

November 2025

# Newsletter

[www.uuaugusta.org](http://www.uuaugusta.org)



## ***Fall Work Day, November 15, 9am-2pm***



Sign up now to volunteer with your Building and Grounds Team to clean up and improve our campus. We've got a sign up sheet in the common room ready for you.

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Have a dress, shirt or pants you don't want or can't wear anymore, but it's still in good condition? Bring it along to the next Pop-Up Women's Group on Tuesday, November 18th at 2 pm in the Common Room. It's a Naked Ladies Party-a.k.a. clothes swap party. Hot chocolate and cookies on the menu.

For more information, contact Jan Parsons

## **From your Minister, November 2025**

Dear ones,

Let me start by saying I'm grateful for you! Our shared ministry of creating Beloved Community is hard work; and, I'm immensely glad and privileged to do it. Of course, there are many other things, people, and experiences for which I'm grateful. As we play with all the ideas around "nurturing gratitude" this month (our monthly theme), we'll have a chance to witness how gratitude might lead to a sense of abundance (which opens so many creative, cool possibilities for the future).

This is a hard task in normal times. Extra hard when the number of food insecure, job insecure, housing insecure people have recently skyrocketed because of a few callous folks in DC. When folks aren't sure if they're going to be kidnapped by ICE with no due process. No dignity. When you yourself feel like you can barely survive. And, gratitude nevertheless is a key ingredient for avoiding despair exactly in this kind of moment.

To that end, we'll have opportunities throughout November to examine all the things for which we might be grateful. We'll examine how gratitude and hope are intricately connected. And, hopefully, we'll try some spiritual practices which heighten our sense of gratitude. Here's one option from Soul Matters:

"With all due respect to the traditional gratitude list, recent research suggests that, for some of us, it just doesn't work. Adding up everything we are grateful for just falls flat.

The good news is, for those of us like this, researchers have discovered a new and more effective way of helping us feel the deep joy that gratitude brings. Instead of adding up the gifts in our lives, this approach invites us to subtract them! Instead of reflecting on the presence of a positive event in our lives ("I'm grateful I met my spouse"), you reflect on its absence ("What if I had never met my spouse?").

Think of it as a counterfactual meditation on our lives, inviting us to imagine a world where our most treasured blessings never occurred. It's basically what the angel in It's a Wonderful Life famously asked of George Bailey (a story which will likely appear on some TV station the fourth Thursday of this month).

So, if you are one of those folks who never clicked with gratitude lists, give this a try:

Set aside an hour some morning or evening.

Watch these two videos: [Instagram Gratitude Hack](#) & [Deepen your satisfaction](#)

Pick something central to your life. It can be something you consider a blessing, but this works just as well with something you are neutral or negative about. So it could be your spouse, your kid, a risk you once took like taking a gap year to travel or starting your own business, a physical aspect of yourself like your red hair, a hobby like playing an instrument or doing a sport, an injury you suffered, or even a loss.

Imagine what your life would be like without this thing in your life. Play out what other things would not have happened if this thing about you didn't exist. Make a list of those things.

Spend some time with that list. Add to it and edit it as feels right. Once it feels finished, reflect on it, paying particular attention to what kind of feelings arose and what sparked those feelings.

Finally, if you feel comfortable doing so, share the thing you picked to remove from your life and the list of things that would have disappeared with it. Who should you share it with? Trust us, you will know."

Gratitude doesn't just partner with and lead to hope (the choosing of which coincidentally will be our theme in December). It also feeds and fosters faith. Both the kind that grounds us during hard times and the kind that allows us to practice good faith (relational trust, loyalty, & integrity) with others. Which necessarily feeds the cycle of gratitude - because it reminds us how lucky we are to have one another. So, I end this note as I began - I'm grateful for you!

In good faith and good trouble,

*Rev. Nic*

# Nurturing Gratitude: November's Theme in Family Ministries

November is here, and our monthly theme is **Gratitude**! Gratitude is a spiritual practice that deepens our connections to the world and inspires us to act with generosity. Let's see how our youth have been living this theme and what's coming up.

## Exploring Our World and Other Faiths

Our activities this past month have given our youth wonderful reasons to pause and appreciate our community and the diversity of life:

- **Steeds Dairy:** Our youth had a fun time on their outing to **Steeds Dairy**, enjoying fellowship and the simple pleasure of our local community and the season's bounty.
- **Crossing Paths: Learning from Judaism:** The "Crossing Paths" experience at the **Congregation of Children of Israel** allowed our youth to practice appreciation for other faiths. They were able to experience a **Shabbat service**, join in the **singing**, and interview **Cantor Dan**, gaining valuable insight and cultivating respect for our neighbors' spiritual journeys.

## Auction Success: Thank You for the Cake Walk!

We want to express **deep gratitude** for the energy and excitement surrounding our recent auction, particularly the **Cake Walk**! It was a great success and served as a joyful, childlike, and truly **intergenerational** portion of the event. Thank you to everyone who baked, donated, and participated—your support helps our programs flourish!

## Youth Events Update & Holiday Shopping Helper

We are excited about our November evening programs!

- **Kids Night In (Ages 10 & Under):** Parents, mark your calendars! We'll hold Kids Night In on **Friday, November 14th**, and **Friday, November 28th**. These are great opportunities to get some **holiday shopping** done while your children enjoy fun activities with our staff!
- **Teen Time (Ages 11+):** Our teens will be headed to the **Skateland of Augusta Skating Rink** on November 22<sup>nd</sup> from 2:00pm-4:00pm!

The group entry fee is \$8 and includes skate rental & a snack item!

I will be on site from 2 PM to 4 PM to assist in supervising. After this time parents will need to return and hang out to monitor youth if they're still skating - parents do not have to pay an entry fee if just hanging out monitoring their kids!

See you all in a few weeks for skating fun!

Vic P, Youth Advisor 

## The Mountain: Important Date Change & Deadlines!

We have an important update regarding the Junior High Mountain trip. Please pay close attention to the deadlines!

**PLEASE NOTE THE NEW DATE FOR JUNIOR HIGH!**

| Youth Group                  | New Trip Date      | Registration & Payment Deadline | Action Item                                               |
|------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Junior High (6th–8th Grade)  | December 12th–14th | November 29th                   | New Date! Register and Pay NOW on The Mountain's website! |
| Senior High (9th–12th Grade) | November 14th      | November 2nd                    | CRITICAL: Deadline is November 2nd. Register and Pay NOW! |

**Crucial Reminder:** You must complete the registration and pay your portion of the fee directly through **The Mountain's website**. <https://www.themountainrlc.org/youth-conferences/>

**Scholarships are available!** Please reach out immediately if you have questions regarding financial assistance.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

*November 2<sup>nd</sup> - Adult Faith Formation with Reverend Nic in the Sanctuary*

*November 7<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 PM - 12:00 AM Metal Concert-Mitchel Gayle*

*November 8<sup>th</sup> - 4:30-10:00 PM Dance Charity Event*

*November 10<sup>th</sup> - 5:30-6:30 Community Sing, led by Bill Webster (everyone welcome)*

*November 12<sup>th</sup> - Cozy Craft Night*

*November 14<sup>th</sup> - PJ Party Kids Night In/Parents Night Out*

*November 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> - Senior High Youth Conference to The Mountain*

*November 15<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 AM- 2:00 PM UUCA Fall Work Day!*

*November 16<sup>th</sup> - 12:15-2:00 PM Parents Group Potluck Lunch*

*November 18<sup>th</sup> - 2:00-4:00 PM Pop Up Women's Group (Clothing Swap)*

*November 22<sup>nd</sup> - 6:00- 11:00 PM Metal Concert- Brooks Small*

*November 27<sup>th</sup> - 2:00 Friendsgiving at UUCA!! A great time for friends and family to come together to show our gratitude and love. Look for the sign up sheet at UUCA.*



# Friends Giving Potluck!

Look for the sign up board at UUCA. See Fern & Brandy for more details!



## 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!

This program is organized by the Finance Committee.



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](http://UUAugusta.org) or use the QR Code.

## *A Message From Your Board of Trustees*

Beloved Community,

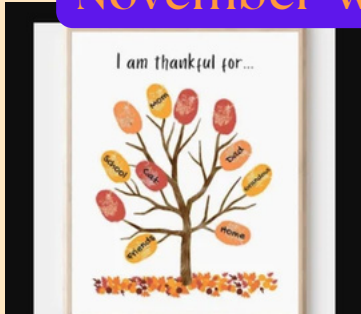
As we move into this season of gratitude and reflection, your Board of Trustees wants to take a moment to thank you for your voices, your presence, and your care for this congregation. We've heard your heartfelt requests for more opportunities to connect - to deepen existing friendships, to build new ones, and to nurture the sense of community that makes our congregation so special.

We are listening, and we are acting. Plans are already in motion for more gatherings and opportunities to come together in joyful, meaningful ways.

As we continue this work, we remain dedicated to our shared vision of building beloved community — within, among, and beyond our congregation. This ongoing effort will be an important focus as we approach our mid-year meeting, where we'll come together to reflect, dream, and collaborate on how we can keep growing into that vision together.

With gratitude and care,  
Your Board of Trustees

## November Worship Calendar - Nurturing Gratitude



### November 2<sup>nd</sup> Reverend Nic Gratitude Tree

What are we grateful for? How does our individual gratitude combine to create abundance?



### November 9<sup>th</sup> Rev. Deborah Joyce Guthrie Honoring Servie, Seeking Peace

Rev. Deborah Joyce Guthrie from Aiken UU is leading the first of three pulpit swaps with regional UU Churches this liturgical year. She says, "On this Sunday before Veterans Day, we gather to honor those who have served our nation with courage, integrity, and love of country."



### November 16<sup>th</sup> Josef Patchen A Fall Taize of Gratitude



### November 23<sup>rd</sup> Reverend Nic Gratitude and Hope

How does gratitude help us look toward the future with optimism... especially when the future often looks bleak?



### November 30<sup>th</sup> Chris Garcia Ordinary Mysticism Part 1 Ordinary Son

People think that mysticism is something otherworldly that requires gurus and exotic spiritual disciplines. Mysticism is simply a personal encounter with the sacred - however you come by it, and however you define the sacred. It's a highly personal and not institutional spiritual practice.

Service is held Sundays, at 11am - [Join Us Live](#) - [View Past Services](#)

*Thank you for attending  
our Harvest of Hope  
Auction! A great time was  
had by all!!*



Your Stewardship Team is at it again, we're planning another fun event. Please join us in supporting local businesses and local creators this season. Our Warm Wishes Winter Market will be an exciting shopping experience with plenty to choose from. There will also be visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus, Grilled Foods, Hot Cocoa, Cider, & Coffee, a Bake Sale, and much more.



Click on the link for the vendor application  
<https://tinyurl.com/48y4w69n>

# GIVE A GNOME A NAME

## QUARTER GAME!

Cast your vote for our service  
gnome's name by putting a  
quarter (or quarters) in the jar  
with the name you want to win!  
Name with the most quarters  
wins the game!

1. EUUgene
2. ReJoyce
3. Burnie
4. Rev. Nic Jr.



*Look for the jars in the common room on Sunday to cast your  
vote with a Quarter or two*

# Group and Committee Events

## Parents' Group

Next Meeting:

**November 16th at 12:15pm in classroom 1-2**

Childcare will be provided for ages 10 and under

Contact: Desria Seay [ffm@uuaugusta.org](mailto: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

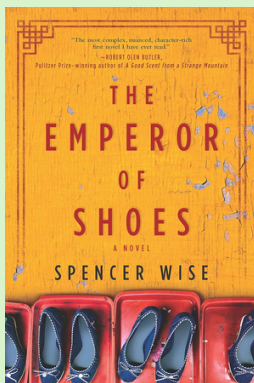
**Monday at the church** gathering:

Contact: Chris Garcia [garceus@yahoo.com](mailto:garceus@yahoo.com)

**Wednesday online** gathering:

Contact: Catherine Prysiazny  
[catherine8758@att.net](mailto:catherine8758@att.net)

ZOOM link: [Click Here](#)



## UUCA Book Group

Next Discussions - **November 22nd at 1pm**

**Fourth Saturdays at 1pm**  
**Room 1-2**

Contact: Jan Parsons - [janbparsons@gmail.com](mailto:janbparsons@gmail.com)

# Group and Committee Events

## Good Trouble Team

Next meetings: **November 23**

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

[ZOOM Link](#)

Passcode: 324295



## Board Meeting

Next meetings: Thursday, **November 20th**

Monthly Board Meeting will be held the in the  
**Common Room**

Contact: Co-presidents, Tim Hunter or Dominique  
Grushinski

[board.president@uuaugusta.org](mailto:board.president@uuaugusta.org)



Next Meetings: **November 9th**

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

[Zoom link](#)

Contact: Frank Carl [frankcarl2040@gmail.com](mailto:frankcarl2040@gmail.com)

## Cozy Craft Night

**Next Gathering:** Wednesday, November 12, 6:30-8:30pm

Location: UU Church Common Area

**Connect, create, and craft!**

Join us for Cozy Craft Night from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12. Still working on that holiday gift for someone special? Bring it along to work on it. 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.

In the past, some people have said that they'd like to attend but have a problem with transportation. If anyone who wants to come needs a ride they could reply here on Realm, and we could all work together to find a way to get them to the church. So if that's all that stopping anyone from joining us, please let us know by posting in Realm, so we can help.



# Group and Committee Events

## UUCA Women's Luncheon Group

Next Gathering: November 11th @ 11:30  
Location: The Kitchen (Lower level of the United House of Prayer) 1269 Wrightsboro Road, Augusta

Look for an imposing edifice, not unlike Regal Cinemas.

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

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



## Pagan PotLUUCK

Next Gatherings: **November 13th**

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](mailto:janeyajoy@gmail.com)

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

Next Gathering: November 20th  
Location: Beamies on the River, 865 Reynolds St.

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](mailto:frankdennison@outlook.com).



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# Group and Committee Events



## CSRA Adult ADHD Peer Support Group

Next Meetings: TBA

A monthly gathering for adults with ADHD to discuss and learn about topics relevant to those with Adult ADHD (treatment, relationships, life hacks, resources) as well as connect with others who share similar life challenges.

Meets the **2ND Tuesday at 6pm in Room 1-2**

Contact: Dave Mackey [dave@davemackey.net](mailto:dave@davemackey.net)



## Building & Grounds Team

**Next Meeting: November 10  
@6:30pm**

Are you interested in helping maintain our beautiful campus and building? Volunteer with us for clean-ups and planning.

Contact: Brandy for more info. [churchadmin@uuaugusta.org](mailto:churchadmin@uuaugusta.org)

## **\*\*SOMETHING FUN\*\***

***We're inviting everyone to pick a rock from the Labyrinth Garden, take it home, paint it, and then bring it back to the garden. The kids have already done a great job getting us all started. We would love to see some more color out there!***

# GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Joys and Sorrows** can be sent ahead to the **Pastoral Care Team**: [pastoralcare@uuuugusta.org](mailto:pastoralcare@uuuugusta.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.uuugusta.org/committeesandteams>
- **Josef Patchen** is offering Piano Lessons: Any age, Any level, Any style. For information, write: [jcpatchen61@gmail.com](mailto: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@uuuugusta.org](mailto:churchadmin@uuuugusta.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@uuuugusta.org](mailto:ffm@uuuugusta.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>UU Augusta Office Email</u><br><u>Minister's Email</u> | 706-733-7939                                   |
| <u>UU Augusta Website</u>                                 | 3501 Walton Way Extension<br>Augusta, GA 30909 |
| Office Hours:<br>Monday-Friday -9:30-2:30                 | Rev. Nic's Office Hours:<br>Wednesday: 4pm-6pm |