

The Gazette



August 20, 2023— Volume 21, Issue 28

SUNDAY SERVICE

August 20, 11:00 am

This Sunday, we welcome Leigh Scott, Community Engagement Manager for Grace Marketplace, to our Fellowship's pulpit. Mary Anthony serves as worship associate, and James Chase provides our story for all ages. At this service, we will also "share the plate" with Grace Marketplace. All non-designated offerings will go to Grace. 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>

Mindfulness Meditation

~ NOW IN PERSON! ~

Tuesday mornings 8:30— 9:45am

Join us in the Common Room every Tuesday morning as we return to our traditional format with a few updates. Please arrive by 8:15 to get settled. We start meditation at 8:30 am. You can use chairs or floor cushions as you prefer. We meditate for 25-30 minutes followed by reading, discussion and a closing recitation. We have just started to read Pema Chodron's new book, *How We Live is How We Die*. We share copies for people haven't gotten their own as yet.

Guided meditation instruction is happily provided, but please let us know in advance if you desire it. If you are immunocompromised or otherwise uncomfortable in a group of 5-8 people, you are welcome to wear a mask or join us via Zoom. Please let us know in advance, so we can send you the Zoom link.

Diane DePuydt : diane.depuydt@gmail.com

Pete Turner peteturner123@gmail.com



GRACE

SHARE THE PLATE GRACE MARKETPLACE

Sunday, August 20, 11:00 am

This Sunday, we "share the plate" with GRACE Marketplace.

GRACE is a one-stop homeless resource center serving those in Gainesville and Alachua County who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Services include safe emergency shelter, permanent housing, showers, hot meals, storage, case management, job training, and providing space to our partners to provide health care and other services.

By taking care of basic necessities day to day, GRACE empowers individuals to reclaim control over their lives and recover from unfortunate circumstances. This cornerstone of a plan to end homelessness has reduced chronic homelessness by 48%.

You may contribute to our Share the Plate collection in several ways:

1. Simply put money in the offering basket on Sunday.
2. Send a check to the Fellowship with "Share the Plate" in the memo line.
3. Go to our website's donation page at <https://www.uufg.org/give/donate.html> — click the Donate button, and select "Share the Plate."

No 10 am Social Justice Discussion

We will not have a 10:00 am discussion this Sunday because the speaker in the service is from GRACE Marketplace.

UPCOMING UUGG SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVITIES

Social Justice Circle
Sunday, August 20, 1:30 pm

Final planning meeting for our September 10th environmental fair. We will also discuss the plan to build a solar array at UUGG.

Zoom link:

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/93192413653>

Meeting ID: 931 9241 3653

Susan B Anthony Luncheon
at the Best Western,
Saturday, August 26, 11:30 am

Social Justice is a sponsor which entitles us to a table at the event. \$35 per person to attend. For info, visit <https://www.fosba.com/>

**The Fourth of Five Discussions of
The Climate Book**
Sunday, August 27, 3:00 pm



Please join our monthly discussions of Greta Thunberg's *The Climate Book*. We discuss one section of Greta Thunberg's book each month, on the fourth Sunday of the month at 3:00 pm. We welcome anyone to join whether you have read the current section or not.

The August discussion will cover what we have done so far to address the Climate Crisis. This discussion is on Zoom only in August, but we are planning to hold a hybrid (in person and on Zoom) meeting in September for our last section, which addresses what we can do to fight the Climate Crisis Now!

Zoom link:

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/94464305998>

Meeting ID: 944 6430 5998

HUUGG DISCUSSION

In Person & Online

Sunday, August 20, 10:00 am

“HUUGG” stands for our “Humanist Unitarian Universalist Group of Gainesville.” This open group meets in the Common Room for discussions every first and third Sunday before service, but you can also participate via Zoom.

For the August 20 conversation, Kay Anderson asks, “What is your message as a humanist/atheist/agnostic or something else? How do you share it? A recent sermon mentioned wearing our yellow UUGG shirts. Yesterday I saw an elementary school student wearing a dress with this message: ‘ESSENTIALS. Fear God.’”

Zoom link:

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/95263325662>

Meeting ID: 952 6332 5662

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Please wish “happy birthday” to Jeff Dunn!



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).

UU VALDOSTA MEDITATION

Tuesdays, 8:00 pm by Zoom!

Our UU neighbors to the north have made their ongoing Tuesday evening meditations available to our Fellowship. Join their sessions Zoom at 8:00 pm each Tuesday, and at 8:10 pm they begin 30 minutes of silent meditation. To join contact Carol Stiles at uuvaldosta@yahoo.com with “Meditation Tuesday” in the subject line. She will send you the Zoom link.

RECENT ATTENDANCE

On Sunday, August 13, 79 people attended, with 39 views showing on our YouTube channel.

ONLINE GIVING TO UUGG

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

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



JULY FINANCIAL REPORT

	July	YTD
Income	\$19,271 (budget: \$26,524)	\$19,271 (budget: \$26,524)
Expenses	\$20,857 (budget: \$32,451)	\$20,857 (budget: \$32,451)
Net	(\$1,586)	(\$1,586)

Year-to-Date numbers here reflect our general fund’s cumulated income and expenses from July 1, 2023 through July 31, 2023. This report represents the first month of our 2023-2024 fiscal year, so the monthly and YTD numbers are identical.

Please note that detailed financial reports are included in the monthly board meeting package that is emailed to the congregation prior to the Governing Board’s monthly meeting. If you have questions, please contact Cam Pierce, Congregational Administrator, at uoffice@uufg.org, or Mary Anthony, Treasurer, at maryanthony13@gmail.com

I AM GRATEFUL TO



SO MANY THANKS to *Lynn Jamieson* for once again heading up Coffee Hour. This week she was ably assisted by *Pat Caren* and *Debby Jo Malickson*. Thank you ladies; you made the big crowd at church on Sunday feel right at home.

~ 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!

August 20 August 27

Outside Greeter	Wendy Visscher	
Welcome Table	Barbara Palmer Tom Palmer	
Foyer Monitor	Doris Hargrave Paul Hargrave	
RE Monitor	N/A	N/A
Ushers	Debra Neill-Mareci	Debra Neill-Mareci
Visitors Table	Barbara Palmer Tom Palmer	
Audio-visual	Erin Parish	Erin Parish

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

UUFG'S GOVERNING BOARD FOR 2023-2024

- Leah Cobb Lee, Congregation President — leahcobblee@gmail.com
- Mike Hazlett, Vice President — mh-hazlett@wiu.edu
- Mary Anthony, Treasurer — maryanthony13@gmail.com
- Erin Parish, Secretary — erinuu603@gmail.com
- Norden Lucke, Trustee — bobosuncoast@hotmail.com
- Tim Christy, Trustee — tim.christy42@gmail.com
- Tom Mareci, Trustee — thmareci@gmail.com

HEARING LOOP AVAILABLE



Please talk to an usher for information.

UUFG CALENDAR

Sunday, August 20 —

10:00 am HUUGG / Humanist Class (Common Room — Questions? Contact Kay Anderson at kayanderson59@gmail.com)

11:00 am Worship Service (Sanctuary)

12:00 pm Coffee Hour (Phillips Hall)

1:30 pm Social Justice Circle (Zoom — Questions? Contact Mary Bahr at kmlisle.mary@gmail.com)

Monday, August 21 —

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

6:30 pm Finance Committee (Zoom — for info, contact Jim Wright, Finance Committee Chair, at jim.wright123@gmail.com)

Tuesday, August 22 —

8:30 am Morning Meditation (Zoom — for info, contact Diane DePuydt at diane.depuydt@gmail.com or Pete Turner at peteturner123@gmail.com)

6:00 pm HUUGG / Humanist Dinner (Open circle — Dragonfly 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, August 23 —

7:00 pm Young Adult Group (Phillips Hall — For info, join the group chat [HERE](#) or contact Renée Richter at reneeofflorida@gmail.com)

Friday, August 25 —

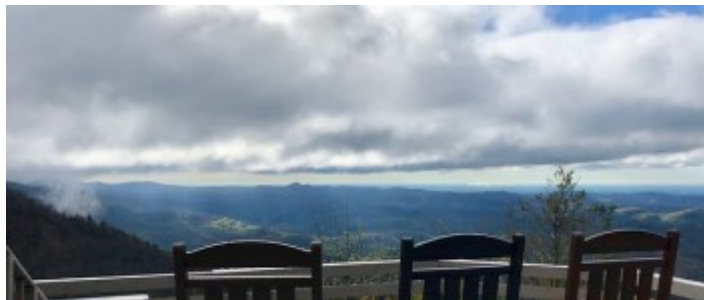
12:30 pm Gainesville Bridge Club (Phillips Hall)

Sunday, August 27 —

11:00 am Worship Service (Sanctuary)

12:00 pm Coffee Hour (Phillips Hall)

3:00 pm Common Read Discussion (Zoom — Questions? Contact Mary Bahr at kmlisle.mary@gmail.com)



FROM THE MOUNTAIN

The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center in Highlands, North Carolina is “An exemplary retreat, camp, and learning center that celebrates Unitarian Universalist principles, inspires people of all ages, transforms lives, and builds a more compassionate world.” They send the following information about fall activities.

- Tasty and educational Forest to Table Dinner, including tour of Many Hands Peace Farm — Sunday, September 10 and Sunday, October 8 <https://www.themountainrlc.org/farm-events>
- [Personal Retreats](#) -- Join us in the cool mountain air, combine a personal retreat with a farm or other event and local explorations.
- Save the Date for **Grateful Gathering - Thanksgiving weekend, Wednesday, November 22 - Sunday, November 26**. Gather with friends and family for community, learning, and explorations.
- **Join a passionate Mountain team** and be part of making a difference for individuals and our wider world! Available positions and application <https://www.themountainrlc.org/jobs> — competitive compensation, including medical insurance and retirement.

We look forward to hosting you at The Mountain soon!

For information about more programs at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center: [themountainrlc.org](https://www.themountainrlc.org) or 828.526.5838



LITTLE FREE PANTRY

Near our entrance, we have a “free pantry” box, which allows people to drop off or pick up food donations in our neighborhood.

Do you have some non-perishable food to share? The box is located near the entrance to our Fellowship.

Questions? Contact Cam in the office at uuoffice@uufg.org / 352-377-1669.

Q&A: New UUA President Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt
By Charles Coe, UU World



On July 10, Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt became the tenth president of the Unitarian Universalist Association. She took time to talk a bit about her background and share with UU World some thoughts about the opportunities and challenges facing the UU community.

How did your experience as the child of Chilean and Panamanian immigrants help set you on your path?

I came from a mixed multicultural, multiracial background in Greenwich Village in the early seventies, surrounded by artists and musicians and NYU professors and folks committed to social and political justice. I grew up thinking it was natural to feel connected to and engaged with your community.

Growing up in Panama and Chile, my parents experienced life under U.S.-trained dictators and were both aware of the dangers of fascism. My Chilean grandmother told me I would never know what freedom meant because I had never lost mine. Those lessons still echo for me.

You're a vocalist and a fabric artist. How do those pursuits enrich your life?

I see music as an expression of things we can't really put into words that carry us in protest spaces and worship spaces. And into family spaces, like when we're singing to a baby.

I sing more in church than anywhere else, and I most enjoy singing harmony. There's something very sacred to me about weaving human voices together.

My Chilean grandmother benefitted from the strong fiber arts traditions of the Andes, and I learned from her. I'm a knitter, I spin my own yarn, and I'm learning how to weave. Fabric is meditative, soft, and beautiful.

How do you inspire older members of the UU community who see social justice gains they've worked so hard to help achieve being rolled back?

I have great empathy and appreciation for our elders who have given so much to the work of justice. In my teaching, I try to remind students, and myself, that hope is a spiritual discipline, not a mood. It's about what we are investing into

the possibilities of the world. Every generation is challenged to leave the world better than they found it.

The UU community is experiencing some pushback on welcoming and supporting LGBTQIA+ members. How do you respond to that resistance?

I was at the Supreme Court as Roe v. Wade was being overturned. I showed up early in the morning when there were only two visible clergy present, me and an African American minister wearing a T-shirt that equated my humanity to an animal in a zoo. I was wearing a T-shirt that said, "This Queer Pastor Loves You." He kept yelling at me, and I said, "I wish a broader understanding of God's love for you." I asked if I could pray for him, which he did not appreciate. But I pray for him and others like him to understand that in Beloved Community we acknowledge the wholeness and the beauty of all kinds of people.

What are your thoughts on the work of Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray as you become president?

Susan held us pastorally and prophetically and helped us work through the day-to-day details of keeping us connected, and literally alive, during the COVID crisis. There aren't words enough to describe my respect and appreciation for the work done by Susan, [Executive Vice President] Carey McDonald, and the staff.

In addition to her response to the pandemic, under Susan's leadership we've created a woven, complex, effective national voice on a wide range of social, political, and economic justice issues. UU the Vote was her vision and has had, and will continue to have, a profound impact. We're going to be seeing the significance of her work for a long time, because it was so grounded in consistency and faithfulness.

If you could go six years into the future, how do you think you'd like to look back on your presidency?

Recently in a sermon I asked people what they were willing to risk as envoys for love in the world. I would like to look back six years from now and find UUs with a deepened commitment to living our values and being able to express those values in language that's expansive, specific, and non-exclusionary, and leaves room for their Beloveds in community.

I hope we still have vibrant brick-and-mortar congregations that promote grassroots efforts in the street, and support entrepreneurial ministries that don't necessarily look like what we've had for the last hundred years. I hope we interpret our faith in ways that are freer, broader, and more confident in expression. Ways that support our commitment to bearing witness in the world. Looking back at the end of my presidency, I'd like to be able to say that I helped empower UUs to live faithfully.