



[A LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation.](#)

1613 E. Emerson, Bloomington, IL 61701

309-828-0235

uubn.org

office@uubn.org

This Sunday's Worship Service:

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

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

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

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 4, 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 and Lower Level) | Children and Youth Religious Exploration (Sanctuary) |
| 11:30 am – 12:30 pm (Walker Room) | Adult RE: Quick! What's Unitarian Universalism? |
| 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm Room) | Bloomington Normal Meditation Group (Walker |

February 5, 2024

Monday

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

February 7, 2024

Wednesday

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 5:00 pm – 5:40 pm | Emerson Singers (up to 5th Grade) (Walker Room) |
| 5:45 pm – 6:30 pm (Walker Room) | Fairly Frequent Singers (Jr. High and High School) |
| 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm | Humanist Group (Offsite) |

February 8, 2024

Thursday

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

February 9, 2024

Friday

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Over the Rainbow (Fell Room/Youth Room)

6:15 pm – 10:00 pm

UU D&D Group (Walker Room)

Rev Gant on Vacation

I will be on vacation from February 3-11. Call Linda Johnston or the office for any Pastoral Care needs during this time. Rev. Sally Fritsche from Urbana will be offering support for any serious or complicated situations that arise.

I know you'll be in good hands and I look forward to returning refreshed and ready for 2024!

-Rev. Rebecca

Letter from Incarcerated Member

Hello, all. We recently received a letter from our incarcerated member Marilyn Lemak. I wanted to share her appreciation with you all.

-Rev. Rebecca

Jan. 5, 2024

Hello to my fellow congregants of UUBN, Happy New Year! Just a quick note to let you know how grateful I am to be a member of the church. I proudly tell many people that I'm a member of UUBN, but I don't know that I've told all of you. Thank you for being a church that truly welcomes everyone! I'm grateful and honored to be the first currently incarcerated person to become a member of a "brick and mortar" UU church in Illinois.

I'd like to give a big thank you to the people who keep me connected to the church, and, more importantly, inspire me to more actively live the principles of our faith.

Blair B. consistently sends me the Parish News. I read it cover to cover. It's so helpful to know about all the upcoming services and activities the church offers.

Cindy C. has been a volunteer coming to Logan CC for several years. The "Telling Our Stories, Transforming Our Lives" course is thought provoking, a

good way to show people UU values without being overtly religious.

Babs A. has connected with several inmates at the prison and they just love her. And, now she'll be getting a real taste of Logan because she's going to be leading all the pagan ceremonies. I got to meet Babs at the Yule service.

Julie P. connected with me 7 or 8 years ago after I wrote to UUBN about the newly formed UUPMI [UU Prison Ministry of Illinois]. She comes to visit me once a month and sends me lots of stuff through the mail. She sends transcripts of the church services. Definitely makes me feel more connected to the church.

I hope to one day be able to come to the church in person. Until then, know that you all make a difference in my life by welcoming me as a member.

-Marilyn

Religious Exploration News

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

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

Junior High at Islamic Center of McLean County



We had a GREAT visit to the Islamic Center of McLean County! If you see one of the junior high kids, ask them what they thought, what they saw, what's the

same as UU, what's different.

Beginning Sunday, February 11, we'll learn more about Hinduism. Our visit to the Hindu Temple of Bloomington-Normal hasn't been set, but will happen sometime in the last week of February/first week of March.

Adults - feel like you're missing out? I'm hopeful we can offer a similar curriculum to adults next church year.

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.

Time for All Ages: Francis Irvin



We have a tradition of naming rooms after people: Walker Room after past minister Rev. Kenneth Walker; Gnagey Library after longtime Religious Educator Marilyn Gnagey; Stevenson Library after church member Adlai Stevenson; Fell Room after church founder Jesse Fell; Betty Semlak Playground after longtime Religious Educator Betty Semlak.

The most recent remodeling project created 2 new rooms that needed names! After the congregation voted, the Bradley Room was named for Lydia Moss Bradley, member and financier of the Universalist Church in Peoria and founder of Bradley University. The other room was named Irvin Room for our own church member Francis Irvin, who died in 2008.

This video about Francis's legacy was shared as the Time for All Ages in the January 21 service. The content primarily comes from a Pantagraph article and Francis's obituary. Thanks to Ginny Pace, Mercy Davison, and Larissa Armstrong who knew Francis and were happy to participate in the making of the video. <https://youtu.be/8eVnttoV7LQ>

You can read about Francis' work with our church in the book *Into the 21st Century*. Copies are available in Stevenson Library.

Taking Flight: Sexuality Education for 11th & 12th Graders

When I started as DRE, I asked the high schoolers what one thing they would change about church if they could. They told me that having OWL in 7th & 8th grade was not enough. They needed it again, especially later in high school when they were thinking about graduation, leaving home, transitioning into young adulthood, possibly exploring relationships and their sexuality for the first time. The catch is that most kids that age don't have time for 13 sessions of an OWL class.

At the end of the pandemic, we did a program called Taking Flight. Over three longer sessions, using OWL materials as the source, facilitators highlighted what we thought was the most important information for kids that age to have and talk about. We're planning to run that program again in April. There is no cost because OWL is part of the budget supported through financial pledges from the congregation.

Who is Invited to Participate

- Youth in 11th or 12th grade currently registered in Religious Exploration (RE)
- Youth in 11th or 12th grade NOT registered for RE this year, but are members/friends of the church AND have participated in a previous OWL class

Mandatory orientation for youth AND parents. Date TBD

Session 1: Sunday, April 14, 3:00-7:00

Session 2: Sunday, April 21, 3:00-7:00

Session 3: Sunday, April 28, 3:00-7:00

with late lunch/early dinner provided on all dates

Facilitators: Erin Ripley, Ann Crumpler, Dave Shanahan, Blair Broughton, Terina

Helping with Supplies and Meals: Mercy Davison, Karla Bailey-Smith, Erin Furimsky

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education Facilitator Training

We are hosting OWL Facilitator Training this summer in preparation for the 2024-2025 church year. If you have already participated in training, you have an email from me asking about your ability and interest in teaching OWL this fall/next spring.

If you are not a trained facilitator but are interested in learning more, send me a note and let's talk!

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.

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."

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

Small Groups with Tom Clemens

Email Tom at tom.clemens@uua.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.

- 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@XXXXXXXXXX. 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 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX@XXXXXXXXXX. 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 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX@XXXXXXXXXX. 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 XXXXXXX@uubn.org. 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

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

How We Win the Civil War: Securing a Multiracial Democracy and Ending White Supremacy for Good

February 6th, 6:30 PM, Zoom

UUSJ (Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice) is thrilled to announce a Zoom talk by New York Times bestselling author, columnist, and political commentator Steve Phillips. He is a regular columnist for The Nation and The Guardian and has appeared for the NYT, NBC, CNN, MSNBC, and C-SPAN. Steve Phillips will discuss the importance of sharing power with impacted folks, our potential

role within the larger justice movement, some of the root causes of what we face when we advocate for a radically inclusive democracy.

[Sign up here for the event.](#)

Submitted by: Camille Ehlers

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](#).

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

Announcements

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.

Submitted by Claire Hedden

Church Directory

If you'd like to be listed in the directory and are not a member of the church, send a note to the office and ask to be added. Currently the directory only shows members of the church (signed the book) and people who have given consent for their information to be available to others in the church. This directory is only accessible by contacting the office and getting a login. If you have questions or would like to be added please contact the office by [email](#) or by phone, 309-828-0235.

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](#).

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

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.

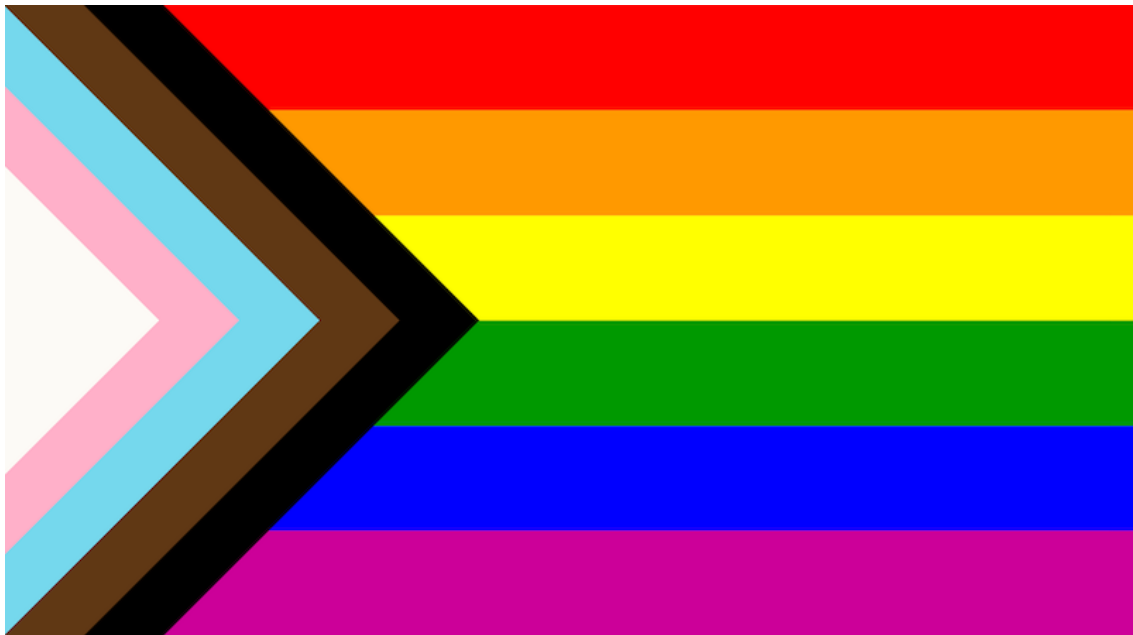
We'll go into depth about the history of UUism, our theology, how we conduct our church business, our community events, and the advantages of becoming a member. We encourage you to attend both classes because we'll present different material at each, but if you can only attend one, we can provide material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

Submitted by the Membership Team



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 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 ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ 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

~~[charlie@uubn.org](#)~~

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: 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

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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