November 2026

Newsletter

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF AUGUSTA

www.uuaugusta.org



Inside This Issue

- From Your Minister
- Faith Formation & Youth News
- A Message from the Board of Trustees
- Upcoming Events
- Worship Calendar
- Group & Committee Events
- November Birthdays
- Fun Flyer Section
- General Information



COVENANT

A covenant is a binding union between two parties. UU is a Covenantal Faith rather than a Creedal one: what holds a congregation together isn't a shared set of beliefs about God, the afterlife, or scripture, but a shared promise about how members will be with one another. One UU covenant says, in effect, "We may believe different things, but here is how we commit to treat each other, and what we commit to work toward together."

From Your Minister, November 2026

Our theme this month is Covenant – the core practice that makes UUs unique relative to other religious traditions. It's not what we believe, but how we behave. We're an orthopraxy, not an orthodoxy. And it's all centered on, through, around, and toward Love.

Providing us a theological container, throughout the month we'll be engaging with the musings about Covenant from foundational UU theologian James Luther Adams by way of Rev. Cynthia Landrum found on the next page.

I'll offer special focus to the second ingredient on November 8th, and Dr. Cooks will explore the fourth ingredient on November 22nd. I'm also excited for our first pulpit swap of the year when Rev. Deb Guthrie-Joyce joins us on November 15th while I spend time with our friends in Aiken. A reminder that our covenant isn't merely with each other, but with UUs around the country and the world itself.

Throughout November and beyond…

May we continue practicing covenant…

In good faith and good trouble,

Rev. Nic

Faithfulness Is Nerved by Love by James Luther Adams and Rev. Cynthia Landrum

The Unitarian theologian James Luther Adams, whose 20th century theological work shaped our tradition significantly, defined covenant as having five "major ingredients."

The first ingredient is promise. First, Adams says, "Human beings, individually and collectively, become human by making commitment, by making promises. The human being…, as Martin Buber says, is the promise-making, promise-keeping, promise-breaking, promise-renewing creature."

The second ingredient is that our covenant is with something greater. Our covenant is "with the creative, sustaining, commanding, judging transforming powers which may be interpreted theistically, nontheistically, or humanistically. In a religious covenant the orientation is to something we cannot control but something upon which we depend."

Third, covenants go beyond the individual. "Covenant is for the individual as well as the collective… The individual is brought out of separateness into covenant. We are responsible not only for individual behavior but also for the character of the society."

Fourth, covenants are necessarily focused towards areas of injustice. Adams's observation is that "the covenant responsibility is especially directed toward the deprived"—what, today, we might call the marginalized: "people suffering from neglect and injustice or those who are caught in the system that suppresses them."

And finally, the last ingredient is still what we hold at the center of our values: Love. Adams says that covenant "depends upon faithfulness, and faithfulness is nerved by loyalty, by love. Violation of the covenant is a violation of trust. What holds the world together… is trustworthiness, eros, love. Ultimately the ground of faithfulness is the divine or human love that will not let us go."

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum summarizes Adams's five components this way:

By saying we're a covenantal faith, Unitarian Universalists define ourselves not by a set of beliefs in the ultimate, but by the commitments we make to travel a path together—a path held together by love, which is a covenant with whatever we hold to be the divine, the creative life force, the ultimate of the universe.

Covenant is an agreement between us as individuals and as a collective—and in religious community, there's an inherent responsibility to orient toward justice; to combat oppression in particular.

Covenant is a promise made between individual and group, oriented towards something greater, bound by love, to travel together in the path of justice.

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

In Unitarian Universalist communities, a covenant is not a statement of what we must believe. It is a **set of promises about how we will live together.** Living together encompasses how we will welcome one another, listen across differences, respond when harm happens, and work toward the community we hope to become.

FAITH FORMATION CALENDAR

November 1st: Stay in for an abbreviated service, followed by Faith Formation for one hour.

November 8th: Stay Out – Listen to speaker and author Dr. Merry Stewart, Black author and historian.

November 15th: Youth (ages 11-17) will be on a field trip to help clean Augusta with Operation Clean City. Elementary students will be sung out halfway through the service.

November 22nd: All children and youth sung out halfway through the service.

November 29th: Elementary students sang out halfway through the service. Youth will go straight to Faith Formation.

UU 101 FOR NEWCOMERS & REFRESHERS

Our UU 101 session for all newcomers and those who would like a refresher will be held on Sunday, November 1st.

WINTER HOLIDAY PAGEANT

We will soon begin rehearsing our winter holiday pageant! This year's production is written by youth member Delilah Cunningham and directed by youth member Azariah Seay. Participants must be at least 7 years old to join.

Our first table read-through will take place on Sunday, November 8th at 10:00 AM. Roles will be assigned immediately following this first read-through.

Rehearsals will run on Sundays from 10:00 AM to 10:45 AM on November 15th, November 22nd, November 29th, and December 6th. Set and costume building will be handled during the November Youth Group Takeover. Dress rehearsal is scheduled for Saturday, December 12th, followed by our live performance during the morning service on Sunday, December 13th.

CIVIL RIGHTS PILGRIMAGE

Our Civil Rights Pilgrimage is upon us! This trip to Selma, Montgomery, and Birmingham will take place April 7th through April 11th, 2027. There is a mandatory parent interest meeting on Wednesday, November 11th from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

FAMILY OUTING TO STEEDS DAIRY

Join us for a family outing to Steeds Dairy on Saturday, November 14th at 10:00 AM, located at 4634 Wrightsboro Rd, Grovetown, GA 30813. Admission is free for children age 2 and under, $14 per person for ages 3 and up, and $11 per person for seniors and military (ages 13 and over with ID).

Youth News from Mx. Vic

The UU Youth Group Takeovers are taking the church by storm! We had our second session this month and youth enjoyed 5 breakout rooms with amazing volunteers such as Josh Paredez, David Lavin, Tim Nelken, Larry Komp, and Gene & Wanda Bush. See the cool door prizes the kids made for the Church Auction!

Our Youth D&D Club is also meeting and winding down for a fun December final session & celebration!

Faith Formation lessons continue to follow the Mosaic curriculum. This month we are discussing racialized bullying and how to repair when we cause harm, or how to stand up when we see harm. We are practicing expansive thinking about living in a White supremacy culture - we can cause harm even if we did not have a hand in creating it. See attached infographic for continued reflection.

Please check out our upcoming downtown cleanup event, Operation Clean City, and let Ms. D or Mx Vic know if you'd like to volunteer with our youth!

What a special day
to be on our own side.



Dear Beloved Famunity:

This month has been a busy one for our beautiful family of community and love. We have been proud to support the League of Women Voter's bringing people together at Turnout Tuesdays as we get closer to the midterm elections. We had a wonderful turnout and just an all around great time at the annual service auction. A massive thank you to our Stewardship Committee for their amazing efforts that made the evening such a great success. SO much fun was had that night and we couldn't have pulled it off without their hard work and dedication. As they now shift gears to prepare for the winter market, we hope that each of you will stop by when you are thinking of gifts for your loved ones this season.

As your Board of Trustees we have continued to vision and plan for the upcoming year's mid year meeting. We are talking about accessibility and what a truly accessible space would look like for our beloved community. We would love to hear you bring those ideas to the table at the mid year meeting, so we encourage you to start brainstorming now what accessibility needs you see that could be improved upon. We are truly better together so hopefully we can come together for a productive and inspiring discussion.

There are lots of places to plug in and get involved here at UUCA. If you are new here, as many of you are, please feel free to reach out and ask. We continue to see vibrant turn out in our faith community from toddlers to retired old men. We have parents group pot luck and youth group take overs where individuals of all ages can come together and connect. We hope to continue the work of supporting these awesome programs as we envision ways we can widen the circle and make this church an even more welcoming environment for each of us.

-Your Board of Trustees

Unitarian Universalist Church of Augusta

EXPLORING GOD

a sermon-in-dialogue series

Curated by Rev. Nic Filzen and Cantor Dan Geigerman

Over the next several months, join us as we discuss that which is most ultimate and intimate in the universe with various folks from UUCA and the CSRA.
Join us as we ask big questions.
Join us in curiosity about the Mystery of Being.

STARTING IN MAY,
WATCH THE NEWSLETTER,REALM,ANDENNOUNCEMENTS FOR MORE INFO!

Upcoming Events to Remember

November 6th @ 6:00pm - Retro Sci Fi Heist Night
November 8th @ 7:00am - BIPOC Field Trip to Abundant Love UU Church
November 8th @ 9:30am - BIPOC Breakfast and Fellowship Meeting
November 8th @ 11:00am - Speaker and Author, Dr. Merry Stewart
November 8th @ 5:30pm - Humanist/Freethought Group
November 9th @ 5:30pm - Community Sing with Bill Webster
November 9th @ 6:00pm - Building & Grounds Meeting
November 10th @ 11:30pm - Women's Lunch Group @ French Market Grill in Surrey Center
November 10th @ 6:00pm - Adult ADHD Peer Support Group
November 11th @ 6:00pm - COA Parents Meeting regarding the big field trip to Atlanta
November 12th @ 6:30pm - Earth Traditions Centered Potluck Dinner
November 13th @ 7:00pm - Healing Circle
November 14th @ 10:00am - Youth Group Meetup at Steed's Dairy
November 15th @ 8:00am - City Cleanup. Youth Group meeting at the church and carpooling downtown. Back to church at 11:30am.
November 15th @ 12:15pm - Parent's Group Potluck
November 17th @ 11:45am - ROMEO Lunch Group at Rae's Coastal Cafe
November 18th @ 6:30pm - Cozy Craft Night
November 21st @ 9:00am - Fall Work Day (See the sign up sheet in the Common Room)
November 26th @ 1:00pm - Friendsgiving at the UUCA!!! (See the sign up sheet in the Common Area by the couches)
November 29th @ 12:05pm - Good Trouble Meeting

December 5th @ 1:00pm - Hanging of the Greens

November Worship Calendar

Covenant



November 1st- Covenant - Come Sing a Song with me with Rev. Nic Filzen

and maybe vote with me, too! Our covenant to make the world better. Through art. Through democracy. Let's create Beloved Community.



November 8th - Covenant with Creation - with Rev. Nic Filzen

"Our covenant... is with the creative, sustaining, commanding, judging transforming powers...something we cannot control but something upon which we depend." James Luther Adams We'll also celebrate all our new members with a new member ceremony.



November 15th - The truth/Truth with Rev. Debra Guthrie-Joyce (Pulpit swap)

As Unitarian Universalists, we embrace the free and responsible search for truth and meaning. But what happens when our truths collide? Join us as we explore the difference between the truth and Truth with a capital T, and what it means to hold our convictions while remaining open to new understanding.



November 22nd - Our Covenant with the Oppressed with Dr. Katrina Cooks

Covenant with the oppressed, for both transgender day of remembrance and national day of mourning (Thanksgiving)



November 29th - A Taize for all the Holidays (Except Christmas) with Rev. Nic Filzen and Josef Patchen

We also begin our weeks long journey through Kwanzaa principles which will culminate with a deeper reflection on the important holiday on December 20th.

Group and Committee Events

Parents' Group

Next Meeting:
November 15th
Potluck Luncheon

Contact: Desria Seay ffm@uuaugusta.org

Recovery International

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

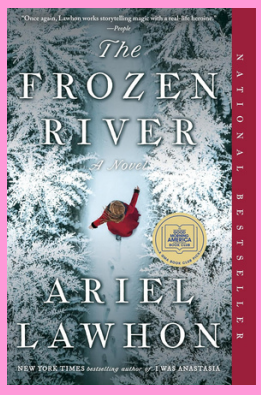
Pre-register: Here

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

UU Meditation

Monday at the church gathering:
7:00PM
Contact: Chris Garcia garceus@yahoo.com





UUCA Book Group

Next Discussions - **TBD**

Usually the Fourth Saturdays at 1pm
Room 1-2

Contact: Beth Ann Chesnut Fillingim: bethanncf@outlook.com

Group and Committee Events

Good Trouble Team

Next meetings: **November 29th**

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

ZOOM Link
Passcode: 324295

Board Meeting

Next meeting: **Thursday, December 3rd 6:00pm**

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

Contact: Co-presidents, Linh Thi Do or Annie Cook
board.president@uuaugusta.org

UU Humanist Freethought Group

Next Meetings: **November 8th**

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

Zoom link
Contact: Frank Carl frankcarl2040@gmail.com



Community Sing with Bill Webster

Next Gathering: Monday, November 9th

Usually meets on the 2nd Monday of each month

Contact: Bill Webster

Group and Committee Events

UUCA Women's Luncheon Group



Next Gathering: **November 10th @ 11:30**
Location: French Market Grille in Surrey Center

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.



Earth Traditions Collective, E.T.C. (formerly known as Pagan Potluck Group)

Next gathering: November 12th

Earth Traditions Collective (E.T.C.) is an inclusive UUCA community group dedicated to fostering understanding, respect, and appreciation for nature-focused traditions.

E.T.C welcomes individuals of all ages, gender identities, and backgrounds who wish to explore seasonal observances, cultural folklore, and personal reflection in a supportive environment.

Our activities include educational discussions, potlucks, outdoor gatherings, and community stewardship
projects designed to promote our connection to the natural world.

Through shared learning and service, E.T.C. strives to build a diverse, respectful community rooted in curiosity, mindfulness, and care for the earth.

R.O.M.E.O. Lunch Group (Retired Old Men Eating Out)

Next Gathering: Tuesday, November 17th @ 11:45
Location: Rae's Coastal Cafe

Confirm & RSVP by Tuesday's on Realm to Frank Dennison
Text: 706-267-9298 or
frankdennison@outlook.com

R.O.M.E.O.
Retired Old Men Eating Out

Group and Committee Events

Cozy Craft Night



Next Gathering: November 18th @ 6:30pm
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.



Adult ADHD Peer Support Group

Next Meeting: November 10th

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 SECOND Tuesday at 6pm in Room 1-2 for discussion.
Contact: Dave Mackey dave@davemackey.net

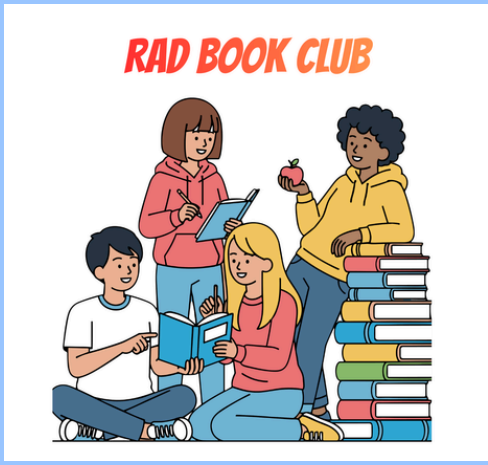
Yoga Mornings with Echoes of Life, Doula Sarah VIA Zoom (Yoga in your home)



Tuesdays @ 10:00AM - Meditative Yin & Somatic Vinyasa
Zoom meeting ID: 836 2019 3787
Passcode: uuca

Contact: Sarah at Doula@echoesoflife.pro for questions or to reserve a spot.

Group and Committee Events



RAD Book Club

(Youth Group)

Next Gathering: TBD
Location: UUCA, Classrooms 1-2
Come Join the Read And Discuss youth Book Club and talk about this month's book.

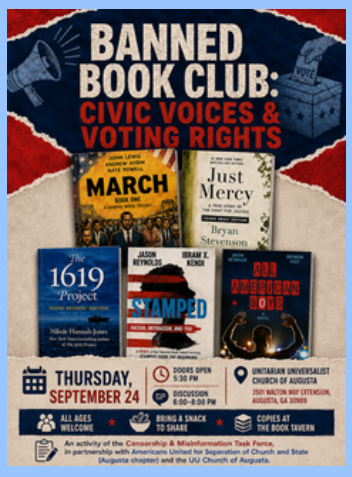
Healing Circle



Next Gathering: November 13th at 6:30pm
Second Friday of every month

Come join us for an evening of sharing space and laying the weight of the world down for a while. Whether you are struggling with things in your personal life, or the macro scale of the world, this is a safe space to come share what's on your heart and mind, without any judgment. We share in a calming and centering grounding practice, followed by everyone getting a chance to share (if they choose), and close with a practice of releasing and finding peace in the moments we can.

Hope to see you there!
Contact: Beth Ann Chesnut Fillingim or Bill Webster



BANNED Books Club

Next Gathering: TBD
Location: UUCA, Sanctuary

Group and Committee Events



BIPOC

Next Gathering: November 8th
Location: UUCA
We meet on the second Sunday at 9:30am.

Blurb: Join The Second Sunday Table, a new UU BIPOC breakfast caucus for fellowship and connection at the UU Church of Augusta. We meet in the common room on the second Sunday of each month at 9:30 AM to share a meal and plan cultural events for the congregation. Come ready to eat, connect, and help shape our multicultural community.

Rush Hour Meditation

with Doula Sarah



Location: Sanctuary
Every Wednesday from 5:30pm-6:30pm
Start Time for practice: 6:00pm
Meditation Practices: Grounding & Centering, Art, sound, & breath, and Mindful gratitude

Contact: Sarah at Doula@echoesoflife.pro
for questions or to reserve a spot.



UUCA Garden Club

Next Gatering: TBD

Got a green thumb — or just curious about growing one?

Join the UUCA Garden Club! We're a friendly bunch who gather to talk all things plants: swapping tips on our home gardens, dreaming up ways to beautify our church campus, and lending a hand to fellow growers around our community, from backyard hobbyists to local commercial growers.

Throughout the year we will tour each other's gardens, visit botanical gardens and local nurseries, host guest speakers, and just generally learn from each other's successes.

Whether you have a windowsill herb garden or an acre to tend, there's a place for you here.

Interested? Come join us — bring your questions, your stories, or just your curiosity.
Contact: Brandy at Brandy@uuaugusta.org

November Birthdays



Andrea Nonnweiler
Susan Loughrey
Stephen Heyl
Cory Wells
Owen Zylla
Nick Hicar
Matt Alan
Jace Roberts
Lorenzo DeOliveira
Ruth Chesley
Lyn Dennison
Alan George
Mark Fillingim
Nic Filzen
Kayonna Brown
Cara Alan




UU CHURCH
AUGUSTA
GEORGIA
UU CHURCH
that keeps coming back around.
It goes like this
UUCA CHILI COOKOFF 2026
FIRST PLACE

Masked for a Mission Auction
2026



Thank you to everyone that came out and watched the Travis Shaw Trio, bid on some great items, participated in the cake walk and ate some yummy chili!! Your support is much appreciated!!



BLADES '68

A RETRO-SCI-FI HEIST ONE-SHOT GAME

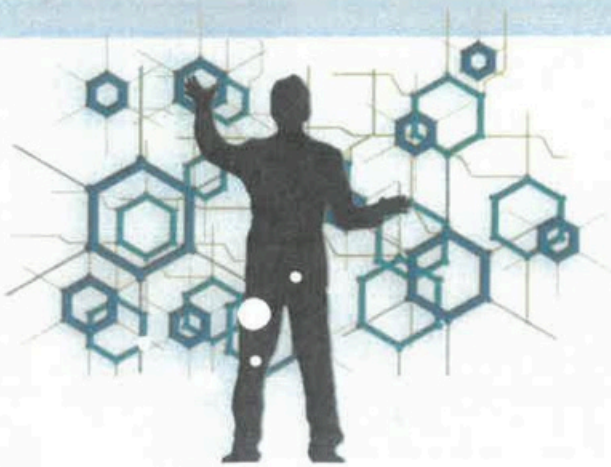
Step into a retro-futuristic world inspired by '60s spy thrillers, where your crew is building a criminal enterprise one daring job at a time!

Expect heists, chases, escapes, bargains, betrayals, and hard-fought victories with GM Dan Hamiltom

Fri, Nov 6 6-9 PM

Room 1 of UU Youth Wing

Light Refreshments Provided- Register on Realm!

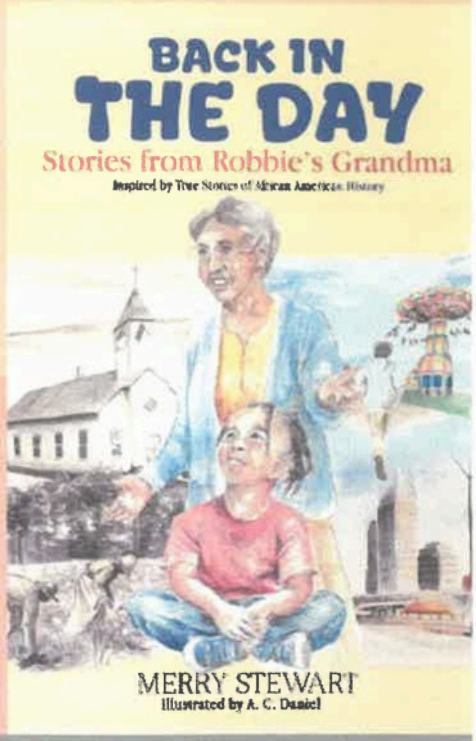


Black History: A Living Story

Featuring Dr. Merry Stewart

Join us for a special youth event exploring African American history with a local author and historian!





Books available for purchase! Please send your youth with funds!

Sunday, November 8
11:00-12:15 PM,
Youth Wing

Author Website

Discover stories and perspectives from African American history, ask questions, and explore how the past connects to our world today

JOIN US FOR OUR UU YOUTH FALL SERVICE PROJECT:

OPERATION CLEAN CITY!

YOUTH SERVICE DAY | INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

SUNDAY, NOV 15 @ 8 AM

JOIN OUR YOUTH GROUP AS WE ROLL UP OUR SLEEVES, CLEAN UP OUR DOWNTOWN, AND SHOW SOME LOVE FOR OUR COMMUNITY!

- 🥞 8:00 AM – ARRIVE AT CHURCH FOR BREAKFAST
- 🚗 8:30 AM – CARPOOL LEAVES FROM CHURCH
- 🕗 9:00 AM – CLEANUP BEGINS IN DOWNTOWN AUGUSTA
- 🚗 11:30 DRIVE BACK TO CHURCH







FALL CAMPUS CLEANUP DAY!!

November 21st @ 9:00am

Come out and help keep our campus looking beautiful. The leaves are starting to come down, so come and play in the leaves with your Building & Grounds Team!! Sign up sheet is in the Common Room.



JOIN US FOR A

FRIENDSGIVING

Potluck



GREAT FOOD . GREAT FRIENDS
GRATEFUL HEARTS

THURSDAY
26
NOVEMBER
2026

AT 1:00 PM
UUCA
COMMON ROOM

SIGN UP
BOARD
LOCATED IN
THE COMMON
AREA





We can't wait to celebrate with you!



HANGING OF THE GREENS

Saturday, December 5th

1:00 until it's done!

You're invited to join the Worship Arts Team for our annual Hanging of the Greens! Come help us transform our beloved worship space into a place of holiday beauty as we hang garlands, trim the trees, and prepare our hearts for the season. It's a time of warm fellowship, joyful moments, and, of course, some yummy holiday treats to enjoy together. Come and let's create cherished memories as we celebrate the wonder of the season side by side. All are welcome, and many hands make the work merry and bright.

We can't wait to see you there!

YOGA IS BACK!!

Yoga Morning

@ the Unitarian Universalist Church of Augusta
with Echoes of Life (Sarah)
$Donation



TUESDAYS
(from home)

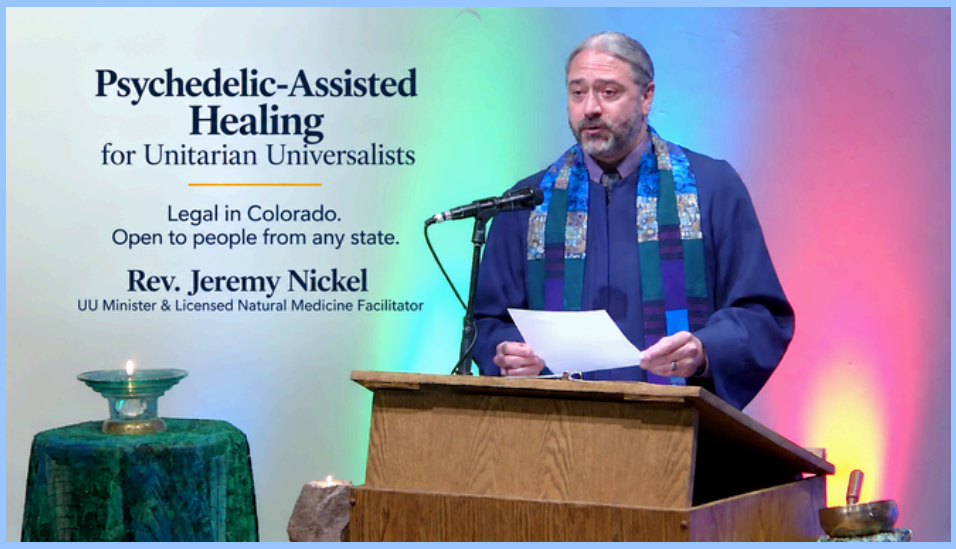
10a // yin + somatic vinyasa
Zoom Meeting ID: 836 2019 3787
Passcode: uuca

Echoes of Life
DOULA SARAH



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF AUGUSTA, GA


CSRA
Death Cafe
This is not a bereavement or support group.
We offer an open and respectful space to discuss
death and dying while enjoying coffee and cake.
Coffee. Cake. Listen. Share.
Sunday, December 20, 2026
4:00 – 5:30 pm
UUCA
3501 Walton Way Ext.
Augusta, GA 30909
For more information & to RSVP, contact Jen at
deathdoulajen@gmail.com



As psychedelic-assisted healing becomes increasingly visible in medicine, psychology and spiritual life, many Unitarian Universalists are becoming curious about what these experiences might offer and how they can be approached safely, legally and responsibly.

Rev. Jeremy Nickel is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister and Colorado Licensed Natural Medicine Facilitator who works with people seeking legal, supported psilocybin experiences through Colorado's regulated natural medicine program. This opportunity is not limited to Colorado residents. Adults from anywhere in the United States can travel to Colorado and, if they are an appropriate candidate after screening, participate legally in a facilitated psilocybin experience.

Jeremy brings more than a decade in congregational ministry and decades of experience with psychedelics, meditation, altered states and spiritual practice to this work. His process includes careful screening and preparation, accompaniment throughout the medicine experience, and integration afterward.

His approach is also deeply informed by UU pluralism. Spiritual and mystical experiences can be taken seriously without requiring everyone to understand them in the same way, leaving room for religious, spiritual, psychological, secular and other ways of making meaning from what arises.

Learn more about the process and working with Jeremy:
https://frpt.org/unitarian-universalist

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

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