



[A LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation.](#)

1613 E. Emerson, Bloomington, IL 61701

309-828-0235

uubn.org

office@uubn.org

This Sunday's Worship Service:

1/7 - Resolve to Do Less - 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

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

1/21 - What We Take With Us, What We Leave Behind - Rev. Rebecca Gant
and Julie Prandi, 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!](#)



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 7, 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	Religious Exploration (Lower Level)
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Stewardship Committee Feedback Sessions (Irvin Room)
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Bloomington Normal Meditation Group (Walker Room)

January 8, 2024

Monday

11:45 am – 1:00 pm	Lunch Bunch (Fell Room)
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Bill Semlak Celebration of Life (Sanctuary and Fell)
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	PFLAG (Irvin Room)

January 9, 2024

Tuesday

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Rehearsal for Baroque'n Consort (Walker Room)
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Board Meeting (Irvin Room/Online)

January 10, 2024

Wednesday

5:00 pm – 5:40 pm	Emerson Singers (up to 5th Grade) (Walker Room)
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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)
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm Monthly Meeting of Many Paths CUUPs (Fell Room,
Online)
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm Stewardship Committee Feedback Sessions (Irvin
Room)

January 11, 2024

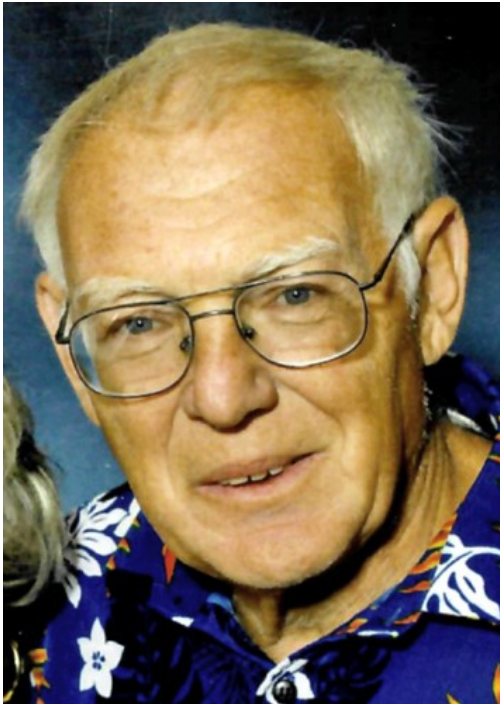
Thursday

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm New(ish) to UUBN (Irvin Room, Online)

January 12, 2024

Friday

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Over the Rainbow (Fell Room)



Bill Semlak Celebration of Life

January 8 at 3:00 pm at UUBN

Cards for Bill's wife Joan can be sent to her address in the directory or to the church.

Cards for Bill's children can be sent in care of Julie Semlak at 5715 Education Dr., Apt 206, Cheyenne, WY, 82009.

[Bill's obituary may be read here.](#)

Religious Exploration News

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

cancelled

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education for Adults over 50

Unfortunately we didn't meet the minimum required for this program. I'll work with the facilitators to adapt the sessions into drop in offerings.

Children and Youth Religious Exploration in January

January 7 - back to regular Sunday morning programming

January 14 - All Ages Martin Luther King, Jr service followed by a potluck brunch

January 21 - regular Sunday morning programming

January 28 - regular Sunday morning programming

Consent Education for Parents (and Grandparents and Other Adults)

Big thanks to Emmy Galbraith who compiled this list of resources.

Earlier this year, the American Academy of Pediatrics published an article titled "10 Tips for Parents About Body Safety and Boundaries."

<https://www.aap.org/en/news-room/news-releases/health--safety-tips/10-tips-for-parents-to-teach-children-about-body-safety-and-boundaries/>

More resources to help:

<https://www.safesecurekids.org/teaching-consent>

What is Consent? Why is it Important? And Other Big Questions by Louise Spilsbury

Everybody, Every Body! by Emmalinda MacLean

Let's Talk About Body Boundaries, Consent and Respect: Teach children about body ownership, respect, feelings, choices and recognizing bullying behaviors

by Jayneen Sanders

Consent(for Kids!): Boundaries, Respect, and Being in Charge of YOU by Rachel Brian

From My Head to My Toes I Say What Goes by Charlotte Barkla
Yes! No!: A First Conversation About Consent (First Conversations) by Megan Madison and Jessica Ralli
C is for Consent by Eleanor Morrison
Don't Hug Doug: (He Doesn't Like It) by Carrie Finison

Family New Year Ideas

- Create a Family Covenant:
<https://www.uua.org/leaderlab/pandemics/parenting/family-covenant>
 - Choose One Focus Word: <https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/next-years-words>
 - Fill out a Year in Review! Email me and I can send you the file. My kids loved doing these. Then they hated doing these. And now they love reading the ones they filled out when they were younger.
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Small Groups with Tom Clemens

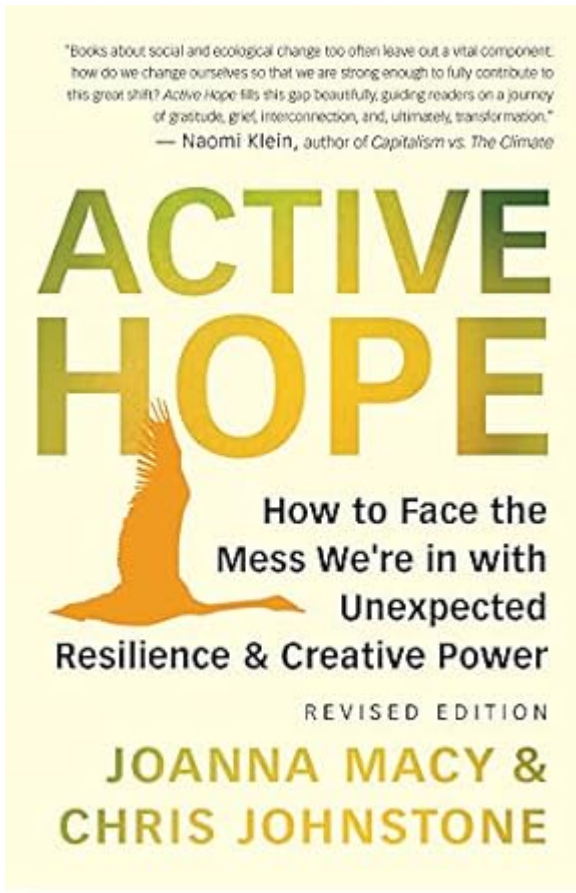
Email Tom at ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ or text/call ~~889-287-1577~~ to join any of the following Zoom discussions as participant or listener. You will receive the Zoom link the day before the session.

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.

January 7, 2-3 P.M. *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in With Unexpected Resilience and Creative Power*; Rev. ed. Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone. New World Library, 2022. 11 Registered.

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 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX@uua.org. Purchase or find the book on your own. Discussion session online scheduled for March in accord with participants' 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*). Penquin Random House, 2023. Sign up by February 15 through UUBN office or through XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX@uua.org. 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 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX@uua.org. 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, I am 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 ~~xxxxxx~~. 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.

Social Justice News

Chad Kahl, Chair

Zoom Webinar sponsored by Unitarian Universalist Social Justice

Join a Zoom Webinar on Wednesday, Jan 10th at 7PM CT to hear David Pepper speak about the subject of his book: *Saving Democracy: A User's Manual*. To register [click here!](#)

-Debbie Kerrigan

Register to Vote at UUBN, Sunday, January 14!

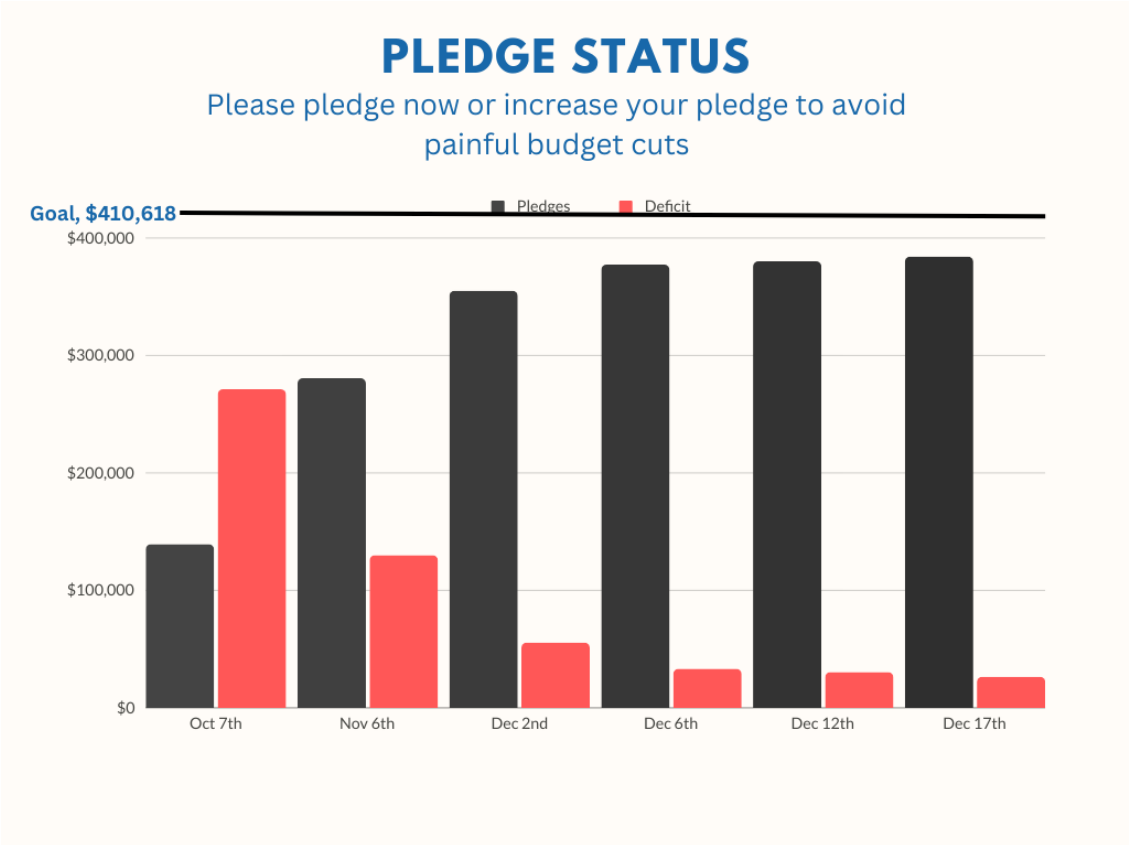
The primary election is March 19. The Social Justice Team will facilitate voter registration after the service on January 14. If you have moved since the last election, you need to re-register; 17-year-olds can register if they will turn 18 by the election date. Be sure to bring your driver's license/ID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

last four digits of your Social Security number. You can also get information on becoming an election judge.

-Julie Prandi

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. Jan. 7 and Jan 21 (with child care available on the 21st) at 11:30, after church; Jan 10 (with Zoom available on the 10th) and 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

Announcements

Greeters of All Ages Welcome!

Kids are invited to become greeters before service. This is a fun way to get to know people in our church community. If your child is interested, please contact Kathy for details at ~~kj@uubn.org~~.

New(ish) to UUBN

Thursday, January 11 from 6:00-8:00 pm

Are you are new to our congregation and want to know more about us? If so, please join us for one session on Thurs., Jan. 11, from 6-8 p.m. in the Irvin Room. The snow/weather date will be Thurs., Jan. 25, same time and location. You will learn more about our theology, religious exploration, social justice work, small groups, how we celebrate together, how we share our burdens, and have a tour of the building.

Attendance virtually also is available. If you wish to participate online, please contact the office manager, office@uubn.org or 309-828-0235. If having child care would help you attend this session, please contact the church office no later than Dec. 28.

Because there could be weather complications, please register through this [Sign-up genius](#) form so we can notify you if we have to postpone. All are welcome!

Submitted by the Membership Team

Potluck Brunch after the All Ages Service

Sunday, Jan. 14, 2024

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



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 ~~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

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Children's Choir Director

Bob Mangialardi

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

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, 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	Bonnie Garneau
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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