



[A LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation.](#)

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## **This Sunday's Worship Service:**

**1/14 - All Ages Service - All Are Called: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. - Terina Carter, Director of Religious Exploration, and Congregation**

Join us in one of the following ways:

- **In person**
- **Zoom Online:** [Click here](#) - The passcode is 616389.
- **Telephone:** 1-646-558-8656 and use meeting ID 949-975-206 when prompted.

Click [HERE](#) for this week's Order of Service.

## **Upcoming Services**

**1/21 - What We Take With Us, What We Leave Behind** - Rev. Rebecca Gant and Julie Prandi, Worship Associate

**1/28 - Wholeness** - Rev. Rebecca Gant and Claudia Kaufman, Worship Associate

Sunday Slides and Parish News Deadline: Tuesdays at 9 am

Have an event to reserve space for? [Click Here!](#)

Have an announcement to tell the church about? [Click Here!](#)

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## Potluck Brunch after the All Ages Service

*Sunday, Jan. 14, 2024*

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
Join our hosts, the 2022-23 New Members, for potluck brunch. You're invited to help set up, clean up, and/or bring a dish to share. Clearly mark your dish if it's vegan, vegetarian, gluten free, or has one of the 8 major allergens (milk, eggs, fish, crustacean shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat, and soybeans). [Click here to sign up.](#) Thank you!

Submitted by the 2022 and 2023 New Members

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### Need Support?

Email Rev. Rebecca (minister@uubn.org) if you need a listening ear, practical support such as rides or meals, or short term financial support.

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## This Week's Events

*January 14, 2024*

*Sunday*

8:45 am – 9:45 am	Adult Choir (Walker Room)
9:45 am – 11:15 am	Childcare/Preschool (Childcare Room)
10:00 am - 11:00 am	Sunday Service (Sanctuary)
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	Brunch (Fell Room)
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Bloomington Normal Meditation Group (Walker Room)
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	YAB Meeting (Fell Room)

*January 15, 2024*

*Monday*

**Office Closed for Holiday**

11:45 am – 1:00 pm Lunch Bunch (Fell Room)

*January 16, 2024 Tuesday*

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm Rehearsal for Baroque'n Consort (Walker Room)  
~~5:00 pm – 7:00 pm~~ Worship Team Workshop (Online)

*January 17, 2024 Wednesday*

5:00 pm – 5:40 pm Emerson Singers (up to 5th Grade) (Walker Room)  
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm Private Event (Irvin Room)  
5:45 pm – 6:30 pm Fairly Frequent Singers (Jr. High and High School)  
(Walker Room)  
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Craft Night (Fell Room)  
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm 3rd Wednesday Covenant Group (Youth Room)  
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm Humanist Group (Offsite)

*January 18, 2024 Thursday*

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm Private Event (Whole Church)  
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm Long Range Planning Task Force (Walker Room)  
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm Third Thursday Covenant Group (Irvin Room)

*January 20, 2024 Saturday*

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Membership Committee (Online)

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## Religious Exploration News

Terina Carter, Director of Religious Exploration, [LRE@uubn.org](mailto:LRE@uubn.org)  
Team: Erin Ripley-Gataric (Team Lead), Jeska Vannoy, Mercy Davison

### Quick! What's Unitarian Universalism?

*Sunday, Febuary 4, 11:30-12:30*

Want an answer short enough for an elevator ride, cashier line, or sidewalk chat? If you are wondering what Unitarian Universalism is, this may serve as an

intriguing introduction. If you are a Unitarian Universalist, this may inspire your own responses.

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## **Child Dedication**

*Sunday, February 25, 10:00 service*

*It takes a Unitarian Universalist Village to raise a Unitarian Universalist Child.*

Our next Child Dedication is during service on Sunday, February 25. During a Child Dedication, the congregation pledges to partner with and support parents and families in the religious upbringing of the child. The ceremony may also include a blessing for the new life of the child and an expression of the parent or parents' hopes. Infants and children of members and those on the path to membership at Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington-Normal may be dedicated.

If your family would like to participate in the Child Dedication on February 25, please contact me or Rev. Rebecca.

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## **All Ages Game Night**

*Wednesday, January 24, 5:00-7:00*

A few people have asked for a game night for all ages.

We have games (and puzzles) for small groups, large groups, and in between groups. We have games for groups of children with adults, just children, and just adults (we won't have any games you can't play in a room with children around).

If this is your dinner time, bring your dinner with you! If you want to bring a snack to share, that's great too. Just be sure it's nut free. This is a dry game night, so no BYOB please.

This is a fellowship event where everyone pitches in to make it happen.

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## Safe Harbor for Junior High and High School RE

*Sunday, January 21, 5:00-7:30*

Every other month, the junior high and high school RE kids prepare and serve the Sunday evening meal at Safe Harbor. Rain (XXXXXXXXXXXX@XXXXXX) and Connie (XXXXXXXXXXXX@XXXXXX) are the 2 background checked adults who coordinate this opportunity to live out our values. Let Rain and Connie know if your child is able to help on Sunday, January 21 from 5:00-7:30 OR if your child can prepare a dessert ahead of time (any dessert is good just has to be easy to chew and no crunchy nuts).

If your whole family would like to help, your child has a friend not attending RE who would like to help, or your child not in junior high or high school would like to help, Camille Ehlers (XXXXXXXXXXXX@XXXXXX) organizes the meals for the other months.

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## Overnight at Field Museum for 6-12 Year Olds

*Friday, April 19, 2024*

I've done group overnights at Field, MSI, and Shedd. Field is my favorite (MSI is a very close second.).

- Children must be between 6-12 years old.
- Each child/family or friend group must have a chaperone who is over 21. A child's chaperone can be parents, grandparent, aunt, uncle, family friend. If your child wants to bring a friend and you want to chaperone, that works!
- EVERYONE needs a ticket. Tickets are \$80.
- Everyone is on their own for transportation. Discounted overnight parking is \$35; I can help coordinate carpooling.
- Details, agenda, what to pack, what not to pack: [https://www.datocms-assets.com/.../1692647921-dojin\\_with...](https://www.datocms-assets.com/.../1692647921-dojin_with...)

Leave a check in my mailbox at the church. Make the check out to UUBN and put Field Museum in the memo line. If you need to pay another way, let's talk.

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**Marwoodians and Marwood Families**

<https://www.muuyc.org>

REUNION for Marwood 2023 1st-4th year campers: Feb. 23-25 at Countryside UU in Palatine, IL

COMPASS for 5th-7th year campers, following 10th-12th grade school years: June 19-22 at Pilgrim Park Camp in Princeton, IL

MARWOOD for returning campers who will be 2nd-4th years: July 21-27 at Pilgrim Park Camp in Princeton, IL

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## High School Con

*April 5-7*

UU of Columbia, Missouri is planning their first weekend con post-COVID! If you're in high school, registered for RE, and interested, get the dates on your calendar now. Details as soon as I have them!

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## The Faith of a Unitarian Universalist Christian

excerpted from a pamphlet by Rev. Stephen Kendrick

When Jesus was asked how best to follow him, he did not offer guidelines for creedal acceptance or ask for signatures on the dotted line. Rather, he asked, did you feed the hungry? Visit the widows? Go see the prisoners? If you did, you served him in the highest sense. These are still good questions, and how we answer tells us more about our relationship to Jesus today than any coffee-hour discussion or theological quarrel.

Mystery writer and journalist G. K. Chesterton was once asked what he thought about Christianity. He answered, "I think it would be a good idea."

Truth is, I may not be a Unitarian Universalist Christian.

But if I work at it, someday I might be. The kinds of questions Jesus asked take a lifetime to answer.

Read more at <https://www.uua.org/beliefs/what-we-believe/beliefs/christianity/uu-christian?>

## Small Groups with Tom Clemens

Email Tom at [tomclemens@uubn.com](mailto:tomclemens@uubn.com) or text/call 809-287-1547 to join any of the following Zoom discussions as participant or listener. You will receive the Zoom link the day before the session.

The purpose of the **First Sunday Nonfiction Book Group** is to educate ourselves in order to take actions toward justice for all in public policy.

- February 4, 2-3 P.M. *Slaying Goliath: The Passionate Resistance to Privatization and the Fight to Save America's Public Schools*; Diane Ravitch. Alfred A. Knopf, 2020. 11 Registered.
- March 3, 2-3 P.M. *Correction: Parole, Prison, and the Possibility of Change*; Ben Austen. Macmillan, 2023. 10 Registered.

**The Unitarian Universalist Association's 2023-2024 Common Read:** *On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World*, by Danya Ruttenberg. **Sign up by February 15** through UUBN office or through [tomclemens@uubn.com](mailto:tomclemens@uubn.com). Purchase or find the book on your own. Discussion session online scheduled for March in accord with participants' schedules. 3 Registered.

A discussion of ***Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America***, by Heather Cox Richardson (author of *How the South Won the Civil War*). Penquin Random House, 2023. Sign up by February 15 through UUBN office or through [tomclemens@uubn.com](mailto:tomclemens@uubn.com). Purchase or find the book on your own. Discussion session online scheduled for March in accord with participants' schedules. 5 Registered.

**Let Us Read A Novel:** *The Night Watchman: A Novel*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize; Louise Erdrich. HarperCollins, 2020. Erdrich is well-known writer of Native American stories. We will read slowly and deeply. Sign up by February 1 through UUBN office or through [tomclemens@uubn.com](mailto:tomclemens@uubn.com). Purchase or find the book on your own. Discussions will be scheduled biweekly over two months in accord with participants' schedules. 9 Registered.

For those who like self-exploration, Tom is organizing a discussion of Søren Kierkegaard's ***The Sickness Unto Death***. Translation by Bruce H. Hirmmse. See review in *The Nation* magazine, Dec. 11/18, 2023, pp. 44-46, by Clare Carlisle, professor of philosophy at King's College, London, or ask me for a copy of the review. Kierkegaard is interested in "our deeper, truer self...beyond bodies, thoughts, and emotions." This book explores what Kierkegaard calls "despair," recognized when we are reminded about parts of ourselves that we normally overlook or have forgotten about, and an experience shocks us back into recognizing that loss of the self. Kierkegaard thought that this is evidence of spiritual disconnection from something he calls god. But Carlisle says that "there is nothing specifically Christian, or even biblical, about this notion of godly connection and disconnection." We will work our way through the book in parts. Sign up by March 1 through UUBN office or through [XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX](#). 3 Registered.

**Share Your Writing** sessions meet bimonthly. The next Share Your Writing session is at the end of January, exact date to be determined. Any kind of writing at any stage is welcome. We share and discuss.

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## Social Justice News

Chad Kahl, Chair

### Register to Vote at UUBN, Sunday, January 14!

The primary election is March 19. The Social Justice Team will facilitate voter registration after the service on January 14. If you have moved since the last election, you need to re-register; 17-year-olds can register if they will turn 18 by the election date. Be sure to bring your driver's license/ID card and know the last four digits of your Social Security number. You can also get information on becoming an election judge.

-Julie Prandi

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### Yule Celebration at Logan Prison

Babs Allen, assisted by Cindy Cotton, led the Pagan Yule Celebration of December 21, 2023. Fifteen women joined them to welcome Yule, including



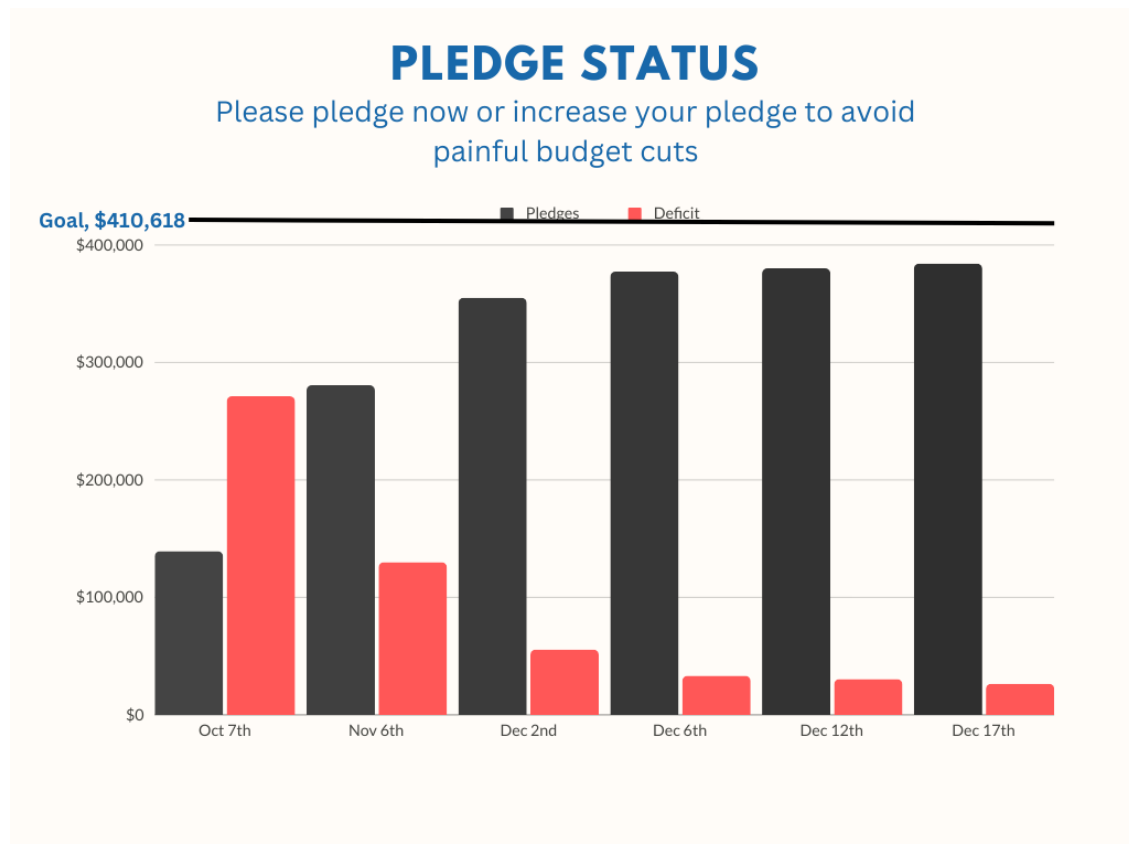
UUBN member Marilyn Lemak. They cast a circle around an altar and invoked the elements of Air, Fire, Water and Earth; they then collectively invoked the Divine Feminine, Divine Masculine and Divine Both/Neither. Each person had an electric tea lite candle that they lit after speaking a gratitude for the past year and a hope for the

coming year (either aloud or in their heart) and added their light to the altar. In 2024, Logan has allowed celebration of all 8 pagan holidays throughout the year. Babs has committed to going and leading for all of those. Please contact her if you would be interested in helping/assisting! These wonderful women are starved for community, but the blessings taken away by serving them are far greater.

-Julie Prandi

## Stewardship Committee News

Emile Garneau, Chair



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## What Are Your Ideas for Our Budget Deficit?

In January 2024 the Stewardship Committee will hold four feedback sessions dealing with our deficit budget for 2024 and your suggestions to solve it. Jan 21 (with child care available on the 21st) at 11:30, after church; Jan 22 at 7 PM. [Sign up here](#) for one of the sessions.

Prepare using the documents on the UUBN web page; reading the 2024 budget and bringing a copy with you to the meeting would be helpful. Please plan to attend, participate, and make recommendations. This is a serious situation that requires member participation to solve. The final budget will be presented to members at the February 25th Congregational meeting. We currently have a deficit of about \$27,000. We have to have a balanced budget.

Thank you for caring and participating.

Questions? Ask any Stewardship Committee member - Nancy Armstrong, Jack Pace, Claire Hedden, Linda Johnston, and Emile Garneau.

The Stewardship Committee

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## Announcements

### Let's Go to Lunch!

*Sunday, January 28 at Noon*

Would you like to meet some other church members and friends, young or old? This is an opportunity to join others for a Sunday "Let's Go to Lunch" outing. We're trying this in January and, if it's successful, we'll plan more of them in the future and mix the groups.

The January menu will be Mexican food, and each person is responsible to pay for their/their family's meal. Here's how it works. You sign up on [this form](#) by Sunday, January 21. Lunch groups will be approximately 8 people, and all ages are invited to participate. If you have a child, we'll place you with another group

with one or more children, but we'll also include some adult singles or couples. All groups will meet at noon on Sunday, January 28, at a designated Mexican Restaurant. The restaurant and group participants will be assigned based on the information provided on your sign-up form.

If you have questions, please contact the coordinator, Claudia Kaufman, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX@ymail.com~~ or ~~800-222-2279~~. Please use "Let's Go to Lunch" as the subject in the email. Thank you!

Submitted by Claudia Kaufman

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## DnD Group Wanted

If you have an interest in learning about Dungeons and Dragons, and other Table Top RPGs, I would like to start a group of newer players preferably teens and/or parents of teens, but am open to including others as well. For more information on this contact me at ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX@ymail.com~~

I can promise a safe and friendly new player experience, and have 30 years of experience teaching and running these games for ages ranging between 5 and 60.

-Submitted by Catlin Slinker

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## UUBN at Midwest Food Bank

UUBN has returned to Midwest Food Bank! On January 5 we fielded Debbie Kerrigan, Chuck and Cheryl Springwood, and Brad Bell to work for 2 hours alongside some Scouts to pack a pallet of prepared pork into plastic packaging to provide to people! We'd like to run it again, maybe March or April?

If you're interested in volunteering please contact Brad Bell at ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX@ymail.com~~ to get in the communication list and we can figure out a best time for everyone.

Submitted by Brad Bell





## **This Month's Community Plate Recipient** *Safe Harbor Shelter*

Collections in January 2024 will pay for the dinners that teams from UUBN make once a month for the Salvation Army's local Safe Harbor Shelter. Safe Harbor relies on volunteers to supply, prepare and serve dinner every night; area churches take turns. This is not only a huge cost saving for them, but it



gives the very busy shelter/kitchen staff a bit of a break!

Safe Harbor is always in need of volunteers to prepare and serve dinner. Our junior high and high school RE groups cook one night a month at Safe Harbor for 6 months of the year; the other 6 months are staffed by people like you and me! Families from UUBN can participate with their children. If you would like to help with one meal in 2024, please let Camille Ehlers or the office know!

To donate to UUBN's Dinner Fund, make out your check to UUBN and put Safe Harbor Dinners in the memo line and deliver to UUBN. Donations can also be made via the Breeze Online Giving website [here](#) or from your smartphone when you [download the app](#). Our subdomain is uubn.

### **STEWARDSHIP**

Pledges from our members and friends support the ministries of the church.

If you haven't made your pledge for 2023, here is the link: <https://uubn.org/wp/make-pledge/>

If you need to adjust your pledge, email Nancy Armstrong at ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ or contact the office by phone or at [office@uubn.org](mailto:office@uubn.org).

**Communications are confidential.**

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## Ongoing Group Gatherings

**Monday Lunch Bunch:** Want to start your week with good company and lively, informal conversation? Join us in the Fell Room with or without your lunch. No reservations required. All topics are welcome. We light the chalice at 11:45 AM and release the flame at 1:00 PM. Coffee and tea provided. Hosted by the Membership Team.

**Humanist Group:** First & Third Wednesday of each month. Please eMail Karl Smith via the [office](#) to be put on the mailing list. All are welcome to these in person meetings held at a location other than the church.

**Covenant Groups:** Lay-led small groups that meet once a month to deepen

and expand the ministry of the congregation through spiritual and emotional connection. Email [Terina](#) to join a small group.

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# Contacts:

## UUBN Staff

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Minister

Rev. Rebecca Gant

[minister@uubn.org](mailto:minister@uubn.org)

Available by appointment. Click this link to see when she's available: <https://calendly.com/revrebeccagant/30min>

Director of Religious Exploration

Terina Carter

[LRE@uubn.org](mailto:LRE@uubn.org)

Available by Appointment

Office Manager

Blair Broughton

[office@uubn.org](mailto:office@uubn.org)

Office hours vary. Please make an appointment: 217-722-3586 (call or text)

Music Director

Charlie Berggren

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Children's Choir Director

Bob Mangialardi

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

AV Technician

Molly Hjelle

[avstaff@uubn.org](mailto:avstaff@uubn.org)

AV Technician

Anastasia Guzman

[avstaff@uubn.org](mailto:avstaff@uubn.org)

Child Care

Sara Kaeb

[office@uubn.org](mailto:office@uubn.org)

## UUBN Board Information

President: Claire Hedden; Vice President: Larissa Armstrong; Secretary: Jeska Vannoy; Treasurer: Nancy Armstrong. Directors: Karla Bailey-Smith, Jill Enchelmayer, Hubert Morales, Pamela Morgan, and Richard Seehuus.

Monthly Board Meetings are in Irvin Room and Online at 6:30 on the Second Tuesday of each month. All are welcome to attend. Contact the office for the Zoom Link.

Contact the board at [uubnboard@uubn.org](mailto:uubnboard@uubn.org).

## **UUBN Trustees**

Jack Pace, Scott King, and Brad Boesdorfer

## **Committee Contacts**

Aesthetics	Doug Johnson
Building and Grounds	Dick Hansen
Committee on Shared Ministry	Janet Tulley
Finance and Stewardship	Emile Garneau
Denominational Affairs	Nancy Armstrong
Memorial Garden Stewards	Debby Funk
Safety	Larissa Armstrong

## **Team Contacts**

Membership and Outreach	Kathy Packard
Right Relations	Carolyn Moon and Pamela Morgan
Community Concerns	Camille Ehlers
Green Sanctuary	Nancy Armstrong
Helping Hands	Carolyn Pitts
History	Joan Banks
Religious Exploration (RE)	Erin Ripley-Gataric, Terina Carter
Social Justice	Chad Kahl
Worship and Music	Barb Dallinger, Rev. Rebecca Gant
Pastoral Care	Rev. Rebecca Gant

## Groups with Contacts

Many Paths CUUPS

Sean-Thomas Gunnell

Bloomington-Normal Humanist  
Group

Karl Smith

UU Women's Federation

Lin Hinds

B-N Meditation Group

Carolyn Moon, Dave Shanahan

To obtain contact information for the leads of these groups please see the [online directory](#) or [email the office](#).

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