



# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville

**UUGF Office Annual Report 2022-2023**  
*Submitted by Cam Pierce, Congregational Administrator*  
*April 18, 2023*

## Membership

This since the start of this fiscal year, July 1, 2022, we have welcomed ten new members to our Fellowship:

- Stuart Alan
- Kay Anderson
- Helena Boehling
- Robin Castellanos
- Sarah Housman
- Mary Keith
- Judi Oltmans
- Joseph Rowe
- Evan Waldt
- Toni Wallace

Seven members have died since July 1, 2022:

- Frances Fowler
- Alder MoonOak
- Richard Curtis
- Barbara Thomas
- Clare Jones
- Wendy Price
- Bob Hornberger

We currently have 150 members and 25 supporting friends.

## Attendance

The following attendance data comes from the monthly minister and staff reports submitted to the board in advance of their regularly scheduled meetings.

### Sundays, June 2022 –

- Average in person attendance: 47
- Average YouTube visits: 62
- Total average participation: 109

### Sundays, July 2022 –

- Average in person attendance: 46
- Average YouTube visits: 72
- Total average participation: 118

### **Sundays, August 2022 –**

- Average in person attendance for three Sundays for which data was available: 55
- Average YouTube visits: 98
- Total average participation for three Sundays: 142

### **Sundays, September 2022 –**

- Average in person attendance for four Sundays: 72
- Average YouTube visits: 54
- Total average participation for four Sundays: 125

### **Sundays, October 2022 –**

- Average in person attendance for four Sundays: 80
- Average YouTube visits: 66
- Total average participation for four Sundays: 146

### **Sundays, November 2022 –**

- Average in person attendance for three Sundays for which data was available: 86
- Average YouTube visits: 83
- Total average participation for three Sundays: 171

### **Sundays, December 2022 –**

- Average in person attendance for three Sundays: 65
- Average YouTube visits for two Sundays: 70
- Total average participation for four Sundays: not available
- On Christmas Eve, we had 74 people attending and 67 views on YouTube

### **Sundays, January 2023 –**

- Average in person attendance for five Sundays: 78
- Average YouTube visits: 79
- Total average participation for five Sundays: 142

### **Sundays, February 2023 –**

- Average in person attendance for four Sundays: 76
- Average YouTube visits: 66
- Total average participation for four Sundays: 142

### **Sundays, March 2023 –**

- Average in person attendance for three Sundays for which data was available: 64
- Average YouTube visits: 71
- Total average participation for three Sundays: 141

### **YouTube Channel**

From June, 2022, through April 18, 2023, our YouTube channel grew from 195 to 241 subscribers.

## **Building Usage**

This fiscal year we have seen increasing and regular use of Fellowship space. This usage includes Sunday morning religious education prior to services, with both adult and children & youth programming as well as after service in classroom and Common Room spaces.

Though some groups continue to meet via Zoom for convenience as much as safety, more groups shifted this past year to at least some in person meetings. Our tent area sees usage during coffee hour and some other meetings when the weather is favorable. Several groups have used our Common Room to host hybrid meetings that are in person but with some members “Zooming in.”

Ongoing off campus in person events typically include UUFG Men’s Lunch Group, HUUGG (Humanist) dinners, Book Circle and TGIF gatherings.

### **Sponsored Concerts**

We brought two acts to our Fellowship this past year:

- Emma’s Revolution
- Tret Fure

### **Rentals**

Weight Watchers began using our facilities in June, 2022, providing us with a nice infusion of rental income. They met in our Phillips Social Hall four times a week. Sadly, they cancelled their use of our space pursuant to a corporate decision to change their overarching business model to telemedicine and online support, eliminating most in person groups across the country. Their last meeting here was Saturday, March 25. Our continuing regular renters include Paynes Prairie Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, Gainesville Bridge Club, and Gainesville Handweavers Guild.

Other local groups that have rented our facilities for concerts include

- Magnolia Roots Music, which used our facilities three times
- Capella Nova Community Chorus
- Annasemble Community Orchestra
- Vets for Peace (with reduced rate)

### **Facilities – Fire Suppression System**

This past year we had a number of mandatory inspections come due, including a 10 year inspection of our drop sprinklers as well as three and five year inspections of various components of our wet and dry suppression systems. Thankfully, our drop sprinklers passed inspection, but we did have to flush our dry system to remove rust and crud that had built up over the past several years.

### **Facilities – Breezeway Lights**

Archer Electric converted our breezeway can and drop lights to LED fixtures, improving nighttime visibility. They also replaced the timer used to activate the can lights.

### **Facilities – Phillips Hall**

Thanks to a Foundation Grant, Rev. Christe and Marilyn Roberts installed new cabinets in the Phillips Social Hall, measurably improving our storage capacities as well as creating a more professional affect. Archer Electric had to move an emergency light, and additionally installed an outlet outside the Phillips Hall for possible use with functions in the tent area.

## **Sacred Oak CUUPS**

Following renovations and upgrades to our fire circle, our Sacred Oak CUUPS group has held evening rituals on the major pagan holy days. The evening rituals typically draw between 17 and 20 people. Our CUUPS chapter has also helped facilitate several Sunday services.

## **Safety**

Our Safety Committee has worked diligently this year to continually improve the safety and security of our congregation. Last year we installed an AED and facilitated training sessions for its use along with CPR and fire extinguisher usage. This year, the Safety Committee updated our Emergency Operation Plan, sponsored training for Sunday morning “incident response team” members, and with Rev. Christe facilitated a Sunday service dedicated to Safety. Much of this work benefited from Harry Mangle’s invaluable input and energy. The committee recognizes his contributions and wishes him well as he has stepped down from the Safety Committee after a number of years of service.

## **Mailings & Communications**

### **Touchstone Project**

From June through December, we continued to mail hard copies of the *Touchstone Journal* to all members and supporting friends of the congregation in addition to sending out a MailChimp message each month to congregants introducing the upcoming monthly theme. In January, we discontinued the congregational mailings except for a handful of members who requested to continue receiving hard copies. However, we continue the monthly emailed message. Derek Hecker, our audiovisual technician, has uploaded daily “netcards” each month to our Facebook page that tie to the monthly theme.

### **MailChimp & Chalice Connections**

With rare exceptions, each Monday this year we have sent out our Chalice Connections e-newsletter via MailChimp, providing a quick calendar of events for the upcoming week. However, we have regularly used MailChimp for other announcements, including messages from the minister as well as other critical announcements.

### **Gazette & Other Correspondence**

Each Friday, we produce a weekly pdf newsletter that we distribute via our [news-and-needs@uufg.org](mailto:news-and-needs@uufg.org) and dedicated [gazette@uufg.org](mailto:gazette@uufg.org) listservs. This newsletter includes more in-depth descriptions of upcoming events. Members have also begun sending pictures from events for inclusion in the Gazette.

### **Anniversary Letters, Directories & Stewardship**

Each month we send out letters to each member whose membership anniversary falls in the upcoming month. We also produced and distributed updated Directories to members and supporting friends in March.

Stewardship materials included cover letters, pledge cards, online pledge form, etc. Directories, stewardship letters and pledge cards were distributed at service following mailings to those members and friends who didn’t pick up their packets at service.

## **Finances**

This fiscal year began without a treasurer on the Board. Consequently, Cam Pierce, our Congregational Admin, assumed some additional financial responsibilities preparing reports for the Governing Board and monthly reports to the congregation. With the appointment of Mary Anthony in February 2023 to the treasurer's position, the delegation of responsibilities will change some more as we move through this eventful period. Our Finance Committee has been quite active under the leadership of Jim Wright in maintaining overview of our finances and working on a budget for FY 2023-2024.

Also of note, the UUA shifted its retirement portfolio management from TIAA-CREF to Empower, which entailed considerable work in the Fellowship's office to learn the many idiosyncrasies of the new provider.