

# In the Spirit

What a joy and delight to be back with all of you this past Sunday at our Celebration of Community! Thank you so much to the board, the choir, Kenneth and David, and everyone who fed us soup and cake and hosted a wonderful gathering. Please remember as you consider your pledge to support the 2023-24 program year that members of the board and staff are very happy to answer any questions you might have or to help you think through what you want to pledge and why. UUCGL is complicated financially and we know it can be confusing; especially for newer-comers.

Our next two Sunday services will explore two central aspects of being in spiritual community. First we will examine the cultural prominence and false promises of self-reliance and self-help in contrast with traditional God concepts of God as provider of all we need. Join us after the service to do a deeper dive into God concepts: what are yours? What did you learn growing up? What did you reject, and what did you retain, reimagine and experience?

On March 26, we will dig into the risks of being seen and known in authentic ways. If we think of ourselves alone -- intellectual, assessing and evaluating beings – as the granters or withholders of approval in community, we are nothing but a social club. But when we remember with humility that we are all engaged in a shared process of “growing into harmony with the Divine” as a people of faith, we keep our ego judgments in perspective. We all need grace as we grow, as we learn, and as we rub up against the rough sandpaper of community.

That’s what I’m thinking most about these days! Also Spring Training, warmer days, the world in all its beauty and brokenness, and the luck of the Irish. If you want something VERY Irish to enjoy this weekend, may I recommend the beautiful, sad and brilliant film “The Banshees of Inisherin?” It was one of my favorite films of 2022. Warning, it’s a bit of a Greek tragedy, so gird your loins.

In faith, hope and love,

**Rev. Vicki**