



## SUNDAY SERVICE

*Sunday, December 11, 11:00 am*  
Music Sunday

This Sunday, as another means of exploring our monthly Touchstone theme of Joy, our service features music from our Chalice Choir under the direction of Derek Nirenberg. Evan Waldt serves as worship associate and James Chase reads our story for all ages. Please remember to bring a mask.

### Return Guest At Your Table Donations this Sunday

Please bring your donation in the form of a check made out to UUFG with “Guest at Your Table” in the memo line. All donations will be sent together to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. We will have a table set up in the Sanctuary with a basket to collect checks.

### 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-H1RLSg6IRfA/live>

### In This Gazette:

- December Anniversaries
- Loving Leadership — from the LDC
- What's Happening in RE?
- Social Justice Common Read
- Vets for Peace Solstice Concert — Dec 17
- Article II — *Your Responses*
- Touchstone Mailings to End
- Steps for Year-End Giving from the UUA
- Register Now for General Assembly 2023
- Gratitudes, Birthdays, Calendars and more!



## RESONANCE PERFORMS AT UUFG

*Sunday, December 18, 7:00 pm*

Don't miss this special celebration of Winter Solstice — a Celebration of the Darkness and the Light with Songs and Stories, featuring the *a capella* music of Resonance.

We ask for a \$20 donation at the door (cash or check), but no one will be turned away.

## NEWCOMER ORIENTATION

*Sunday, December 11, 12:00 pm*

Newcomer orientation, an information session for people new to our congregation, will be held following this Sunday's service. Curious but not sure this denomination is for you? Definitely interested in membership? This orientation session is for all of you.

For more information or to sign up for orientation, come to the welcome table in the foyer prior to service or to the visitor's table outside during coffee hour. Look for the green tablecloth.

You may also contact Judith Kendall at [judithkendall@cox.net](mailto:judithkendall@cox.net) for more info.

## LOVING LEADERSHIP A Monthly Column from the Leadership Development Committee

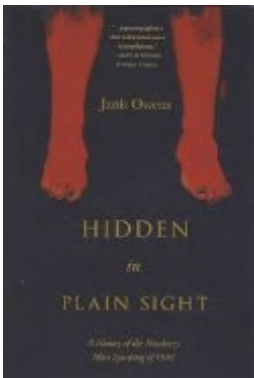
The Leadership Development Committee is pleased to announce that Jim Wright will chair the new Finance Committee. Jim has degrees in accounting and law, is a seminary graduate and former Episcopal priest, and now is a hospital chaplain. Jim was approved by the UUGF Governing Board November 28.

The LDC is working to fill other leadership vacancies. After the holidays, the LDC will be offering a variety of leadership training opportunities to get more members into the pipeline for future leadership opportunities. If you are interested in leadership training, please contact any member of the committee. We hope that some of our new members will be interested in leadership opportunities.

At the September 20 service, facilitated by the LDC, Judith Kendall made reference to a book: *Serving with Grace: Lay Leadership as a Spiritual Practice* by Erik Walker Wikstrom. She would be happy to lend her copy to anyone who would like to read it or to provide information on ordering it (you can just google it). It's a quick read — only 83 pages.

UUGF Leadership Development Committee:

Mary Bahr  
Aaron Broadwell  
Warren Hodge  
Harry Mangle  
Judith Kendall, Chair



## SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMON READ

Our Social Justice Common Read for Winter is *Hidden In Plain Sight A History of the Newberry Mass Lynching of 1916*, by Janis Owens. Get your copy from Amazon or bookstores. Then plan to attend a live reading by the local author in January.

## HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT UUGF



By James Chase, DRE

A few notes for the next few weeks - As always, feel free to message me if you have any questions of concerns.

- ★ December 9th is Parents Night Out - 5-9pm  
📩 Please RSVP to DRE@UUGF.ORG
- ★ December 11th - RE and Youth Meet during the normal times 🎵 We will continue learning about regulating our feelings and living in community with each other.
- ★ December 17th - Messy Playdate! 🎁 Come join us for some silly, messy, Holiday fun. Join the UUGF Messy Playdate Facebook group for more info, or contact DRE@UUGF.ORG.
- ★ December 18th - Fireside Sunday 🕯️ We will have folks out by the fire circle from 10-2pm. Children and Youth are welcome to come play, craft, and enjoy fireside snacks with us. RE and Youth group will not meet in the classrooms on this day, but we will be leading discussions about Hanukkah and Solstice, as well as other celebrations of the season.
- ★ December 25th - No RE or Youth Group. 🎄 The service and Phillips Social Hall will be open for gathering, but we are giving our volunteers and childcare staff the day off. January 1st - First Hour RE and Youth are back to our normal schedule, ringing in the new year!

## GAZETTE SUBMISSIONS

The Gazette is reserved for UUGF business and concerns submitted to the office (email [uoffice@uufg.org](mailto: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.

## COLLECTION FOR GRACE MARKETPLACE!

Through December, our Social Justice Council is collecting items for clients of GRACE Marketplace. Look for a bin under the Social Justice display table in the Phillips Social Hall where you can put things you bring.

Please bring warm clothing or jackets, and camping items such as small tents, sleeping bags, batteries. Women's underwear has also been requested. Also for fun, crossword puzzles and Sudoku, adult coloring books with colored pencils, and books (James Patterson novels are frequently requested). Also Reading Glasses.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Please wish "happy birthday" to Lee McNamara and Heather Simpson!



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

## I AM GRATEFUL TO



To our Music Director, *Derek Nirenberg*, for rising to the occasion and providing wonderful saxophone music for our service as well as providing piano accompaniment when a scheduled musician was ill!

To *Joy Avery* who provided beautiful table decorations from our own Memory Garden camellias on Sunday. Visitors were impressed

~ Judith Kendall

Many thanks to the UUFG Safety Committee, in particular *Jonathan Coron*, *David Willkomm* and *Michael Hazlett*, who hosted last Sunday's Coffee Hour.

~ Susan Christy

Many thanks to *Nancy Parkinson* who headed up the Cookie Caper fundraiser for Social Justice Council, and to all those wonderful cookie bakers whose work we can now enjoy!! This earned \$214 for the social justice work of the congregation.

~ Alice Primack

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.

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

This month, we celebrate the December anniversaries of our membership.

- *Four Years:* Peggy Maloney and Wray McCalester
- *Six Years:* Diana Boxer
- *Nine Years:* Kate Hitchcock
- *Fourteen Years:* Lynne Cpaehart
- *Twenty-Eight Years:* Joann Mossa

## WINTER SOLSTICE CONCERT

*Sunday, December 17, 7:00 pm*

The Annual Vets for Peace Winter Solstice Concert will be held at UUFG. Our Social Justice Council co-sponsors this event put on by Vets for Peace. Tickets will be available from VFP members and from the Theater of Memory.



You may also learn more about the program and purchase tickets online via the Vets for Peace website: <https://vfp Gainesville.org/>

## TOUCHSTONE JOURNAL FINAL MAILING

The December issue of the Touchstone Journal represents our final mailing of that document to the congregation. Now that in-person services have ramped up, we will make paper copies available at Sunday services starting in January.

We will continue to send out the monthly MailChimp announcement of the Touchstone theme of the month. That emailed message includes a link to that month's Journal.

You may also always access the latest issue of the Touchstone Journal via our website at <https://www.uufg.org/learning/adult/>

If you would like to continue receiving mailed copies of the Touchstone Journal, please contact Cam Pierce in the office (uoffice@uufg.org).

## ONLINE GIVING TO UUFG

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

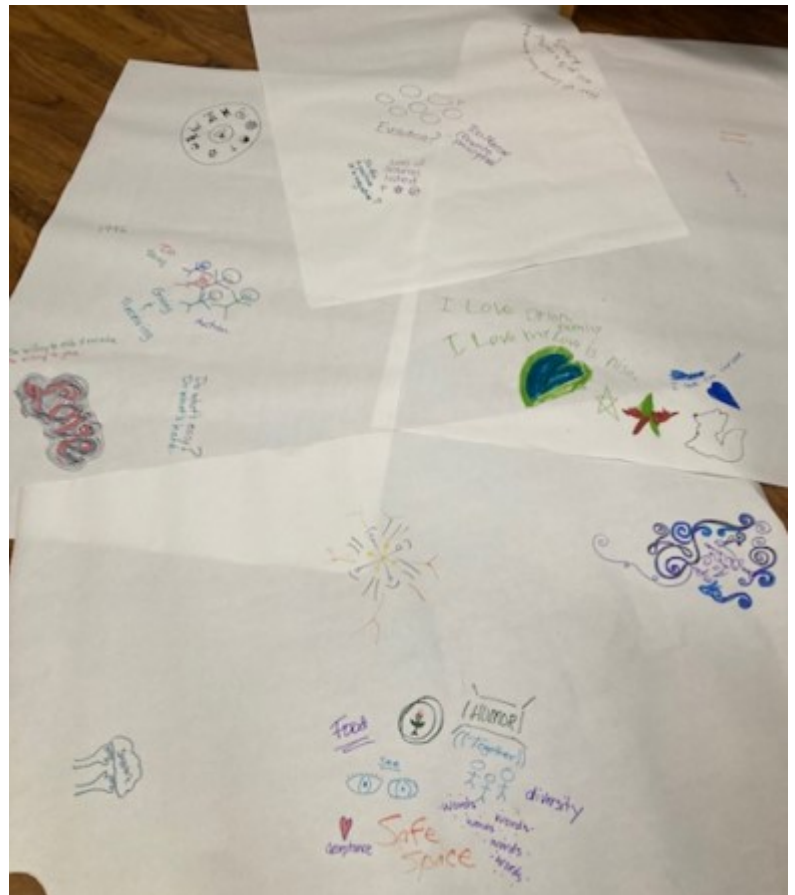
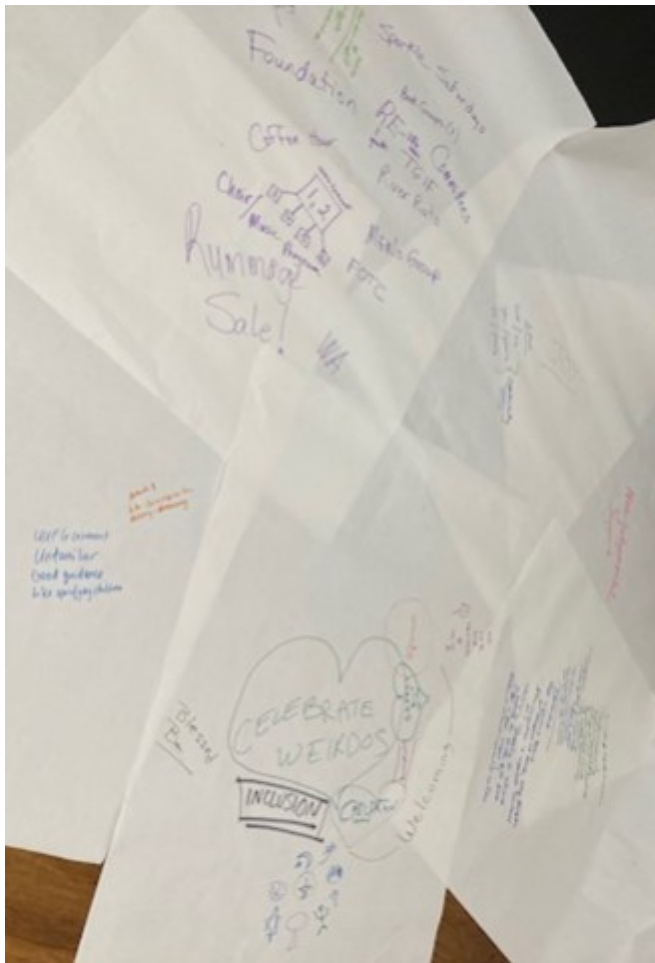
Go to <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YXTK> to set up your account.

ARTICLE II — YOUR RESPONSES:

On Sunday, December 4, 2022, the Congregation was seated at tables to allow for discussion of the DRAFT proposed changes in our UUA By-laws. There were twelve tables, and interested participants created ten poster pages. These photos show all of the written/drawn work that was submitted. Subsequent issues of *The Gazette* will share close-up views.

We all have the option to take part in the process. Another Article II draft is scheduled to come out after the first of the year and more opportunities for discussion and fine-tuning will be presented. Thanks for your input! Your involvement is appreciated.

~ Liz Stewart



**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 process is easy. Just save your receipts.

Questions?  
Contact Susan at [susan.christy42@gmail.com](mailto:susan.christy42@gmail.com)

**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 [uoffice@uufg.org](mailto:uoffice@uufg.org) / 352-377-1669.

## FROM THE UUA

## Take steps now to maximize year end giving and set a course for the New Year

by Bill Clontz, *stewardship consultant with  
the Stewardship for Us Team, supporting the UUA*

We are approaching the Conundrum Season. On the one hand, we are entering a period of thanksgiving and celebration of being together. On the other hand, we remember that as the New Year arrives, comes tax season. But in spite of that odd mix, there is good news here.

We have the opportunity to do some good in demonstrating for our Unitarian Universalist community while preparing for tax season. You will want to consult with a financial advisor before making tax or investment decisions. However, here are some steps you may consider:

- Get a Jump Start on Your Annual Pledge: No matter when your church calendar year starts or when/how your stewardship drive is conducted, you know that sometime after the first of the year, you will be asked to consider your pledge for the coming church year.
- Why not give that some personal reflection now, at year's end and while you are planning for your taxes, and make an initial judgment about an increase. Start setting aside that increase now. When the new pledge year begins, you are already at about the level you wish to be, and the increase set aside for some months can be contributed as a one-time gift – all potentially earning a tax deduction as well.
- Charitable IRA Rollover: This tax extender encourages older Americans to give out of their Individual Retirement Accounts. This allows IRA owners age 70-1/2 or older to exclude up to \$100,000 a year from income. The IRA funds are paid directly to certain public charities to accomplish this benefit. Otherwise, the IRA owner would have to pay tax on the IRA funds before claiming the deduction.

Congress allowed this option to expire in past years, but it now standing law without a programmed expiration. Many retirees don't need the money that they must take from IRAs as a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). Being able to donate these proceeds to their congregation can be a win-win.

- Donate Appreciated Stock: A gift of appreciated stock helps your congregation or the UUA, while providing a significant tax break. To explore this option, talk to your broker about your specific situation. In general you could take an immediate tax deduction for the full market value of the stock. In addition, you avoid the capital-gains tax that owed if cashing in the securities. It's a win-win situation. The congregation and/or the UUA get a welcome contribution, while donors write off the gift and avoid paying capital gains taxes.

## REGISTER NOW FOR UUA'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 2023!

Registration has opened for this coming year's General Assembly in Pittsburg, PA, running from June 21 - 25, 2023. General Assembly 2023 will be a multiplatform event, with registration options for in-person and/or virtual participation.

In-person registration includes access to events scheduled to take place in Pittsburgh, as well as everything available to virtual registrants. Full virtual registration includes access to the GA app, as well as all on-demand programming, live webinars, and live-streamed events.

***New this year! Join our First Timers Caucus.*** If this will be your first ever in-person GA, use the promo code WELCOME to reduce your Adult in-person registration by \$100. One hundred spots are available. Cannot be combined with other financial support promo codes.

In-person registration is \$400 for adults, and \$300 for high school youth, emerging adults (18-24), and retired and candidate ministers. Full Virtual Registration is \$250. Register now and use the payment plan to pay over time. Financial support is also available. ***In-person registration rates will increase on March 1 and again on May 1.***

For registration information, click [HERE!](#)

What is General Assembly? Click [HERE](#) to find out!

**UUFG CALENDAR**

**Sunday, December 11 —**

- 10:00 am** Religious Education (Classrooms & Common Room)
- 11:00 am** Worship Service (Sanctuary & YouTube)
- 12:00 pm** Coffee Hour (Phillips Hall & Tent Area)
- 12:00 pm** Newcomer Orientation (Begins at Welcome Table)
- 12:00 pm** Youth Group (Classroom 7)
- 12:00 pm** CYREC (Common Room)

**Monday, December 12 —**

- 7:00 pm** Gainesville Bridge Club (Phillips Hall & Sanctuary)

**Tuesday, December 13 —**

- 8:30 am** Morning Meditation (Zoom — for info, contact Diane DePuydt at [diane.depuydt@gmail.com](mailto:diane.depuydt@gmail.com) or Pete Turner at )
- 6:00 pm** Weight Watchers (Phillips Hall)
- 5:30 pm** Fellowship Council (Zoom — for info, contact Diane DePuydt at [diane.depuydt@gmail.com](mailto:diane.depuydt@gmail.com))
- 8:00 pm** Silent Meditation (Zoom — for info, contact Carol Stiles at [uuvaldosta@yahoo.com](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com))

**Wednesday, December 14 —**

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

**Thursday, December 15 —**

- 10:00 am** Weight Watchers (Phillips Hall)
- 7:00 pm** Chalice Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

**Friday, December 16 —**

- 8:00 am** Weight Watchers (Phillips Hall)
- 12:30 am** Gainesville Bridge Club (Phillips Hall)

**Saturday, December 17 —**

- 8:00 am** Weight Watchers (Sanctuary)
- 10:00 am** Messy Playdates (Playground — to register, contact James Chase, Director of Religious Education, at [dre@uufg.org](mailto:dre@uufg.org))
- 8:00 pm** Vets for Peace Winter Solstice Concert (Fellowship Hall)

**Sunday, December 18 —**

- 10:00 am** Religious Education (Classrooms & Common Room)
- 11:00 am** Worship Service (Sanctuary & YouTube)
- 12:00 pm** Coffee Hour (Phillips Hall & Tent Area)
- 1:00 pm** Social Justice Circle (Tent Area — Questions? Contact Mary Bahr at [kmlisle.mary@gmail.com](mailto:kmlisle.mary@gmail.com))

**Thanks to Sunday Facilitators!  
December 11**

<b>Outside Greeter</b>	Aaron Broadwell
<b>Welcome Table</b>	Martha Harrell Vic Harrell
<b>Foyer Monitor</b>	Vic Harrell
<b>RE Monitor</b>	Norden Lucke
<b>Ushers</b>	
<b>Visitors Table</b>	Susan Christy Aaron Broadwell
<b>Audio-visual</b>	Garrett Hecker



**HEARING LOOP  
AVAILABLE**

Please talk to an usher for information.

**BLUU — BLACK LIVES OF  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM**



Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) is an organizing collective committed to expanding the power and capacity of Black UUs within the denomination.

BLUU works to provide support, information and resources specifically for Unitarian Universalists who identify as Black or of African descent.

We include information about BLUU events to support those our members who also participate in BLUU. While most BLUU's events are private, occasionally they will open an event to all UUs.

For more, visit <https://www.blacklivesuu.com/>

**Sunday, December 11 —**

4:00 pm-5:30 pm — BLUU Online Worship. We invite Black Unitarian Universalists and all Black people to join us for a time of remembrance, connection and reflection through song, silence, dancing and sharing! Learn more by joining the Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BLUUExplicitlyBlack/>