

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

This Sunday's Worship Service:

3/3 - Living with Uncertainty - Rev. Rebecca Gant and Barb Dallinger, Worship Associate

Join us in one of the following ways:

- In person
- Zoom Online: <u>Click here</u> The passcode is 616389.
- Telephone: 1-646-558-8656 and use meeting ID 949-975-206 when prompted.

Click <u>HERE</u> for this week's Order of Service.

Upcoming Services

3/10 - Glimpses of What Could Be - Rev. Rebecca Gant and Julie Prandi,

Worship Associate

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

> Sunday Slides and Parish News Deadline: Tuesdays at 9 am Have an event to reserve space for? <u>Click Here!</u> Have an announcement to tell the church about? <u>Click Here!</u>



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 3, 2024	Sunday
8:45 am – 9:45 am 9:45 am – 11:15 am 10:00 am – 11:15 am Level)	Adult Choir (Walker Room) Childcare and Preschool (Childcare Room) RE for Children and Youth (Sanctuary and Lower
10:00 am - 11:00 am 11:30 am – 12:30 pm 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm Room)	Sunday Service (Sanctuary) Adult RE: Dear Liberal Allies Bloomington Normal Meditation Group (Walker
March 4, 2024	Monday
11:45 am – 1:00 pm 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Lunch Bunch (Fell Room) Exploring Membership (Irvin Room)
March 6, 2024	Wednesday
5:00 pm – 5:40 pm 5:45 pm – 6:30 pm (Walker Room)	Emerson Singers (up to 5th Grade) (Walker Room) Fairly Frequent Singers (Jr. High and High School)
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Humanist Group (Offsite)
March 7, 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)	
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	True Colors Book Club (Fell Room)	
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Private Event (Irvin Room)	
March 8, 2024	Friday	
9:00 am – 10:30 am	Private Event (Fell Room)	
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Over the Rainbow (Fell Room)	
6:15 pm – 10:00 pm	UU D&D Group (Walker Room)	

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

Last Sunday, the plan was to hold a Child Dedication for four children. 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.

On 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 the Prairie Pride Coalition's Town Hall. On 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 new organizer. Both vigils served as a welcoming space where people could share their grief and anger and hope. 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- <u>minister@uubn.org</u>.

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

Religious Exploration News

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

Adult RE: Facing Extinction: Processing Eco-Grief Tuesday, March 19, 6:00-8:00

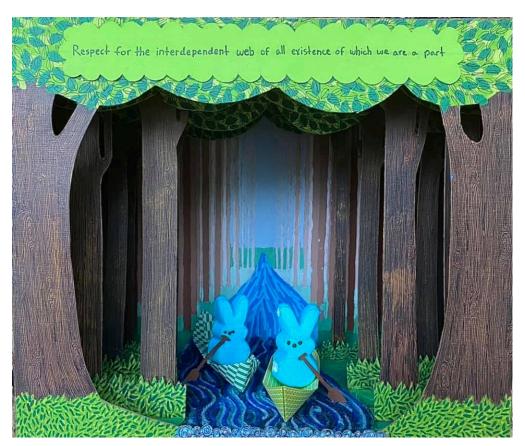
All are welcome. Due to the climate crisis, we face questions about our collective existence as a species and whether the planet is dying (at least as it is inhabitable by humans). Using concepts from the "Work That Reconnects," developed by Joanna Macy, we'll bravely explore this emotional terrain.

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 me know and I can share more information!

1. Clean the fridge & kitchen (once a month)

- 2. Strip the branches in the playspace area (one time)
- 3. 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)
- 6. Create plant ID tags for the pollinator garden Larissa
- 7. Use the Over the Rainbow logo and create promotional materials (one time)
- 8. Make curtains for the youth room (one time)
- 9. Clean up the garden at the bottom of the kitchen stairs (seasonal)
- 10. Organize the supplies for Our Whole Lives (one time)
- 11. Create promotional materials for Our Whole Lives (one time)



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.

- March 3, 2-3 P.M. *Correction: Parole, Prison, and the Possibility of Change*; Ben Austen. Macmillan, 2023. 10 Registered.
- 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 are now choosing a meeting time to discuss the book. 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, are now choosing a meeting time. 8 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. The participants started meeting every other Thursday evening, 7-8 P.M, on February 22. 11 registered.

For those who like self-exploration, Tom is organizing a discussion of Søren Kierkegaard's *The Sickness Unto Death*. Translation by Bruce H. Kirmmse. 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 the book in tomclemenstomten66@gmail.com. 4 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.

Notes from the Office

Blair Broughton, Office Manager

Problems Hearing the Service?



Jim Parr has discovered a great work around if you have hearing issues during the service. If you are unable to hear the service well, you can call into the Zoom telephone number and listen through your phone with headphones or your hearing aids if they connect to your phone.

We would like the service to be as accessible as possible. If you are having any issues participating in the service, please contact <u>the office</u>.

Zoom Telephone: 1-646-558-8656 and use meeting ID 949-975-206 when prompted.

Social Justice News

Wedding at Logan Prison

On February 22, Babs Allen officiated at the wedding of a woman who is currently incarcerated at Logan with her high school sweetheart. They had been friends, but became reacquainted when he began visiting her in prison. Babs did a lovely Pagan service with poetic invocations of spirits, gods, and goddesses. The first vows were spoken separately by each (different vows for the man and woman); then the vows they recited together were performed. A braided band was tied around their clasped right hands after the exchange of rings, to symbolize their commitment and oneness. Julie Prandi was there visiting Marilyn Lemak; they were both invited to share in the service, which took place in the visiting room. Julie signed as one of the witnesses.

-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

Stewardship News

Emile Garneau, Chair

Summary of the January 2024 Budget Feedback Sessions

At the December Congregational Meeting, Treasurer Nancy Armstrong proposed a budget for 2024 to the congregation. She indicated the need for feedback from the congregation before the final budget would be voted on by the congregation on Feb. 25th. Three feedback sessions were held in Jan. 2024. Participants (25 of them) enthusiastically had many questions and several suggestions for raising more money and cutting expenses. Additional input came from two members who were unable to attend but had many ideas.

Nancy will rework the proposed budget and present it on Feb. 25th to the congregation for their approval.

If you wish to receive a report of the feedback (4 pages), email

The Stewardship Committee thanks all who participated in this communication effort.

Submitted by the Stewardship Committee

Announcements

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 <u>www.raiseright.com</u> to learn more.

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 <u>office@uubn.org</u> or 309-828-0235 if this is your preference.

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

Submitted by the Membership Team

Interfaith Green Team

Thursday, March 21st at 7:00 pm

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 on Thursday, March 21 at 7pm at UUBN.



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.

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.

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

Submitted by Erin Furimsky, RE Team

Town of Normal Sustainability Plan ("Vision 2050") Needs Your Input!

Every 5 years, the Town of Normal calls together a diverse group of citizens to create a Vision Plan for the community. This exercise establishes goals and priorities to ensure Normal is a great place to live 25 years in the future. The theme of the Vision 2050 plan is sustainability! The citizen group behind the Vision 2050 plan has created a <u>survey</u> to engage as many people as possible in their effort to set forth sustainability goals and priorities.

As UU's, our 7th Principle calls on us to respect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. You can put that principle to work by completing the survey and staying tuned for additional public engagement opportunities later this spring and summer. The Town Council has a strong history of taking seriously the recommendations of its constituents, whether

those people are residents, employees at businesses in Normal, or visitors to Normal.

"Making a difference" in the world can seem daunting when you're looking at the international or national stage, but making a difference right here at home is completely within reach. So after you complete the survey, please circulate it to friends, family, and groups within your network.

Submitted by Mercy Davison

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.

TNT Auction We need you!

<u>Click Here</u> 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 <u>here</u>.

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



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



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



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 <u>here</u> or from your smartphone when you <u>download the app.</u> 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: <u>https://uubn.org/wp/make-pledge/</u>

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.

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.

Contacts:

UUBN Staff

Minister

Rev. Rebecca Gant

minister@uubn.org

Available by appointment. Click this link to see when she's available: <u>https://calendly.com/revrebeccagant/30min</u>

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

XXXXXXXXXXXXX

Children's Choir Director Bob Mangialardi

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

AV Technician Molly Hjelle <u>avstaff@uubn.org</u>

AV Technician Anastasia Guzman <u>avstaff@uubn.org</u>

Child Care Sara Kaeb <u>office@uubn.org</u>

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 <u>uubnboard@uubn.org</u>.

UUBN Trustees

Jack Pace, Paul Packard, and Brad Boesdorfer

Committee Contacts

Aesthetics Building and Grounds Committee on Shared Ministry Finance and Stewardship **Denominational Affairs** Memorial Garden Stewards Safety

Doug Johnson Dick Hansen Janet Tulley **Emile Garneau** Nancy Armstrong **Debby Funk** 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
History	Joan Banks
Religious Exploration (RE)	Erin Ripley-Gataric, Terina Carter
Social Justice	Chad Kahl
Worship and Music	Barb Dallinger, Rev. Rebecca Gant
Pastoral Care	Rev. Rebecca Gant

Groups with Contacts

Many Paths CUUPS 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 <u>online directory</u> or <u>email the office.</u>

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