



[A LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation.](#)

1613 E. Emerson, Bloomington, IL 61701

309-828-0235

[uubn.org](http://uubn.org)

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

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

**2/11 - A Transfer of Power** - Barb Dallinger and Julie Prandi, Worship Associates

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**

**2/18 - The Music of Love (and Chocolate!)** - Rev. Rebecca Gant and Charlie Berggren, Music Director

**2/25 - Kindness** - Rev. Rebecca Gant and Barb Dallinger, 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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## Need Support?

Email Rev. Rebecca  
([minister@uubn.org](mailto: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

*February 11, 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	Children and Youth Religious Exploration (Sanctuary and Lower Level)
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	RE Teacher Check In (Walker Room)
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Bloomington Normal Meditation Group (Walker Room)

*February 12, 2024*

*Monday*

11:45 am – 1:00 pm	Lunch Bunch (Fell Room)
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	PFLAG (Fell Room)

*February 13, 2024*

*Tuesday*

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Board Meeting (Online, Irvin Room)
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm	TNT Auction Planning (Walker Room)

*February 14, 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)
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Monthly Meeting of ManyPaths CUUPs (Fell Room)

*February 15, 2024*

*Thursday*



1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Rehearsal for Baroque'n Consort (Walker Room)
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Private Event (Whole Church)
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Third Thursday Covenant Group (Irvin Room)

*February 16, 2024*

*Friday*

2:00 pm -- 10:00 pm	Private Event (Fell Room, Irvin Room, Bradley Room)
6:15 pm – 10:00 pm	UU D&D Group (Walker Room)

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## Sunday Worship Team

Have you ever wished you could participate as a reader in the Sunday Worship Services? Or perhaps you would like to share your musical talents during a service? The Worship Committee would like to hear from any and all interested in participating as readers or musicians. You can complete a response to our brief questionnaire by [clicking here](#). We look forward to hearing from many of you!

Submitted by Claudia Kaufman

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## Religious Exploration News

Terina Carter, Director of Religious Exploration, [LRE@uubn.org](mailto:LRE@uubn.org)

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

### 2024 Marks the 10th anniversary of UULent!

This page has been created as a way for Unitarian Universalists to engage in a shared spiritual practice alongside siblings in faith who are observing Lent. Find out more at the blog post from creator Barb Greve [here](#).

# 2024 PHOTO A DAY #UULent



Join a Unitarian Universalist practice of Lent! Each day, Unitarian Universalists and our friends and family intentionally reflect on a daily word, carry our awareness throughout the day, and capture an image that represents the word for us. We share our reflections and images on social media with the hashtag #UULent. On Sundays, we challenge each other to reflect on the daily word and also embody and enact it in our lives. *(Created by Rev. Mr. Barb Greve; designed by Alex Kapitan)*

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
<b>FEBRUARY</b>		14 ashes	15 doubt	16 ego	17 desire	18 love
19 wish	20 need	21 ready	22 teach	23 commitment	24 integrity	25 equity
26 poverty	27 empathy	28 trust	29 fungi			
<b>MARCH</b>				1 humility	2 connection	3 interdependence
4 disturb	5 stalled	6 catalyst	7 liberation	8 change	9 resilience	10 justice
11 intentional	12 mutuality	13 grace	14 abundance	15 care	16 pleased	17 generosity
18 faithful	19 respect	20 community	21 devotion	22 sacred	23 resistance	24 pluralism
25 anticipation	26 imperfect	27 prayer	28 curious	29 darkness	30 pause	31 transformation

**NURTURE Your Spirit. Help HEAL Our World.**

## Adult RE: Quick: What's Unitarian Universalism

You probably don't have to stretch too much to come up with a scenario where you're asked to explain Unitarian Universalism.

"What are you doing this weekend?"

"Sportsball, house projects, singing in choir at church Sunday morning."

"Oh, what church do you go to?"



During last Sunday's Adult RE program, Brian, Bruce, Jenni, Cheryl, Mercy, Joann, Andie, Andi, Craig, Alison, and I created a toolbox of words and phrases to use in those conversations. The group started by sharing one thing we each value about Unitarian Universalism. Next, we brainstormed words or phrases we've heard used to describe UU. After thinking about whether those words/phrases were positive (radical!), negative (easy?!), or neutral (never heard of it), we broke into pairs to decide which phrases we might use. We ended our hour with angles we might use, things to keep in mind, and some phrases.

Here are three of our answers to "What's Unitarian Universalism?"

1. We love and value each whole being for who they are and respect their experiences.
2. Religious exploration is lifelong and individual but we do it in community with others.
3. Unitarian Universalism is a radical commitment to honoring the diversity of experiences and a willingness to do the hard work of embracing that.

Everyone went home with "homework" reading:

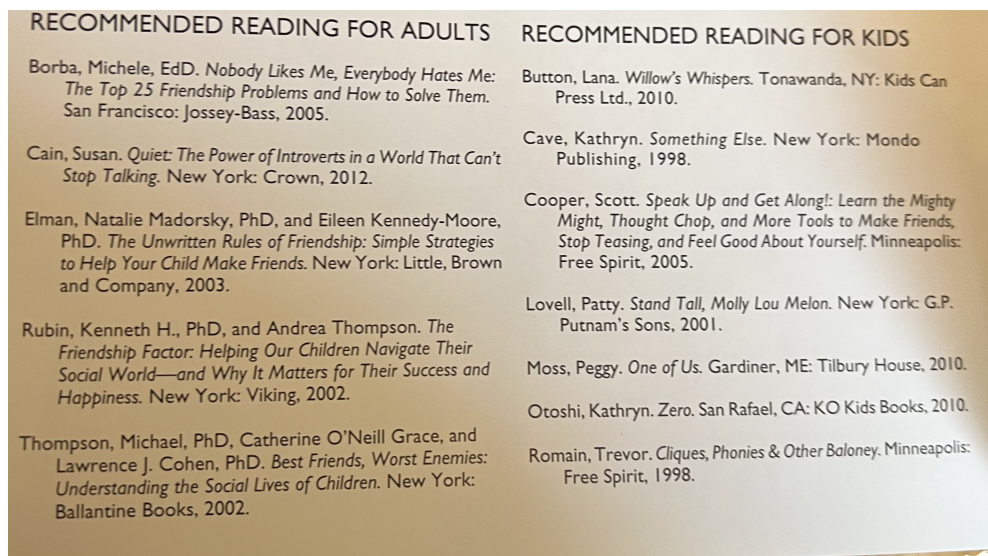
- Pamphlet: Quick! What's Unitarian Universalism? Here is a diverse collection of responses to that question from Erik Martinez Resly, Natalie Maxwell Fenimore, Sunshine Jeremiah Wolfe, and other Unitarian Universalists. If you are wondering what Unitarian Universalism is, this may serve as an intriguing introduction. If you are a UU, this will help inspire your own responses. <https://www.uuabookstore.org/Assets/PDFs/3104.pdf>
- Pocket Card: With ten clear statements of Unitarian Universalist belief, this pocket-sized card is a handy resource to offer newcomers in Sunday worship or anywhere. <https://www.uuabookstore.org/What-Do-UUs-Believe-P16901.aspx>
- Essay: What Do I Say After I Say, "I'm a Unitarian Universalist"? from Barbara Wells. If you'd like a paper copy, let me know. It's adapted from this sermon: [https://collections.carli.illinois.edu/digital/collection/mls\\_bwthove/id/39464](https://collections.carli.illinois.edu/digital/collection/mls_bwthove/id/39464)

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## Time for All Ages - The Invisible Boy

Last Sunday's Time for All Ages was the wonderful picture book, *The Invisible Boy*, written by Tracy

Ludwig, illustrated by Patrice Barton. There are many recommended resources in the back of the book.



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## All Ages Game Night!

All Ages Game Night was a lot of fun! Our 18 players ranged in age from under 1 to about 60. We started with a large group game (Pictionary) and then broke into smaller groups for board game play. If this is something you'd attend if it was a regular monthly event, let me know.

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## Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education Facilitator Training

We do NOT have enough OWL teachers to offer OWL during the next church year. We're hosting OWL Facilitator Training this summer. If you are interested in learning more about being a facilitator, let's talk!

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## Adult RE: Date with Death Club

### “What to do with a Dead Body”

*Saturday, March 2, 9:00-11:00*

After a death, the body must be taken care of— “disposed.” Common means are burial and traditional cremation. But may you want to donate your body to science? Yet there are evolving technologies and new choices to be made. Perhaps you want a green burial? Or you want your

body to become compost? We'll explore what's out there and what choices you may want to make now to get what you want then.

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## 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>

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## Small Groups with Tom Clemens

Email Tom at [tomclemens@uubn.org](mailto:tomclemens@uubn.org) or text/call 309-287-1547 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.

- 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.org](mailto:tomclemens@uubn.org). 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*). Penquin Random House, 2023. Sign up by February 15 through UUBN office or through [tomclemens@uubn.org](mailto:tomclemens@uubn.org). 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 [tomclemens@uubn.org](mailto:tomclemens@uubn.org).



Purchase or find the book on your own. After Feb 15, I'll email all participants to schedule biweekly discussions which accommodate their schedules. 10 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 ~~xxxxxx@xxxxxx~~ 4 Registered.

**Share Your Writing** sessions meet bimonthly. The next session is TBD. Any kind of writing at any stage is welcome. We share and discuss.

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## Social Justice News

Chad Kahl, Chair

### Music Sunday Potluck

*February 18, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm*

Let's continue to carry the tune together at the potluck following Music Sunday. The Social Justice Team is providing ham and a vegan/gluten-free black bean and corn salad. This sign up is to invite YOU to help set up, help clean up, bring a 9" x 13" casserole OR sweet breads OR fruit salad OR something brunchy. Please clearly mark your dish if it's vegan, vegetarian, gluten free, or has one of the eight major allergens (milk, eggs, fish, crustacean shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat, and soybeans) so that all can join the fun and fellowship.

[Click Here to Sign Up](#)

Submitted by Chad Kahl

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**UUBN Advocacy Team**

The state legislature is in session, and we hope to have a team of people ready to visit our representatives to urge them to pass legislation that supports UU values and has been endorsed by Illinois People's Action, the UU Advocacy Network of Illinois or the UU Prison Ministry of Illinois.

One meeting is already in the planning stages to visit Rep. Chung and urge her to support "Elder Parole." There is also an opportunity to visit Sen. Koehler to advocate for a bill to support immigrants in Illinois. The legislative session runs until May 24 this year.

If you want more information or are interested in participating, please [email Julie Prandi](#).

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## Primary Election Important Dates

The Unitarian Universalist 5th Principle speaks to the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

The 2024 Illinois Primary Election is coming soon on March 19th.

### **Important dates:**

- \* 2/8: first day of early voting and vote by mail ballot mailing
- \* 2/20: last day of in-person and mail-in voter registration
- \* 2/21: grace period registration begins
- \* 3/3: last day of online registration
- \* 3/11: last day a military or overseas voter may request a Vote by Mail ballot
- \* 3/14: last day non-military or non-overseas voter may request a Vote by Mail ballot
- \* 3/18: last day of early voting

Submitted by Chad Kahl

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Unitarian Universalist Prison  
Ministry of IL

Saturday  
February 24, 2024  
11 am - 2pm

# Inside Circle Facilitator Training



**REGISTER  
HERE**



A trauma-informed, small-group style circle training for the privilege to facilitate circles in Illinois prisons and jails, aka "inside ministry."

Including topics like Active  
Listening, Trauma,  
Mindfulness, Grounding, &  
Cultural Humility

At the Unitarian Church of Evanston  
1330 Ridge Ave  
Evanston, IL 60201  
Room 3

Register [here](#) for the *Inside Prison Ministry Training February 24, 2024, at Unitarian Church of Evanston*

*-Submitted by Julie Prandi*

## Announcements

### Cake Raffle

*Sunday, March 17, 11:15*

Every year, we raffle off fabulous desserts to raise funds to purchase books for the Gnagey Library. But the Cake Raffle is more than a fundraiser! It's also a time for fellowship and fun. Bring a dessert, your sweet tooth, or both! This year's Cake Raffle is after service on Sunday, March 17.





### **Purchase Cake Raffle tickets:**

Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. You do not need to be present to win; we can call you. Stop by the ticket table in Fell before service and during coffee hour on Sundays leading up to March 17 and the day of the raffle. You can pay with cash or a check. Or send a check to UUBN with CAKE RAFFLE in the memo line; include your name, phone number, and how many tickets you're purchasing.

Or buy tickets through Breeze mobile app/Cake Raffle. If you buy this way, you'll need to send an email

to [LRE@UUBN.ORG](mailto:LRE@UUBN.ORG) with the number of tickets you purchased and your contact information.

[Sign up](#) to donate a cake, cookies, candies, brownies, or cupcakes. Maybe a pie. No limits! Desserts of many types including cakes, cookies, brownies, gluten free or vegan selections are appreciated. You do not need to know what you're bringing. The sign up helps with reminders, but you can bring things even if you don't sign up!

Desserts should be delivered to Fell Room on March 17 before 10:00 service begins. Put your name and ingredients somewhere on the dessert. You can use a dish you'd like returned (be sure to note that) or pick up a second-hand dish you don't need returned (be sure to note that too). If you'd like to donate something that requires refrigeration, please consider bringing a Promise to Deliver Later note.

Stop by the ticket table or sign up to donate a dessert here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084FA9AE29A0FA7-47354615-cake>

Submitted by Erin Furimsky, RE Team

# February Adult Game Night

*February 23 at 6:00 pm*

Come on out and play some games! For the month of February ONLY we are meeting on the 4th Friday - 2/23/24. Bring a game you love or just come and try out one you haven't played before. Bring your own non-alcoholic drink and a snack to share if you like.

-Babs Allen

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## Safe Harbor Meal

Thank you Rain, Connie, Oscar, Mason, Olive, Ozzy, Luna, and Wren for serving 70 people in our community on January 21st at Safe Harbor. If you're interested in volunteering to prep and serve a meal, contact [Camille Ehlers](#) or the [office](#) for more information.



## Clothing Donations needed for ISU's Gender Affirmation Station

As part of our support for gender expression in our community, we help collect clothes for ISU's Gender Affirmation Station in their Multicultural Center, "a closet for students who are transitioning or identify as non-binary, along with students who have clothing needs."

A donation box is in the narthex by the coat rack to collect clothing.

### **Please donate clothes that are:**

Male Presenting Clothes - All sizes

Female Presenting - Small, XL XXL, Professional Clothes

Items should be freshly laundered, not too worn, and appropriate for college age students.

No shoes please.

## You're Invited to Exploring Membership

Have you been thinking about membership at UUBN? Do you want to know more about becoming a member, our faith and our church? You're invited to join us for our two Exploring Membership classes from 6-8 p.m. Mondays, March 4 and 18, in the Irvin Room.

We'll go into depth about the history of UUism, our theology, how we conduct our church business, our community events, and the advantages of becoming a member. We encourage you to attend both classes because we'll present different material at each, but if you can only attend one, we can provide material from the other class for you to review.

Although we'll meet in person, you can attend virtually; contact the church office manager at [office@uubn.org](mailto:office@uubn.org) or 309-828-0235 if this is your preference. If having childcare would help you attend these classes, please contact the office manager by February 19.

If you decide to become a member, you'll have the opportunity to sign the membership book at our March 24 Sunday service. Then we'll celebrate with cake afterward!

Registration is not required but requested. Please contact the church office or Kathy Packard, Membership Team leader, at ~~xxxxxx@xxxxxx~~

Submitted by the Membership Team

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## Are You Missing a Dish?

If you left a dish after a potluck or event, check the kitchen. We are going to leave them in the kitchen until the next potluck, at which point we will donate the dishes. If you have any questions, please contact [the office](#).

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## TNT Auction We need you!

[Click Here](#) for the Donation Form to donate items to be auctioned. We need your talent, treasures, and event hosting skills. For more information, donation ideas, and a link to the donation form, check the auction page on the church website [here](#).

Mark your Calendars!

**Silent Auction:** April 8-13, 2024. Online Silent Bidding will close at 8pm on the 22th.

**Live Auction In Person!:** Saturday April 13, 2024 at 7pm. Doors will open at 6pm for appetizers, socializing, and merchandise browsing. There will be a Zoom option to connect live as well.



Help with the event!- Watch for the table after service to volunteer or come to the planning meeting on February 13 at 6:30pm.

Contact the TNT Auction Team, Sarah Boesdorfer, Chair, at [UUBNTNT@gmail.com](mailto:UUBNTNT@gmail.com) with your questions.

Submitted by Sarah Boesdorfer

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## UUA General Assembly 2024!



The 63rd Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly will take place virtually on Thursday, June 20 through Sunday, June 23, 2024. General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect and make policy for the Association through democratic process. General Assembly includes opportunities for participants to attend worship services and workshops, listen to featured speakers and of course, attend general sessions where appointed delegates from member congregations discuss and vote on UUA policy and Actions of Immediate Witness. This year there will be a final discussion and vote on the

adoption of Article II (a revision of our statement of principles).

There are two ways to participate in GA:

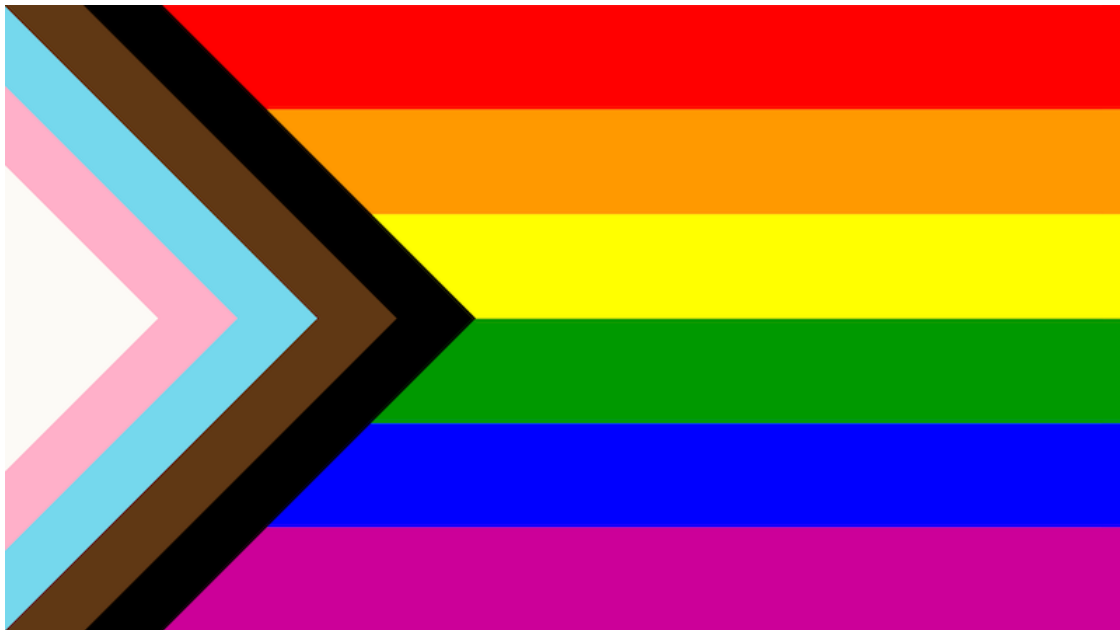
- 1) full access to all events. Registration for full access is \$280 before March 15, \$315 from March 16 to May 15 and \$400 after May 15;
- 2) Business only participant. You can be one of our 4 delegates and have access to all general

sessions, and then be a voting voice representing UUBN. A donation of \$100 is strongly suggested. UUBN has budgeted \$900 to help defray registration costs.

If you are interested or want more information you can reach out to Nancy Armstrong or other recent participants, Julie Prandi, Claire Hedden or Larissa Armstrong.

Submitted by Nancy Armstrong

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## **This Month's Community Plate Recipient**

### *ISU's LGBTQ+ Support Fund*

This February, our donations go to the LGBTQ+ Support fund at ISU that offers assistance to LGBTQ+ students who have been rejected by their families and lost all financial support.

To donate to ISU's LGBTQ+ Support Fund make out your check to ISU and put LGBTQ+ Support Fund 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 [Narmstr908@aol.com](mailto:Narmstr908@aol.com) 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~~  
[mangial@uubn.org](mailto:mangial@uubn.org)

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: Larissa Armstrong; Vice President: Julie Prandi; Secretary: Chad Kahl; Treasurer: Nancy Armstrong. Directors: Karla Bailey-Smith, Brad Bell, Jill Enchelmayer, Hubert Morales, 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, Paul Packard, and Brad Boesdorfer

## Committee Contacts

Aesthetics

Building and Grounds

Committee on Shared Ministry

Doug Johnson

Dick Hansen

Janet Tulley

Finance and Stewardship  
Denominational Affairs  
Memorial Garden Stewards  
Safety

Emile Garneau  
Nancy Armstrong  
Debby Funk  
Larissa Armstrong

### **Team Contacts**

Membership and Outreach  
Right Relations  
Community Concerns  
Green Sanctuary  
Helping Hands  
History  
Religious Exploration (RE)  
Social Justice  
Worship and Music  
Pastoral Care

Kathy Packard  
Carolyn Moon and Pamela Morgan  
Camille Ehlers  
Nancy Armstrong  
Carolyn Pitts  
Joan Banks  
Erin Ripley-Gataric, Terina Carter  
Chad Kahl  
Barb Dallinger, Rev. Rebecca Gant  
Rev. Rebecca Gant

### **Groups with Contacts**

Many Paths CUUPS  
Bloomington-Normal Humanist  
Group  
UU Women's Federation  
B-N Meditation Group

Sean-Thomas Gunnell  
  
Karl Smith  
Lin Hinds  
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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