



[A LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation.](#)

1613 E. Emerson, Bloomington, IL 61701

309-828-0235

uubn.org

office@uubn.org

This Sunday's Worship Service:

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

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

2/25 - Liberating Love - 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!](#)



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

February 18, 2024

Sunday

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

February 19, 2024

Monday

11:45 am – 1:00 pm	Lunch Bunch (Fell Room)
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February 20, 2024

Tuesday

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Worship Team Workshop (Online)
6:30 pm – 8:15 pm	Private Event (Fell Room)

February 21, 2024

Wednesday

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)
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)

February 22, 2024

Thursday

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Rehearsal for Baroque'n Consort (Walker Room)
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Social Justice Team Meeting (Online)
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Long Range Planning Task Force (Walker Room)
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	4th Thursday Covenant Group (Irvin Room)

February 23, 2024

Friday

8:30 am – 10:30 am	GERC Sponsor Meeting (Irvin Room)
9:00 am – 10:30 am	Private Event (Fell Room)
6:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Adult Game Night (Fell Room)
6:15 pm – 10:00 pm	UU D&D Group (Walker Room)

Rev. Gant Welcomed into Full Fellowship!

Dear ones,

I am so pleased to share with you that I've been welcomed into Full Fellowship by the Ministerial Fellowshiping Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). This is the last step in becoming a minister with all the rights and privileges that come with it.

The process of ministerial formation in our tradition is rigorous:

It begins with applying to the UUA to become an Aspirant, submitting essays and letters of recommendation.

The next steps included:

- a comprehensive Career Assessment (psychological assessments and aptitude tests along with a 1 1/2 day in-person session with a psychologist);
- a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (I completed mine by serving as a chaplain for 10 weeks, splitting my time between a Trauma 1-level hospital and a Behavioral Health Unit);
- a vote by a congregation to affirm that they "see a minister" in me (my home congregation in Lawrence, KS);
- completing an M.Div (I graduated from Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago in May 2020);
- completing a two-year, part-time internship (All Souls UU Church, Kansas City, MO 2018-2020);
- interviewing with the Ministerial Fellowshiping Committee (MFC) and being accepted into Preliminary Fellowship (December of 2019);

- being ordained by a congregation (in my case, co-ordained by Lawrence, KS, and All Souls KC in May 2020);
- being "passed" three times by the MFC based on yearly self evaluations, a mentor's affirmation, and evaluations from UUBN's Board and Committee on Shared Ministry (Feb 2024).
- meeting monthly with a mentor
- attending the monthly meetings of the "First Year Ministers" seminar (2020-2021)
- continuing monthly meeting with a peer group for support and accountability

Now that I'm in Full Fellowship, I am eligible to supervise an intern, serve as a mentor, and hold other leadership positions in the UU Ministers' Association and the UUA. (Plus, no more formal evaluations!)

I am grateful to the many people who have encouraged and supported me along the way-- people who wrote the letters of recommendation needed for almost every step of the way, who listened when I needed an ear, and who worked on the many evaluations I needed to turn in. Thank you to all the members of the Board and the Committee on Shared Ministry for your time preparing evaluations, serving as a sounding board, helping me learn the history and culture of the congregation, and helping me grow.

The work of the Committee on Shared Ministry will now shift from a focus on me as the minister toward a focus on the health of all the ministries of the church, asking questions about how well we are living our mission and what's next.

I look forward to continuing to serve this faith that I love-- and doing it alongside you all! Thank you! We will celebrate with cake on February 25th between worship and the congregational meeting.

Rev. Rebecca

Looking for Readers and Musicians

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? We would like to hear from any and all interested in participating as readers or musicians. You can let us know by [clicking here](#). We look forward to hearing from many of you!

Submitted by Claudia Kaufman, for the Worship Team

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

Religious Exploration News

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

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

Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly (MUUSA)

An annual intergenerational Unitarian Universalist retreat for fun, fellowship, and personal growth.

Wednesday, July 3 through Sunday, July 7, 2024. Meeting this year in Bloomington, Indiana!

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington welcomes all MUUSAns to Bloomington, Indiana, July 3-7. The APC is still working on the programming, but we have made arrangements for very affordable housing and meals through the Indiana University dorms — and the dorm we will be in is 0.6 miles from the church! There will also be hotel options in many price ranges in addition to the dorms.

Meyer (junior high), Burt (high school), and Young Adults (YA) will have dedicated space in the dorms for programming. Most adult programs and Morning Celebrations will be at the church.

We are working to get the brochure and registration up and running by the middle of February 2024. Rev. Misha Sanders will be our theme speaker!

Bloomington is about an hour south of Indianapolis, near the rolling hills of Yellowwood and Brown County State Forests. UUCB is an excellent venue for worship, workshops, performances and fellowship. Woods, water and other recreation (like tennis, swimming, frisbee golf, etc.) are all within easy walking distance from the church and housing. Best of all, we are working closely with UUCB, Indiana University hospitality, and local hotels to keep prices as low as possible.

Note from Terina: While not all of the information is updated yet, you can read more about MUUSA at <https://www.muusa.org>. If you're interested in attending, I'm happy to coordinate carpools and UUBN connections.

Community Composting Kit

Stevenson Library has a Community Composting kit! The kit contains an access card for the community compost bins, 5 gallon compostable bags, and instructions. If you host an event that creates a lot of food waste (or pizza boxes!), borrow the kit using the checkout binder in Stevenson Library. Learn more about community composting on the Ecology Action Center's website: <https://ecologyactioncenter.org/composting/community-composting/>

Contact Larissa Armstrong with questions about community composting. Contact me if you have questions about the kit.

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
FEBRUARY		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			
MARCH				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: 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.

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." Let's talk about how to be a good ally!

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

Small Groups with Tom Clemens

Email Tom at XXXXXXXXXXXX@XXXXXXXX or text/call ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ 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.

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. Purchase or find the book on your own. 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.

Social Justice News

Chad Kahl, Chair

From Our Allies

Decarcerate Illinois Petition—Sign On! Sign the [Decarcerate Illinois Petition](#) urging Governor Pritzker to reconnect families by acting on clemencies!

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](#).

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 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

 <p>Unitarian Universalist Prison Ministry of IL</p>	<p>Saturday February 24, 2024 11 am - 2pm</p>
<h1>Inside Circle Facilitator Training</h1>  <p>REGISTER HERE</p>  <p>Scan me!</p> <p>A trauma-informed, small-group style circle training for the privilege to facilitate circles in Illinois prisons and jails, aka "inside ministry."</p>	
<p>Including topics like Active Listening, Trauma, Mindfulness, Grounding, & Cultural Humility</p>	<p>At the Unitarian Church of Evanston 1330 Ridge Ave Evanston, IL 60201 Room 3</p>

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

-Submitted by Julie Prandi

Announcements

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

Safe Harbor Update

We are a generous congregation! THANK YOU for your donations to the January plate. We raised \$3,669.35! This allows the monthly budget to increase so that we can prepare more fresh and nutritious food at Safe Harbor. Thank you, again, for your generosity.

Submitted by: Camille Ehlers

Cake Raffle

Sunday, March 17, 11:30

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 RE 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 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

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.

Submitted by Claire Hedden

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 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 kpackard@uubn.org.

Submitted by the Membership Team

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 with your questions.

Submitted by Sarah Boesdorfer

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).

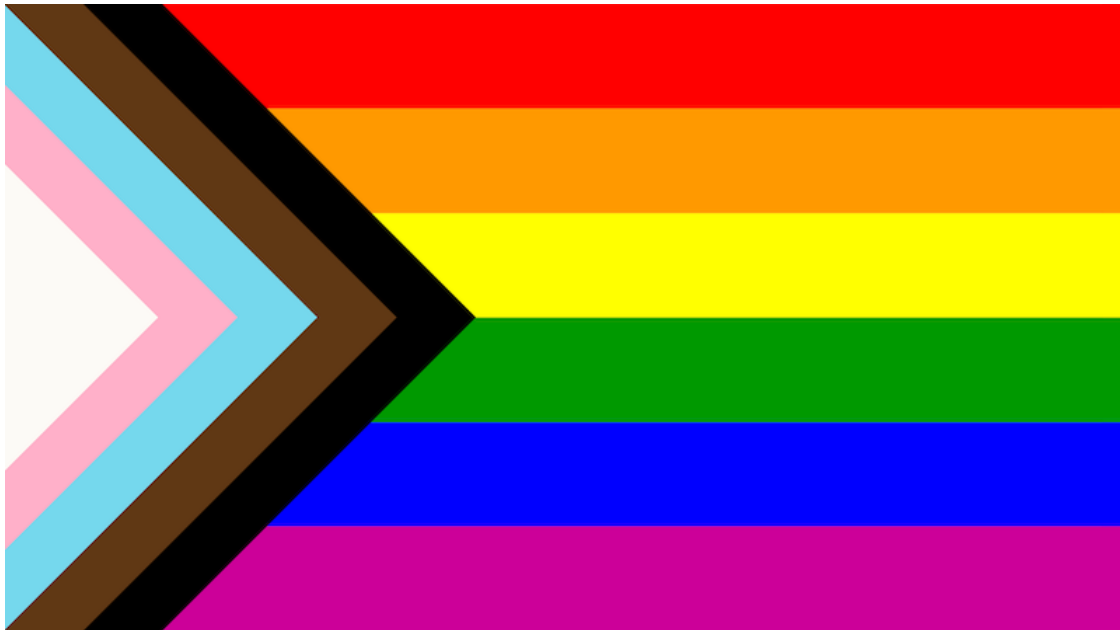
There are two ways to participate in GA:

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 Amstrong.

Submitted by Nancy Armstrong



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 Nancy.Armstrong@uubn.org 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](mailto:office@uubn.org) 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](mailto:Terina@uubn.org) 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
cberggre@iwu.edu

Children's Choir Director
Bob Mangialardi
rmangial@iwu.edu

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: 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.

UUBN Trustees

Jack Pace, Paul Packard, and Brad Boesdorfer

Committee Contacts

Aesthetics
Building and Grounds

Doug Johnson
Dick Hansen

Committee on Shared Ministry
Finance and Stewardship
Denominational Affairs
Memorial Garden Stewards
Safety

Janet Tulley
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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