

# The Gazette



April 7, 2024— Volume 22, Issue 14

## Sailing the UUFG Boat Home PLEDGE DRIVE UPDATE

We are getting “closer to our home port,” but we haven’t arrived yet!

As of Friday, April 5, we have received 61 pledges out of our Fellowship’s 141 total possible “pledging units.” These 61 pledges represent a generous commitment of \$233,390 to support our Fellowship this coming fiscal year.



*However, to arrive at our chosen port, we hope to raise another \$100,000 in our pledge drive.* This coming year, in order to fully fund an interim minister and maintain our current levels of programming and staffing, we will have to raise at least \$324,000 in pledges. By comparison, last year we counted 107 pledges that generated about \$270,000 in giving. Hence, to meet our goal this season, we’ll need an increase of \$54,000 (or 20%) over last year from all giving units. *All hands must be on deck to successfully attract a full-time minister — without reducing other programs that we hold as vital.*

***Help us sail the UUFG boat into port by completing a Pledge Form and a Time and Talent Survey.***

Select from one of the following options:

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](#)
3. ***Download a PDF file of the Pledge Form and/or Time-Talent Form to print out and bring to service or mail to our office.***
  - PDF of Pledge Form for FY 2024-2025: Click [HERE](#).
  - PDF of Time and Talent Survey: Click [HERE](#).
4. ***Email your pledge and time-talent information*** to Cam Pierce, Congregational Admin, at [uoffice@uufg.org](mailto:uoffice@uufg.org).

Even though these are difficult economic times, your commitment to our shared community is essential for the common good of all at UUFG. As we explore new waters we will continue to widen our circle of love.

Thank you for continuing your commitment toward UUFG and in our greater community.

Yours in Fellowship,  
Your 2024/25 Stewardship Team

## SUNDAY SERVICE

April 7, 11:00 am

### “Living Into Our Welcome”

This Sunday, we introduce this month's Touchstones theme: Generosity. Susan Christy is in our pulpit, where she will speak on the topic of "Living into Our Welcome." Mary Anthony serves as worship associate, 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-H1RLSg6IRfA/live>

## 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).

## UUFG BUSINESS OFFICE CLOSED

*Thursday, April 11 & Friday, April 12*

Cam Pierce, Congregational Administrator, will be out of the office on Thursday and Friday, April 11 and 12 as he helps his son move to take a new position in Charlotte, NC.

## ARTICLE TWO LISTENING CIRCLES

*Four Sundays, starting April 7, 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.

If you're not 100% sure on what Article 2 is, these circles are for you! If you have opinions you'd like to share, this is also for you! Looking for a group to socialize and grow in community with? You guessed it... This is for you!

After every Sunday in service in April, we will spend time in small discussion and sharing groups. Each small group will meet four times; each session is 60-90 minutes. The program starts at 12:30 in the Sanctuary, so go grab snacks at coffee hour and come back for a good conversation!

We'll explore our personal faith experiences using "Amplifying the Charge," a program to learn about the larger denomination's formation and theology, and to begin understanding proposed changes in our association's bylaws.

Please bring journaling materials to each session for notes and personal reflections. Attached is the video for Week 1. We will watch the video in session together, but click [HERE](#) to view it in advance!

Child Care will be available during these meetings.

## PICKELBALL FOR ALL

*Continues Thursday, April 11, 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).

## 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, March 31, 75 adults attended service, while 29 kids participated in the Messy Playdate supervised by seven adults. Our YouTube channel shows 59 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?  
pwd=YjFxY2I0WW82VDhvdTcvZTZDZmJ6QT  
09](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...

Big thanks to *Peggy Maloney* and the *Friends of the Courtyard* crew for offering up such a scrumptious Coffee Hour this past Sunday. This group is one of our Regulars, having committed to hosting Coffee Hour the last Sunday of every other month. This, in addition to keeping the Courtyard a beautiful haven at UUGF. Bless you, FOTC!

~ 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).

## TGIF CELEBRATION!

*April 12, 5:30 pm*

### Gainesville Cohousing Common House

Hosts: Toni Wallace & Mary & George Gove  
2570 NW 47th St. Gainesville, FL 32606

Join our April TGIF gathering at the Gainesville Cohousing Common House this coming Friday, April 12, starting at 5:30 pm. Bring your beverage of choice and a snack to share!

### Directions to Gainesville Cohousing Common House:

From the Fellowship, go south on NW 34th St. Turn right on NW 39th Ave (SR 222), turn left on NW 51st St, go approximately 1 mile to the traffic light & turn left on NW 27th Ave. (Boys & Girls Club on corner). Go 2 blocks & turn right on NW 47th St. (Gainesville Cohousing subdivision entrance). Parking person will direct you to parking on site.

If coming from NW 23rd Ave, turn north at traffic light, onto NW 51st St. Turn right at next traffic light onto NW 27th Ave (Boys & Girls Club on corner). Go 2 blocks, turn right on NW 47th St (Gainesville Cohousing subdivision entrance). Parking person will direct you to parking on site. Please try to car pool as parking is limited in our community.

Phone in case you get lost: Toni's cell: 904-501-9449

## B & G WORK MORNING

*Saturday, April 13, 9:00 am*

Join our dedicated crew to help maintain and beautify our lovely campus! Our monthly work morning starts on Saturday, April 13, at 9 am, but drop by as your schedule allows. Questions? Contact Marilyn Roberts at [mrobertsrn@gmail.com](mailto:mrobertsrn@gmail.com).

<b>Thanks to Sunday Facilitators!</b>		
	<b>April 7</b>	<b>April 14</b>
Outside Greeter	Bev Giordano	Aaron Broadwell
Welcome Table	Peggy Maloney Ellen Cecil	Martha Harrell Vic Harrell
Foyer Monitor	Jonathan Coron	Vic Harrell
RE Monitor	Peggy Maloney	Norden Lucke
Ushers	Debra Neill-Mareci	Debra Neill-Mareci
Visitors Table	Toni Wallace Judith Kendall	
Audio-visual	Erin Parish Ricardo Sosa-Melo	Erin Parish

**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.

**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, UUFG Social Justice Council Chair, [kmlisle.mary@gmail.com](mailto:kmlisle.mary@gmail.com) for more information.

**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)

# 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 7 —*

- 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))
- 3:00 pm** Joy of the Lord Outreach Ministries (Sanctuary & Phillips Hall)

### *Monday, April 8 —*

- 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))
- 6:30 pm** Care Team (Common Room — For info and to confirm, contact Jim Wright, Care Team Chair, at [jim.wright123@gmail.com](mailto:jim.wright123@gmail.com))

### *Tuesday, April 9 —*

- 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))
- 3:00 pm** Safety Team (Common Room — Questions? Contact Jonathan Coron, Safety Team Chair, at [coronjonathan@gmail.com](mailto:coronjonathan@gmail.com))
- 7:00 pm** Fellowship Council (Zoom — For info, contact Mike Hazlett, Governing Board Liaison, at [mh-hazlett@wiu.edu](mailto:mh-hazlett@wiu.edu))
- 8:00 pm** Silent Meditation (Zoom — For info, contact Carol Stiles at [uuvaldosta@yahoo.com](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com))

### *Wednesday, April 10 —*

- 7:00 pm** Young Adult Group (Phillips Social Hall — To confirm event and for info, join the group chat [HERE](#) or contact Renée Richter at [reneeofflorida@gmail.com](mailto:reneeofflorida@gmail.com))

### *Thursday, April 11 — UUFG Business Office Closed*

- 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 12 — UUFG Business Office Closed*

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

### *Saturday, April 13 —*

- 9:00 am** Buildings & Grounds Work Morning (Questions? Contact Marilyn Roberts, Facilities Chair, at [mrobertsrn@gmail.com](mailto:mrobertsrn@gmail.com))

### *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) 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)

### MESSY PLATE PICTURES FROM MARCH 31

Last Sunday was an exciting combination of Easter Egg hunting, Holi colors and other messy fun!



### 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

