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A LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation.

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

April 27, 2024

This Sunday's Worship Service:

Forgiveness and Reconciliation

Cindy Cotton and Chad Kahl, Worship Associates

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.

Click Here to Join on Zoom

Click Here for Order of Service

XXXXXXX

Upcoming Services

5/5 - Beltane - Rev. Rebecca Gant and Sean-Thomas Gunnell, Worship Associate **5/12 - God is Non-Binary** - Rev. Sally Fritsche and Jan Baird, Worship Associate

Our services are shown live on zoom, and most-- except for our All-Ages services-- are recorded and posted on YouTube. If you need to NOT be seen on Zoom or to be included in the recording that is posted, please sit in the pews marked "not visible on camera." If you have a concern about being visible on camera during participatory segments of the service, please speak to Rev. Rebecca and we will find a way to accommodate those concerns.

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 28

9:45 am - 11:15 am
10:00 am - 11:15 am
11:00 am - 12:00 pm
3:00 pm - 4:30 pm
3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Over the Rainbow (Fell Room)

Childcare and Preschool (Childcare Room)
RE for Children and Youth (Sanctuary, Lower Level)
Annual Memorial Garden Cleanup (Outdoors)
Button Volunteer Session for Queer Proms (Irvin Room)
Taking Flight (Lower Level)
Bloomington Normal Meditation Group (Walker Room, Online)
Over the Rainbow (Fell Room)

Monday, April 29

9:00 am – 10:00 am Early Birds Covenant Group (Irvin Room)
11:45 am – 1:00 pm Lunch Bunch (Fell Room)
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Introduction to Mindfulness Meditation (Walker Room)

Wednesday, May 1

5:00 pm – 5:40 pm
5:45 pm – 6:30 pm
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Emerson Singers (Up to 5th Grade) (Walker Room)
Fairly Frequent Singers (Jr. High and High School) (Walker Room)
Humanist Group (Offsite)

Thursday, May 2

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Rehearsal for Baroque'n Consort (Walker Room)
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Private Event (Whole Church)
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Private Event (Irvin Room)
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Bridge Group (Bradley Welcome Room)

Friday, May 3

6:15 pm – 10:00 pm Private Event (Walker Room)

Saturday, May 4

4:00 pm – 7:00 pm Beltane (Fell Room and Outdoors)

To View the Events Calendar Click Here

From the Board

Larissa Armstrong, Board President, uubnboard@uubn.org



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.

No one is 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!

Keeping our church community thriving takes all of us!

Submitted by UUBN Board of Directors

Denominational Affairs

Nancy Armstrong, Chair



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY VIRTUAL GA · JUNE 20 - 23, 2024

An Invitation to Youth and Young Adults from the General Assembly Team

Please join us for virtual General Assembly this year! GA is crafted with your interests, values, and spiritual exploration in mind. Our online gathering promises meaningful dialogue, learning, and community building. Your perspectives, passions, and insights are crucial to our collective journey towards positive change. At General Assembly, you'll have the opportunity to explore UU principles in a way that resonates with you. Take advantage of programs designed to empower you on your personal growth path. Connect with mentors, peers, and leaders who share your commitment to making a difference. Whether you're joining from home or anywhere in the world, GA offers a space where you can feel seen, heard, and supported as you explore and learn. The requirements are simple – just show up and be present. As for what to bring, just your authentic self and an open heart.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



Visit <u>www.uua.org/ga</u>to register and help shape the future of Unitarian Universalism with us. Financial support is available. We can't wait to welcome you!

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

Earth Day

Last Sunday we walked together through the spiral of the Work that Reconnects (<u>www.workthatreconnects.org</u>). The last part of the spiral is Going Forth. This vow is a way to help focus and strengthen our intentions to remember our connections to the living Earth.

I vow to myself and each person here
To commit myself daily
to the healing of our world
and the welfare of all beings.

To live on Earth more lightly and less violently in the food, products and energy I consume.

To draw strength and guidance from the living Earth, the ancestors, the future beings, and my siblings of all species.

To support each other in our work for the world and to ask for help when I need it.

To pursue a daily practice that clarifies my mind, strengthens my heart and supports me in observing these vows.

Adult Religious Exploration Planning

I'm planning the RE budget for the second half of the year (July - De**XXXXXXXX** 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 <u>LRE@uubn.org</u>.

- 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. 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 <u>SorryWatch's</u> Six Steps to a Good Apology.

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.

- 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.

Participants registered to discuss Søren Kierkegaard's *The Sickness Unto Death*, translation by Bruce H. Hirmmse, will meet Thursday, May 16. 5 Registered.

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

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.

Social Justice Team News

Chad Kahl, Team Lead

Compassion Cupboard

Carle Bromenn has a goal of providing a bag of basic food to food insecure patients or family members. Carle is seeking food donations (<u>from the list here</u>) that we will gather at UUBN through May 8. Look for the box under the coat rack in the narthex.

We are also looking for volunteers to help Carle pack the bags on May 9 from 5:00 to 6:30 pm.

Two Opportunities to Take Action:

Contact your Senators and ask them to pledge support and urge Senate leadership to schedule a vote on expansion of the child tax credit. H.R. 7024 passed the House in January, but is stalled in the Senate. It's an exceptionally cost-efficient policy for reducing poverty. It would reach 16 million children and provide immediate relief to American families. Scan the QR code on the poster in the Fell room or click the button, fill in your info, personalize the message and click on take action.

Expand the Child Tax Credit

Join our allies at Food and Water Watch in reminding members of Congress that safe drinking water is a human right. Ask them to vote for H.R. 1729 or S.938, the Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity and Reliability Act. This act would help communities across America repair and restore their aging water systems and make necessary water and sewer improvements without ongoing rate hikes making bills more affordable for all. Click the button, fill in your info, personalize your message and click on send your message.

Drinking Water is a Human Right

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 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

Announcements

Movie Night

May 31, 7:00-9:00 pm, Fell Room

UUBN at the Bloomington Farmers' Market

Saturday, June 1, 6:30 - 12:30 pm

We have secured a space for our bake sale booth on Sat., June 1. We will sell homemade baked goods, with the profits going to a local charity. Information about our church and values will be available for the market shoppers, and our sellers will visit with them about UUBN. How can you help?

- Make homemade baked goods (we'll need lots!) and deliver them to the church on Friday, or bring them to the booth at the market. Information about baking requirements will come later.
- Pick up the baked goods at the church and deliver them to the market by 7 a.m. Saturday morning.
- Help set up the booth beginning at 6:30 a.m.
- Sell items and/or talk about or answer questions about UUBN (if you're just comfortable with the selling part, that's OK)
- Help take down the booth at noon.

We have attached a SignUpGenius form for you to tell us how you can help. We are looking forward to this new venture for UUBN and plan on having a lot of fun in the process!

Submitted by the Membership Team

Sign Up to Help at the Farmer's Market Here!

Labyrinth Supplies Drive

May 1-31

Labyrinth, part of the YWCA, addresses the needs of women newly released from prison. It provides guidance for finding transportation, getting medical help, and filling personal needs.

Their wish list includes the following items, which UUBN will be collecting during the month of May:

- Feminine hygiene products (full-size packaging, not travel size)
- Kleenex/Tissue
- Toilet Paper

You can leave your donated items in the large basket marked for that purpose to the left of the church entrance by the coat racks. Thanks for your help!

Submitted by Julie Prandi



Sign Up to Volunteer Here

Spread Joy With Buttons, Stickers, and Cards

Sunday, April 28, 3:00 pm

This is our second work session at UUBN to put together small gift bags for Queer Promattendees.

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 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.

Learn to Make Your Own Earrings!

Sunday, May 19th, 12:00-1:00 pm, Irvin Room

Earring making class offered at the TNT auction. For \$10, each participant will leave the class having made at least two new pairs of earrings and the knowledge of how to make more. No registration required, just show up if you're interested. Call Rain at **XXXXXXX** with questions.

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



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

New Storage Garage Discussion

Sunday, April 28, 11:30, Sanctuary

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

Sunday, May 5, 11:30

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, 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

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

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

Puzzle Swap Party A TNT Auction event

Sunday, May 5th from 2:00-4:00 pm

There are still openings for the Jigsaw Puzzle Swap Party May 5 from 2:00 to 4:00 in the Fell Room! Contact Jan Baird or Sarah Boesdorfer to sign up. You can pay at the door. \$10

Drinks and snacks provided. Please let me know if you have any dietary restrictions.

Bring puzzles of 300 pieces or more, and leave with the same number of puzzles that you brought. No limit on how many you can bring.

If you bring 3 puzzles, for example, I will give you 3 sticky notes. You will write your name on each sticky note and put each on a puzzle you want to take home. No fighting. . Trading is allowed.

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

UUBN Revisits Midwest Food Bank!

Saturday, June 8th from 9:00-11:00 am

On March 8, a small team of UUBN volunteers; Brad Bell, Jan Reynolds, Rain Johnson, Debbie Kerrigan, and Joanne Koebel spent 2 hours of their Friday afternoon boxing up bacon to distribute to those in need and met other members of the community there to help. We're making this a quarterly outing with the next go scheduled for Saturday June 8th from 9:00-11:00 AM. If you'd like to go with the UUBN group or if you're interested in being in the email list to help decide when we go next, please contact Brad Bell at

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX to get on the mailing list.

Submitted by Brad Bell



Prostate Cancer Sufferers/Survivors

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

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.



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 <u>download the app.</u> 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 **XXXXXXXXXXXXXX** or contact the office by phone or at office@uubn.org.

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 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 <u>Dave Shanahan</u> 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

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

Available by appointment. Click this link to see when she's available:

<u>https://calendly.com/revrebeccagant/30min</u>

Terina Carter, Director of Religious Exploration

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

Available by Appointment

Blair Broughton, Office Manager
<u>office@uubn.org</u>
Office hours vary. Please make an appointment: 217-722-3586 (call or text)

Charlie Berggren, Music Director

Bob Mangialardi, Children's Choir Director

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

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 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

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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Our mailing address is:





