

# The Gazette



April 14, 2024— Volume 22, Issue 15

## SUNDAY SERVICE

*April 14, 11:00 am*

**“How Generous Is Our Earth”**

This Sunday, we continue our exploration of this month’s Touchstone theme of Generosity. Debra Neill-Mareci is in the Fellowship’s pulpit. Her theme is our spirit of generosity in regards to ourselves, those around us, and our world. Sue Boone serves as worship associate. Our Casual Choir sings, accompanied by Tané DeKrey, and James Chase provides our story for all ages.

### 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-HIRLSg6lRfA/live>

## *Sailing the UUFG Boat Home* PLEDGE DRIVE UPDATE



As of Wednesday, April 10, we have received 72 pledges out of our Fellowship’s 140 total possible “pledging units.” These 72 pledges represent a generous commitment of \$266,806 for our 2024-25 fiscal year. Our stewardship goal this year is to break through the \$300,000 ceiling and aspire to raise \$324,000 to fully fund a full-time interim minister while maintaining current staffing and programming.

### To submit your pledge Select

1. **Complete the pledge and time-talent forms in person after Sunday worship** (Pledge Forms and Time-Talent forms are at the back of the Sanctuary).
2. **Submit your pledge using our online form:** Click [HERE](#)

## GOVERNING BOARD BUDGET MEETING

*Tuesday, April 16, 6:30 pm*

The Governing Board will hold an extra board meeting on Tuesday, April 16, at 6:30 pm via Zoom to discuss our Fellowship’s budget in advance of our upcoming Congregational Meeting on May 5.

If you have questions and/or comments to share with the Board regarding budget-related issues, please email Leah Cobb Lee, Congregation President, at [leahcobblee@gmail.com](mailto:leahcobblee@gmail.com)

Zoom link:

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/94077032344?pwd=WE94Y3hmVFJrcmZla1Fkd0FOTGJ0dz09>

Meeting ID: 940 7703 2344

Passcode: 321615).

## ARTICLE TWO LISTENING CIRCLES

*Three More Sundays:*

*April 14, 21 and 28 at 12:30 pm*

At our congregational meeting on May 5, members will vote on whether to accept [proposed revisions to Article Two](#) of the Unitarian Universalist Association’s bylaws. Our Fellowship’s delegates to this year’s UUA General Assembly in June will carry the congregation’s decision when they vote to approve or deny the final amended version.

After every Sunday in service in April, we invite you to spend time in small discussion and sharing groups to not only learn about the proposed amendments, to but to learn and share perspectives on the changes. The program starts at 12:30 in the Sanctuary, so go grab snacks at coffee hour and come back for a good conversation!

For more information, please contact David Willkomm ([willkomm\\_d@bellsouth.net](mailto:willkomm_d@bellsouth.net)), Erin Parish ([erinuu603@gmail.com](mailto:erinuu603@gmail.com)) or James Chase ([dre@uufg.org](mailto:dre@uufg.org)).

Child Care will be available during these meetings.

## NEWCOMERS' ORIENTATION

*Sunday, April 14, 12:00 pm*

Newcomer orientation, an information session for people new to our congregation, will be held following the April 14 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 Qianqian Zhao, Jean Cook, Stefan Slone, Gene Cowell and Barbara Palmer!



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

## PICKELBALL FOR ALL

*Continues Thursday, April 18, 5:00 pm*

Our Thursday afternoon Pickleball group resumes their games on April 4 on the UUFg parking lot. They have balls, nets and spare racquets available, so newcomers to the sport are welcome to come "check it out." Games run from 5:00 pm to 6:15 pm.

For information, contact Kirsten Flamand at [kirstenflamand@gmail.com](mailto:kirstenflamand@gmail.com).

## MINDFULNESS MEDITATION

*Tuesday mornings 8:30 — 9:45am*

Join us in the Common Room every Tuesday morning. Please arrive by 8:15 to get settled. We start meditation at 8:30 am. You can use chairs or floor cushions as you prefer. We meditate for 25-30 minutes followed by reading, discussion and a closing recitation.

If you are immunocompromised or otherwise uncomfortable in a group of 5-8 people, you are welcome to wear a mask or join us via Zoom. Please let us know in advance, so we can send you the Zoom link.

For more info or the Zoom link, contact Pete Turner at [peteturner123@gmail.com](mailto:peteturner123@gmail.com).

## JOIN UUFg'S LITERATI BOOK GROUP!

*Sunday, April 14, 3:00 pm*

*Revitalization!!*

The Literati Book Group, originated by member Gene Mills over four years ago, is awakening from its Covid slumber with fresh, springy ideas!

In the past, we have done several books by the same author, beginning with Toni Morrison on to James Baldwin, then on to Jon Meacham, Ta-nehisi Coates, Imani Perry, Matthew Desmond, Zora Neale Hurston, and Colson Whitehead among others with a side slip of Carl Hiaasen for a humorous palate cleanser.

We meet monthly on Sunday afternoons from 3:00 to 4:30pm, usually taking turns at one another's homes, although at times we have met at the Fellowship.

The small core of die-hard members met recently and decided to:

- Openly recruit new members who are interested in reading books that challenge the mind, expand our depth of knowledge, and will likely encourage lively discussion.
- Select books that are readily available either through book kits, regular checkout or downloads from our public library.

Our book for April's gathering, which will be Sunday, April 14th, 3:00, home of Gene Mills, 6208 NW 37th Ter., is *Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation*.

If you are interested, contact either Gene Mills ([farmdos@gmail.com](mailto:farmdos@gmail.com)) or Liz Stewart ([marmstew002@gmail.com](mailto:marmstew002@gmail.com)) for more information.

## ONLINE GIVING TO UUFg

You can use our safe, online payment portal to make donations through our website.

Go to <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YXTK/home>



Or use the QR code here

## RECENT ATTENDANCE

On Sunday, April 7, 68 adults attended service, while 12 kids participated in Religious Education supervised by two adults. Our YouTube channel shows 46 views of the service online.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE CIRCLE & MEDICAID PETITION TRAINING

*Sunday, April 14, 1:45 pm*

All are invited to attend our April 14 Social Justice Circle Meeting. (Normally, we meet on third Sundays, but this month we're meeting on the second Sunday, so we can attend the Read-Out!) Come get training for gathering petitions for Medicaid Expansion. Medicaid Expansion in Florida would allow anyone whose income qualifies to join Medicaid. Right now in Florida, only pregnant women and their children and people with disabilities are eligible for Medicaid.

This amendment would allow about 800,000+ low-income Floridians to get health care under Medicaid. It will also benefit rural hospitals who are dependent on Medicaid funds and it now has bipartisan support in the legislature. If you would like to work on this petition drive please mark your calendars and plan to attend the April 14 training during our Social Justice Circle meeting at 1:45 pm in the Common Room or via Zoom.

Zoom link

[https://zoom.us/j/93192413653?](https://zoom.us/j/93192413653?pwd=YjFxY2I0WW82VDhvdTcvZTZDZmJ6QT09)

[pwd=YjFxY2I0WW82VDhvdTcvZTZDZmJ6QT09](https://zoom.us/j/93192413653?pwd=YjFxY2I0WW82VDhvdTcvZTZDZmJ6QT09)

## UUGF BANNED BOOKS LIBRARY

The UUGF Banned Books Library is open for checkout! Don't forget to unban a book by reading it. You can choose from a wide array of books. Just look over the banned books and check one out at the book cart. Young folks will learn about the old fashioned library card found in the back of books in the library. Just fill it out and leave it at the book cart in the Phillips Social Hall. Enjoy your reading!

## UUGF PETITION DRIVE FOR MEDICAID EXPANSION BEGINS!

*Sunday, April 28, 12:00 pm*

Mark your calendars for the start for UUGF gathering Medicaid Expansion petitions and providing voter information for our upcoming Democratic primary in August and general election in November. Look for our table with the YOUR VOTE MATTERS banner at coffee.

~ Mary Bahr



## I AM GRATEFUL TO...

I am grateful to *Erin Parish* for her excellent summaries of our UUGF Governing Board meetings. Her synopses are both complete and succinct, and do much to keep me informed about what is happening here at UUGF

~ 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).

## BANNED BOOK READOUT

*Sunday, April 21, 2:30 to 4:00 pm*

Gainesville City Hall Plaza,

200 E University Avenue

~ the open-air plaza in front of City Hall ~

Best-selling author, Lauren Groff, UF Professor and Author Paul Ortiz, civil rights pioneer Dan Harmeling, and other local celebrities will read from banned books of their choosing.

There will be musical interludes performed by Kali Blount and acapella women's group Resonance between readings.

Banned books will be given away by the event sponsors in the banned books tent on site. There will be a sponsor's table where you can get to know the event's sponsors better.

The venue is a lovely outdoor plaza facing City Hall. Please bring folding chairs, hats, water, and umbrellas. In case of light or intermittent rain, we will move onto the covered porch.

Book banning in our schools denies our children the right to access books with characters that look and act like them. It cuts them off from future opportunities in the larger world by not providing examples in stories of who they can be.

It also narrows our public discourse and is a form of censorship for everyone. By gradually removing access to information and ideas it is a step on the road to authoritarianism.

Our banned book readout is a step in the other direction. When we read banned books, we un-ban them for ourselves. When we read them aloud, we un-ban them for everyone who listens.

Contact Mary Bahr, UUGF Social Justice Council Chair, [kmlisle.mary@gmail.com](mailto:kmlisle.mary@gmail.com) for more information.

<b>Thanks to Sunday Facilitators!</b>		
	<b>April 14</b>	<b>April 21</b>
Outside Greeter	Aaron Broadwell	Tim Christy
Welcome Table	Martha Harrell Vic Harrell	Susan Christy
Foyer Monitor	Vic Harrell	Doris Hargrave Paul Hargrave
RE Monitor	Norden Lucke	Diana Hagan
Ushers	Debra Neill-Mareci	Debra Neill-Mareci
Visitors Table		Judith Kendall Susan Christy
Audio-visual	Erin Parish	Erin Parish



**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? You may put items directly into the pantry box, or leave them in a donation box in our Phillips Hall.

Elizabeth Farris is monitoring donations and helping ensure that our pantry box is filled regularly!

Questions? Contact Cam in the office at [uoffice@uufg.org](mailto:uoffice@uufg.org) / 352-377-1669.

**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)

**VOLUNTEER FOR FOOD4KIDS**

*Sat, April 27,  
10:00 am*



Mark your calendars for a volunteer session with Food4Kids. Volunteers will assemble food packages to send home with children whose families have difficulty providing enough food. The packages help feed the children and their families over the weekend. This benefits the whole family including preschool aged children who don't get the free breakfasts and lunches their older siblings benefit from during the week. Watch your Gazette and News-and-Needs for more info!

**FOOD4KIDS COLLECTION**  
*Continues Through May*

The Social Justice Circle is collecting food donations for the Food4Kids program through May. Food4Kids provides food-filled backpacks to many schools in Alachua County.

Please drop off your donations into the metal shopping cart in the Phillips Social Hall.

Below is a list of the foods they need

**Nonperishable Food Donations:**

- Breakfast Items
- (oatmeal packets, granola bars, 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)

~ Judi Oltmans

**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. To join, contact Carol Stiles at [uuvaldosta@yahoo.com](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com) with “Meditation Tuesday” in the subject line. She will send you the Zoom link.




# Gainesville

## BANNED BOOKS



**SUNDAY**  
**April 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**2:30-4:00**

**Local Literary  
Celebrities  
will read from  
Banned Books  
with musical  
interludes**

-  Readings
-  Music
-  Banned Books Giveaway

**Location:**  
Gainesville City Hall Plaza  
200 E University Avenue  
On the plaza in front of City Hall.

Bring folding chairs, hats, water,  
and umbrellas.

### Speakers include:

**Best-selling Author  
Lauren Groff**

**UF Professor  
Dr Paul Ortiz**

**Civil Rights Pioneer  
Dan Harmeling**

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville

## UUFG CALENDAR

### *Sunday, April 14 —*

- 10:00 pm** Childcare (Classroom 5 — Questions about Religious Education at UUFG? Contact James Chase, Director of Lifespan Faith Development, at [dre@uufg.org](mailto:dre@uufg.org))
- 10:00 pm** Children & Youth RE Steering Committee (Common Room)
- 10:00 pm** Childcare (Classroom 5)
- 11:00 am** Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 12:00 pm** Coffee Hour (Phillips Hall)
- 12:00 pm** Newcomer Orientation (Starts at Visitors Table — For info or the register, contact Judith Kendall at [judithkendall@cox.net](mailto:judithkendall@cox.net))
- 12:30 pm** Article 2 Listening Circle (Sanctuary — Questions? Contact David Willkomm at [willkomm\\_d@bellsouth.net](mailto:willkomm_d@bellsouth.net), James Chase ([dre@uufg.org](mailto:dre@uufg.org)) or Erin Parish at [erinuu603@gmail.com](mailto:erinuu603@gmail.com))
- 12:30 pm** RE for Children (Classroom 5)
- 1:45 pm** Social Justice Circle (Common Room & Zoom — for info, contact Mary Bahr, Social Justice Chair, at [kmlisle.mary@gmail.com](mailto:kmlisle.mary@gmail.com))
- 3:00 pm** Joy of the Lord Outreach Ministries (Sanctuary & Phillips Hall)
- 3:00 pm** Literati Book Club (Gene Mill's home—please see announcement)

### *Monday, April 15 —*

- 3:00 pm** Gainesville Bridge Club (Phillips Hall & Sanctuary)
- 6:30 pm** Finance Committee (Zoom — For info, contact Mary Anthony, Treasurer, at [maryanthony13@gmail.com](mailto:maryanthony13@gmail.com))

### *Tuesday, April 16 —*

- 8:30 am** Morning Meditation (Common Room & Zoom — Questions? Contact Pete Turner at [peteturner123@gmail.com](mailto:peteturner123@gmail.com) or Diane DePuydt at [diane.depuydt@gmail.com](mailto:diane.depuydt@gmail.com))
- 6:00 pm** Governing Board Meeting on Budgeting (Zoom — For info, contact Leah Cobb Lee, Congregation President, at [leahcobblee@gmail.com](mailto:leahcobblee@gmail.com))
- 8:00 pm** Silent Meditation (Zoom — For info, contact Carol Stiles at [uuvaldosta@yahoo.com](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com))

### *Wednesday, April 17 —*

- 7:00 pm** Paynes Prairie Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society (Phillips Hall — rental event. Click [HERE](#) for info)
- 7:00 pm** Questors Touchstone Discussion Group (Common Room — closed group)

### *Thursday, April 18 —*

- 5:00 pm** Pickleball (Parking Lot — For info, contact Kirsten Flamand at [kirstenflamand@gmail.com](mailto:kirstenflamand@gmail.com))
- 7:00 pm** “Casual Choir” Rehearsal (Sanctuary — For info about music programming, contact Kirsten Flamand at [kirstenflamand@gmail.com](mailto:kirstenflamand@gmail.com))

### *Friday, April 19 —*

- 12:30 pm** Gainesville Bridge Club (Phillips Hall)

### *Saturday, April 20 —*

- 11:30 am** UU Book Circle ([Yearling Restaurant](#). Tour starts at 10:45 am. For info, contact Martha Soles at [marthajsoles@gmail.com](mailto:marthajsoles@gmail.com))

### *Sunday, April 21 —*

- 10:00 am** Childcare (Classroom 5 — Questions about Religious Education at UUFG? Contact James Chase, Director of Lifespan Faith Development, at [dre@uufg.org](mailto:dre@uufg.org))
- 10:00 am** HUUGG / Humanist Class (Common Room & Zoom — Questions? Contact Kay Anderson at [kayanderson59@gmail.com](mailto:kayanderson59@gmail.com))
- 11:00 am** Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 12:00 pm** Coffee Hour (Phillips Hall)
- 12:30 pm** RE for Children (Classroom 5)
- 12:30 pm** Middlers Class (Classroom 60)
- 12:30 pm** Article 2 Listening Circle (Sanctuary — Questions? Contact David Willkomm at [willkomm\\_d@bellsouth.net](mailto:willkomm_d@bellsouth.net) or Erin Parish at [erinuu603@gmail.com](mailto:erinuu603@gmail.com))
- 2:30 pm** Banned Books Readout in the Park (Gainesville City Hall Plaza, 200 E University Avenue)
- 3:00 pm** Joy of the Lord Outreach Ministries (Sanctuary & Phillips Hall)