


# Among Ourselves

## “The Next Six Weeks at UUSGS” (Details follow)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Dec 14	15	16 	17	18  Choir 7:00	19  Solstice Service 7:00 pm	20
21 <b>9a:1st Hr Frm</b>  <b>10:30 Worship</b> Liberal Christianity	22	23	24  Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm	25  CHRISTMAS DAY  OFFICE CLOSED	26  <i>Women's Spirituality Group 6:45 pm</i>	27  Rubicon Potluck 5 pm
28 <b>9a:1st Hr Frm</b>  <b>10:30 Worship:</b> <i>KWANZAA Celebration</i> L&F Soup Kitchen	29  “Bright Nights” 5:00 pm	30	31  New Year's Eve!  	JANUARY 1  NEW YEAR'S DAY  OFFICE CLOSED	2  SUNDIAL DEADLINE	3  WORK PARTY 9--noon
4  <b>9:00 Crois. and Choir</b>  <b>9a: 1st Hr Frm</b> <b>10:30 Worship</b>	5	6	7  NVC Group	8  Choir 7:00	9	10  *uNi Coffeeshouse Concert 8 pm
11 <b>9a: 1st Hr Frm</b> <b>10:30 Worship</b>  New Member Sunday  “So What?”	12	13	14	15  Choir 7:00	16	17
18 <b>9a: 1st Hr Frm</b> <b>10:30 Worship</b>	19	20  SUNDIAL DEADLINE	21  NVC Group	22  Choir 7:00	23	24

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## The Webdial

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Greater Springfield

*Please Note: This is an abbreviated version of our paper newsletter;  
for a full copy, come visit us or call 413-736-2324 to be placed on our mailing list!*

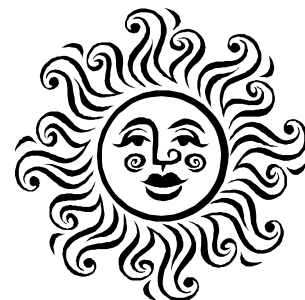
### HOLIDAY SERVICES!

#### ? Winter Solstice Service

7:00 pm, Friday, December 19

*In Friendship Hall*

Come, come, whoever you are!! Celebrate the longest night as we usher in the Solstice Light! Friday, December 19th at 7pm in our candlelit sanctuary. Join together in an intergenerational service to honor the turning of the seasons, the return of light. Members of the Women's Spirituality Group and the Religious Services Team will lead us in our annual Solstice celebration, followed by refreshments and fellowship.



#### ? Christmas Eve Celebration

7:00 pm, Wednesday, December 24

We're looking forward to another wonderful Christmas Eve celebration! Here are some details to note:

\*TIMING: Caroling begins at 6:40. Service begins promptly at 7:00pm

\*INTERGENERATIONAL: Children are welcome and the service is intended to keep them engaged---although we will have childcare for nursery age and available for young children who become too restive during the service.

\*FIRST SPECIAL OFFERTORY: Please bring food (white rice, canned tomatoes, potatoes, onions, dried black or red kidney beans) and/or new hats or mittens for the **Immigrant Project**. This is an ongoing part of our work with Pioneer Valley Project to provide badly needed support to the immigrant population in Springfield.

*Note: A box will be in Friendship Hall in the weeks before our service if you'd like to contribute food and can't be here Christmas Eve.*

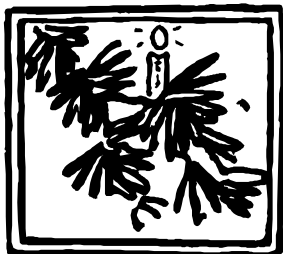
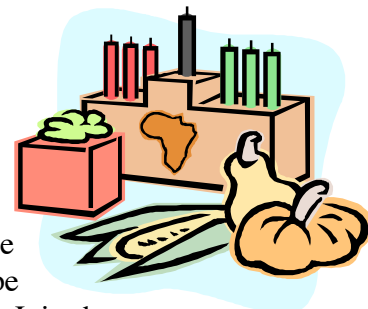
\*SECOND SPECIAL OFFERTORY: Our giving this year will go to our School Partner, **Talmadge School** (see Minister's Thoughts). If you can't be here but want to support our school partner, write a check to UUSGS and put Talmadge School in the by-line and send it in.

\*AFTER-SERVICE FESTIVITIES: Please bring some Christmas cookies or other holiday treats to share after services. But don't worry if you can't, there's always plenty!

#### ? Kwanzaa Celebration

10:30 am, Sunday, December 28

Kwanzaa is a secular holiday that honors the traditions and values of people of the African Diaspora. However, after the annual service that uses Kwanzaa as its starting point, someone always says that the seven principles of the holiday remind them of the UU seven principles. The third principle, ujima or collective responsibility, that will be the focus of the December 28 service also can be related to a few of our seven principles. Join the Religious Services Team and the Diversity in Worship and Congregation Action Group for a service of music and stories from some of the cultures of African-descent. We look forward to seeing you there!



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## First Hour Forum

**9 – 10 am, Every Sunday**

***In the Balcony Room***

*\*Open to all; no registration required.*

*Presentation, dialogue, & conversation about current events and/or a topic of special interest, facilitated by Society members or outside guests.*

**Sunday, January 4:**

**No Forum Today.**

**Sunday, January 11:**

**Sustainable Living: How to Leave a Lasting Legacy**

*by Jon Moss*

In an age of economic downturn, how can living frugally help us to save—in order to give to charities and to leave a legacy to our Society. Jon is chair of the Endowment Committee and has been a strong advocate for protecting our endowment.

**Sunday, January 18:**

**The Riverside Speech**

*Moderated by the Reverend Georganne Greene*

On this anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, Reverend Greene will lead a discussion of King's famous speech at the Riverside Church in NYC. Copies of the speech will be passed out a week or so beforehand.

**Sunday, January 25:**

**An Open Discussion on the Economy and Other News**

*Moderated by Joe Gervasini*

This is a continuation of an earlier discussion on the “meltdown of our financial system”. Bring your thoughts or share a story or article from the media or just come and listen to others.

**Join the Alliance\***

**On Martin Luther King Day**

**We Were There 40 Years Later:**

**Remembering the Civil Rights Movement**

**With Les and Connie Hutton**

*In Friendship Hall*

**12 noon Socialization**

**12:30 Luncheon**

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## REGULAR PROGRAMS

### ? “Croissants and Choir”

**9 - 10 am First Sundays: December 7**

*In Friendship Hall / Sanctuary*

Every first Sunday of the month, all singers—including young voices—are welcome to join our Choir-for-a-day! We rehearse before the service and then sing the anthem.

### ? Singer’s Workshop

**Every Thursday**

*In the Choir Room*

The Singers' Workshop meets in the choir room an hour before choir rehearsals to work on vocal techniques for solo singing. Visitors are welcomed. For questions, call June.

### ? Choir Practice

**Every Thursday, 7:00 – 9 pm**

*In the Choir Room*

All singers welcome to join us for our weekly gathering & good old hard work. Longish-term commitment requested.

### ? Liberal Christianity

**Noon--1:30 pm, Dec. 21**

*In the Crabtree Room*

"READING THE NATIVITY NARRATIVE AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME."

How do you make sense out of Jesus's birth, when tradition says He was born of a virgin in a stable, laid in a manger, and presented with magnificent gifts by camel-riding "Wise Men" who followed a supposed "fixed star" to his place of birth? We will re-examine the birth narratives, put to rest many of the supposed facts, and look at the stories from a non-literal, Jewish perspective. You will better understand the reasons for the language and the deeper meaning of these Christmastime stories.

If you have felt that these stories were "bunk," "Come On Down!" If you have children and don't know how to share these stories with integrity, this might be for you! Bring a bag lunch and a drink and join us, the Liberal Christianity Group!

### ? Women’s Spirituality Group

**7:30 pm, Last Friday of the month: Dec. 26**

*In Friendship Hall*

\*Facilitated by Women’s Spirituality Group members; contact Cynthia or Julia Kay. We welcome all women and girls for whom the symbolism of the Divine Feminine carries meaning. Anyone wishing to help set up is welcome to come early between 6:45 and 7:15.

## REGULAR PROGRAMS, continued

### ? “Rubicon” Potluck & Discussion

**6 pm, Last Sat. of the month – Dec. 27**

Start with a pot-luck meal followed by the usual dynamic, participant-driven open dialogue — "save the best for last," the last Saturday that is. No signups, just come if you can, with a dish to share or not in trust of our ample bounty. We meet in the cozy kitchen, most directly and easily accessible from the lower east parking lot rather than the larger upper southwest lot which will likely be empty. Contact: Bruce.

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## ? **“Bright Nights”**

**5 pm, Monday, Dec. 29**

*in Friendship Hall*

A Community Gathering sponsored by the J4F team  
(Juust for Fuun!)

Celebrate the middle of the Holiday Week with our wonderful community! We'll share a simple potluck supper and then car pool to Forest Park to ooh and aah over the displays. When we return, we'll keep on having fun with some hot chocolate and a great Sing-Down.

**5 pm** Potluck Supper —**bring whatever you'd like to share!** Board games and quiet activities will be set up for those who finish eating quickly and need to keep occupied. (**Bring your favorite group games!**)

**6:30** Car pool to Bright Nights in Forest Park. This is when your big mini-van or station wagon is great—the more seats, the merrier! The cost is **\$16 per vehicle**—to be shared by those in each car. Bring a **coupon** if you have one! (We heard they were sent out in the Val-Pak mailing.) We're looking in to a group rate.

**8:00-9:00** Hot chocolate and Fuun! Ann Barone will lead a Sing-Down—a spirited game for all ages!

This activity is geared for all of our UUSGS community! Friends and family who are visiting are welcome. You may join us for any or all the Bright Night activities that fit into your holiday schedule. To help us plan, we encourage signing up in Friendship Hall. Do you want to come at the last-minute? Please do! Questions? More information? Call Ann B.

## ? **NVC Practice Group**

**Bi-weekly on Wednesdays January 7 and 21**

*(in Room 26)*

This group welcomes all who are willing to make a commitment to studying and using non-violent communication principles. Interested in joining? Contact Becca or Gail. For more info about NVC, see [www.cnvc.org](http://www.cnvc.org)

## ? **“So What?” (Info for Newcomers)**

**12 noon – 12:30 pm Sunday, January 11**

\*Open to all; no regis. required. (Offered once/ mo.)

*Led by Rev. Georganne Greene.*

“So, what” does it mean to be a part of this faith community? This session seeks to provide some basic information to newcomers about our congregation and answer initial questions both about the Society and Unitarian Universalism. *Contact the Office: 736-2324.*

## **Bread for Spirit**

If you are hungry for deeper connection with others and with yourself, we offer you *Bread for the Spirit*. These are small groups of 7-10 people who meet monthly to engage, explore and enliven each other. Groups use meeting guides designed by the minister and are led by skilled facilitators. Meetings invite us into deeper exploration of the spiritual themes raised in our worship services and richer personal connection with group members. If you have any questions and/or want more information, please feel free to contact Bread for the Spirit coordinators Rita or Frank.

## **HAPPY NEW YEAR WORK PARTY**

**Saturday, January 3, 2009**

**9am-12 noon**

Start the New Year right, come to the first work party of 2009. There will be inside cleaning, and help will be needed on small, but important projects.

There has been an accumulation of lots of “things” left at the Meetinghouse and we must get rid of them. If you have forgotten to take these “things” home please do so now. Good stuff will go to charity not so good stuff will be tossed!

Check the Lost & Found Boxes at the rear of Friendship Hall, you'll find nice clothes there, maybe your favorite jacket or hat. Check the kitchen for your own serving dishes and take them home.

Coffee and snacks will be served. We'll be looking for you!

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## *What is in Your Loose Life Bible?*

Last year, Georganne invited us to begin assembling our own "bibles," loose-leaf style. The invitation was to start making a personal "bible" by including those items that have spiritual significance or value to you and then purposefully placing them together into a binder, a notebook, etc. The items (sayings, short stories, photographs, graphics, etc.) you choose to include are those that makes your heart and spirit sing or reminds you of what is truly important and meaningful in life. So, get your loose-leaf bible together - an opportunity to share your "bible" with others is coming in February.

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