

The Gazette



December 25, 2022 & January 1, 2023 — Volume 19, Issue 49

SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, December 25, 11 am

Join us Christmas Morning for Hot Chocolate, Coffee and Carols at the Fellowship! A very brief 'service', led by Liz Stewart, will be followed by refreshments and the option of joining others in the songs of the season accompanied by Kirsten Flamand.

It's going to be cold outside, but we will keep our spirits warm by coming together and sharing time in community! If you have a few extra cookies to share... Thanks.

We will not offer a live stream of this service.

UUGF'S OFFICE CLOSED

December 26 through 30

Our Fellowship's Office is closed from Monday, December 26 through Friday, December 30. We will reopen on Monday, January 2.

Cam Pierce, our Congregational Administrator, will periodically check phone and email messages to the office (at uuoffice@uufg.org), but please expect a delayed response. Please put "URGENT" in your email subject line if something needs immediate attention..

NEXT GAZETTE: JANUARY 8

As our office will be closed next week, we will not send out a January 1 Gazette. This issue includes information about the first week of January. Much is happening at UUGF in 2023!

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 this service benefit our minister's discretionary fund. Please remember to bring a mask.

REV. CHRISTE LUNSFORD TO TAKE LEAVE THRU JANUARY 29

Beloveds,

I hope the winter festivities will continue to fill your hearts with light and peace in preparation for a new year.

This is the time of year where we oft snuggle into our homes to rest and restore our souls.

This is especially true for Unitarian Universalist ministers. In a faith that celebrates all the faith journeys this season has to offer, it is this time that ministers push through and most often desperately need a long rest to recharge.

I will be taking that time this year. *I be on leave after Christmas Eve service and will return to community on January the 29th.*

If there is any need, please reach out to the UUGF office (uuoffice@uufg.org / 352-377-1669) or Martha Soles, Congregation President (marthajsoles@gmail.com / 540-645-9897) for assistance, and they will contact me as needed. As always if there is a true emergency, please let me know. Also know that I will not be checking or answering emails until I return and even then it will take time to go through them all.

May you all be blessed in this new and emerging year.

In Faith, Light and Peace
Rev. Christe



“FIRST HOUR” RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR ADULTS IN JANUARY

Starting in January, we are pleased to offer four different adult religious education opportunities, each occurring during our Sunday “first hour,” beginning at 10:00 am!

Starting January 1, 10 am in the Common Room

Humanist Unitarian Universalist Group of Gainesville (HUUGG)

Are human beings able to be ethical without the creeds, religious texts and sermons from religious or spiritual sources? Morals, values and ethics are important to every community, as is the search for meaning and purpose. How does a spiritual community support that? Some Unitarian Universalists are nontheists or freethinkers. Does this describe you or people you know? Join us on the first and third Sunday at 10:00 to explore what it means to be Humanist.

For more information about HUUGG, contact Kay Anderson at kayanderson59@gmail.com.

Starting January 8, 10 am in the Common Room

Parenting Beyond Belief Discussion Group

Using reflections from freethinkers in Dale McGowan’s *Parenting Beyond Belief* as a springboard for discussion, we’ll share, explore and celebrate the wonders and the challenges that come with raising caring, independent, and open-minded children without religious indoctrination. This group will meet on second and fourth Sundays at 10 am in the Common Room. Diana Hagan facilitates.

A note from Diana about the book: There are two editions with overlapping content. I have the 2nd (2016) edition on order for myself and I think we’ll want to use that, but the first edition (2007) should be fine if that’s what you have. Second Edition: Amazon AbeBooks

For more information, contact Diana Hagan 352-317-4499 or diana.hagan@gmail.com

Starting January 8, 10 am in Classroom 3

Dreamwork

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!

Dreamwork will have open classes on January 8, 15 and 22 before settling into a monthly routine with a set group of participants. For more information, please contact the course facilitator, Diane Harper, at harper_dianne@hotmail.com.

Starting January 15, 10 am in Classroom 4

Social Justice “Share the Plate” Conversations

This coming year, our Social Justice Committee will invite representatives of each of the charities that we support via our Share the Plate program to come talk about their organizations. In January, we will Share the Plate with Grace Marketplace. Leigh Scott, the Volunteer Coordinator, will come to UUFG to speak with us about GRACE and answer questions. Please put January 15 at 10am on your calendar for this talk. On that day we Share The Plate with GRACE during our Sunday service.

SUNDAY SERVICE
Sunday, January 1, 11:00 am
Embracing Possibilities
in Times of Change

Incorporating a video presentation by UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick Gray, this interactive service provides positive perspectives as we look forward to the new year. Liz Stewart facilitates the service, and James Chase reads 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-HIRLSg6IRfA/live>

CALLING ALL SINGERS!
JOIN UUFG'S
CHALICE CHOIR
IN 2023!



Calling all trained and untrained singers alike!

Start the new year by joining the Chalice Choir, UUFG's congregational choir! Musicians of all experience welcome.

Rehearsals are Thursday nights at 7 pm. Contact Music Director Derek Nirenberg at music@uufg.org for more information.

Derek Nirenberg
 Music Director, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Please wish "happy birthday" to Karen Atlas, Hannah Friske, Lane Hagan and Abi Fletcher!



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).

"FIRST HOUR"
RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION FOR
CHILDREN IN 2023!
By James Chase, DRE



Welcome to the new year!

In our Children's Religious Education world, we have some exciting things lined up for the spring. We will be introducing *Stand with Love's* "30 days of Love" program during January and February, as well as re-introducing *Spirit Play* as our new Curriculum for 2023.

Our *Fireside Sunday* was so well enjoyed, that we've decided to revisit once a month for the cold months of the year. We will follow along with the weather and invite and encourage all of the congregation to join in during first hour or after service.

30 Days of Love

30 Days of Love is our annual celebration that runs approximately from Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in January through Valentine's Day in February. It is an opportunity to collectively nurture our spirits, deepen our understanding, and take action on our values for collective liberation.

In 2022, 30 Days of Love will focus on Side With Love's four intersectional justice priorities, with opportunities each week for communities and people of all ages to ground, grow, and act together for justice.

Spirit Play

Spirit Play seeks to engage children in the existential questions about life within the context of the Unitarian Universalist faith. Stories are presented dealing with these questions accessing our broad base of sources. They are presented using an active storytelling method followed by a "wondering" time that opens up the child's response to the story, then the child is free to work directly with that story or another, or to respond to the story or to their feelings with art materials.

If you have questions about enrolling your child in our religious education programming or just want to know more, please contact me at dre@uufg.org.

I AM GRATEFUL TO

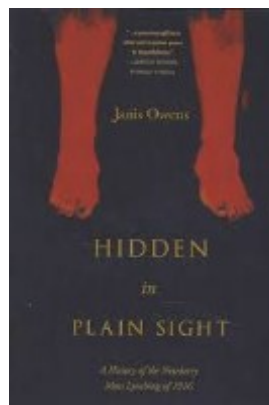


Many thanks to the gracious hosts of this past Sunday's Coffee Hour: *Barbara and Tom Palmer, Elisabet Carlson, Kirsten Flamand and Hazel Hazlett.*

~ Susan Christy

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

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.

NEWCOMER ORIENTATION

Sunday, January 8, 12:00 pm

Newcomer orientation, an information session for people new to our congregation, will be held following the January 8 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 for more info.

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 (uuoffice@uufg.org / 352-377-1669).

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 UUGO all year.

Our staff includes:

- Lane Hagan, Childcare
- James Chase, Director of Religious Education
- Tané DeKrey, Pianist
- Gabby Guzman, Childcare
- Lane Hagan, 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 and Diana Hagan



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.

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

RECENT ATTENDANCE

For Sunday, December 18, 58 adults attended in person service, while 15 children, 4 staff, and multiple parents enjoyed our fire circle activity. Thirty-nine people visited our service online via our YouTube channel..

GAZETTE SUBMISSIONS

The Gazette is reserved for UUFG business and concerns submitted to the office (email uuoffice@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.

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.

MORNING MEDITATION

Tuesdays, 8:30 am

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) or Pete Turner (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 with "Meditation Tuesday" in the subject line. She will send you the Zoom link.

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.

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!

PICTURES FROM DECEMBER 18 "FIRESIDE SUNDAY"



Magnolia Roots Music presents

MIKE BLOCK TRIO

Friday January 13th 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*



Food4Kids
nourishing our future

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.

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

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/>

UUFUG CALENDAR

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)

UUFUG Office Closed Monday

Through Friday

Monday, December 26 —

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

Tuesday, December 27 —

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)

8:00 pm Silent Meditation (Zoom — for info, contact Carol Stiles at uvaldosta@yahoo.com)

Wednesday, December 28 —

7:00 pm Young Adult Group (Phillips Hall — For info, contact Catherine Turner at cat.r.turner@gmail.com)

Thursday, December 29 —

10:00 am Weight Watchers (Phillips Hall)

Cancelled: Chalice Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 30 —

8:00 am Weight Watchers (Phillips Hall)

12:30 am Gainesville Bridge Club (Phillips Hall)

Saturday, December 31 —

8:00 am Weight Watchers (Sanctuary)



Sunday, January 1 —

10:00 am Humanist Class (Common Room)

10:00 am Religious Education for Children & Youth (Classrooms 5 & 6)

11:00 am Worship Service (Sanctuary)

12:00 pm Coffee Hour (Phillips Hall & Tent Area)

12:00 pm Children & Youth Religious Education Committee (Common Room — Questions? Contact James Chase at dre@uufg.org)

Monday, January 2 —

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

Tuesday, January 3 —

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)

6:30 pm Worship Team (Zoom — For info, contact Liz Stewart, Worship Team Chair, at marmstew002@gmail.com)

8:00 pm Silent Meditation (Zoom — for info, contact Carol Stiles at uvaldosta@yahoo.com)

Thursday, January 5 —

10:00 am Weight Watchers (Phillips Hall)

7:00 pm Chalice Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Friday, January 6 —

8:00 am Weight Watchers (Phillips Hall)

12:30 am Gainesville Bridge Club (Phillips Hall)

Saturday, January 7 —

8:00 am Weight Watchers (Sanctuary)

10:00 am Friends of the Courtyard (Common Room — Questions? Contact Peggy Maloney at maloney1952.pm@gmail.com)

Sunday, January 8 —

10:00 am Parenting & Religion (Common Room)

10:00 am Dreamwork (Classroom 3)

10:00 am Religious Education for Children & Youth (Classrooms 5 & 6)

11:00 am Worship Service (Sanctuary)

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)



HEARING LOOP
AVAILABLE

Please talk to an usher for information.

KINDLY SILENCE YOUR
CELL PHONE

