

A LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation.

1613 E. Emerson, Bloomington, IL 61701 309-828-0235 <u>uubn.org</u> <u>office@uubn.org</u>

This Sunday's Worship Service:

3/10 - Glimpses of What Could Be - 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

3/17 - Celtic Spirituality - Rev. Martin Wolfe and Claudia Kaufman, Worship Associate

3/24 - Finding Hope in Unexpected Places - Rev. Rebecca Gant and Chad Kahl, 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!



Online)

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

March 10, 2024	Sunday
8:45 am - 9:45 am 9:45 am - 11:15 am 10:00 am - 11:15 am 10:00 am - 11:00 am 11:30 am - 12:15 pm 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Adult Choir (Walker Room) Childcare and Preschool (Childcare Room) RE Children & Youth (Sanctuary and Lower Level) Sunday Service (Sanctuary) Youth Membership Conversations (Irvin Room) Worship and Music Retreat (Irvin Room) Bloomington Normal Meditation Group (Online) YAB Meeting (Fell Room)
March 11, 2024	Monday
11:45 am – 1:00 pm 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Lunch Bunch (Fell Room) PFLAG (Fell Room)
March 12, 2024	Tuesday
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Board Meeting (Online)
March 13, 2024	Wednesday
4:15 pm – 5:30 pm 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Youth Membership Conversations (Bradley Room) Private Event (Irvin Room) Monthly Meeting of Many Paths CUUPs (Fell Room,

March 14, 2024 Thursday

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

March 15, 2024 Friday

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)

A few notes from the Minister's desk...

The plan was to hold a Child Dedication for four children on February 25th. Unfortunately, due to illness, only one child could come- and what a delight it was to dedicate William (Liam) Longfellow! We will schedule another dedication soon for the three who couldn't come- and if you'd like to add your child to that dedication, let me know.

Last Wednesday, I spoke at a vigil for Nex Benedict, the non-binary teen who died after a fight at their school. The vigil was planned by Babs Allen and others, and occurred just before Prairie Pride Coalition's LGBTQ Town Hall. Last Thursday, I spoke at a vigil calling for peace in Gaza. Thursday's vigil was organized by Nicté Rivadeneyra-Braswell, a current ISU student who grew up here at UUBN. Karla Bailey-Smith ably mentored this newer organizer. Both vigils served as a welcoming space where people could share their grief and anger and hope. At the Gaza Vigil, I read from the statement released by the Office of the President and other senior national staff of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), grounded in the values of Unitarian Universalism and in conversation with previous resolutions, statements, and actions passed by General Assembly, the UUA's democratically-elected governing body. You can find it here: https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/uua-condemns-violence-urges-ceasefire

Finally, a reminder that there is a place for you at UUBN! If you haven't found your way to a group or activity and would like help or have questions, please let me know! Easiest is probably email- minister@uubn.org.

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 <u>clicking here</u>. We look forward to hearing from many of you!

Submitted by Claudia Kaufman, for the Worship Team

From the Board

Larissa Armstrong, Board President

I would like to thank the 60 members who attended (via zoom and in person) the February 25, 2025 Congregational Meeting. We had a very productive meeting!

The 2023 Annual Report was approved (pending some date corrections) by members. If you have not yet read through this comprehensive report of UUBN activities, I highly encourage you to do so! It is located in the Important Documents folder of the "For Members" section of the website. If you need help accessing the document, please see Blair in the office. The Annual Report contains minutes from the Congregational Meetings held that year, a copy of the church budget, and reports from the Trust, from staff, and from the numerous ministry and governance groups that make church life in and outside our church walls happen. This is also a great way to learn about opportunities to get more involved! I want to thank everyone who is named in this report and to those who may not be named but have participated in one or more of the activities listed. The contents of this annual report is a testament to our commitment to our church and our larger community. I would also like to thank Blair for the work she put in, compiling all of this information.

The 2024 Budget was approved, and due to the incredible increase in pledging from members, our projected deficit is considerably lower than what was

anticipated several months ago. The Finance and Stewardship Committee is working diligently to continue to close that gap now and in the future. This is a reminder that our church runs solely on the financial contributions of members and friends, and every bit helps. If you have not yet made a financial pledge to support our congregation for 2024, you still can! Contact the office for more information.

In a ballot vote resulting in a 55 - 5 vote, the members present approved the Proposal to Borrow from the Trust to fund the UUBN Solar Project. The Congregation will borrow up to \$195,000 from the UUBN Trust to pay for rooftop solar panels. The loan will be repaid on demand, with the expectation of receiving approximately \$123,000 in state and federal payments within the first year following installation. The balance will be repaid from additional rebates and energy savings, including unspent funds from the Capital Campaign. Interest on the unpaid balance to be accrued at 4% per annum. The window to apply for the Illinois Solar for All program opens in early June. If the UUBN project is approved, it is likely project installation will occur by last summer 2024. This investment will save the church thousands of dollars a year in energy costs for over 35 years. Electricity rates continue to rise year after year, and the solar installation will help protect against that. This step toward solar is an excellent financial investment for the church, and an investment in the future of our shared environment. Stay tuned for more project updates this summer!

Again, thank you to everyone who participated in this important element of our church governance! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your Board Members: Larissa Armstrong, President; Julie Prandi, Vice President; Nancy Armstrong, Treasurer; Chad Kahl, Secretary; Directors: Jill Enchelmayer, Karla Bailey-Smith, Hubert Morales, Richard Seehuus, Brad Bell.

Submitted by Larissa Armstrong, Board President

Religious Exploration News

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

You're Invited to Speak for Transgender Day of Visibility

Transgender Day of Visibility falls on Easter Sunday this year. As I begin planning our Easter Service, I would like to extend a special invitation to members of the transgender community to be involved. I'm not quite sure how this will look, we can talk based on your comfort level. Maybe reading a blessing for TDOV? Maybe sharing a personal anecdote? Maybe reading something in the service that's not related to TDOV? Reading alone? Reading with a small group depending on how many people are interested?

Easter Eggs

All are invited to help fill Easter Eggs, Wednesday, March 27 at 5:00.

Join the Easter Brunch Potluck after the Egg Hunt. Sign up here to bring a dish, help set up, or help clean

up: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084FA9AE29A0FA7-48411818-easter

Register for Taking Flight for 10th, 11th, and 12th Graders

The program is an abbreviated, intensive version of Our Whole Lives. Trained OWL facilitators are leading the sessions: Erin Ripley, Ann Crumpler, Dave Shanahan, Blair Broughton, Terina. Helping with supplies and meals are Mercy Davison, Karla Bailey-Smith, and Erin Furimsky.

Who is Invited to Participate

- Youth in 10th, 11th, or 12th grade who are currently registered in Religious Exploration (RE)
- Youth in 10th, 11th, or 12th grade who are not registered for RE this year, but are members/friends of the church AND have participated in a previous OWL class

Minimum registered for the program to be successful: 6 - The program could be cancelled for low registration.

- Mandatory Parent Orientation: Wednesday, April 3 at 6:00 in Fell
- Sunday, April 14, 3:00-7:00 Health

- Sunday, April 21, 3:00-7:00 Justice
- Sunday, April 28, 3:00-7:00 Communication

Register here: https://forms.gle/bcDR7LH4Frcqy4fE8

Contact Terina with questions - LRE@uubn.org

Junior High Visit to Hindu Temple of Bloomington-Normal



Pamela Spencer
(chaperone), Thea, Roan,
Jackson, Will, William,
Charlie, MaAdwoa, Otto,
Ramona, Oscar, and Claire
(chaperone) had a
wonderful visit to the Hindu
Temple. Thanks to Preetha
Bhat who visited the group a
couple Sundays ago to
share her experiences

growing up in the Hindu community. We've learned about and visited Unitarian Universalism (UU Urbana-Champaign), Christianity (First United Methodist), Judaism (Moses Montefiore Temple), Islam (Islamic Center of McLean County). Next we'll learn about Catholicism and we hope to visit Epiphany Roman Catholic Church.

Resources from Adult RE: Dear Liberal Allies

Participants in last Sunday's program, Shane Wall, Gary Gletty, Jim Parr, Bruce Whitmore, Craig Cooley, Joanne Alexander, Debbie Kerrigan, and Kathy Packard, began the session by each sharing one thing an ally is or does: listen; find common ground; speaks out when they see injustice; participates in actions to support those who are oppressed; aligns themselves with people from an oppressed group; knows it's not about them; speaks up but not in place of others; allyship is a group thing not an individual thing; peer group to peer group.

Quick reads to get you started:

https://lgbt.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/175/2016/08/GSCC-Interrupting-oppressive-behavior.pdf

https://aninjusticemag.com/the-differences-between-allies-accomplices-co-conspirators-may-surprise-you-d3fc7fe29c

https://health.cornell.edu/sites/health/files/pdf-library/ally-up.pdf

Adult RE: Facing Extinction: Processing Eco-Grief

Tuesday, March 19, 6:00-8:00

All are welcome. Due to the climate crisis, we face questions about our collective existence as a species and whether the planet is dying (at least as it is inhabitable by humans). Using concepts from the "Work That Reconnects," developed by Joanna Macy, we'll bravely explore this emotional terrain.

How Can You Help?

One of the suggestions made during the budget brainstorming/feedback sessions was to have volunteers take on some of the tasks currently being done by staff. If any of these tasks interest you, let Terina know and she can share more information!

- 1. Clean the fridge & kitchen (once a month) Connor MacLeod-Carlson
- 2. Strip the branches in the playspace area (one time) ?????
- Host an all ages backyard campout at the church using materials from the last one (one time) - ?????
- 4. Create a binder for Gender Expansive Resource Center (GERC) instructions (one time) ?????
- 5. Count and record the GERC inventory (once a month) Sandy Aronen
- 6. Create plant ID tags for the pollinator garden Larissa Armstrong
- 7. Use the Over the Rainbow logo and create promotional materials (one time) Babs Allen
- 8. Make curtains for the youth room (one time) Kristen Johnson
- Clean up the garden at the bottom of the kitchen stairs (seasonal) -Lenore Clark
- 10. Organize the supplies for Our Whole Lives (one time) ?????

 Create promotional materials for Our Whole Lives (one time) - Debbie Spensley



UU Peep Dioramas!

It's PEEP time! Ready for our traditional peep diorama building? A project for all ages! I have Peeps, boxes, paper, and other supplies you may need. Create one together as a family project or have each person create their own. The only guideline is the theme of Unitarian Universalism. Past dioramas have highlighted favorite church events, church spaces, sources of our faith, or a principle in action. Bring your creation to church before March 30th so they can be on display for Easter! See photos of past year dioramas in Fell.

Small Groups with Tom Clemens

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.

 April 7, 2-3 P.M. Preparing for War: The Extremist History of White Christian Nationalism—And What Comes Next; Bradley Onishi. Broadleaf Books, 2023. I heard an interview of Onishi on the PBS News Hour. The topic concerns the here and now in the U.S. political arena.

The Unitarian Universalist Association selection for its 2023-2024 Common Read: On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World, by Danya Ruttenberg. Participants chose to meet Thursday, May 2, 7-8 P.M. 4 registered.

The participants in the discussion of *Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America*, by Heather Cox Richardson (author of How the South Won the Civil War). Penguin Random House, 2023, chose to meet Thursday, April 18, 7-8 P.M. 8 registered.

Let Us Read A Novel #7: *The Night Watchman: A Novel*, by Louise Erdrich, meets biweekly on Thursday evenings, 7-8 P.M. Next session is on March 21, through the chapter, "Flying Over Snow," p. 314. 11 registered.

Share Your Writing - The next session is Wednesday, March 20, 7-8 P.M. Writing at any stage is welcome. We share and discuss.

SURVEY: Who is interested in participating in a monthly Zoom "Current Issues Seminar" discussion of the content of *The Nation* magazine: the investigative reports that "challenge corporate power and conventional wisdom," the "reviews and commentary on culture that aim to provoke active thought rather than solicit passive agreement"? In comparison and contrast, participants could share their comments from other investigative sources (e.g. *Mother Jones, The Progressive, The Atlantic, The New York Times, The Sun, The Intercept, The Ink*, and so forth) that they read. In other words, we can pool our reading and perspectives to keep ourselves up to date on issues that impact our ability to work toward justice for all.

Social Justice News

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

Announcements

TNT Auction We need you!

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

Live Auction In Person!: Saturday April 13, 2024. Doors will open at 6pm for appetizers, socializing, and



merchandise browsing. *Jon Johnson and Charlie Schlenker* will be auctioning off our Live Auction items starting at 7pm. There will be a Zoom option to connect live as well.

We need you! <u>Click Here for the Donation Form</u> to donate items to be auctioned. Your talent, treasures, event hosting skills. For more information, donation ideas, and a link to the donation form, check the <u>auction page</u> on the church website.

Help with the event!- <u>Click here</u> for a sign up genius to see how you can volunteer to help.

Contact the TNT Auction Team, Sarah Boesdorfer, Chair, at <u>UUBNTNT@gmail.com</u> with your questions.

Submitted by Sarah Boesdorfer

Donate to UUBN by Making Your Regular Purchases

Do you shop at Target? Walmart? Amazon? Jewel? Using the Great Lakes Scrip program (also called RaiseRight), you can buy gift cards online from these retailers and hundreds of others, and a percentage of the purchase goes to UUBN. Then, use the e-gift cards immediately to make your regular purchases. With transaction fees as low as \$0.29 per transaction, your daily purchases can make a big difference for UUBN! Visit www.raiseright.com to learn more.

Interfaith Green Team

Thursday, March 21st at 7:00 pm, Fell Room

Are you interested in environmental issues in our community and beyond? Join the UUBN Green Sanctuary Committee, and congregants from Second Presbyterian, First Presbyterian, First United Methodist, Moses Montefiore Temple, New Covenant, and more for the quarterly Interfaith Green Team group meeting.



Cake Raffle Sunday, March 17, 11:30

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.

Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. You do not need to be present to win! 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 to UUBN with CAKE RAFFLE in the memo line.

Or buy tickets through Breeze mobile app/Cake Raffle. If you buy with Breeze email <u>LRE@UUBN.ORG</u> with the number of tickets you purchased and your contact information.

<u>Sign up</u> 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

Save the Date for Adult Mental Health First Aid Training

Wednesday, July 24, 8:00-5:00, Fell Room

You are more likely to encounter someone in an emotional or mental crisis than someone having a heart attack. Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders.

Led by McLean County Health Department, this training gives you the skills you need to reach out and provide initial support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem and help connect them to the appropriate care.

Register here - https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024mhfa

If you'd like to do the training on a different date, the McLean County Health Department's website has information on ongoing monthly trainings.



Bring Your Pop Can Tabs to Church

Ronald McDonald House Charities provides housing, support, and community so that families with children who have serious medical needs can stay together while receiving medical care. This global

organization has over 380 Ronald McDonald Houses in 64 countries. Each one accommodates families with children receiving treatment who are being treated at nearby hospitals and medical facilities. Regardless of whether you choose to eat at Mcdonald's, RMH is a nonprofit organization that truly supports families facing the emotional and economic toll of having a critically ill child in the hospital or other treatment centers.

We are one of those families. For the past 9 years, we have found a welcoming refuge at RMH facilities in the Chicago area. We are so grateful for the organization. We didn't know what RMH's purpose was until we needed it, so we try to share its importance when we can. We've participated in a variety of fundraising activities and advocacy for RMH because we've met so many families facing difficult circumstances who have benefitted from a place of support - from a mother who emigrated to the US with her husband from Iraq and was caring for her 1-year-old with a large brain tumor, to a family from Kentucky whose two children were being treated for life-threatening autoimmune disorders.

There are ways to support this organization that require only your upcycling! Help us collect can tabs (or pull tabs), which contain a trace of copper and are recycled by RMH to raise funds. These small tabs can add up to tens of thousands of dollars used to house and feed families and provide supportive staff and volunteers.

Bring your can tabs to church and place them in the RMH donation box located by the RE info in the Fell Room (with many thanks to Terina for suggesting this!). We will deliver your donated tabs to the Ronald McDonald House where we stay in Chicago near Lurie Children's Hospital.

-Submitted by Rachel Lapp Whitt

Serving the immigrants of downstate Illinois since 1995



THE IMMIGRATION PROJECT



This Month's Community Plate Recipient

The Immigration Project

This March, our donations go to the Immigration Project.

- The Immigration Project is the principal provider of immigration legal services in Central and Southern Illinois. Despite the fact that over 100,000 immigrants live south of I-80, The Immigration Project is the only non-profit, legal service staffing full time immigration attorneys, serving 700-1000 clients a year!
- Access to immigration legal services can be the difference between struggling in poverty and economic self-sufficiency; the difference between living in a domestic violence situation and escaping it; the difference between hopelessness and hope. The work that The Immigration Project does is VITAL for community health, individual wellness, and immigrant success.
- The work that The Immigration Project does not only changes lives, but saves them! In addition to standard immigration cases like adjustment of status and naturalization, The Immigration Project has a Survivors of Trauma program, dedicated to helping refugees and immigrant victims of domestic abuse, sexual abuse, and crime. By making a donation to The Immigration Project today, you can help build healthy, whole communities in our state.
- A couple of fun facts: one in six workers in Illinois are an immigrant and one in seven people in Illinois are an immigrant. Also, 97 cents of every

dollar donated to The Immigration Project goes directly to help immigrant clients.

To donate to The Immigration Project, make out your check to The Immigration Project 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/

Communications are confidential.

Ongoing Group Gatherings

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 <u>Terina</u> to join a small group.

Mindfulness Meditation for Beginners: Weekly practice on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 7:00-8:30 pm. This is an opportunity to practice mindfulness meditation. While this practice is aimed at beginners, it is open to any one and all are welcome to participate. Sign up with the office at office@uubn.org or 309.828.0235.

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.

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

Children's Choir Director

Bob Mangialardi

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 uubn.org.

UUBN Trustees

Jack Pace, Paul Packard, and Brad Boesdorfer

Committee Contacts

Aesthetics Doug Johnson
Building and Grounds Dick Hansen
Committee on Shared Ministry Janet Tulley
Finance and Stewardship Emile Garneau
Denominational Affairs Nancy Armstrong
Memorial Garden Stewards Debby Funk
Safety Larissa Armstrong

Team Contacts

Membership and Outreach Kathy Packard Right Relations Carolyn Moon and Pamela Morgan Community Concerns Camille Ehlers **Green Sanctuary Nancy Armstrong** Helping Hands Carolyn Pitts Joan Banks History 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

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 <u>online directory</u> or <u>email the office.</u>

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