



A Newsletter of

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

# THE PIONEER

January-February 2013

## Holiday Lights Fund Summary

Thank you to everyone who contributed to December's collections to support various social justice causes. We raised \$10,699, plus an additional \$1,475 earmarked for the MAD ("Make a Difference") Fund to support church members & friends in need of one-time financial assistance.

We were able to support the following ministries:

- A \$500 Target gift card was given to Rusty of Calumet, MN, a single father whose home our YRUU group built this past summer through Habitat for Humanity. Rusty works two jobs to provide for his 5 children, ages 3 to 13, but needed a little help to make this year's Christmas a special one for his kids.
- On January 16, Bev Crow and her son Shafer came to visit UUSG. Bev will soon move into a Habitat for Humanity home in St. Charles that UUSG has been supporting with donations and volunteer labor. A portion (\$1,400) of the Holiday Lights Fund was used to purchase environmentally-friendly house cleaning supplies, curtains, & other decorations for their new home.
- For several years, UUSG volunteers have worked with the youth incarcerated at the Illinois Youth Center in St. Charles, Illinois. Our volunteers provided a holiday party for these young men, and \$81.80 helped to purchase food and supplies.
- One of our most involved members, Elba Karim, is a child and family therapist who works with kids and families that have been victims of trauma. Many thanks to everyone who donated clothing, toys, books, gift cards, and other items to help give these children a brighter holiday season. Those donations were supplemented with \$3,000 from the Holiday Lights Fund.
- Finally, the remaining portion of the Holiday Lights Fund—\$5,717.20—was contributed to our MAD ("Make a Difference") Fund, which is available to help members of our own congregation who are facing financial hardship.

These contributions to the Holiday Lights Fund truly helped to "promote practical goodness in the world," as we have all promised to do. But they did more; by giving generously to these efforts, we are supporting our youth and adult volunteers in their service work, and helping to build our own church community.

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### Donation Destination

Each week, church members & friends have an opportunity to donate to support a project that works to promote practical goodness in the world.

Any checks or cash that are do not have a specified UUSG-related purpose are given to the month's cause.

If you would like your donation to go toward your pledge (if you'd made one) or toward the church's general operating expenses (if you haven't pledged yet), please let us know that by writing "for UUSG" on the memo line of your check or on the cash envelope.

Checks with no memo (and envelopes with no indication on them) will go to causes outside of UUSG.

## Religious Education Announcements

### February Class Topics

PreK: I Can help, I Can Listen, I Can Remember, I Can Dance

Grades K-2nd: Appreciation of Nature, Feeling about Nature, The Web of Interdependence, Partners with Nature

Grades 3rd-5th: Earth Awareness, Service Project, Earth Interdependence, Earth Stewardship

Grades 6th-8th: Welcoming the New Year, Little Acts of Kindness, Listening to Others, the Healing Power of Touch

YRUU 9th-12th: Habitat for Humanity, 7 Habits for Highly Effective Teens, Social Justice Projects, and issues regarding relationships

### Junior High Youth Group

Our Junior High Youth Group will meet next on Saturday, 2/9.

### Mid-Year Teacher Meeting

Our Mid-Year Teacher Meeting was very successful and productive. We would like to give a special thank you to all of our wonderful volunteer teachers. Their work and dedication have created a very successful RE year for our students!

### RE Music

In early January, RE Music students (preK-5th graders) began singing "I've Got a Light," to the tune of "Do, Lord." Our students are engaged and learning quickly. The message of this song is about recognizing the light, love, joy, & beauty in ourselves and each other, just as we are! Over the coming weeks, students will learn the remaining verses, create posters to illustrate the ideas, and polish their singing to share with the congregation on Sunday, March 3.

### Visits from Rev. Lindsay

In February, Rev. Lindsay will continue her visits to the RE classrooms. She will visit grades 3rd-5th on February 3 and grades 6th-8th on March 17.

We encourage parents to have their child(ren) attend and be a part of this very special time with their minister.

### Coming of Age

Our "Coming of Age" Program will begin on April 7 and conclude on June 9. Classes will be each Sunday from 11:15am to 1:45pm for eight weeks.

This program, for youth going into high school, is a deeper exploration of the meaning of congregational membership and growing into adult responsibilities.

Adult mentors develop relationships with youth to aid them in a deeper personal exploration and discussion of their beliefs. Lead facilitators for the program will be Jim Jenkins and Diane Peters.

This curriculum prepares our youth for their changing roles and their choice of whether to join the Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva as student members.

Please contact our Church School Administrator, Michelle Gibson, at [LRE@uusg.org](mailto:LRE@uusg.org) to register your 8<sup>th</sup> grade student for this wonderful program.

**YRUU** The YRUU group will lead both worship services on Sunday, February 24. The service planning overnight is scheduled for February 8-9.

### "Munch & Learn" Lecture Series

"Munch & Learn" is an adult religious education program sponsored monthly by the LRE Committee. Once a month, usually the 4th Sunday after the second service, a member of our community is invited to present information about a topic for about an hour. Topics are as diverse as interests of our members; composting, compassionate communication, and creation of art are a few recent topics. Participants are encouraged to bring a lunch. Snacks and beverages are provided.

Come join us for the "M&L" on February 24 at 1pm. Bob Brubaker will talk about "Music in Visual Art from the Renaissance to the 20th Century."

## UU Service & Generosity: Pledging in 2013

### Sharing Our Abundance

This past year has been a time of reflection and rededication for the Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva—the start of a transition from what we have been to what we aspire to become.

In facilitated conversations last summer and fall, our members and friends were asked why we come to church on Sunday and what UUSG means to us. While each answer was unique, most everyone spoke fondly, joyfully, and passionately about a special place where they feel welcome and where they can be part of something larger than themselves.

These conversations also made it clear that we are a congregation with an abundance of caring for each other and for the wider world—and an abundance of generosity to put that caring into action.

### Reaching Higher

We've all heard the phrase "give until it hurts." But giving generously can actually be a joyous, fulfilling experience. By making a strong pledge commitment for the 2013-14 church year, we will have the resources to take better care of each other's needs and be a force for good in our community.

Your gifts are needed to sustain our church financially in the coming year, and they will also allow us to pursue goals that the congregation has expressed strong interest in, including:

- Continuing to donate the entire basket collection each Sunday to worthy causes and devoting a greater percentage of our operating budget to direct outreach efforts
- Calling a second minister to provide additional spiritual and educational support
- Growing our church's membership and expanding our facilities to accommodate that growth

### "Strive for Five"

For the 2013-14 church year we are all being asked to "strive for 5" by **contributing 5% or more of your household income** to support UUSG's ministries.

A generous pledge from each of us will ensure that we can continue and even grow our many active areas of support and interest, as well as maintain our beloved UUSG community.

If 5% is not a realistic goal for you at this time, please give as generously as you can now—and make a commitment to increase your giving to the 5% level as soon as you are able.

If your circumstances should change, you can update your pledge at any time during the year.

You are also free to make your gifts to UUSG whenever it suits your budget, whether that is on a regular weekly, monthly, or quarterly schedule, or as you receive income during the year.

### How to Pledge and Give

In your snail mail next week, you'll receive a Pledge Packet with information about pledging and financial commitment options.

Our "Pledge Team" consists of 11 of your UUSG friends who are volunteering their time and talent to reach out personally to our church members and friends. Please respond promptly to their emails and phone calls. You can also request a face-to-face meeting, if that is your preference.

You can submit your pledge in the box in the Common Room, mail it to the church office, or pledge online at <http://content.uusg.org/pledge-form/>.

Pledges are payable beginning July 1, 2012. You can contribute to your pledge weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly, whichever best fits your family's budget.

Whether you are pledging or not, please return your form to us by March 17 so that we can begin to plan for the upcoming church year.

## Service in Practice: Pledging in 2013

### Celebrating Our Service & Generosity

Our time of commitment begins on Saturday, February 16, with a full day of opportunities to help those beyond our walls.

Many of us provide volunteer service throughout the year, but our day of Service & Generosity is a time for us to work together. We hope everyone can find a place and time to be of service on that day!

Last year's Day of Service was a great success, and we are hopeful that even more members and friends will participate this year.

There are a limited number of spots for each activity, and **the deadline for sign-up for all events and childcare is Thursday, February 7 at noon.**

Sign up in the Common Room or online at <http://content.uusg.org/day-of-service/>.

<p><b>Northern Illinois Food Bank</b> Engages the community in a commitment to feed our hungry neighbors. Across 13 counties, food manufacturers, local groceries, corporations, foundations, and individuals come together to donate food and funds, and evaluate and repack food for distribution to our network partners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Select, weigh and pack various types of food</li> <li>▪ Training and direction provided by NIFB staff</li> <li>▪ Location: 273 Dearborn Ct., Geneva, IL 60134</li> <li>▪ Time: 9am - 11:30am</li> <li>▪ Age Restriction: ages 8 &amp; up with a parent</li> <li>▪ Must dress appropriately &amp; sign a release</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mutual Ground</b> Provides a safety net of services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault while on their journeys toward becoming survivors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Perform cleaning and maintenance tasks</li> <li>▪ Location: 418 Oak Ave., Aurora IL 60506</li> <li>▪ Time: Time: 9am - 11:30am</li> <li>▪ Age Restriction: ages 13 &amp; up</li> </ul>
<p><b>Humanitarian Service Project Senior Citizen Project</b> Ensures that the basic needs of seniors are met in DuPage and Kane counties.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pack gift bags for senior citizens in need</li> <li>▪ Time, 9am - 11:30am</li> <li>▪ Location: UUSG</li> <li>▪ Age Restriction: ages 5 &amp; up with a parent</li> <li>▪ Childcare will be provided for children ages 4 and younger (registration by February 7 required)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Humanitarian Service Project Children's Birthday Project</b> Provides festive birthday packages to needy children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wrap gifts provided with wrapping paper and ribbon</li> <li>▪ Time, 3pm – 4:45 pm</li> <li>▪ Location: UUSG</li> <li>▪ Age Restriction: ages 5 &amp; up with a parent</li> <li>▪ Childcare will be provided for children ages 4 and younger (registration by February 7 required)</li> </ul>

After the service events, we'll worship together at 5pm in the Sanctuary to celebrate our generosity of spirit. Stay for a free catered dinner at 6pm in the Common Room. Childcare for those ages 4 and younger will be provided for all events taking place at UUSG (however, registration by February 7 is required). If you are planning to attend the dinner, please sign up at <http://content.uusg.org/day-of-service/>.

Our Day of Service & Celebration is going to be great fun for everyone and a terrific way to come together to celebrate this church community. Successful events, however, require lots of behind-the-scenes work and that's where we need your help! Please consider helping with set-up or clean up. You can sign up at <http://content.uusg.org/day-of-service/> or in the Common Room.

## Social Justice News

### A Letter from Afghanistan

Last fall, we sent a weekly packet of notes and drawings to Ricky Palacios, a former UUSG employee and the son of our current custodians, who was serving in Afghanistan.

We're thrilled to report that Ricky is now back home in the States. Before he left Afghanistan, though, he sent us this letter:

Dear Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva,

Thank you for all your love and support. I enjoy reading your letter and creative drawings the kids send. I wish I could respond to each child individually but I will run out of paper if I did. Please thank them for me. I hope to pay them a visit once I return to thank them personally and so they can put a face to the Marine they are writing to.

Thank you for everything you sent. Everyone here enjoys all the snacks. Happy Holidays to you all and I hope Santa brings everything that's on your Christmas list this year.

Ricky Palacios

### Beyond Our Walls: Loose Plate Collections in January

This month, loose plate collections (and any checks not marked for a specific UUSG purpose) will benefit the Humanitarian Service Project/Senior Care packages and the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

You'll also have opportunities to help both of those causes during the February 16 UUSG Day of Service (see page 4 for more info).

### Hope for the Homeless

In January, members and friends of the UU Buddhist Meditation & Study Group prepared lunches for Lazarus House.

Many thanks to Kevin Beyer, Jen DuBose, Lisa Gades, Roshan Sen, Tanaji Sen, and Chris Weithers for donating food and packing the lunches.

We also send our appreciation to Jill Brown and Gloria Mansfield for making dinner, and to Shawn Thornton for staying overnight.

### A Dirty Deal

The High Costs (Pollution and Energy Bills) of Coal Energy Fueling the Tri-Cities

On Sunday, February 17, following the second service, Betsy Zinser will meet with any UUSGers who would like to learn about why people in the tri-cities are paying more for dirty coal compared to the energy costs of people in Aurora, who have invested in green energy.

In 2007, Batavia, Geneva, and St. Charles each signed power sales agreements to purchase power to be produced by Prairie State Energy Campus (PSEC), a new 1600 MW coal plant and mine in Southern Illinois. Their respective municipal electric agencies purchased shares of PSEC, and the cities guaranteed bond payments and agreed to pay their share of the PSEC costs.

The total project cost was \$5 billion and the combined ownership by Batavia, Geneva, and St. Charles represents an investment of about \$375 million (excluding interest costs).

Since 2007, there have been cost overruns, irregularities with financial reporting and disclosure, as well as serious concerns about the environmental risks.

Everyone is welcome to attend this event. In addition to learning about the problem, people will have an opportunity to find out what we might do—working with others—to address the issues.

### Interweave Friday Flick

The UUSG chapter of Interweave will sponsor the showing of the award-winning documentary "For the Bible Tells Me So" on Friday, February 15 at 7pm.

This film examines the way a few Bible verses have been misinterpreted and misused to oppress and harm LGBTQ youth and adults. It includes stories of families struggling with rejection of gay members. It also includes statements by clergy and religious leaders explaining the history of religious intolerance of gays and how it can change.

Join us as we watch and discuss this film as an introduction to the themes of our annual LGBTQ worship service at UUSG on March 3.

## Pageant Music and Singers

Jeff Stibal is an unsung, behind-the-scenes hero of last month's Pageant. When Tracy Rosenkrans asked him if he'd be interested & available to help, he said, "Of course! Where else would I be?"

As Technical Director, Jeff brought and set up a van-load full his own property of mikes, cords, electrical tape, sound board, & mike stands. He then took it all down after our dress rehearsal since he didn't like the set-up and started from scratch for the next day's Pageant.

The fact that you could hear most of what was said and sung, that it was well-balanced musically, and that it was recorded are all thanks to Jeff professionally adjusting each song and skit as it was happening.

Thank you to all the musicians & singers, many of whom rehearsed for several extra hours on their own and together: John Towell; Nadia, Mara, & Diane Handler; Kristin & Tracey McFadden; John Rosenkrans; Chris & Ben Stibal; Grace Christiani, Ellie Montgomery; Alex Cordogan; Sandra Anderson-Cordogan; Sarah & Audrey Jonke; and Steve & Emily Clark.

Whether UUSG does a Pageant again next year or some year thereafter, Tracy Rosenkrans wants everyone to know that it was truly a labor of love and fun for her. It was worth it all seeing everyone pull out all the stops and talent, and see how much we could accomplish as an energized group. Congratulations to all of you that jumped into the Holiday Lights Pageant—a roaring success for all ages!

## Save the Date!

Church consultant Michael Durall will return to Geneva on the weekend of April 6-7. Many of you read the report following his first visit. His second visit will help us turn a number of recommendations into working strategies. More details about his visit will be available soon.

## We Welcome a New Group!

UUSG is pleased to host a new local group called PRISM (which stands for Pride, Resources, Inspiration, Support, Motivation). This support group is for LGBTQI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex) individuals who have mood disorders (such as depression or bipolar disorder). The group meets on Mondays, 6:30-8pm, here at UUSG. If you have questions or would like more info, please contact Lyn Wilder through the church office at [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org) or 630-232-2350.

## Interweave at UUSG

Interweave is a local group of LGBTQ members, friends, and allies who meet once a month to have programs and discussions about issues and events interesting and important to the group.

Anyone interested is invited to join them at their next meeting, on February 24, for fellowship and a discussion of their final plans for UUSG's annual LGBTQ service (scheduled for March 3). They'll also be talking about other upcoming programs.

## Memorial Stones

On May 26, we'll dedicate new memorial stones as they're installed in the Memorial Garden.

It's not too soon to place an order—if you'd like to remember a loved one with a carved stone, please talk to Katie in the church office.

## New Books for Buddhists

The UU Buddhist Meditation & Study Group will finish their current book in February. Their next book will be *The Mindful Path to Self-Compassion: Freeing Yourself from Destructive Thoughts and Emotions* by Christopher K. Germer.

If you've been thinking about visiting the group or have any questions, feel free to contact Eric Bodwell or Lisa Gades at [uubuddhism@uusg.org](mailto:uubuddhism@uusg.org).

## Naming & Dedication Services

The next scheduled times for Naming & Dedicating Celebrations for our UUSG-connected little ones will be during the services on March 24.

We can include 3 families at each service for a total of 6 families, so if you'd like to be involved, please let Lindsay ([minister@uusg.org](mailto:minister@uusg.org)) or Katie ([office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org)) know as soon as possible.



## Giving Statements

Giving statements for the 2012 calendar year were mailed last week. If you expected to receive one and didn't, or there is an error on your statement, please contact our Congregational Administrator, Katie Phillips, at 630-232-2350.

## "New UUs" Orientation Program

Designed for anyone who would like more information about Unitarian Universalism in general and UUSG in particular, our "New UUs" Orientation Program is for newcomers and curious regulars alike.

The next round of sessions will take place on three Sunday afternoons, right after the second service. Each session includes information and interaction.

### February 10

The History of Our Building & Congregation  
The History of Unitarian Universalism  
Tour of UUSG

### February 17

Rev. Lindsay Shares Her Spiritual Journey  
Faith Traditions

### February 24

"Ministers on a Stick"  
Governance & Committees  
How to Get Involved

Each session includes lunch, and childcare can be provided if you sign up by February 3. Sign up at <http://content.uusg.org/new-uus>, in the Common Room, or with an email to [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org).

## Annual LGBTQ Worship Service

The UUSG chapter of Interweave is working with our music ministries to sponsor the annual LGBTQ service on March 3.

Along with special music and readings, we are happy to announce that the message will be presented by Lori Fox. Lori hosted a workshop on transgender issues in 2011 as the church went through the process of becoming a UUA-recognized Welcoming Congregation.

This will be an inspiring and joyful service and we are pleased that we will have an opportunity to hear Lori speak.

## Circles of Life

We send our loving condolences to Vohny Moehling, whose husband Gene passed away in December. Many thanks to everyone who has donated to our "MAD" (Make a Difference) Fund in Gene's memory—your gifts will go a long way toward helping church members who need financial assistance.

Our sympathy goes out to Patrick McGleam, whose mother passed away on December 26; and to Lisa Gades, who lost both her grandmother and her father this month.

We're pleased to report that Gail Tattersfield and Lou Pierce are doing quite well recovering from their recent surgeries.

To everyone else starting 2013 with medical adventures, we send our healing thoughts and prayers that the rest of the year be full of health and happiness.

## End-of-Life Issues

Our Atheism, Humanism, & Life Issues Study Group (formerly the "Amiable Atheists") will meet next on Sunday, February 3 at 1pm.

They will finish up their discussion on aging well and then turn to the examination of the "Five Wishes" document, which will facilitate planning for end-of-life issues with family and medical personnel.

## Music in January & February

Awesome job, "End of the World" band members, Chris Stibal, John Rosenkrans, Tracey McFadden, and John Towell! That was FUN!

Cynthia Spiegel, Sophia Spiegel, Katie Baar, Bridget Kancler, and Grace Bardsly—you brought stunning vocal music to our ears.

And thank you to our regular pianists, Tom Zimmerman and especially Dean Malambri, who you may have noticed is working overtime right now.

In February, come hear our choir & spunky new Choir Director, Bridget Kancler, as well as more from our talented youth musicians at their YRUU service.

Have you been hearing a wide diversity of great music and talent at UUSG? Are YOU holding out on us? Please contact our Music Director Tracy Rosenkrans at [music@uusg.org](mailto:music@uusg.org) and let her know how you'd be willing to share your gifts!

**Volunteer Appreciation**

We send our heartfelt thanks to:  
 Kathy McFadden, whose hard work and dedication to last month's Pageant made it a great success

Everyone who helped out at the memorial service for Vohny Moehling's husband, Gene.

Cindy Vacek, who has been coordinating meals for the Tattersfields and also did the legwork to get a new & MUCH improved dishwasher for our kitchen

Our January Greeters: Susan O'Neill; Bob Brubaker & Marilyn James; Sue, Jeff, Ben, & Chris Stibal; Lynn & Llona Steele; and all of our last-minute recruits

Our January Social Hour Hosts: the Communications Committee, the Social Justice Committee, the Nominating Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Technology Committee

**Odd Jobs**

We have a few tasks around the church that we'd like some help with. If you can help, talk to Katie in the church office (630-232-2350, [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org)).

Odd Job #1: Repair a lamp. It's not an electrical issue; the body of the lamp is broken and needs to be re-glued.

Odd Job #2: Dig holes and install 2 new "No Parking" signs on our western property (when it's consistently warmer out).

Speaking of our western property, it's true that you can't park there, but the City of Geneva recently installed a new parking lot just southwest of our buildings. The entrance is on Campbell Street (just south of the church), between 2nd & 3rd Streets, and you're welcome to park there at any time.

**The Fastest Dishwasher in Illinois**

The world's best dishwasher is now in our kitchen! It replaces the 25-year-old dish sanitizer, so now you don't have to wash the dishes before putting them in to be sanitized.

Openings are available for Social Hour hosts in February & March. Enjoy a sense of fellowship and abundance as you enjoy providing coffee/tea for friends & family. Sign up at <http://content.uusg.org/greeters-and-social-hour-hosts/>.

**Interested in Church Leadership?**

If you're interested in getting involved in the Board of Directors or you'd just like more information, please send an email to [nominating@uusg.org](mailto:nominating@uusg.org) or talk to any member of the Nominating Committee: Sally Jones (chair), David Tomell, Gail Tattersfield, John Rosenkrans, Cindy Vacek.

**Committee Member Spotlight**

LRE Committee member Jenny Montgomery and her husband Andy have been members of UUSG since 1999. In fact, Jenny has been part of our church much longer—she grew up at UUSG!

Their four children—Jake, David, Ellie, and Max—span the entire LRE program, from elementary grade through YRUU.

Jenny has faithfully served on the LRE committee for several years. Along with teaching religious education for many seasons, Jenny's committee work involves overseeing the junior high programs in particular.

She is part of the teaching team for the Junior High Sunday morning classes, leads the Junior High Youth Group, co-facilitates the OWL program, and assists with Coming of Age program preparation.

Jenny's ongoing commitment to her church and the education of its youth is invaluable! Next time you see her big, sunshiny smile, say hello and express your appreciation for her work!

**Celebrate Life**

All Are Invited to "Celebrate Life Through Music" at UUSG on Saturday, February 9, 2-4pm.

On the program will be Sondra Radvanovsky, a world-renowned Verdi soprano who has performed in all the top opera houses in the world.

A free-will donation will be taken to aid our "MAD" (Make A Difference) Fund.

**Telecommuting**

Our Congregational Administrator, Katie Phillips, will be off work on 2 upcoming Sundays: March 3 & 10.

She's going to New York for a writing seminar and will be telecommuting via email part-time Monday-Thursday that week.



## FEBRUARY 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Time at 10:30 AM <b>10:30 AM</b> Communications Committee Meeting <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>12:30 PM</b> Canvass Crew Training <b>12:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>12:30 PM</b> Interweave Meeting <b>1:00 PM</b> "Munch & Learn" Lecture: Compassionate Communication	<b>28</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> PIONEER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE <b>6:30 PM</b> Prism: LGBTQI Depression & Bipolar Support Group <b>7:30 PM</b> Mid-Year Teacher Meeting	<b>29</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis	<b>30</b> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA	<b>31</b> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Fox River Valley Broad-Based Organizing Strategy Team Meeting <b>7:30 PM</b> Nominating Committee Meeting	<b>1</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <b>6:30 PM</b> Junior High OWL Program Session Begins	<b>2</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <b>4:00 PM</b> Junior High OWL Program Session Ends
<b>3</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Time at 10:30 AM <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>12:30 PM</b> Atheism, Humanism, & Life Issues Study Group <b>12:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Prism: LGBTQI Depression & Bipolar Support Group <b>7:30 PM</b> Technology Committee Meeting	<b>5</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> Program & Administrative Councils	<b>6</b> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA	<b>7</b> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> <b>7:15 PM</b> WomenSpirit Rising	<b>8</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <b>6:30 PM</b> YRUU Service Planning Overnight Begins	<b>9</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <b>10:00 AM</b> YRUU Service Planning Overnight Ends <b>2:00 PM</b> "Celebrate Life With Music" Event <b>7:00 PM</b> Junior High Youth Group
<b>10</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Time at 10:30 AM <b>11:00 AM</b> Finance Committee Meeting <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>12:30 PM</b> "New UUs" Orientation Session <b>12:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>12:30 PM</b> Groundkeeping Team Meeting <b>12:30 PM</b> Social Justice Committee Meeting	<b>11</b> <b>1:30 PM</b> Women's Guild <b>6:30 PM</b> Prism: LGBTQI Depression & Bipolar Support Group <b>7:00 PM</b> Reiki Discussion Group <b>7:30 PM</b> LRE Committee Meeting	<b>12</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> Board of Directors	<b>13</b> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> Compassionate Communication Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA	<b>14</b> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> <b>7:30 PM</b> Small Group Ministry <b>7:30 PM</b> Write Time Writers' Group	<b>15</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Friday Flicks	<b>16</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <b>UUSG Day of Service &amp; Generosity</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Cleaning Up at Mutual Ground <b>9:00 AM</b> Packing Food at the Northern Illinois Food Bank <b>9:00 AM</b> Packing Gift Bags for Senior Citizens <b>3:00 PM</b> Wrapping Birthday Gifts for Children <b>3:30 PM</b> Small Group Ministry <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship Service <b>6:00 PM</b> Catered Dinner <b>6:00 PM</b> Games Night
<b>17</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Choir Warm-Up <b>9:30 AM</b> & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Time at 10:30 AM <b>9:45 AM</b> Hospitality & Fellowship Committee Meeting <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>12:00 PM</b> A Dirty Deal: The High Costs of Coal Energy Fueling the Tri-Cities <b>12:30 PM</b> "New UUs" Orientation Session <b>7:00 PM</b> Reiki Share	<b>18</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Prism: LGBTQI Depression & Bipolar Support Group <b>7:00 PM</b> "The Bible for UUs" Study Group	<b>19</b> <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Reiki Share	<b>20</b> <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA	<b>21</b> <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i> <b>7:15 PM</b> WomenSpirit Rising	<b>22</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i>	<b>23</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i>
<b>24</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Time at 10:30 AM <b>10:30 AM</b> Communications Committee Meeting <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>12:30 PM</b> "New UUs" Orientation Session <b>12:30 PM</b> Interweave Meeting <b>1:00 PM</b> "Munch & Learn" Lecture: "Music in the Visual Arts from the Renaissance to the 20th Century"	<b>25</b> <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i> <b>9:00 AM</b> PIONEER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE <b>6:30 PM</b> Prism: LGBTQI Depression & Bipolar Support Group	<b>26</b> <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i> <b>7:30 PM</b> Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis	<b>27</b> <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> Compassionate Communication Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA	<b>28</b> <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i> <b>9:15 AM</b> Simple Living Circle <b>1:30 PM</b> Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting <b>7:30 PM</b> Write Time Writers' Group	<b>1</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> <b>6:30 PM</b> Junior High OWL Program Session Begins	<b>2</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> <b>4:00 PM</b> Junior High OWL Program Session Ends

## The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

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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 Staff

Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, *Senior Minister*  
[minister@uusg.org](mailto:minister@uusg.org)

Office Hours: by appointment

Katie Phillips, *Congregational Administrator*  
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Lisa Rittenberry, *Office Assistant*

## 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 February 25, 2013 at 9am. Please send all articles to BOTH [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org) AND [minister@uusg.org](mailto:minister@uusg.org).

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