



## SUNDAY SERVICE

*Sunday, December 18, 11:00 am*  
Hanukkah

This Sunday, Rev. Christe Lunsford is in our Fellowship's pulpit as we continue exploring our monthly Touchstone theme of "Joy" while marking the first day of Hanukkah. Mary Anthony serves as worship associate, and James Chase reads our story for all ages. Our Chalice Choir sings under the direction of Derek Nirenberg. 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-HIRLSg6IRfA/live>



## RESONANCE PERFORMS AT UUGF

*Sunday, December 18, 7:00 pm*

This coming Sunday at 7 pm in our Sanctuary, we offer a service of music, ritual and spiritual reflection as we celebrate Winter Solstice with songs and stories.

Resonance provides music for this 90-minute interactive service, and Rev. Christe Lunsford leads worship, incorporating a candle-lighting ritual.

This event is a fundraiser for our Fellowship. All proceeds benefit UUGF's work in the world. We ask for a donation of \$20 at the door, but no one will be turned away.

Resonance is Kim Alexander, Irma Alvarez, Beth Hunter, Gina Kent, Beverly Sanders and Kristin Stevens.

With percussion by our own Garrett Hecker!

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE ~ *Saturday, December 24, 5:30 pm*

Join us on Saturday, December 24 at 5:30 pm in our Sanctuary for an evening of carols and readings as we reflect upon the story of Jesus' birth. Our service concludes by candlelight and is followed by a reception in our Phillips Social Hall and tent area. All donations collected at our Christmas Eve service benefit our minister's discretionary fund. Please remember to bring a mask.

NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

	November	YTD
Income	\$41,703 (budget: \$26,900)	\$150,000 (budget: \$134,833)
Expenses	\$28,050 (budget: \$28,345)	\$120,637 (budget: \$140,135)
Net	\$13,653	\$29,363

Year-to-Date numbers here reflect our general fund’s cumulated income and expenses from July 1 through November 30, 2022. Please note that detailed financial reports are included in the monthly board meeting package that is emailed to the congregation. Our next board meeting will be held via Zoom on Monday, January 23, 2023.

*Holiday Gift Boxes*

This holiday season let us show our dedicated staff how much we appreciate them!

Please look for wrapped gift boxes labeled with staff names in the Sanctuary before and after service. You are invited to place cards, notes of appreciation, and/or gift cards or cash in the boxes.

Our personnel committee will collect and distribute the boxes to our staff following the Christmas Eve service.

Please help make the holidays merry for the people who work so hard for UUFG all year.

Our staff includes:

- James Chase, Director of Religious Education
- Tané DeKrey, Pianist
- Gabby Guzman, Childcare
- Katie Hagan, Childcare
- Garrett Hecker, Audiovisual Tech
- Rev Christe Lunsford, Minister
- Derek Nirenberg, Choir Director
- Cam Pierce, Congregational Admin
- Juan Rivera, Custodian

Thanks from your Fellowship’s Personnel Committee: Kirsten Flamand, Diana Hagan and Sandra Topp

HERE’S WHAT’S HAPPENING IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT UUFG



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 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!

SOCIAL JUSTICE CIRCLE

Sunday, December 18, 1:00 pm

Our Social Justice Circle meets on the third Sunday of every month in tent area outside of our Phillips Social hall. Come join this month’s circle on Sunday at 1:00 pm to discuss plans for Social Justice activities on behalf of our Fellowship in the coming year!

Questions? Contact Mary Bahr at [kmlisle.mary@gmail.com](mailto:kmlisle.mary@gmail.com),

## 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 Janese Nix, Joy Avery, Mary Bahr, Carol Rivers, Deborah McEdward, Devin Neilson and Kieran Neilson!



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](mailto:uoffice@uufg.org)).

## I AM GRATEFUL TO



Many thanks to the MANY volunteers from the *Social Justice Circle* who hosted last Sunday's Coffee Hour, including *Alice Primack, Martha Mayorga, Mary Bahr, Joy Avery, Lisa Renner, Pat Caren, Nancy Parkinson, Hazell and Mike Haslett, Kirsten Flamand*, and of course, *Fred Judkins* the Coffee Maker!.

~ Susan Christy

The UUGF Foundation thanks *Judith and Bob Kendall* for their generous donation.

I want to express my gratitude for the volunteers who came together to manage our huge ladder and replace the spot light bulbs in the Sanctuary last Saturday. Then some went on to repair the fountain! Thanks to *Sarah Hausman, her husband Evan Waldt, Tom Palmer, Kay Anderson, Michael Avery, Paul Hargrave and Tim Christy*.

~ Marilyn Roberts

Do you have a "gratitude" to share, expressing appreciation for someone working "behind the scenes" to make UUGF a warm and welcoming place? Please send an email to Cam Pierce at [uoffice@uufg.org](mailto:uoffice@uufg.org).

## WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

*Wednesday, December 21, 7:00 pm*  
at UUGF's Fire Circle

This Wednesday, our Sacred Oak CUUPS chapter will gather at our fire circle at 7:00 pm to celebrate the solstice, the longest night of the year, and the return of the sun in its lengthening cycle.

At this service, we will also remember and honor Olivia Stryker, who died earlier this year.

All are welcome to attend this ritual. If you do not wish to stand for the service's duration, please bring a folding chair. Our fire circle is located on the south of our campus, beyond our classrooms and playground.

## TOUCHSTONE JOURNAL BY SUBSCRIPTION

Every month, our Fellowship explores a "Touchstone" theme. We will continue to email a monthly announcement to our members of the monthly theme with a link to the monthly *Touchstone Journal*.

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

However, if you would like to continue receiving mailed copies of the *Touchstone Journal*, please contact Cam Pierce in the office ([uoffice@uufg.org](mailto:uoffice@uufg.org) / 352-377-1669).

## ONLINE GIVING TO UUGF

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.

## 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.

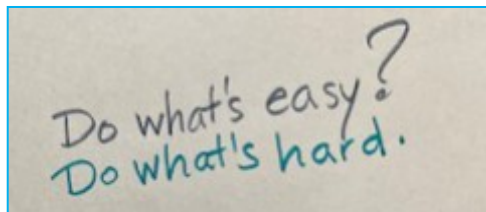
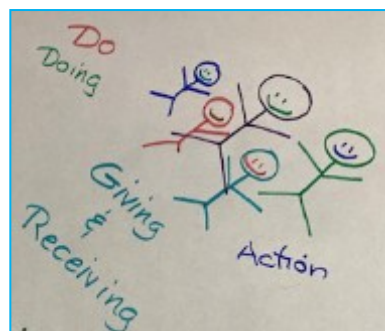
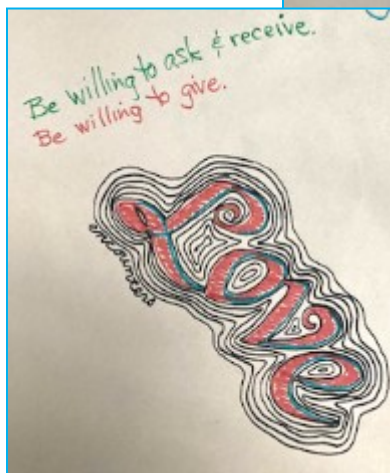
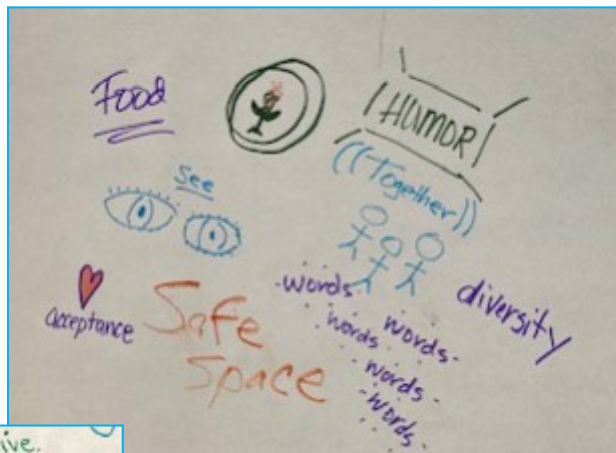


ARTICLE II — YOUR RESPONSES:

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!

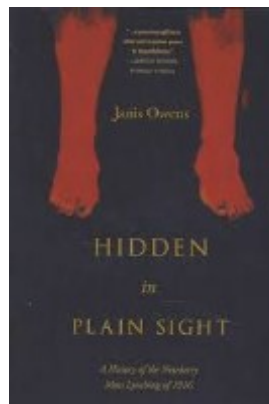
**DOESN'T COST A DIME**

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)

**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.

## 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 18 —*

- 10:00 am** Religious Education (Fire Circle)  
**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)  
**12:00 pm** Youth Group (Classroom 7)  
**7:00 pm** A Winter Solstice Singing Ritual (Sanctuary)

### *Monday, December 19 —*

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

### *Tuesday, December 20 —*

- 8:30 am** Morning Meditation (Zoom —  
 for info, contact Diane DePuydt at  
 diane.depuydt@gmail.com or Pete Turner at )  
**6:00 pm** Weight Watchers (Phillips Hall)  
**7:00 pm** Leadership Development Committee (Common Room)  
**8:00 pm** Silent Meditation (Zoom — for info,  
 contact Carol Stiles at uuvaldosta@yahoo.com)

### *Wednesday, December 21 —*

- 7:00 pm** Winter Solstice Ritual with Sacred Oak  
 CUUPS (Fire Circle)

### *Thursday, December 22 —*

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

### *Friday, December 23 —*

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

### *Saturday, December 24 —*

- 8:00 am** Weight Watchers (Sanctuary)  
**5:30 pm** Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)

### *Sunday, December 25 —*

- 11:00 am** Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
**12:00 pm** Coffee Hour (Phillips Hall & Tent Area)

## NEW FOR 2023!

### DREAMWORK ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

*Starting Sunday, January 8, 10:00 am*

This coming January, we are pleased to offer a new course for adults during our “first hour” religious education programming. The course introduction will be held in Classroom 3 at 10:00 am on Sunday, January 8.

Here is the course description as provided by course instructor Diane Harper.

Dreams have a long history of being regarded as divine messages in almost every religious tradition. Dreams are a thin place for encountering the Divine in all aspects of our lives. Working with our dreams opens a communication channel between the conscious and unconscious worlds, allowing us to translate the metaphor and symbol in dream language into a language that is helpful for problem solving in our waking life.

Sharing the stories our nightly dreams tell is an age-old practice, one that has provided inspiration, entertainment and revelations throughout history. Dream work offers a method for healing old wounds, living more fully and joyfully each day, increasing self-awareness, improving understanding of our life purpose, and integrating new understandings. Each of these leads, in turn, to greater empathy and compassion.

Carl Jung developed language and methods for better understanding dream meanings - concepts like projection, archetypes, collective unconscious, anima, animus, and shadow. Because it is often difficult for the dreamer to analyze and understand messages from their own dreams, projective dream work is helpful for grasping dream meanings.

In this group we will learn the basic method of projective dreamwork, how to remember our dreams, build a safe container for sharing, and then work with dreams that dreamers bring to the group. Come find out what your dreams are telling you!

## 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.






### TOUCHSTONE GROUP PROVIDES DINNER AT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

As a year-end service project, our Touchstone discussion group members prepared a meal for guests at our local Ronald McDonald House, helping to ease the holidays for families with hospitalized children. Pictured are Debra Neill-Mareci, Jim Wright, Kirsten Flamand, Tom Mareci and Tim Christy.

Thanks to Sunday Facilitators! December 18	
<b>Outside Greeter</b>	Wendy Visscher
<b>Welcome Table</b>	Cindy Prabst Barbara Palmer
<b>Foyer Monitor</b>	Doris Hargrave Paul Hargrave
<b>RE Monitor</b>	Joseph Rowe
<b>Ushers</b>	
<b>Visitors Table</b>	Susan Christy Tim Christy
<b>Audio-visual</b>	Garrett Hecker



**FOOD4KIDS BACKPACK  
PROGRAM COLLECTION**

Each Sunday, we collect food to benefit our local Food4Kids Backpack Program, which provides children with non-perishable food that they can bring home to their families. We plan to continue this collection program through the spring.

The next time you attend service at UUFG, please consider bringing a non-perishable food item when you attend. Look for a cart near the entrance to our Sanctuary. For more information, please contact Chris Vulpe at [cvulpe@mac.com](mailto:cvulpe@mac.com).

**Suggested Items:**

- **Breakfast Items** — oatmeal packets, cereals
- **Canned/Boxed Goods** — beans, meats, pasta, soup, veggies
- **Snacks** — raisins, pretzels, fruit cups, pudding, peanut butter and jelly, etc.
- **Drinks** — shelf stable milk, juice boxes/pouches

Magnolia Roots Music presents  
**MIKE BLOCK TRIO**

Friday January 13<sup>th</sup> 2023

7:30 pm (doors open 7:00 pm)

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville

For lots of great videos and more about these stellar musicians:

<https://www.mikeblockmusic.com/trioepk>

TICKETS: \$25 in advance (plus a \$3.16 fee to Eventbrite)

\$30 at door (cash preferred)

100% of ticket sales go to the band

To purchase tickets, click [HERE](#)

Mike Block Trio, featuring Zachariah Hickman (bass/vocals) and Joe K. Walsh (mandolin/vocals), is led by cello player, singer, and composer Mike Block, hailed as “one of the bravest, most intriguing musicians on the American fusion scene” by *Gramophone Magazine*. The Trio brings an exciting personal perspective to acoustic music, “a rousing musical breakdown with classical themes and progressive preciseness.” “Never before have we heard the combination of these instruments traverse such a wide breadth of music so effortlessly” - *WBUR Boston*. “A supergroup of three virtuosic players...” - *Saratoga Today*



## MORNING MEDITATION

*Tuesdays, 8:30 am*

*Coming Soon: In Person at UUFG!*

UUFG's Mindfulness Meditation group continues to offer meditation sessions every Tuesday from 8:30-9:45 am via Zoom. The half-hour meditation practice is followed by reading and discussion of Buddhist teachings from several traditions. For information and the Zoom link, contact Diane DePuydt ([diane.depuydt@gmail.com](mailto:diane.depuydt@gmail.com)) or Pete Turner ([peteturner123@gmail.com](mailto:peteturner123@gmail.com)).

## 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.

If you would like to join this meditation group or would like more information, please send a message directly to Carol Stiles at [uuvaldosta@yahoo.com](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com) with “Meditation Tuesday” in the subject line. She will send you the Zoom link.

## 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, January 8 —*

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/>