson!



Do you have a birthday this coming week, but aren't on our list? Please contact the office to let Cam know (uuoffice@uufg.org).

REV. CHRISTE LUNSFORD ON STUDY LEAVE

Thursday, April 20 — Friday, April 28

Rev. Christe is away on study leave, out of the office from Thursday, April 20 through Friday, April 28. Please contact Cam Pierce, Congregational Administrator at uuoffice@uufg.org / 352-377-166p or Martha Soles, Congregation President, at marthajsoles@gmail.com with Fellowship-related concerns.

LOVING LEADERSHIP:

A Monthly Column from the Leadership Development Committee

As part of a recent training event, the Leadership Development Committee conducted a visioning brainstorming activity. We are providing the results, which may be helpful to the congregation as we enter into a time of transition and considering our vision for the future.

Where are we going?

What are our hopes and vision for 2-5 years from now?

- Increased membership to 450-500 members
- More staff
- More spiritual programming
- More young people
- More Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- More multi-generational programming
- Coffee House at UUFG for music (singing, instruments, etc.)
- More volunteers
- Start a Care Team that would reach out, contact, and care for members who are sick and homebound, depressed, or feeling lonely
- A Vision shared by all
- Something going on in the Fellowship 7 days a week — leverage the campus
- Bring a daycare program to campus
- Make an intentional effort to bring back folks who have left the Fellowship: A Homecoming

Leadership Development Committee:

Mary Bahr
Aaron Broadwell
Tim Christy, Board Liaison
Warren Hodge
Judith Kendall, Chair
Harry Mangle

RECENT ATTENDANCE

Eighty-one people attended our April 16 Sunday service, while our online video recording shows 42 views.

UUFG CALENDAR

Sunday, April 23 —

- 10:00 am** Religious Education for Children & Youth (Classrooms 5 & 6)
- 10:00 pm** Parenting & Religion Class (Common Room — for info, contact Diana Hagan at diana.hagan@gmail.com)
- 11:00 am** Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 12:00 pm** Youth Group (Classroom 7)
- 12:15 pm** Town Hall Meeting (Sanctuary)

Monday, April 24

- 3:00 pm** Gainesville Bridge Club (Phillips Hall & Sanctuary)

Tuesday, April 25 —

- 8:30 am** Morning Meditation (Zoom — for info, contact Diane DePuydt at diane.depuydt@gmail.com or Pete Turner at peteturner123@gmail.com)
- 6:30 pm** HUUGG / Humanist Circle Dinner (Piasano’s Restaurant — to RSVP, contact Al Tweedy at sylvester0077@gmail.com)
- 8:00 pm** Silent Meditation (Zoom — for info, contact Carol Stiles at uuvaldosta@yahoo.com)

Wednesday, April 26 —

- 7:00 pm** Young Adult Group (Phillips Hall — Questions? Contact Catherine Turner at cat.r.turner@gmail.com)

Thursday, April 27 —

- 5:30 pm** Pickleball-4-All (Parking Lot — for info, contact Kirsten Flamand at kirstenflamand@gmail.com)
- 7:00 pm:** Chalice Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 7:30 pm** Gainesville Handweavers (Phillips Hall)

Friday, April 28 —

- 12:30 am** Gainesville Bridge Club (Phillips Hall)

Sunday, April 30 —

- 10:00 am** Religious Education for Children & Youth (Classrooms 5 & 6)
- 10:00 pm** Parenting & Religion Class (Common Room — for info, contact Diana Hagan at diana.hagan@gmail.com)
- 11:00 am** Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 12:00 pm** Youth Group (Classroom 7)
- 12:00 pm** Coffee Hour (Phillips Hall & Tent Area)
- 7:00 pm** Beltane Ritual (Fire Circle)

ONLINE GIVING TO UUFG

You can use our safe, online payment portal to make donations through our website.

Go to <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YXTK/home>

I AM GRATEFUL TO



Kudos and thanks to *Lynn Jamieson* and *Hazel Hazlett*, who stepped in to host Coffee Hour this past Sunday, ably assisted by *Wendy Visscher*, *Marilyn Roberts* and *Tim Christy*. Bless you all, as well as all who helped out with goodies.

~ Susan Christy

Do you have a “gratitude” to share, expressing appreciation for someone working “behind the scenes” to make UUFG a warm and welcoming place? Please send an email to Cam Pierce at uoffice@uufg.org.

Thanks to Sunday Facilitators! April 23

Outside Greeter	Vic Harrell
Welcome Table	Martha Harrell Susan Christy
Foyer Monitor	David Willkomm
RE Monitor	Harry Mangle
Ushers	Norden Lucke Tom Mareci
Visitors Table	Diane DePuyd Susan Christy
Audio-visual	Garrett Hecker

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:
SIGN UP ONLINE FOR
COFFEE HOUR**

Click [HERE](#) to volunteer yourself, you and a few friends, your family, your committee (you get the idea) to host Coffee Hour. It's fun, easy, and so appreciated!

DOESN'T COST A DIME

Reimbursement sheets are provided, and the reimbursement process is easy. Just save your receipts.

Questions?

Contact Susan at susan.christy42@gmail.com