

# The Gazette



March 12 & 19, 2023 — Volume 20, Issue 10

## WORSHIP SERVICE

*Sunday, March 12, 11:00 am*

**Trusting in Our Covenant,  
Knowing Covenants Can  
and Must Change**

Continuing our pledge drive, Sunday's topics include the importance of music, religious education, worship and fellowship to our congregation. Now that we are emerging from Covid times, how can and will we reinvent ourselves? How will we adjust and change given new times, new technologies, new opportunities and new faces among us?

This week, YOU are in the pulpit metaphorically, as the assembled congregants and those online at home will have input into the words of wisdom shared for the day. We are in the process of making our pledge, or covenant, to our Fellowship. Where do you want your influence felt? How do you want your pledge money spent? Begin to give input now to reframe and reshape how UUGF will look in the future!

Liz Stewart facilitates service while Jeff Stevens serves as worship associate. James Chase provides our story for all ages, and 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-H1RLSg6lRfA/live>



**PLEDGE DRIVE  
CONCLUDES  
WITH MARCH 19  
CELEBRATION SUNDAY**  
*Sunday, March 19, 11:00 am*

March 19 is our Pledge Celebration Sunday! On this day, we act on our covenant by offering our pledge cards as a token of our commitment to the work of UUGF.

*Alternatively, you may mail your pledge card early to the UUGF office or complete the form online using this link or copying it into your browser:*

<https://forms.gle/NuToJwpHD1iwRTFB9>

This link is also available via our webpage at

<https://www.uufg.org/give/>

On March 19, place pledge form in the offering baskets during the service on the March 19<sup>th</sup> service as an act of celebration. Remember that the form has information you will need to complete in order that your new name tag can be ordered.

***Following the March 19 service, stay for some extra celebration in our Phillips Social Hall!***

Please remember that stewardship is much more than money. Stewardship is about social justice, worship, music, religious education, fellowship and a widening ministry within and outside our congregation. Stewardship is about connections, and it's about spiritual growth, and it's about our generosity.

Stewardship is about being together and taking care of what's important to us. It's about our values that transcend the values of our current consumer society. And our hope is that we can take some of what we do in our pledge campaign and deepen it and expand it into action.

Working with families and multi generations will help widen the circle of our fellowship. Stewardship is the beginning of trying to change the culture of this congregation, and to build a culture of generosity, a culture of engagement, a culture of abundance. And all those things are part of our covenant, our liberal values and our hope for the future.

Yours in Fellowship,  
Michael H. Hazlett, Stewardship Chairperson

## SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVITIES FOR MARCH



**Social Justice Circle Meeting**  
*Sunday, March 19, 1:00 pm in  
Common Room*

This informal meeting is open to all who are interested in UUFG's Social Justice work. Come hear about plans and share your ideas!

**Family Promise Co-Hosting at Westminster  
Presbyterian Church**

*March 19-26 (Sunday-Sunday)*

UUFG will co-host by providing food for Family Promise guests who are staying at Westminster. Please sign up on Sign-Up Genius for what you will bring:

[https://www.signupgenius.com/  
go/30E0F4AADA923A3F58-family](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F4AADA923A3F58-family)

**Social Justice Movie: "Don't Look Up"**

*Monday, March 20, 7:00 pm on Zoom*

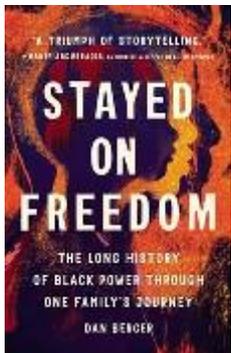
Two low-level astronomers must go on a giant media tour to warn mankind of an approaching comet that will destroy planet Earth. This 2021 American apocalyptic political satire black comedy film was co-produced, and directed by Adam McKay from a story he co-wrote.

Zoom link: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97162773484>

Meeting ID: 971 6277 3484

**Our Common Read Continues**

*Stayed on Freedom: the Long History of Black Power Through One Family's History* by Dan Berger, is about the work of UUFG member Zoharah Simmons. We plan a discussion with Zoharah on April 2.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMON READ FOR SPRING

*Stayed on Freedom: The Long  
History of Black Power Through  
One Family's Journey*  
by Dan Berger

***Stayed on Freedom* is very special since it is about our own member Zoharah Simmons!**

The book is published by Basic Books, and is available at the UUFG Book Cart and through book stores, and on Kindle. Get your copy and be ready for discussion in on April 2!

## SOCIAL JUSTICE ANNUAL REPORT AND SURVEY

Social Justice has published our 2022 Annual Report. We also ask you to consider activities you would like to participate in during the year ahead by filling out our Social Justice Checklist.

The annual report highlights our democracy focus plus all the other amazing social justice activities we did together last year.

The checklist offers you ways to participate in ***our 2023 focus on climate and environment*** activities and lets us know what Family Promise activities you would be interested in participating in.

Please respond by reading the report and by clicking the link below for the checklist, which you can fill out online or in person the next time we table after service.

**Checklist link:**

<https://forms.gle/bBbJ3Z2Nk4f8u3XM6>

**Annual Report**

For the 2022 Social Justice Council Annual Report, please click the link below or copy and paste it into your browser.

[https://www.uufg.org/wp-content/uploads/SJ-  
Annual-Report-2022.pdf](https://www.uufg.org/wp-content/uploads/SJ-Annual-Report-2022.pdf)

***Alice Primack Stepping Down as Social Justice***

**Co-Chair**

Please Welcome Mary Bahr and Mary Kieth as our New Social Justice Council Co-Chairs. We also want to introduce our new leadership of Social Justice! Alice Primack, who has chaired or co-chaired Social Justice at UUFG for more than 20 years, is stepping back so we can have new ideas with new leadership, and so that she can spend more time with her grandchildren. She is also working with a new group in Gainesville on Aging in Place.

Mary Bahr, who has chaired our Social Justice Circle and has served as co-chair of Social Justice for the past couple years, will continue in her roles.

And we are delighted to introduce a fairly new UUFG member as co-chair with Mary Bahr: Mary Keith will work with Mary Bahr as co-chair of Social Justice Council, which comprises all the committees working on Social Justice here.

Mary Bahr and Alice Primack

## UUGF FOUNDATION GRANTS

*Submission Deadline Is April 1*

UUGF Foundation is now accepting grant applications for Spring 2023. If you have an idea for a way to enrich our programs or building and grounds, please consider submitting an application for funding your project.

### Examples of recent projects include:

- Automated External Defibrillator (AED) CPR and First Aid classes
- Storage Cabinets for Phillips Hall
- Exterior Door Replacement
- Sanctuary Monitors and Cameras for streaming
- Ministerial Installation
- Refurbish Street Sign
- Memory Garden Dedication Stone

The application can be found on the UUGF Foundation web page at <https://www.uugf.org/home/who-we-are/uugf-foundation/>

If you have any questions or concerns ask one of us on the Foundation or send us an email at [foundation@uugf.org](mailto:foundation@uugf.org)

*Deadline for submission is April 1, 2023.*

UUGF Foundation Directors: Jeanne Gossman, Sandra Topp, Cindy Prabst, and Tamara Evonne.

## UUGF BUSINESS OFFICE CLOSED

*Tuesday thru Friday, March 14— 17*

Cam Pierce, our Congregational Admin, is out of the office this coming week starting on Tuesday, March 17.

## NEWCOMERS' ORIENTATION

*Sunday, March 12, 12:00 pm*

Newcomer orientation, an information session for people new to our congregation, will be held following the March 12 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.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Please wish "happy birthday" to James Chase, Samara Powers, Michelle Montague and Jo Anne Smith!



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



## I AM GRATEFUL TO

Text

Many thanks to the 19 members and newcomers (10% of our membership) who attended the Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> Safety Committee Workshop on "Sunday Safety." This opportunity was conducted primarily for Ushers and Worship Team members who are part of the UUGF Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) "Incident Response Team." The team, which includes two Safety Monitors and our Director of Religious Education, is responsible for and trained to respond to the four types of emergencies: Medical, Weather, Fire, and Civil Disturbance that may occur during Sunday worship time. In addition to information shared, the committee received many good suggestions for improvement in the EOP, which by the Safety Committee's charter must be reviewed each year.

~ Harry Mangle, Safety Committee Team

A big thank you to the members of the *Social Justice Circle* who hosted this past Sunday's Coffee Hour. An even **larger** thank you to this group for committing to host Coffee Hour **4 times a year**. What a good and useful idea!

Thanks to Kirsten Flamand, Liz Stewart and Joy Avery, who combined their talents and their fabrics to make the Sanctuary such a joyous, colorful place last Sunday.

~ Susan Christy

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

## RECENT ATTENDANCE

An unknown number of people attended our March 5 service while 40 views show on our YouTube video presentation.

## 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/home> to set up your account.

MARCH FINANCIAL REPORT

|          | February                    | YTD                           |
|----------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Income   | \$30,646 (budget: \$37,233) | \$228,943 (budget: \$225,866) |
| Expenses | \$23,900 (budget: \$28,825) | \$197,286 (budget: \$225,420) |
| Net      | \$6,746                     | \$31,647                      |

Year-to-Date numbers here reflect our general fund’s cumulated income and expenses from July 1 through February 28, 2023.

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, March 27, 2023. If you have questions, please contact Cam Pierce, Congregational Administrator, at [uuoffice@uufg.org](mailto:uuoffice@uufg.org).

SWEETWATER BRANCH TOUR

*Friday, March 17, 11:00 am*

*Sign up following March 12 service*

In keeping with our environmental theme this year, Social Justice invites you to enjoy a refreshing tour around Sweetwater Wetlands Park.

We have two options.

**Option 1** — ride on an electric tram designed for 8 people who have disabilities. The ride is one hour long. The date is Friday, March 17 at 11:00 am.

**Option 2** is for anyone able to walk a half mile to a mile on sidewalks, boardwalks and gravel.

Both tours will learn about the environmental wonders of Sweetwater Wetlands, a wildlife and birding hotspot that is also a water treatment plant. You will need water, hat, comfortable clothing and shoes for walking if you are in group 2. Meet in the parking lot.

The cost is \$5 per car or \$2 per person. Sweetwater Park is on Williston Rd. just east of South Main St at 325 SW Williston Road.

Please sign up after Service this Sunday, March 12 or contact Nancy Parkinson at [njp116@gmail.com](mailto:njp116@gmail.com)

WEBINAR:

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SUPPORT FOR TRANS & QUEER RIGHTS

*Wednesday, March 22, 8:00 pm*

In the words of Susan Frederick-Grey, UUA President, “These are heartbreaking and terrifying times. An onslaught of oppressive laws and policies are threatening the well-being of our children, young people and adults, and the very fabric of communities.” In particular, trans and nonbinary+ kids and adults are coming under attack, their rights and safety diminished and denied.

Throughout our country, Unitarian Universalists are organizing to fight this hateful legislation.

To learn more about these actions and what UU's can and are doing, please consider registering for a free upcoming webinar sponsored by [UPLIFT Action and Standing on the Side of Love](#), to be held on Wednesday, March 22, 8:00 pm — 9:30 pm

To register for “The Body Politic: Faithful UUs Showing up for Trans Justice,” click [HERE](#).

GAZETTE SUBMISSIONS

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

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](mailto:susan.christy42@gmail.com)



KINDLY SILENCE YOUR  
CELL PHONE

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, March 12 —

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/>

### Thanks to Sunday Facilitators!

March 12

March 19

|                 |                    |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Outside Greeter |                    |                    |
| Welcome Table   |                    |                    |
| Foyer Monitor   | Vic Harrell        | Jonathan Coron     |
| RE Monitor      | Norden Lucke       | Diana Hagan        |
| Ushers          | Debra Neill-Mareci | Debra Neill-Mareci |
| Visitors Table  |                    |                    |
| Audio-visual    | Garrett Hecker     | Garrett Hecker     |

### 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.

### 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 UFG, 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

## UUFG CALENDAR

### *Sunday, March 12 —*

- 10:00 am** Religious Education for Children & Youth (Classrooms 5 & 6)  
**10:00 pm** Parenting & Religion Class (Common Room — for info, contact Diana Hagan at [diana.hagan@gmail.com](mailto:diana.hagan@gmail.com))  
**11:00 am** Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
**12:00 pm** Coffee Hour (Phillips Hall & Tent Area)  
**12:00 pm** Newcomer Orientation (Starts at Welcome Table)  
**12:00 pm** Youth Group (Classroom 7)  
**1:30 pm** Rental: Fix Them All — Painting Class (Phillips Hall)

### *Monday, March 13 —*

- 3:00 pm** Safety Committee (Sanctuary — Questions? Contact Jonathan Coron, Safety Committee Chair, at [coronjonathan@gmail.com](mailto:coronjonathan@gmail.com))  
**5:00 pm** Gainesville Bridge Club (Phillips Hall & Sanctuary)

### *Tuesday, March 14 — UUFG Business Office Closed through Friday*

- 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 [peteturner123@gmail.com](mailto:peteturner123@gmail.com))  
**6:00 pm** Weight Watchers (Phillips Hall)  
**5:30 pm** Fellowship Council (Zoom — Questions? Contact Diane DePuydt at [diane.depuydt@gmail.com](mailto:diane.depuydt@gmail.com))  
**6:30 pm** HUUGG Humanist Dinner (Wahoo Seafood Grill — To RSVP, contact Al Tweedy at [sylvester0077@gmail.com](mailto:sylvester0077@gmail.com))  
**8:00 pm** Silent Meditation (Zoom — for info, contact Carol Stiles at [uuvaldosta@yahoo.com](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com))

### *Wednesday, March 15 —*

- 3:30 pm** Leadership Development Committee (Sanctuary)  
**6:00 pm** Paynes Prairie Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society (Phillips Hall)  
**7:00 pm** Touchstone Discussion Group (Common Room — Closed group)

### *Thursday, March 16 —*

- 10:00 am** Weight Watchers (Phillips Hall)  
**Cancelled:** Chalice Choir Rehearsal

### *Friday, March 17 —*

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

### *Saturday, March 18 —*

- 8:00 am** Weight Watchers (Sanctuary)  
**10:00 am** LDC Leadership Training (Phillips Hall & Sanctuary. Questions? Contact Judith Kendall at [judithkendall@cox.net](mailto:judithkendall@cox.net))

- 11:30 pm** UU Book Circle (Formaggio's Bistro — For info, contact Martha Soles at [marthajsoles@gmail.com](mailto:marthajsoles@gmail.com))

### *Sunday, March 19 —*

- 10:00 am** Religious Education for Children & Youth (Classrooms 5 & 6)  
**10:00 pm** HUUGG Class (Common Room — for info, contact Kay Anderson at [kayanderson59@gmail.com](mailto:kayanderson59@gmail.com))  
**11:00 am** Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
**12:00 pm** Celebration Coffee Hour (Phillips Hall & Tent Area)  
**12:00 pm** Youth Group (Classroom 7)  
**1:00 pm** Social Justice Circle (Common Room)

### *Monday, March 20 —*

- 5:00 pm** Gainesville Bridge Club (Phillips Hall & Sanctuary)  
**7:00 pm** Popcorn & a Movie (Zoom)

### *Tuesday, March 21 —*

- 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 [peteturner123@gmail.com](mailto:peteturner123@gmail.com))  
**6:00 pm** Weight Watchers (Phillips Hall)  
**8:00 pm** Silent Meditation (Zoom — for info, contact Carol Stiles at [uuvaldosta@yahoo.com](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com))

### *Wednesday, March 22 —*

- 3:30 pm** Young Adult Group (Phillips Hall — Questions? Contact Catherine Turner at [cat.r.turner@gmail.com](mailto:cat.r.turner@gmail.com))

### *Thursday, March 23 —*

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

### *Friday, March 24 —*

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

### *Saturday, March 25 —*

- 8:00 am** Weight Watchers (Sanctuary)  
**1:00 pm** Gainesville Handweavers (Phillips Hall)

### *Sunday, March 26 —*

- 10:00 am** Religious Education for Children & Youth (Classrooms 5 & 6)  
**10:00 pm** Parenting & Religion Class (Common Room — for info, contact Diana Hagan at [diana.hagan@gmail.com](mailto:diana.hagan@gmail.com))  
**11:00 am** Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
**12:00 pm** Town Hall Meeting on Safety and Security (Sanctuary)  
**12:00 pm** Coffee Hour (Phillips Hall & Tent Area)  
**12:00 pm** Youth Group (Classroom 7)  
**1:00 pm** Social Justice Circle (Common Room)

## “PAINTING WITH A PIT”

### Fundraiser for “Fix Them All”

*Sunday, March 12, 2:00—5:00 pm*

*In the UUFG Phillips Hall*

Next Sunday afternoon, from 2 to 5 pm on March 12, our Phillips Hall is rented for a fundraiser benefiting “Fix Them All.” All proceeds benefit this nonprofit low-cost spay & neutering program for dogs and cats in North Central Florida. For info about Fix them All, visit

<https://www.fixthemall.org/>

Facilitated by artist Samm Wehman, participants will paint pictures of their pets, using pre-sketched outlines that Samm Wehman provides based on provided pictures.

All paints, supplies, personalized art instruction and light refreshments are provided.

*Pre-registration and pre-payment are required.* Email [paintingwithapit@gmail.com](mailto:paintingwithapit@gmail.com) to register. Donate \$51 at <https://www.fixthemall.org/donate> to pay.



## MORNING MEDITATION

*Tuesdays, 8:30 am*

UUFG’s Mindfulness Meditation group continues offers 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)).

## PROPOSED ARTICLE TWO

### AMENDMENT PROCESS

As we have discussed at our Fellowship on a number of occasions, the Unitarian Universalist Association is currently reviewing Article 2 of the UUA’s bylaws, which help define Unitarian Universalism’s principles and sources. For information about the UUA’s proposed Article 2 amendment process as discussed in the February UUA Board Meeting, please click on the link below.

[https://www.uua.org/files/2023-02/a2\\_amend\\_process\\_ga23.pdf](https://www.uua.org/files/2023-02/a2_amend_process_ga23.pdf)

#### NOTES:

"Anyone interested in proposing an amendment to be considered for priority should submit their suggested amendment idea through a form. Suggested amendment ideas for priority would need to be submitted by April 30." UUA BOT Minutes

The form is not yet available — this is the proposed process, so the form will be made available after the process is actually approved.

Discussion workshops for all will then most likely be the second week of May.

Delegates may submit amendments up through the GA mini assembly, but last-minute amendments may not be considered for priority.

#### IMPORTANT VOTING INFO:

Just to be clear: the vote at General Assembly 2023 (this year) is to continue the conversation — not to adopt.

## 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.

# HOLI FESTIVAL—SUNDAY, MARCH 5

Pictures courtesy of James Chase and Debra Neill-Mareci







