



THE PIONEER

July-August 2011

Paper Pulpit

The Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, Senior Minister

“Satan called ~ he wants his weather back!” I’ve lost count how many copies of that I’ve seen since the start of our July heat waves. No question but that the combinations of heat, humidity, heavy storms, shredded trees, power outages, flooded basements, melting roads, baking fields & gardens & lawns have had many of us wondering just what the home-of-the-devil is going on. A sign of global climate change? A streak of “normally abnormal” weather extremes? God’s curse on America for “Real Housewives of Wherever”? Take your pick. Right now, I’m too hot to argue about it.

I’m convinced by the inconvenient science that holds human technology responsible for the rapid changes in the earth’s climate. I’m working on shoring up my optimism that what we have done, we can and will find a way to undo. Unfortunately, it seems that rampant insanity is also a part of our global climate change. Too much heat, and I’m convinced my own brain melts out my ears. Is the increasing severity making me crazy, too? Is too much heat—too much anger, too much hatred, too much fear, too much violence—increasing the level of human callousness to a dangerous tipping point? Or is that just a perception, based upon selective reporting, faster news cycles, my liberal bias, the influence of the Internet, the increasingly graphic, brutal, sadistic carnage that passes for “entertainment”? Is madness the new normal?

The news from Norway did not shock me. I do not like that it did not shock me. The budgetary gridlock that continues in Washington as I write this barely holds my attention. Shootings in Chicago? Powerful men taking advantage of women? Immensely talented, popular, wealthy young performers living self-destructively and dying young? Corruption, bloodshed, hunger, poverty, richer rich, and poorer poor? Been there, done that—what else is new? Go ahead. Surprise me.

Vanity of vanities, it’s all vanity ~ futility, pointlessness, chasing after the wind. And there is nothing, said the Preacher, that is new under the sun. An observation made some 2300 years ago.

“Hope” is getting some bad press these days. In too many places and in too many hearts, despair, indifference, and self-protective isolation have settled in. That cannot be allowed. Despair is paralyzing.

It lets that which is feared become real. Hope may have a certain naïveté to it, but it also has positive energy. It can see the hidden angels when the demons seem to swarm. It believes that the human heart is good, that the human soul is a spark of Divinity, that human love truly can overcome all fear, all anger, all hatred.

“Life is hard, then you die ~ get over it” is only part of the ancient message of Ecclesiastes. “Enjoy the days of your life, cherish your loved ones, take satisfaction in your work, in your play, in your possibilities” is at the core. Love one another, the teachers have said. Live with compassion. See the world’s beauty. Trust the world’s goodness. Encourage the world’s potential. Love Life, and live it. All of it. With everyone else in the world.

Too simple? Simplistic? A bit crazy? Maybe, but God help us if we allow our hearts to harden against that ancient, straightforward message. God had better be willing to help; if we lose hope, we humans will be unable to do a blessed thing. Peace! **LB**

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Religious Education Announcements

Upcoming LRE Events

- July 27, 7:30 pm
Compassionate Communication Study Group
- July 31, 11:00 am Coming of Age Program
- August 1, 7:30 pm LRE Committee Meeting
- August 10 & 24, 7:30 pm
Compassionate Communication Study Group
- August 11, 7:30 pm Small Group Ministry
- August 19, 7:00 pm Friday Flicks: "Fuel"
- August 20, 3:30 pm Small Group Ministry
- August 21 & 28, 11:00 am Coming of Age Program

Weekly Adult RE Opportunities:

Every Wednesday at 7pm in the Sanctuary:
UU Buddhism Meditation & Study Group

Fall Church School Info

Teacher sign up is going well! For those adults interested in teaching who have not yet signed up, you may do so on the LRE bulletin board in the Common Room or online at <http://content.uusg.org/teacher-sign-up/>.

Adults interested in substitute teaching are also encouraged to sign up now.

Classes begin on Sunday, September 18 and run through Sunday, May 27, 2012. Please add these dates to your calendar.

The first teachers' meeting, for all volunteers, will be Monday, August 29, 7-8pm.

Parents will want to register their children prior to the first class on September 18 as all youth attending classes will need to be registered.

All necessary forms (Registration, Emergency Info, and Consent-to-Treat) can be found at <http://content.uusg.org/church-school-registration/>.

Watch for information regarding a beginning-of-the-year parent meeting!

Hypnotism at UUSG

If you're interested in learning more about hypnotism, or would like to be able to join the Last Tuesday Group Hypnotism program, you're invited to the "**Hypno-Info-Intake**" on **Tuesday, August 23, 7-9pm** in the Common Room. There are 4 requirements:

- Sign up, please, so we know how many to prepare for. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Common Room, or you can sign up by talking to Katie in the church office (630-232-2350, office@uusg.org).
- You must be at least 18 years old **or** have written permission from a parent or guardian. Children in elementary school are old enough to learn self-hypnosis; children and youth accompanied by a parent or guardian are welcome to participate.
- But please leave the younger children at home – there is no on-site childcare and we can't have the session interrupted.
- And finally, you must **not** have any sort of seizure disorder or dissociative personality disorder or uncontrolled mental health issues (Lindsay can work safely with you on an individual basis with the OK from a licensed health care provider, but not in a group setting).

Once you've been through the Info-Intake process, you'll be able to join our Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis sessions—the first one of the church year is on Tuesday, August 30.

Update on Staffing for Our Religious Education Program

The LRE Committee would like to update our congregation on the staffing recommendations they made to the UUSG Board of Directors. Our Senior Minister, Lindsay Bates; Congregational Administrator, Katie Phillips; and the LRE Committee collaborated to draft these recommendations.

LRE Professional Staff Member Search

The LRE Committee recommends to the Board that a search be conducted to hire/call a professional staff member who will be responsible for leading the LRE program.

A search committee will need to be formed and be comprised of members from across the congregation. This search will be coordinated with the current long-range planning efforts, conform to best practices, and follow LREDA and UUA guidelines.

Once the congregation's LRE needs and vision are assessed, then we will be able to move forward with a job description and qualifications for the vacancy. It is anticipated that the search will be concluded in 2-3 years.

Church School Administrator

In the meantime, the LRE Committee recommends to the Board that we hire a Church School Administrator. The duration of the position is 2-3 years, depending on the length of the search for the LRE Professional described above.

The LRE Committee has drafted a timeline and process to complete the search for the Church School Administrator. The target date that the new staff member would begin work is August 15, 2011.

The core responsibilities of the Church School Administrator include managing the logistics of the LRE program (i.e. curriculum distribution & maintaining attendance records), attending formal committee meetings, handling communications, and teacher recruitment. The position will be part-time (approximately 30 hours/week).

This is an important process, and we welcome your input. Please contact any member of the LRE Committee, Rev. Lindsay, Katie Phillips, and/or Bill Pokorny (Board President) with questions and comments.

Sincerely,

The UUSG LRE Committee: Jim Roberts, Elba Karim, Jenny Montgomery, Tracy Rosenkrans, & Sandy Anderson-Cordogan

Summer Summary

Worship Services

Through September 4:

Summer schedule of one service on Sundays at 10am

September 11:

NO WORSHIP SERVICES!
Intergenerational Potluck and End-of-Summer Celebration Picnic at Wheeler Park

September 18:

Return to our regular church year schedule—2 services on Sunday at 9:30am & 11:15am

Church School

During the summer, all children are invited to join us in the Sanctuary for our worship services. Church school classes will begin on Sunday, September 18.

Staff Travels & Vacations

Lindsay: On vacation August 1-9,
At Hypnotism Convention
August 10-18

Katie: On vacation September 9-19

Super Summer Salad Supper

The Hospitality & Fellowship Committee invites you to attend the annual Super Summer Salad Supper this Saturday, July 30 at 6pm.

Sign up online at

<http://content.uusg.org/super-summer-salad-supper/>.

A minimum of 20 people is required for this event to happen—the deadline to sign up is 9am on Wednesday, July 27, so sign up today!

End-of-the-Fiscal-Year Report

At the annual meeting in mid-May, UUSG Treasurer George Tattersfield reported that UUSG was going to have a difficult time staying within our means this fiscal year.

As expected, we had to dip into our reserves to balance our books at year-end. However, the total 10-11 deficit ended up being almost twice what we had budgeted for—\$12,719.55 actual vs. \$6,622 budgeted.

As you can see from the summary below, we do pay very close attention to our expenses. We did not go over budget on the expense side of the ledger. Our problem was on the income side, and, most specifically, our pledge income fell short by almost the identical amount as our deficit.

These are troubled financial times for the world, our country, our state, and even UUSG. Some of our members could not afford to maintain their pledge activity through the entire year. We all understand that this is a tough time for some of our families. We understand their problems and only wish them the best as we work through trying times.

Income

Budgeted Income	\$379,922.00
Actual Income	<u>\$364,760.84</u>
Difference	\$ 15,161.16

Details: Pledge income was down by \$12,846, which corresponds almost exactly to the overall deficit of \$12,719.55 for FY 2010-11.

Expenses

Budgeted Expenses	\$379,922.00
Actual Expenses	<u>\$377,480.39</u>
Difference	\$ 2,441.61

Details: Unexpected expenses included snow removal (\$2,080 over budget) and retainer for attorney (\$1,500). In addition, June 2010 health insurance premiums were paid in July 2010 (which meant that we paid for 13 months of health insurance premiums in FY 2010-11 instead of the expected 12 months, putting us \$1,515 over budget in that category).

Deficit

Budgeted Deficit	\$6,622.00
Actual Deficit	<u>\$12,719.55</u>
Difference	\$ 6,097.55

If you have any questions about our income or expenses, or would like to see a copy of our monthly financial report, please talk to Katie in the office (office@uusg.org, 630-232-2350).

The most recent monthly report is also available on the "Board News" display in the southwest corner of the Common Room.

Social Justice News

July 23 UUSG Folk Fair Benefited the Illinois Youth Center

On Saturday, July 23, UUSG did what it does best...had fun while addressing a community need! Hot and steamy weather may have deterred attendees, but not UUSG members and friends. We enjoyed a family-friendly event on the lawn, followed by a February Sky concert in the Sanctuary. The total amount raised for the boys at the Illinois Youth Center will be publicized soon.

Many thanks go to:

Katie Phillips for all her prep and diligence in setting up the event.

Deann Alleman, Jim Jenkins, Bill Pokorny, & Pat Ward for facility and insurance guidance.

Melissa Auer; Kelly Bechtold; Deb Brod; Sherri Casterline; Jim Frazier; Monica Jenkins; Paul Justis; Ann Moehling; Katie Phillips; Julie Riffle & Thom Thomas; Heather, Reese, & Riley Rooney; Chris Schulman; and Ben Walker for sharing their talents.

Steven Keefe for involving everyone in music merriment.

Lisa Gades for making goodies.

Jean Pierce & Shawn Thornton for judging the folky costume contest. They awarded the Justis Family the "far-out" gift basket.

Patrick McGleam, Jeanne Neltor, Jean & Lou Pierce, Ellie Radvanovsky, Hal Schulman, Bill Scown, and Jett McWhorter for set-up, ticket-taking, food-serving, photo-snapping, bell-ringing, clean-up, and more.

Funds raised will buy much-needed items such as socks, gloves, and books for the residents at IYC.

IYC to Benefit from Sales of Creations by Talented Photographer

The Social Justice Committee is thrilled to report that Jim Frazier has offered to sell his framed photographs (which are currently on display in the Common Room), with the proceeds going to the church's Illinois Youth Center project.

Several of the pictures have been purchased already. Talk to Katie about which picture you're interested in, and join us in telling Jim how much we appreciate his generosity!

Jim's work will be displayed in the Common Room through the end of August, so purchased pictures will be available for pick-up in early September.

August Friday Flick: "Fuel"

At 7pm on Friday, August 19, the free Friday Flick will be "Fuel."

Winner of the Sundance Film Festival Best Documentary Audience Award in 2008, this film traces oil use and abuse while examining alternative sources of energy.

The film features interviews with "green" celebrities Barbara Boxer, Robert Kennedy Jr., and others as they offer serious "fuel for thought."

Members of the Green Sanctuary Committee will lead a discussion following the film.

Giving "Beyond Our Walls"

In July, we collected \$595 for Freedom From Hunger, an organization that brings poor women a powerful combination of microfinance, health education, life-skills training, and health protection to help them achieve a sustainable, self-help end to hunger. We'll take another collection for them on August 14.

More Social Justice News

International Day of Peace Celebration on September 17

This year's celebration will be held on a Saturday to reach the greatest possible number of people.

Since 2011 is the tenth anniversary of 9-11, the interfaith planning committee will ensure that parts of the program will focus on Muslims in America. The program will be held primarily at UUSG.

Anyone who would like to help organize the event is welcome to contact Jean Pierce through the office at office@uusg.org or 630-232-2350.

Your Contributions Are Appreciated!

Beginning this month, thank-you notes that the church receives are being posted at:

<http://content.uusg.org/donation-appreciation/>.

Currently, you can see notes of appreciation from the Allen School in Aurora for the RE book drive that helped replenish their destroyed library, the Red Cross for funds we donated for relief work in Japan, and Waubensee Community College for the UUSG-funded Fox Valley Green Construction scholarship fund.

Lazarus House Volunteers

Thank You to our Lazarus House volunteers in June: Maureen McKeough, Jeanne Neltor, Dave Meehan, Giana Felish, and the Bryant family; and in July: Shawn Thornton, Jean Pierce, Vohny Moehling, Jeanne Neltor. Be a part of this important local ministry—learn more and sign up online at <http://content.uusg.org/lazarus-house/>.

Recruiting Service Volunteer Participants (RSVP)

August 2011: Batavia Community Garden

We'll return to Batavia Community Garden in August to learn about sustainable gardening techniques while providing fresh produce to the Interfaith Food Pantry. People of all ages are welcome to join us at 311 W. Main Street in Batavia at 9am on August 20. We will also be signing up to return to the garden at various times between August 20 & 26. To sign up and find out what tools you should bring, please contact Jean Pierce or Betsy Zinser. Also, check out the Batavia Community Garden site on Facebook!

September 2011: Northern Illinois Food Bank

To kick off the new church year, we're looking for 30 UUSG members and friends to join us for a 9-11am Youth Shift on Saturday, September 24 at Northern Illinois Food Bank. In addition to adult volunteers, teens and children ages 8 and up are invited with a parent/guardian. Volunteers will sort and pack food and other necessities for people in need in northern Illinois. We will meet at Northern Illinois Food Bank (600 Industrial Drive, St. Charles) at 8:45am. For more information about NIFB, please see: <http://www.northernilfoodbank.org/>. To sign up, please see the Social Justice bulletin board in the Common Room, register online at <http://content.uusg.org/rsvp-program/>, or contact Lisa Gades.

Date	Location	Ages	Requirements	Activities
August 20 9:00am	Batavia Community Garden	All ages	See above	Gardening for the Interfaith Food Pantry
September 24 9:00am	Northern Illinois Food Bank	8 and up with a parent	Closed-toed shoes	Packing food for distribution to local food banks

Even More Social Justice News

Jump Start as an IYC Mentor

People in our church have occasionally mentioned that they would like an opportunity to work with boys at the Illinois Youth Center (IYC) in St. Charles throughout the year—not just at the holidays.

The Social Justice Committee has learned of a program for people to serve as literacy volunteers/mentors for boys at the center. You can learn more about the program at <http://www.lvillinois.org/JumpStartatIYC.asp>.

Please contact Jean Pierce through the office (office@uusg.org or 630-232-2350) or sign up on the Social Justice bulletin board if you might be interested in participating in this worthwhile program.

When we have identified possible volunteers, we will arrange for you to receive the training necessary for the program.

Commit to Knit Hats for IYC Boys

Each year Social Justice gives gift bags with warm navy blue hats and gloves to 35 boys at the Illinois Youth Center (IYC) in St. Charles.

This year, we would like to try knitting the hats which we present to the boys. Ben Walker found a really good pattern for us at:

www.needlebeetle.com/free/seacap.htm.

The only constraints are that the hats MUST be navy blue and they can have no decorations on them.

Please contact Jean Pierce through the office (630-232-2350 or office@uusg.org) to tell her you are willing to help us with this project.

Calling all Crafty People

Are you a creative person who is intrigued at the possibilities of what delightful holiday ornaments you could craft from plain gold, red, or silver ornaments?

The Social Justice Committee is looking for people who will create items for sale at the holiday sales in December.

If you would like to make beautiful decorations out of these plain ornaments, please check out the materials on the top shelf of the left-hand armoire in the Common Room or contact Jean Pierce for more details.

If you have other craft items you'd like to donate for the IYC sales, please contact Jean Pierce.

Supporting Fair Trade Products

UUSG promotes the Fair Trade/Equal Exchange Coffee Project by purchasing coffee for church use and by selling products that meet your needs and wishes.

These products are displayed in the Common Room, just inside the double-door entry. Checks should be made out to UUSG. No cash or IOUs, please.

Social Justice Action Alert: Real Fish for Dinner

When you buy fish for dinner, you probably think that the fish listed on the label is actually the type of fish you are buying. But what if the fish you cook for your family isn't what it says it is?

Recent studies have found that seafood may be mislabeled as often as 25 to 70 percent of the time, disguising species that are less desirable, cheaper, or more readily available – which means you could be feeding your family mislabeled, unsustainable fish.

The FDA has the power to enforce better labeling, increase inspections, and improve seafood safety, but they won't do it unless we push them. Please go to the following website to send a message to the FDA.

http://act.oceana.org/letter/l-seafood/?utm_source=swap&utm_medium=mailing&utm_campaign=fraud&source=swap_lcv

Tracey McFadden, for the Social Justice Committee

Green Corner

Star Talk

At 7:30pm on Saturday, July 30, we'll enjoy a presentation by Tom & Diane Peters in the Common Room.

We'll learn about what can be seen in the night sky and what light pollution does, all in preparation for the August 6th Star Party with the Fox Valley Astronomical Society at Peck Farm (details in the article below).

Come for the Super Summer Salad Supper at 6pm (details on page 3) and stay for the stars!

Star Party!

On Saturday, August 6, the Green Sanctuary Committee will carpool with members and friends from church to Peck Farm for an outdoor viewing through telescopes provided by the Fox Valley Astronomical Society.

They will conduct an info/Q&A session about the August sky, stars and constellations and assist each individual identify what they're seeing.

If you're planning to attend and would like a ride from the church to the farm, please sign up on the Green Sanctuary bulletin board or call Ann Drover.

Local & Organic

Here's an organic restaurant that is affordable and has delicious food! Prasino (www.prasino.com, 51 S. 1st St. in St. Charles) is a family-owned eco-friendly restaurant that is committed to promoting organic agriculture and supporting local growers and artisanal food producers whenever possible.

Prasino uses organic eggs, meat from humanely-raised livestock, organic wines (½ price on Wednesdays!), local honey, and produce from Knutson's Country Harvest, a 15-acre environmentally-sustainable family farm and orchard 60 miles SW of Chicago (www.naturallygrown.org).

A recent visit to Prasino ("green" in Greek) found a varied, interesting menu & the food was exceptionally delicious for all in our group. It's good to support their worthy effort.

Lawn Service Update

To handle the overall lawn weed problems, the Green Sanctuary and Facilities Committees are seeking a green method of providing for fertilization and weed control of our lawn areas.

We will be working with a company that will feed the grass areas thoroughly in the fall. Then in the spring of 2012, they can begin a two-pronged program—feed and weed control—which will carry through summer and fall.

We are planning for an eco-friendly approach, avoiding toxic chemicals wherever possible. As soon as important chemical analysis arrangements are in place—ensuring safety for humans, animals, and the environment—we will contract with a company that can comply with our needs. We'll continue to share information as it unfolds.

How Dandy are Dandelions?

It's time to speak out for the lowly dandelion which gets such a bad rap! You've heard that there's some good in just about everything? Well, here are some fun facts about dandelions:

- The word "dandelion" comes from the French "dent de lion," meaning "lion's tooth," from the jagged leaf edges.
- There are 60 species of dandelions in the Northern Hemisphere.
- Chinese physicians in herbal medicine widely prescribe dandelion extracts for colds, bronchitis, pneumonia, hepatitis, ulcers, obesity, & dental problems.
- Dandelions contain over 3 times more vitamin A than carrots and are high in potassium.
- UUSG member Jerry Nordengren has for years collected and used dandelions for making tasty wine, a globally popular use of this herb.

So maybe if we all got a little more innovative, before we'd realize it, we'd actually look with appreciative eyes on those useful, bobbing yellow "weeds" in our yards!

Volunteer Headquarters

Volunteer Appreciation

We send our heartfelt thanks to:

Our July Greeters: George & Gail Tattersfield, Pat Ward, Allen Geiger, Judith Calleja, Lynn & Llona Steele, and Ed & Ruth Wehling

Our July Social Hour Hosts: David & Renée Tomell, Tracy Paszkiet, Dick & Shirley Yingst, Jeannie & Bill Scown, Bob Atac, Sherri Casterline, Diane Thornton, and Nancy Goodfellow

Do you know someone who should be thanked? Let Katie know! She can be reached at 630-232-2350 or office@uusg.org.

Musical Appreciation

A belated but sincere thanks to the Choir members who participated in the June 5 Historical Flower Service reenactment from the 1800's (complete with period costumes!).

Singers included Kristen McFadden, Sara Hoerdelman, Trish Beckjord, Melanie Abercrombie, Dawn Pokorny, Rhonda Robinson, Ann Drover, Beth Towell, Melissa Auer, Kurt Bartnik, John Towell, Mark Alleman, Tom Haslett, Lou Pierce, Al Drover, and Bruce Fackler.

Special thanks to our accompanist Sandy Anderson-Cordogan and our rehearsal accompanist Dean Malambri.

Summer Weeds

The beds around the UUSG property are in good order as of the end of July due to the diligent work of our weeding volunteers! Hearty thanks to Al & Ann Drover, Nancy Goodfellow, Mary Swanson, and Llona Steele.

You can help out by signing up "adopt" the church grounds for one week in August or early September. You won't need to water—just come by when you can, for as long as you can, during that week and pull up some weeds. It's a small job, but it helps keep our church yard looking beautiful all summer long!

Sign up in the Common Room or online at <http://content.uusg.org/summer-weeding/>.

Where's Augustus?

Have you been taking your Flat Augustus on trips? Has he been to Europe, helped in your garden, or taken a ride on the bike path?

Wherever he's been, send your pictures to office@uusg.org!

Katie's working on putting the pictures on the UUSG website—we'll let you know when they're up.

Coffee in August: One Opening Left!

As of today, there's only one opening left—on Sunday, August 28. Sign up today online at <http://content.uusg.org/greeters-and-social-hour-hosts/>.

Thanks for helping us continue to make UUSG a welcoming place!

Remember that coffee will be available in August only if all of the August hosting slots are filled by July 31.

If you have any questions or concerns about social hour, please contact one of the chairs of the Hospitality & Fellowship Committee, Judith Calleja and Cindy Vacek.

Moving the O'Malleys

Many thanks to everyone who offered to help Jim & Pat O'Malley move some of their smaller items to their new home (which is, fortunately, just across the street from their old home!).

Helpers included: Mark Alleman, Lindsay Bates, Clark Thompson, Deann Alleman, Pat Ward, Patrick McGleam, Melissa Auer, Barry Knerr, Sabine Vorkoeper-Orchard, Claire Cannon, Ellie Radvanovsky, Sally Jones, and Leslie Ronson Brown.

Did we miss someone? Let Katie know!

Clip ‘n’ Save: Summer Services

We have a full schedule this summer—here’s what happening when!

- July 31 Lindsay will speak on "Curiosity" and ongoing religious education.
- August 8 Dean Malambri & Friends will lead a musical celebration.
- August 14 Our Board President, Bill Pokorny, will be in the pulpit and will speak on “Evangelism.”
- August 21 Lindsay will speak on “More Big Ideas.”
- August 28 Monica Jenkins will lead a Poetry Service entitled “Spiritual Inspiration.”
- Sept. 5 Lindsay will speak on "When I Grow Up.”
- Sept. 11 **NO WORSHIP SERVICES TODAY!** This is the weekend of Geneva's Festival of the Vine, a weekend when downtown parking is abysmal and our attendance has matched it! So we've moved Homecoming Weekend and instead will have an informal potluck brunch at the church (9:30am-12pm) and our Homecoming Picnic at Wheeler Park at 12pm.
- Sept. 18 Homecoming Sunday! We're back to 9:30am and 11:15am services.

Circles of Life

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Eric Bodwell, whose mother passed away on July 17.

Our thoughts and prayers go to all those affected by the tragedy in Norway, especially Jean & Lou Pierce’s friends, whose granddaughter was shot twice in the back. Thankfully, she’s expected to make a full recovery.

Personnel Committee

Our Personnel Committee is making a comeback! Many thanks to Thom Thomas for agreeing to chair, and to Jim O’Malley and Jenny Stewart for offering to serve on the Committee.

There’s much work to be done, so they could use a few more people. If you’re interested in helping them out or want more information, please talk to Katie (office@uusg.org, 630-232-2350).

Make This Your Year to Sing With the UUSG Choir!

Director Ruth Cavanaugh and the current choir membership welcome YOU to sing with us in the upcoming church year! Here is what we have planned:

Sunday, November 27 (Thanksgiving weekend): Join us in singing works by Vivaldi, Schubert, and Handel, accompanied by a professional string quintet! You won't want to miss this special opportunity! Rehearsals: November 6, 13, & 20

Christmas Eve, 8pm Candlelight Service: Get a front row seat for this lovely service. The choir is featured in five pieces, as well as hymns.

Sunday, February 19: Sing for Lindsay's Lenten Services.

Easter Sunday, April 8: Join us as we celebrate Easter and the arrival of Spring.

In general, we rehearse Sundays, 12:45-2:15pm, in the Sanctuary two or three weeks prior to the services. We have a vocal warm-up/dress rehearsal prior to services. Though we'd love to have you commit to all four dates, we know its not possible for many. You are welcome to join us for one or more dates throughout the year. Please contact Ruth Cavanaugh at choir@uusg.org if you'd like to be added to our email contact list or want more information.

AUGUST 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 10:00 AM Worship Service; Social Hour at 11:00 AM 11:00 AM Coming of Age Program 11:30 AM Welcoming Congregation Team Meeting	1 <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> 7:30 PM LRE Committee Meeting 7:30 PM Technology Committee Meeting	2 <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> 7:00 PM Sacred Harp Singing 7:30 PM Program & Administrative Councils	3 <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	4 <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i>	5 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i>	6 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i>
7 <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> 10:00 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hour at 11:00 AM	8 <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> 1:30 PM Women's Guild 7:00 PM Reiki Discussion Group	9 <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> 7:30 PM Board of Directors	10 <i>Senior Minister at National Guild of Hypnotists' Conference</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	11 <i>Senior Minister at National Guild of Hypnotists' Conference</i> 7:30 PM Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting 7:30 PM Small Group Ministry 7:30 PM Write Time Writers' Group	12 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister at National Guild of Hypnotists' Conference</i>	13 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister at National Guild of Hypnotists' Conference</i> 10:00 AM Sacred Harp Sing 1:00 PM Committee on Ministries Meeting
14 <i>Senior Minister at National Guild of Hypnotists' Conference</i> 10:00 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hour at 11:00 AM 11:15 AM Finance Committee Meeting 11:15 AM Social Justice Committee Meeting 11:30 AM Membership Committee Meeting 2:00 PM Lay Ministers' Meeting 7:00 PM 2nd Sunday (Story Tellers) Covenant Group	15 <i>Senior Minister at National Guild of Hypnotists' Conference</i>	16 <i>Senior Minister at National Guild of Hypnotists' Conference</i> 7:00 PM Reiki Share 7:00 PM Sacred Harp Singing	17 <i>Senior Minister at National Guild of Hypnotists' Conference</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	18 <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm)	19 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 6:00 PM Mikowski Wedding Rehearsal (time TBD) 7:00 PM Friday Flicks: "Fuel"	20 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 9:00 AM RSVP: Batavia Community Garden 2:00 PM Mikowski Wedding 3:30 PM Small Group Ministry
21 9:00 AM Hospitality & Fellowship Committee Meeting 10:00 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hour at 11:00 AM 11:00 AM Coming of Age Program 11:30 AM Visitors & Newcomers Mini-Orientation Session 7:00 PM Reiki Share	22 9:00 AM PIONEER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	23 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Hypno-Info-Intake (sign-up required)	24 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 6:00 PM Pioneer Mailing Prep 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	25 <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 9:15 AM Simple Living Circle 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) 7:30 PM Write Time Writers' Group	26 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i>	27 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i>
28 10:00 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hour at 11:00 AM 10:45 AM Communications Committee Meeting 11:00 AM Coming of Age Program	29 7:00 PM LRE Teachers' Meeting	30 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis (pre-approval required)	31 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	1 <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising	2 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> Liberman-Utroska Wedding Rehearsal (off-site, time TBD)	3 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 4:00 PM Liberman-Utroska Wedding (off-site)

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Our Covenant (written in 1842)

Being desirous of promoting practical goodness in the world, and of aiding each other in our moral and religious improvement, we have associated ourselves together — not as agreeing in opinion, not as having attained universal truth in belief or perfection in character, but as seekers after truth and goodness.

Our Mission Statement

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva is a diverse, welcoming community which endeavors to make its Covenant a living reality. We provide religious education and opportunities for spiritual growth. We encourage individual and mutual responsibility as together we work to be a liberal religious voice in the community and a force for compassionate social justice.

— adopted by the congregation May 19, 1996

The next Pioneer deadline is August 22, 2011 at 9am. Please send all articles to BOTH office@uusg.org AND minister@uusg.org.