



[A LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation.](#)

1613 E. Emerson, Bloomington, IL 61701

309-828-0235

uubn.org

office@uubn.org

This Sunday's Worship Service:

1/21 - What We Take With Us, What We Leave Behind - Rev.

Rebecca Gant and Julie Prandi, Worship Associate

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

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

2/4 - The Power of Introversion - Chad Kahl and Jan Baird, Worship
Associates

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!](#)



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.

This Week's Events

January 21, 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)
10:00 am – 11:15 am Childcare Room)	Preschool Religious Exploration (Sanctuary and
10:00 am – 11:15 am and Lower Level)	Children and Youth Religious Exploration (Sanctuary
11:30 am – 12:30 pm Room)	Stewardship Committee Feedback Sessions (Irvin
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm Room)	Bloomington Normal Meditation Group (Walker

January 22, 2024

Monday

11:45 am – 1:00 pm	Lunch Bunch (Fell Room)
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm Room)	Stewardship Committee Feedback Sessions (Irvin

January 23, 2024

Tuesday

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Rehearsal for Baroque'n Consort (Walker Room)
-------------------	---

January 24, 2024

Wednesday

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm All Ages Game Night (Fell Room)
5:00 pm – 5:40 pm Emerson Singers (up to 5th Grade) (Walker Room)
5:45 pm – 6:30 pm Fairly Frequent Singers (Jr. High and High School)
(Walker Room)

January 25, 2024 *Thursday*

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Social Justice Team Meeting (Online)
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm Fourth Thursday Covenant Group (Irvin Room)

January 27, 2024 *Saturday*

9:00 am – 12:00 pm Board Retreat (Fell Room)

Readings from January 7th Service

Hello! Several of you have asked me for the readings used at the "Resolve to Do Less" service. Enjoy!

- Rev. Rebecca

This reading is from a compilation of Tumblr comments. The comments were sparked by a tweet originally made by queer author Julie Behrens.

Good news: if you're currently laying around and not producing anything, you are a credit to your species.

Turns out sometimes the most evolutionary useful thing you can do is chill and not wear yourself to shreds, whether mammal or insect. It helps you deal with emergencies and adapt to change. Doing absolutely jack-all is how Antarctic sea sponges live to be over 10,000 years old, so live your best, longest, laziest life.

Remember lions? Fellow apex predators? Yeah, they spend 16-20 hours of the day laying around, socializing, raising cubs and napping. The last 4-8 hours are spent hunting.

We are mammals. Let us rest. Let us celebrate holidays and attend festivals. Let us attend to our homes and families.

Stone Age humans may have spent hours hunting and gathering, but they also DEFINITELY spent loads of time painting every available surface. Time and weather washed most of it away, but some places like Arizona and Colorado still preserve a few of the endless murals made by ancient hands.

Evidence shows that the ancient world was COVERED in paintings and etchings - just saturated with images of birds and beasts and humans, sunsets and cool weather. We invented mythologies and painted about them. We did something impressive, and painted about it. We taught our children how to paint and lifted them onto our shoulders so they could mark the ceiling.

In our most base state, humans will work enough to survive, but our instincts demand we use all other time to rest, to create art, to communicate. To make connections. "Working" or "being productive" are not what we are here for.

This comes from the Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber. Bolz-Weber is a tattooed, swearsy, snarky, tender, and wise ordained Lutheran pastor. She founded a church called the House for all Sinners and Saints, and now writes books and blogs and is the pastor of a congregation in the women's prison in Denver where she lives.

A New Year's Blessing for Realists.

As you enter this new year, as you pack away the Christmas decorations and get out your stretchy pants,
as you face the onslaught of false promises offered you through new disciplines and elimination diets,
as you grasp for control of yourself and your life and this chaotic world -
May you remember that there is no resolution that, if kept, will make you more worthy of love.

There is no resolution that, if kept, will make life less uncertain and allow you to control your aging parents and your teenage children and the way other people act.

So this year (as every year),

May you just skip the part where you resolve to be better do better and look better this time.

Instead, may you give yourself the gift of really, really low expectations. Not out of resignation, but out of generosity.

May you expect so little of yourself that you can be super proud of the smallest

of accomplishments.

May you expect so little of the people in your life that you actually notice and cherish every small, lovely thing about them.

May you expect so little of the service industry that you notice more of what you do get and less of what you don't and then just tip really well anyhow.

May you expect to get so little out of 2024 that you can celebrate every single thing it offers you, however small.

Because you deserve joy and not disappointment.

So, I wish you a Happy as possible New Year.

Love, Nadia.

Religious Exploration News

Terina Carter, Director of Religious Exploration, LRE@uubn.org

Team: Erin Ripley-Gataric (Team Lead), Jeska Vannoy, Mercy Davison

Patron Saint of the Gender Expansive Resource Center (GERC)

In the beginning . . .

people in our community who needed gender-affirming, body transforming undergarments (aka binders, gaffs, shapers, packers) either needed to purchase the items online (\$\$\$\$) and have them shipped to their home (potentially unsafe) OR they could get a binder from a non-profit in town that eventually closed and gave their items to a church member to hand out from her porch through word of mouth referrals.

and then about 3 years ago . . .

our congregation and Prairie Pride Coalition partnered to create the Gender Expansive Resource Center. The vote by the congregation was unanimous! But also, it was COVID time. So much of the work was done by me and my family.

and now . . .

we need 2 people to be trained to meet people for appointments, check inventory on a monthly basis, and mail requested items.

If you're interested in being one of the Patron Saints of the GERC, let me know.

It's especially helpful (but not required) if you're part of the LGBTQ+ community or OWL trained. You MUST be able to text clients using your phone AND drive to the church to meet clients for appointments that you work together to schedule and know or be able to learn Google Sheets.

All are Called: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. All Ages Service

The book from last Sunday's service was Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down, written by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Brian Pinkney.

You can find additional resources from Zinn Education Project here: <https://www.zinnedproject.org/news/tdih/greensboro-sit-in/>

Everyone's commitment to stretch and do one uncomfortable or new thing to make the world a better place can be found here: [All Are Called Commitments](#)

Adult RE: Quick! What's Unitarian Universalism? *Sunday, February 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.

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.

All Ages Game Night

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

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.

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-dozin_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.

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!

Adult RE: Dear Liberal Allies

Sunday, March 3, 11:30-12:30

When to speak up. When to step back. Moving beyond "a set of key words and a list of definitions."

*<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/reading/dear-liberal-allies>

Small Groups with Tom Clemens

Email Tom at XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX@uua.org or text/call ~~309-287-1507~~ 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 Rutenberg. **Sign up by February 15** through UUBN office or through xxxxxx@xxxxxx. Purchase or find the book on your own. After Feb 15, Tom will email all participants to schedule a discussion which accommodates their schedules. 3 Registered.

Tom is organizing a discussion of ***Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America***, by Heather Cox Richardson (author of *How the South Won the Civil War*). Penguin Random House, 2023. Sign up by February 15 through UUBN office or through xxxxxx@xxxxxx. Purchase or find the book on your own. Discussion session online scheduled for March in accord with participants' schedules. 6 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 xxxxxx@xxxxxx. Purchase or find the book on your own. After Feb 15, I'll email all participants to schedule biweekly discussions which accommodate their 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. Himmse. 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 xxxxxx@xxxxxx. 4 Registered.

Share Your Writing sessions meet bimonthly. The next session is Wednesday, February 7, 7-8 P.M. Any kind of writing at any stage is welcome. We share and discuss.

Social Justice News

Chad Kahl, Chair

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

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 bradbell@uubn.org to get in the communication list and we can figure out a best time for everyone.

Submitted by Brad Bell



Stewardship Committee News

Emile Garneau, Chair

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.

Sunday, Jan 21 (with child care available) at 11:30 in Irvin Room, after church;

Monday, Jan 22 at 7 PM in Irvin Room. [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

What will be your UUBN legacy?

The UUBN Trust is an excellent way to help sustain and perpetuate our mission. Learn more about the Trust in the Jan. 21 service, and after church in the Stevenson Library. Trustees and Treasurer Nancy Armstrong, a financial advisor, will be available to answer questions.

--Submitted by UUBN Trustees

Announcements

Thanks to New Members

Thanks to these new members for hosting the potluck brunch last Sunday, in spite of the frigid weather: Corey Mattson, Louis and Joanne Littell, Deborah Niemann, Thaw Myat, and Alicia Wodika. And thanks to everyone who brought food. Everyone seemed to have a good time and was well fed. If you would like to help host a potluck brunch, please contact Blair at office@uubn.org or 309-828-0235. There are detailed instructions available.

The Membership Team

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, XXXXXXXXXX@XXXXXX.XXX or [XXXXXX-XXXX-XXXX](tel:XXXXXX-XXXX-XXXX). Please use "Let's Go to Lunch" as the subject in the email. Thank you!

Submitted by Claudia Kaufman

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 XXXXXXXXXX@XXXXXX.XXX.

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



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 2024, here is the link: <https://uubn.org/wp/make-pledge/>

If you need to adjust your pledge, email Nancy Armstrong at ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ or contact the office by phone or at office@uubn.org.

Communications are confidential.

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.

Contacts:

UUBN Staff

Minister

Rev. Rebecca Gant

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

Available by Appointment

Office Manager

Blair Broughton

office@uubn.org

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

Music Director

Charlie Berggren

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Children's Choir Director

Bob Mangialardi

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

AV Technician

Molly Hjelle

avstaff@uubn.org

AV Technician

Anastasia Guzman

avstaff@uubn.org

Child Care

Sara Kaeb

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.

UUBN Trustees

Jack Pace, Paul Packard, 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](#).

Copyright © 2024 Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington-Normal, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

