

# The Gazette



March 31, 2024— Volume 22, Issue 13

## UUFG'S PLEDGE DRIVE CONTINUES!

Dear Members and Friends of UUFG,

We are all in the same boat and depend on each other for a successful future at UUFG. However, to sail the UUFG Boat home and call a full-time minister, we must all pitch in and cast more sails into the wind. All of us must be on board- calling on our talents and resources — to steer our Boat to a safe port.



Our goal this year is to hire a full-time interim minister. Many factors are working against us: a small pool of qualified ministers, social/political barriers to moving to Florida, and rising operational costs. These challenges have been a perfect storm battering the UUFG Boat. Like the forces of the storm, these conditions are out of our immediate control. We have the ability and spirit to overcome these forces.

Although the costs of hiring a full-time minister have increased (from \$96,000 to \$129,500 in two years!), our Fellowship remains committed to paying an ethical salary to each of our employees. *To make it to port we need at least a 20% increase in our total pledges.*

Last year, we counted 107 pledges that generated about \$270,000 in giving. This year we will have to raise our pledges to at least \$324,000 — an increase of \$54,000 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 [uuoffice@uufg.org](mailto:uuoffice@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

March 31, 11:00 am

### “Trees and Transformation”

This Easter Sunday, Evan Waldt is in the Fellowship's pulpit. His sermon is “Trees and Transformation” as we conclude our exploration of this month's Touchstone theme of Transformation. Sue Boone serves as worship associate. James Chase provides our story for all ages, while our Chalice Choir provides music under the direction of Tané DeKrey.

#### 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>

**ARTICLE TWO LISTENING CIRCLES**

*Four Sundays, starting April 7, 12:30 pm*

At our congregational meeting in May, 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.

In advance of our annual congregational meeting, Erin Parish and David Willkomm are facilitating four listening circles using materials provided by the UUA. Members and interested friends are invited to come to any or all of the circles to learn more about the proposed Article Two changes and hear different perspectives on these revisions.

The listening circles will be held in the Sanctuary on April 7, 14, 21 and 28, starting at 12:30 pm. For more information, contact Erin at erinu603@gmail.com or David at willkomm\_d@bellsouth.net

**PICKELBALL FOR ALL**

*Resumes Thursday, April 4, 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

**TGIF CELEBRATION**

*Friday, April 12, 5:30 pm*

Toni Wallace and Mary Gove are co-hosting our April TGIF celebration on Friday, April 12 in their neighborhood’s Gainesville Cohousing Common House.

Please mark your calendar to attend this fun event, and watch News and Needs and the Gazette for directions. And remember to bring your beverage of choice and a snack to share!

**GAZETTE SUBMISSIONS**

The Gazette is reserved for UUFG business and concerns submitted to the office (email [uuoffice@uufg.org](mailto:uuoffice@uufg.org)) for editing by noon on Wednesdays. Please put “for Gazette” in your subject line. Your submissions will be posted up to three times, inserted on dates you indicate.

**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 24, 101 children and adults attended service, while our YouTube channel shows 39 views of the service online.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE AT UUGF

### 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!

### Social Justice Circle —

*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.

### Volunteer for Food4Kids —

*Saturday, 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!

### 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...



Thank you to everyone who helped make last Sunday a terrific Pledge Sunday! To *Evan Waldt, Liz Stewart, Kirsten Flamand, Mike Hazlett, Judith Kendall, Mary Margaret Andrews, Erin Parish, and Judi Oltmans* who did so much to put together a great service and lunch! And thank you to the volunteers who help set up and clean up including *Jeanne Gossman, Hazel Hazlett, Mary Anthony, Joy Avery, Tim Christy, Mike Bass, Tom Mareci, Sarah Hausman, Elizabeth Farris, Lynn Jamieson,* and so many more who showed up early or stayed late to lend a hand.

~ Sandra Topp

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

## FOOD4KIDS BACKPACK PROGRAM 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)

Thank you!  
Judi Oltmans

## FEBRUARY FINANCIAL REPORT

|                 | February                    | YTD                           |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Income</b>   | \$29,412 (budget: \$26,524) | \$208,278 (budget: \$212,192) |
| <b>Expenses</b> | \$22,160 (budget: \$31,733) | \$165,397 (budget: \$249,694) |
| <b>Net</b>      | <b>\$7,252</b>              | <b>\$42,881</b>               |

Year-to-Date numbers here reflect our general fund’s cumulated income and expenses from July 1, 2023 through February 29, 2023, which concludes the second quarter of our fiscal year.

Please note that detailed financial reports are included in the monthly board meeting package that is emailed to the congregation prior to the Governing Board’s monthly meeting. If you have questions, please contact Cam Pierce, Congregational Administrator, at [uoffice@uufg.org](mailto:uoffice@uufg.org), or Mary Anthony, Treasurer, at [maryanthony13@gmail.com](mailto:maryanthony13@gmail.com).

| <b>Thanks to Sunday Facilitators!</b> |                                  |                                  |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                                       | <b>March 31</b>                  | <b>April 7</b>                   |
| Outside Greeter                       | Hazel Hazlett                    |                                  |
| Welcome Table                         | Barbara Palmer<br>Tom Palmer     |                                  |
| Foyer Monitor                         | Jowe Rowe                        | Jonathan Coron                   |
| RE Monitor                            | Marilyn Roberts                  | Peggy Maloney                    |
| Ushers                                | Debra Neill-Mareci               | Debra Neill-Mareci               |
| Visitors Table                        | Mike Hazlett<br>Judith Kendall   |                                  |
| Audio-visual                          | Erin Parish<br>Ricardo Sosa-Melo | Erin Parish<br>Ricardo Sosa-Melo |



**KINDLY SILENCE YOUR  
CELL PHONE DURING  
SERVICE**



**HEARING LOOP  
AVAILABLE**

Please talk to an usher for  
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

## UUG CALENDAR

**Sunday, March 31 —**

**10:00 am** Messy Playdate (Playground — Questions about Religious Education at UUG? Contact James Chase, Director of Lifespan Faith Development, at [dre@uug.org](mailto:dre@uug.org))

**10:00 pm** Childcare (Classroom 5)

**11:00 am** Worship Service (Sanctuary)

**12:00 pm** Coffee Hour (Phillips Hall)

**12:30 pm** RE for Children (Classroom 5)

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

**Monday, April 1 —**

**3:00 pm** Gainesville Bridge Club (Phillips Hall & Sanctuary)

**Tuesday, April 2 —**

**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))

**7:00 pm** Worship Team (Zoom — For info, contact Liz Stewart, Worship Team Chair, at [marmstew002@gmail.com](mailto:marmstew002@gmail.com))

**8:00 pm** Silent Meditation (Zoom — For info, contact Carol Stiles at [uuvaldosta@yahoo.com](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com))

**Wednesday, April 3 —**

**9:00 pm** Life Line Screening (Phillips Hall — For info, click [HERE](#))

**Thursday, April 4 —**

**5:00 pm** Pickleball (Parking Lot — For info, contact Kirsten Flamand at [kirstenflamand@gmail.com](mailto:kirstenflamand@gmail.com))

**7:00 pm** Chalice Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary — For info about music programming, contact Kirsten Flamand at [kirstenflamand@gmail.com](mailto:kirstenflamand@gmail.com))

**Friday, April 5 —**

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

**Saturday, April 6 —**

**9:00 am** Kripalu Yoga Classes (Sanctuary — For info, contact Susan Christy at [susan.christy42@gmail.com](mailto:susan.christy42@gmail.com))

**10:00 am** Friends of the Courtyard (Common Room — Questions? Contact Peggy Maloney at FoC Chair, at [maloney1952.pm@gmail.com](mailto:maloney1952.pm@gmail.com))

**Sunday, April 7 —**

**10:00 am** Childcare (Classroom 5 — Questions about Religious Education at UUG? Contact James Chase, Director of Lifespan Faith Development, at [dre@uug.org](mailto:dre@uug.org))

**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** Touchstones Discussion Group (Classroom 3 — For info, contact Debra Neill-Mareci at [dneillmareci@gmail.com](mailto:dneillmareci@gmail.com))

**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)

