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UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF
BLOOMINGTON
NORMAL

Love Radically ● Serve Gratefully ● Wonder Daily

[A LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation.](#)
1613 E. Emerson, Bloomington, IL 61701
309-828-0235
uubn.org
office@uubn.org

April 20, 2024

This Sunday's Worship Service:

All Ages Earth Day

Rev. Rebecca Gant and Terina Carter, Director of Religious Exploration

During our All Ages Earth Day service, we'll have our first ever Dirt Communion. All are encouraged to bring a little bit of soil (in a cup, can, or jar) from home - whatever home means to you - or from a place where you find your peace, find your power, find your joy.

Earth Day Brunch

Let's celebrate Earth Day with a VEGETARIAN potluck after our All Ages Earth Day service on Sunday, April 21. Click below for the signup genius and get creative with your favorite vegetarian or vegan dish. Gluten free is always welcome.



Submitted by Nancy Armstrong and the Green Sanctuary Team.

[Sign Up Here](#)

Join us in one of the following ways:

- In person
- Telephone: 1-646-558-8656 and use meeting ID 949-975-206 when prompted.
- Click below to join on Zoom. If you need a passcode, it's XXXXX

[Click Here to Join on Zoom](#)

[Click Here for Order of Service](#)

Upcoming Services

4/28 - Forgiveness and Reconciliation - Cindy Cotton and Chad Kahl, Worship Associates
5/5 - Beltane - Rev. Rebecca Gant and Sean-Thomas Gunnell, Worship Associate

Want to plan something at the church or do you have something you want people to know about?

Sunday Slides and Parish News Deadline: Tuesdays at 9 am

[Event Registration Form](#)

[Communication Form](#)

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

Sunday, April 21

8:45 am—9:45 am
9:45 am – 11:15 am
10:00 am – 11:15 am
11:15 am – 12:30 pm
3:00 pm – 7:00 pm
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Adult Choir (Walker Room)
Childcare and Preschool (Childcare Room)
RE for Children and Youth (Sanctuary, Lower Level)
Brunch (Fell Room)
Taking Flight (Lower Level)
BN Meditation Group (Walker Room, Online)

Monday, April 22

9:00 am – 10:00 am
11:45 am – 1:00 pm
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Early Birds Covenant Group (Irvin Room)
Lunch Bunch (Fell Room)
Introduction to Mindfulness Meditation (Walker Room)

Tuesday, April 23

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
6:30 pm – 8:15 pm

Worship Team Workshop (Online)
Private Event (Walker Room)

Wednesday, April 24

5:00 pm – 5:40 pm
5:45 pm – 6:30 pm
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Emerson Singers (Up to 5th Grade) (Walker Room)
Fairly Frequent Singers (Jr. High and High School) (Walker Room)
Last Wednesday Covenant Group (Online)

Thursday, April 25

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Rehearsal for Baroque'n Consort (Walker Room)
Social Justice Team Meeting (Online)
Fourth Thursday Covenant Group (Irvin Room)
Bridge Group (Bradley Welcome Room)

Friday, April 26

9:00 am – 10:30 am
6:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Private Event (Fell Room)
Private Event (Walker Room)

Saturday, April 27

4:00 pm – 11:00 pm
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Private Event (Fell Room)
Safety Team Meeting (Irvin Room)

To View the Events Calendar Click Here

From the Board

Larissa Armstrong, Board President, uubnboard@uubn.org

NEEDED: People to serve on the IT Committee

Are you tech-savvy and passionate about supporting your UUBN community? We're seeking dedicated volunteers to join our Information Technology Committee and play a crucial role in maintaining and enhancing our church's digital infrastructure.

There is not anyone currently serving in this role, and far too much IT responsibility is falling to staff, whose talents and time are needed elsewhere!

As a committee member, you'll provide consultation, support, and training for various IT and audio-video essentials throughout the year. You'll also have the opportunity to participate in quarterly meetings to address technology needs and plan for future improvements.

If you're ready to contribute your expertise and make a difference in our church community, we'd love to have you on board!

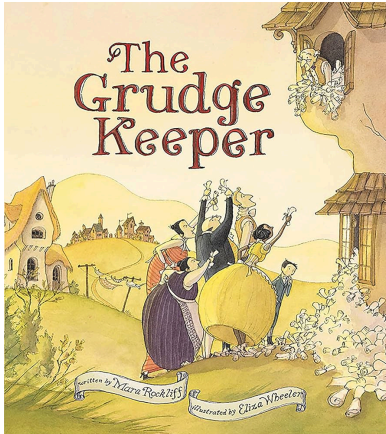
Interested individuals can contact Board President, Larissa Armstrong uubnboard@uubn.org or [408.222.2222](tel:4082222222) to learn more and express their interest in volunteering.

Keeping our church community thriving takes all of us!

Submitted by UUBN Board of Directors

Religious Exploration News

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



Time for All Ages for Give Up That Grudge

The book I used for the Time for All Ages during Julie Prandi and Cindy Cotton's Give Up That Grudge service last Sunday was the wonderful picture book *The Grudge Keeper*, written by Mara Rockliff, illustrated by Eliza Wheeler. A copy is available to check out from the Gnagey Library.

Milestone Recognitions

Sunday, May 19, 10:00

If your child is:

- graduating high school in May
- entering high school next fall
- entering junior high next fall
- entering kindergarten next fall

We would like to recognize them with a small gift at our annual Milestones service. Please send me a note as soon as possible if your child would like to be included! I'm ordering gifts before the end of April.

Adult Religious Exploration Planning

I'm planning the RE budget for the second half of the year (July - December) and would love your input! These topics all sound amazing to me. I'm wondering which ones you would be interested in most? Email me at LRE@uubn.org.

1. **Coming of Age for Adults:** 6 Sessions When we hear “coming of age,” we typically think of young people. And yet, we “come of age” again and again at various points in our adult lives as we go through changes and relationships. Coming of Age for Adults is designed for adults to explore their spiritual journey and religious identity. Participants reflect on how they got to now, engage with texts as they relate to their spiritual lives, and craft a statement about who they are as a person of faith.
2. **Biblical Literacy for Unitarian Universalists:** 11 Sessions An exploration of the Bible, and how we as Unitarian Universalists approach the text. The stories of the Bible are woven into Western culture and society, and our Unitarian Universalist tradition goes back to the Bible and its early interpretation. It is important for Unitarian Universalists to have knowledge of the Bible and ways of approaching it as one of our Sources to discover truth and meaning within its pages and its history. As we do with all scripture and story, we ask not “is this true?” but rather “what is true about this?” Participants learn about the structure of the Bible and how it developed over time, explore some of its stories, and reflect on its connection to their own lives and to Unitarian Universalism historically and in our time.
3. **World Religions:** Unknown Number of Sessions A program that creates better community citizens through visits to other faith communities. Each visit involves a three-step process: (1) the group learns the basics about the faith community, what they should wear, what to expect when they arrive, basic etiquette, etc. (2) visit the faith community (3) talk about the visit: what happened, what did we especially notice, what was the same and different about other faith communities we’ve visited (including our own faith community).
4. **Adult Our Whole Lives:** 12 Sessions Using values, communication skills and spirituality as starting points, this program explores sexuality issues for adults of all ages, builds understanding of healthy sexual relationships, affirms diversity, and helps participants accept and affirm their own sexuality throughout their lives.

All Ages First Wednesday Game and Grub

Wednesday, May 1, 6:00-8:00, Fell Room

Everyone is invited to First Wednesday Game and Grub in the Fell Room from 6:00-8:00. Bring a snack to share.

We have games for young children, mixed age groups, adult groups, small groups, large groups. Puzzles too! Children younger than junior high need an adult to stay with them. Rain is hosting this month!

Adult RE: Building a Better Apology

Sunday, May 5, 11:30-12:30, Walker Room

Our congregation has a Behavioral Covenant. Children and Youth in our programs create covenants. And yet, we struggle with calling people into covenant, being called into covenant, and what comes after. SorryWatch has a new book out! Together, let's explore [SorryWatch's](#) Six Steps to a Good Apology.

Small Groups with Tom Clemens

Email Tom at ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX@XXXXXX~~ 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.

- May 5, 2-3 P.M. *The Primary Solution: Rescuing Our Democracy from the Fringes*, Simon & Schuster, 2024. Supports eliminating partisan primaries in favor of nonpartisan primaries and other election reforms to bring back balance into the process.
- June 2, 2-3 P.M. *Trans Bodies, Trans Selves: A Resource for the Transgender Community*, 2nd edition, Laura Erickson-Schroth, editor, Oxford University Press, 2022.

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.

I have proposed to the participants registered to discuss Søren Kierkegaard's ***The Sickness Unto Death***, translation by Bruce H. Himmse, that we meet Thursday, May 16. 5 Registered.

Announcing **Let Us Read A Novel (LURAN) #8** *The Sympathizer*, by Viet Thanh Nguyen, Grove Press, 2015, Pulitzer Prize for fiction plus several other fiction prizes. A look at the Vietnam War era and U.S. cultural norms through the eyes of a non-white person. Register by June 1.

Announcing **LURAN #9 AND #10** as a series: #9 *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain, 1884, followed by *James*, by Percival Everett, Doubleday, 2024. Huck Finn's story is an early insider's look at the white supremacist culture of the United States in the pre-civil war South through the eye of a ragged white boy helping the enslaved Jim escape his bondage. *James* is a retelling of the story from the point of view of the runaway. The reading of these back-to-back will be a useful way to look at literature that conveys cultural criticism. Register by September 1.

Share Your Writing meets Wednesday, May 29, 7-8 P.M. Writing of any kind at any stage is welcome. We share and discuss.

Social Justice Team News

Chad Kahl, Team Lead

Chalice Circle Begins Again at Logan

Before the pandemic, Cindy Cotton and two UU ministers went twice a month to Logan Women's Prison to lead a Chalice Circle, where people experience healing and comfort through guided readings, discussion, and sharing. Heartfelt thanks to Kay'te Ingram for stepping up to join Cindy Cotton to lead the new Chalice Circle! It will start again May 4 and continue every first and third Saturday.

This Circle is an important part of the UUBN Prison Ministry, which facilitates pen pals for those behind bars as well as supporting the statewide UU Prison Ministry, which organizes curricula for the Chalice Circles and sponsors Solidarity Circles to help returning citizens.

Submitted by Julie Prandi

End of Life Options Act Bill

SB3499, The End-of-Life Options Act was recently introduced to the Illinois General Assembly. It authorizes a qualified patient with a terminal disease to request that a physician prescribe aid-in-dying medication that will allow the patient to end the patient's life in a peaceful manner.

More information:

- <https://www.aclu-il.org/en/press-releases>
- <https://www.compassionandchoices.org/in-your-state/illinois>

If you are interested in supporting this bill, go to the ACLU Illinois' Support End of Life Options for Terminally Ill Patients message to legislator: <https://action.aclu.org/send-message/support-end-life-options-terminally-ill-patients>

Submitted by Chad Kahl

Announcements

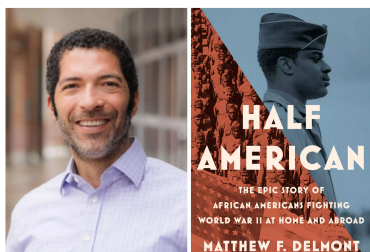
Tornado Drill

Sunday, April 21

During worship on April 21 there will be a drill for tornado or severe weather danger. The primary shelter locations are the Lower Level Classrooms and Hallway, but not the Youth Room due to its exterior windows. The Main Level (north) hallway is the shelter location for those who are unable to use the



stairs to the lower level. Designated people will give directions to ensure an orderly flow.



BLM Book Club

Monday April 29, 7 pm

Join Black Lives Matter in Bloomington-Normal book club and our special guest facilitator Keith Baker on Zoom for a public discussion of Matthew F. Delmont's *Half American: The Epic Story of African Americans Fighting World War II at Home and Abroad* (2022) on Monday April 29, 7 pm CST

<https://heartland.zoom.us/j/95152953950>

Submitted by Marie-Susanne Langille

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

New Storage Garage Discussion

Help us create the final design of our new storage garage after service Sunday, April 28 at 11:30 am in the Sanctuary! We need your input on layout, siding color, storage uses, and much more. We want to make sure this capital project serves our needs and our values well. Copies of the proposed design and current estimate are available in the narthex and flags are marking the foundation in the grass at the south end of the parking lot.

Submitted by Claire Hedden and Dick Hanson

Flower Power at UUBN



We are a fellowship group who care for our church's landscaping! All ages and all abilities are welcome! Let's talk about what's going to bloom and what we want to plant.

Sunday, April 21, 12 noon - 1 pm: Walk the grounds, tend the flowers, and learn more.

Sunday, May 5, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm: Walk the grounds, tend the flowers, and learn more.

We will be deciding on meeting times over the summer and fall and if you can't make those times but want to adopt a section of our grounds to work on independently, let me know.

Submitted by Claire Hedden

Annual Memorial Garden Clean Up

Sunday, April 28, 11:15

An annual tradition, the Memorial Garden Clean Up is the last Sunday in April. A light lunch will follow clean-up.

All helpers are welcome! Especially children. Bring your pruners, trowels, rakes, and gardening gloves if you have them. We will have extra gardening tools on hand for anyone who needs them.

The Memorial Garden Stewards, Joan Banks, Kristen Johnson, Debby Funk, Bill Rau

Thank You!

A huge TNT thank you to everyone who donated, bid and bought, volunteered, and supported the TNT Auction to make it a success. Special thanks to Auctioneers: Jon Johnson & Charlie Schlenker, Jack and Ginny Pace, Rain Johnson, Rae Morefield and Sawyer Keithley, and Sarah Boesdorfer.

Reminders, If you won an item you can pay and pick it (physical items (baskets, art, etc.)) up by emailing UUBNTNT@gmail.com to arrange a pick up time.

If your item was made to order, a service, or an event, the donor will contact you about arranging days/times after payment is received.

Please be patient with this contact as proof of payment will be needed, then emails to donors sent, and then the donors will email winners directly.

Submitted by Sarah Boesdorfer



Spread Joy With Buttons, Stickers, and Cards

Tuesday, April 23rd at 6:30 pm

Sunday, April 28th at 3:00 pm

We will have 2 work sessions at UUBN to put together small gift bags for Queer Prom attendees.

To sign up click the button and follow the instructions on the page. It only takes a few seconds to do.

Join friends and allies to make buttons and stickers for youth attending Queer Prom in Bozeman, MT and Urbana-Champaign.

The goal is to send some love to youth in our community and beyond with affirming messages so that they feel valued and supported. Two Queer Proms will benefit

Sign Up to Volunteer Here

from these efforts and both groups expect about 80 youth at each event. We will make around 200 buttons total plus multiple stickers with various messages on Pride Flag backgrounds. The kids love getting the buttons. Extras will be used for prizes at events.

Tasks at volunteer sessions include cutting artwork, pressing buttons, cutting stickers, assembling stickers for gift bags, etc.

Easy peasy and fun to boot!

Thank you for volunteering!

Email Brenda Wernick with questions.
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Prostate Cancer Sufferers/Survivors

If you are interested in joining an information/support group, held in an accessible private home, call ~~XXXXXXXX~~ and ask for "prostate". Meeting times/frequencies are to be determined by the group.

Beltane

Saturday, May 4, 4:00, Fell Room and Back Lawn

Come Join Many Paths CUUPS for our celebration of Beltane. Potluck, Ritual and the maypole will be featured for this wondrous celebration of Love. Please join us. Bring one of your favorite dishes to share with friends. Contact Sean-Thomas if you wish to be part of the ritual. You can find out more on the [Facebook Page for ManyPathsCUUPS](#).

Submitted by Sean-Thomas Gunnell

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.

Interested in signing up? The code is AEDE72CB24416. Contact Chris Price at ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ or ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ (call or text) for you have questions.

Safety Training

May 12, 11:30, Sanctuary

At 11:30 am after the service, Sergeant Kiel Nowers from the Bloomington Police Department will be on hand to discuss possible threats to the church and how to be prepared to deal with them. Ushers, Greeters, Board Members, and Staff are encouraged to attend, but all are welcome!

-Julie Prandi



This Month's Community Plate Recipient

The West Bloomington Revitalization Project

The West Bloomington Revitalization Project (WBRP) serves to empower residents and revitalize West Bloomington. WBRP offers a wide variety of programs to support West Bloomington. These programs include the Book Bike, community gardens, Tool Library and workshop space, Bike Co-op, healthy eating program, art and beautification, Veggie Oasis, barbers and stylists with books, and Bed Blitz. They also provide online and neighborhood resources to residents.

To donate to The West Bloomington Revitalization Project, make out your check to WBRP and deliver to UUBN. Donations can also be made via the Breeze Online Giving website by clicking the button below or from your smartphone when you [download the app](#). Our subdomain is uubn.

Learn More About WBRP

Donate Here

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@uubn.org or contact the office by phone or at office@uubn.org.

Communications are confidential.

Ongoing Group Gatherings

Adult Game Night:

We meet on the 3rd Friday of each month starting at 6pm. Bring any kind of board or card game you'd like to play. We play cooperative games, competitive games, simple games, complex games - we play everything. Bring something to drink (non-alcoholic). Shareable snacks are welcome but not required for attendance. Contact [Babs Allen](#) if you have questions.

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.

Mindfulness Meditation for Beginners:

Weekly practice on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 7:00-8:30 pm online. 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. Contact [Dave Shanahan](#) with questions.

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

Staff

Rev. Rebecca Gant, Minister
minister@uubn.org

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

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

Blair Broughton, Office Manager

office@uubn.org

Office hours vary. Please make an appointment: 217-722-3586 (call or text)

Charlie Berggren, Music Director

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Bob Mangialardi, Children's Choir Director

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Molly Hjelle, AV Technician

avstaff@uubn.org

Anastasia Guzman, AV Technician

avstaff@uubn.org

Sara Kaeb, Child Care

office@uubn.org

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.

Trustees

Jack Pace, Paul Packard, and Brad Boesdorfer

Committees

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
Julie Prandi

Teams

Membership and Outreach
Right Relations
Community Concerns

Kathy Packard
Carolyn Moon and Pamela Morgan
Camille Ehlers

Green Sanctuary
Helping Hands
History
Religious Exploration (RE)
Social Justice
Worship and Music
Pastoral Care

Nancy Armstrong
Carolyn Pitts
Joan Banks
Erin Ripley-Gataric, Terina Carter
Chad Kahl
Barb Dallinger, Rev. Rebecca Gant
Rev. Rebecca Gant

To obtain contact information for the leads of these groups please see the [online directory](#) or [email the office](#).



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