

February 2026

Newsletter

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Let's celebrate LOVE
this month!

From Your Minister, February 2026

Y'all, embodying resilience is more important than it has ever been in my own short life. I recognize the tremendous privilege of that statement. Things seem extra hard right now to me because some of the horrors which have happened to Black and Indigenous People of Color, Immigrants, and so many other marginalized people are happening to white folks now. While life for the former is getting even worse. I do not take that for granted. And, I also do not look a gift horse in the mouth – we cannot squander the new perspective and the moral moment we've been given. We cannot squander the lives lost.

We'll play with the idea of resilience throughout the month. What it means to embody it. But as I've been doing for the last year or so, there's no better place to start than practice. Especially when it's something that's worked for us in the past. When we are going through a hard thing, we don't have to learn a new thing. We almost certainly already have the skills to persist.

Here's a spiritual practice suggestion that leans on that existing support system from our pals at Soul Matters.

At one time or another, we've all asked, "How do I keep going?" It's a question that comes up not only when life is especially challenging, scary or disorienting, but also when life is wearily routine and repetitive. In those moments, we hunger for renewal and new energy - some source of resilience will help us put one foot in front of the other and enable us to fall in love again with the path we're on.

Wanting to remember her own sources of resilience, the writer, Lisa Olivera, created a personal "How To Keep Going Manifesto." Basically, she made a list of the things that enabled her to keep going in the past so that she could more easily grab ahold of them in her present. Engaging her manifesto makes for a great spiritual exercise. So, here are your instructions:

Read through the keep going strategies in her manifesto:

<https://lisaolivera.substack.com/p/how-do-i-keep-going>

As you go through Olivera's list, identify one that is similar to a resilience strategy you've used in the past. Spend some time with the memory of this moment when you "kept going." Ask yourself how this memory might be trying to speak to you and offer a message of comfort or challenge for your life today?

Finally, go through the list again and identify another strategy of hers that you want to try today! If you want to go deeper with this exercise, you could create your own How To Keep Going Manifesto, using Olivera's as inspiration.

I plan on doing this exercise myself. Will you join me? Maybe we can compare notes at a small group get together later in February. More info to come.

Until then, nevertheless, we persist.

In good faith and good trouble,

Rev. Nic

The Strength in Our Story

Resilience is often defined as the ability to adapt to adversity or "bounce back" from life's challenges. But for African Americans, resilience has never been a passive trait; it is a practiced art form. When I look back at our history, I see a people defined by a revolutionary kind of joy—a joy that persisted even in the face of unspeakable injustices. We didn't just survive; we sang, we built, and we loved.

We've all heard the phrase "make lemonade out of lemons." While there is beauty in that sweetness, true resilience goes deeper. It's the understanding that adversity acts as a kiln.

Think of iron in the fire. The heat is intense and the pressure is relentless, but that is exactly what allows the metal to be molded. Without the fire, the iron cannot be shaped into something new. Our stresses and struggles, while unfair and unjust, have the unique ability to mold us into something powerfully distinct, tempered and ready to withstand the ongoing fight for justice. May the day come soon when we can all lay down our armor and "study war no more".

A Call to Lean In

This month, I encourage you to rethink your "fire." Don't just wait for the flame to go out. Instead:

- **Acknowledge the heat:** Validate the stress and trauma without letting it consume you.
- **Protect your joy:** Remember that thriving is the ultimate form of resistance.
- **Trust the molding:** Lean into the knowledge that you are being shaped into something more durable and uniquely equipped for the journey ahead.

We are built to last, and we are built to shine. Happy Black History Month!

February Youth & Family Schedule

Sunday Morning Logistics

- **February 1: Sanctuary Sunday** – All children (ages 7+) will remain in the sanctuary for the full service.
- **February 8: Classroom Direct** – All children will head straight to their classes upon arrival.
- **February 15 & 22: The "Sing Out"** – All children (ages 7+) will begin in the sanctuary and be "sung out" to their classes midway through the service.

Special Programs

- **Crossing Paths: Trip to Columbia, SC** Our explorers are heading to Columbia to meet some new "friends" as we explore the religious traditions of **Quakerism**.
- **OWL (Our Whole Lives)** Our participants are currently in the thick of their workshops, exploring contemporary issues and responsible sexual behavior.
- **Teen DND Night** Calling all adventurers! Our teens will engage in an epic **Dungeons & Dragons** campaign on **February 27**.

Kids' Night In (KNI)

Ages 2–10 | Themed fun and community building.

- **February 13: Valentine's KNI** – Celebrating love and friendship.
- **February 27: Leap Day KNI** – Celebrating our "extra" day this year!

How to Register

For all trips, DND, and Kids' Night In events, please register on **Realm**.

- **On the App:** Open the Realm Connect app and tap the **Events** icon at the bottom.
- **On the Web:** Log in to your Realm account and click **Events** in the main menu.

Note: Be sure to register under the specific event name to help us prepare materials and snacks!

Dear Beloved Community,

On behalf of the Board, thank you for your presence, participation, and thoughtful engagement at our recent mid-year meeting. The care, honesty, and hope you brought into our shared visioning process made it a meaningful and energizing experience, and we are deeply grateful for the time and attention you offered.

Following that gathering, the Board has been carefully reviewing the themes that emerged from our collective work. We are in the process of distilling those ideas into three to five core themes that best reflect the values, longings, and direction voiced by the congregation.

Once this work is complete, we look forward to returning to you to continue this collaborative process, coming together again as a community to shape and craft our new mission.

Thank you for being an active part of this journey and for the many ways you show up for one another and for our shared future.

In gratitude,

Your Board of Trustees



Gifts of Honor

Looking for a way to celebrate a friend or loved one's birth, birthday, marriage, anniversary, graduation, or recent achievement?

Consider making a Gift of Honor in their name to the church!

A check or cash-in-an-envelope should be clearly marked

– Gift of Honor – and be sure to tell us who or what you are honoring.

All Gifts of Honor will support the General Fund.

Make an online donation on the church's website at UUAugusta.org or use the QR Code.



The Endowment Fund Committee would like to thank Tim Nelken for his donation to the church Endowment Fund in memory of Andy Reese.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 3rd @ 2:00pm - Ode to Joy Tea

February 4th @ 7:00pm - Mid-Week Hybrid Service

February 9th @ 5:30pm - Community Sing with Bill Webster

February 10th @ 11:30am - Women's Lunch Group at The Cantina in Daniel Village

February 12th @ 2:00pm - Community Sing with Bill Webster at Charter Senior Center (3725 Wheeler Drive)

February 15th @ 5:00-7:00pm - Newcomers Game Night

February 18th @ 6:30-8:30pm - Cozy Craft Night

February 19th @ 11:45am - ROMEO Lunch Group at Rae's Coastal Cafe

February 19th @ 6:30 pm - Monthly Board Meeting

February 22nd - Pledge Drive Begins

Mark
YOUR
Calendar

Love at the Cent-er:



2026 Pledge Drive

At the heart of Unitarian Universalism is a simple and powerful truth: love belongs at the center of our faith, our community, and our shared work in the world.

This year's pledge drive, "Love at the Cent-er," invites us to reflect on what it means to keep love at the core of who we are and what we do together. Love shows up here in many forms: in worship and music, in learning and spiritual growth, in justice work, in care for one another, and in the simple act of showing up, week after week, as our whole selves.

A pledge is more than a financial commitment. It is a statement of values. It is a way of saying this community matters, and I am part of sustaining it. When we place love at the cent-er, generosity becomes a natural expression of that care.

In the coming weeks, you'll hear more about how pledges support the life of our congregation and help ensure that this remains a welcoming, vibrant, and values-driven spiritual home for today and for the future.

Thank you for all the ways you help keep love at the cent-er of our beloved community. ~Dominique Grushinski, Co President of our Board of Trustees.

February Worship Calendar - Embodying Resilience



Special Midweek Worship

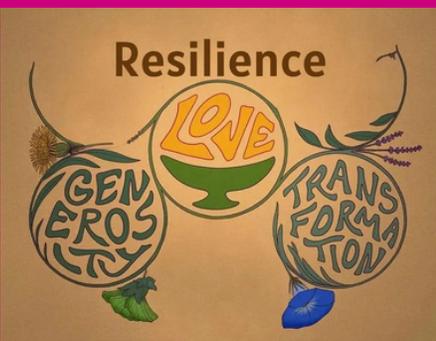
February 4th - Reverend Nic & Dominique
Embodying Resilience in (Human) Nature



February 8th - Frank Carl & UU Humanists
Water Is Life



February 15th - Reverend Nic & Janeya
Let's Talk About Sex



February 22nd - Reverend Nic & Chris
Resilience through Generosity. Resilience
through Transformation

Group and Committee Events

Parents' Group

Next Meeting:

February 15th at 12:15pm in classroom 1-2

Childcare will be provided for ages 10 and under

Contact: Desria Seay ffm@uuaugusta.org



Recovery International



Mental Health Support Group (**online**)
Virtual **Wednesday weekly** meeting at **6:30pm**
Open to newcomers

Pre-register: [Here](#)

You will receive a confirmation email containing information
about joining the meeting.
Contact: Maryka Bhattacharyya [630-605-6913](tel:630-605-6913)

UU Meditation

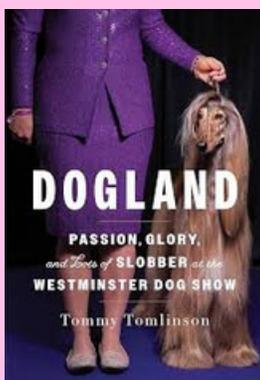
Monday at the church gathering:

Contact: Chris Garcia garceus@yahoo.com

Wednesday online gathering:

Contact: Catherine Prysiazny
catherine8758@att.net

ZOOM link: [Click Here](#)



UUCA Book Group

Next Discussions - **February 28th at 1pm**

Fourth Saturdays at 1pm
Room 1-2

Contact: Jan Parsons - janbparsons@gmail.com

Group and Committee Events

Good Trouble Team

Next meetings: **February 22nd**

The Good Trouble Team meets on the
4th Sunday at 12:05pm

[ZOOM Link](#)

Passcode: 324295



Board Meeting

Next meetings: Thursday, **February 19th**

Monthly Board Meeting will be held the in the
Common Room

Contact: Co-presidents, Tim Hunter or Dominique
Grushinski
board.president@uuaugusta.org



UU Humanist Freethought Group

Next Meetings: **February 8th**

Usually meeting the
second Sunday at 5pm in the Common Room

[Zoom link](#)

Contact: Frank Carl frankcarl2040@gmail.com



Cozy Craft Night

Next Gathering: February 18th

Location: UU Church Common Area

Knit, crochet, needlework, painting, coloring, drawing, wire work - all crafters are welcome! We will have light refreshments, but feel free to bring a snack to share as well.



Group and Committee Events

UUCA Women's Luncheon Group

Next Gathering: **February 10th @ 11:30**

Location: Beamie's at The River, 9th and Reynolds

Christmas Lunch!!

Please send your reservation by the Sunday prior to Pat Lynch-Hayes: 706-733-8303, plynchhayes@gmail.com

Usually meets the **second Tuesday at 11:30am** at area restaurants

Girlfriends always welcome.



Pagan PotLUUck

Next Gatherings: **February 12th**

A casual circle for pagans and witches of all ages, genders, and practices. We can explore topics that relate to our shared beliefs, rituals, and needs. Or simply connect and enjoy good company with one another.

Gathers the **second Thursday at 6:30pm in the Common Room**

Contact: Janeya Filzen: janeyajoy@gmail.com



R.O.M.E.O. Lunch Group

Next Gathering: **February 19th**

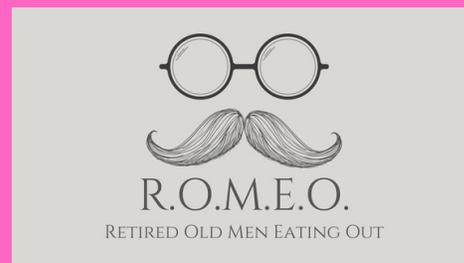
Location: Rae's Coastal Cafe

Retired Old Men Eating Out Lunch Group meets at **11:45am** at area restaurants

Confirm & RSVP by Tuesday's on Realm to Frank Dennison:

Text **706-267-9298** or

frankdennison@outlook.com.



VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!!! WE NEED YOU!!! We had a great outpouring of volunteers in 2025. THANK YOU!!!

In order for great events and more to happen around here, we need you to volunteer!! We have so many different ways for you to help out. Please consider donating your time in your field of expertise or just something you've always wanted to help with. We welcome all to take part in keeping our church at its best.

We appreciate ALL our volunteers so much. Thank you!

We need more volunteers who are willing to donate 1 hr each month to either set up the coffee, tea, and snack tables or help clean up afterward as a 2-person team, Sunday after service. There is flexibility to swap with another volunteer if something comes up and you can't make it. It's easy work and deeply appreciated by all. To volunteer, or for further information, please contact Jack Zylla.



Another great opportunity to volunteer is in our Tech Deck. Our Tech Deck team makes sure those that can't be here for service can still feel connected to our community. Please contact Matt Moser to volunteer. He is happy to teach anyone how to do the job and we'd all appreciate you volunteering.



GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Joys and Sorrows** can be sent ahead to the **Pastoral Care Team**: pastoralcare@uuaugusta.org.
- Our **UUCA Choir** welcomes new voices. We hope you'll join us at **9:30am Sunday** mornings and help us add to the worship experience.
- All ages **Faith Formation Classes** are held after Worship on the **first Sunday** of each month. The classes will be from **12:15-1:15pm** following a short fellowship time.
- The **Committee on Shared Ministry (CoSM)** is concerned with the spiritual health of the entire ministry of the congregation, as a reflection of mission fulfillment. For more information about COSM and all UUCA teams and committees, please visit: <https://www.uuaugusta.org/committeesandteams>
- **Josef Patchen** is offering Piano Lessons: Any age, Any level, Any style. For information, write: jcpatchen61@gmail.com or text: 706-399-5852
- Contact the **Church Administrator** for group meeting and event scheduling and for addition to the **UUCA Public Calendar**. churchadmin@uuaugusta.org
- The **first Sunday** of each month is **Youth Greeter Week**. This is an opportunity for our young members to play a special role in our congregation. Inquire with **Faith Formation Manager**: Desria Seay (Ms. D) - ffm@uuaugusta.org.
- The **Midday (AA) Group** meets **Monday - Saturday at Noon** in the **Common Room**.



May we create beloved community
In good faith and good trouble

<u><i>UU Augusta Office Email</i></u> <u><i>Minister's Email</i></u>	706-733-7939
<u><i>UU Augusta Website</i></u>	3501 Walton Way Extension Augusta, GA 30909
<i>Office Hours:</i> <i>Monday-Friday -9:30-2:30</i>	<i>Rev. Nic's Office Hours:</i> <i>Wednesday: 4pm-6pm</i>