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[A LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation.](#)

1613 E. Emerson, Bloomington, IL 61701

309-828-0235

uubn.org

office@uubn.org

This Sunday's Worship Service:

4/7 - The Practice of Accountability - Rev. Rebecca Gant and Jan Baird, 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

4/14 -Give Up That Grudge - Julie Prandi and Barb Dallinger, Worship Associate

4/21 - All Ages Earth Day - Rev. Rebecca Gant and Terina Carter, Director of Religious Exploration

Sunday Slides and Parish News Deadline: Tuesdays at 9 am

Have an event to reserve space for? [Click Here!](#)

Have an announcement to tell the church about? [Click Here!](#)



Need Support?

Email Rev. Rebecca
(minister@uubn.org) if you need a listening ear, practical support such as rides or meals, or short term financial support.

This Week's Events

April 7, 2024 *Sunday*

8:45 am – 9:45 am	Adult Choir (Walker Room)
9:45 am – 11:15 am	Childcare and Preschool (Childcare Room)
10:00 am - 11:00 am	Sunday Service (Sanctuary)
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Adult RE: Economics of Recycling
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Bloomington Normal Meditation Group (Online)

April 8, 2024 *Monday*

11:45 am – 1:00 pm	Lunch Bunch (Fell Room)
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	PFLAG (Fell Room, Online)
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm	Introduction to Mindfulness Meditation (Walker Room)

April 9, 2024 *Tuesday*

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Board Meeting (Online)
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April 10, 2024 *Wednesday*

5:00 pm – 5:40 pm	Emerson Singers (up to 5th Grade) (Walker Room)
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Private Event (Irvin Room)
5:45 pm – 6:30 pm (Walker Room)	Fairly Frequent Singers (Jr. High and High School)

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm Monthly Meeting of Many Paths CUUPs (Fell Room, Online)

April 11, 2024

Thursday

9:30 am – 10:00 am Private Event (Fell Room)
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm Rehearsal for Baroque'n Consort (Walker Room)
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Bridge Group (Bradley Welcome Room)

April 12, 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)

April 13, 2024

Saturday

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Talents and Treasures Auction (Fell Room, Kitchen)

Rev. Gant on Civil Rights Sites Trip April 11-19

Dear ones,

As I have mentioned to many of you, I'm participating in a trip to learn more about Civil Rights era history and to see the sites where many important events took place. This trip will be with clergy and congregants from a variety of congregations-- Moses Montefiore, Normal First United Methodist, Mennonite Church Normal, as well as a scattering of folks from other Methodist, Presbyterian, and Episcopal congregations. Our members Bill Rau and Barb Heyl will also attend.

The 40+ people who will go on the trip have been meeting together for several months to learn more about the history and the sites we will visit. We've read *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story* together and begun to get acquainted. It has been a great experience so far!

What does this mean for UUBN? I think you won't notice a huge difference. I will officially be on Study Leave, which means I will check email daily, but my

responses to non-emergent issues will be delayed. I will still be available by phone or text if you have a need to reach me quickly, and I'll check in with staff periodically. Worship on the 14th will be in the capable hands of the Worship Team.

I'm sure you'll hear about our experience on the trip through the Parish News and in future sermons.

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I'm so grateful to be in a position where I'm expected to continue to learn and grow-- and that that learning and growth is supported by professional development funds. Thank you for the opportunity!

Until Justice Just Is*,
Rev. Rebecca

(*I shamelessly stole this phrase from a Bloomington YWCA button)

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS!

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If you'd like to see the information about the new members check out the display in the Fell Room or log into the website and [click here](#).

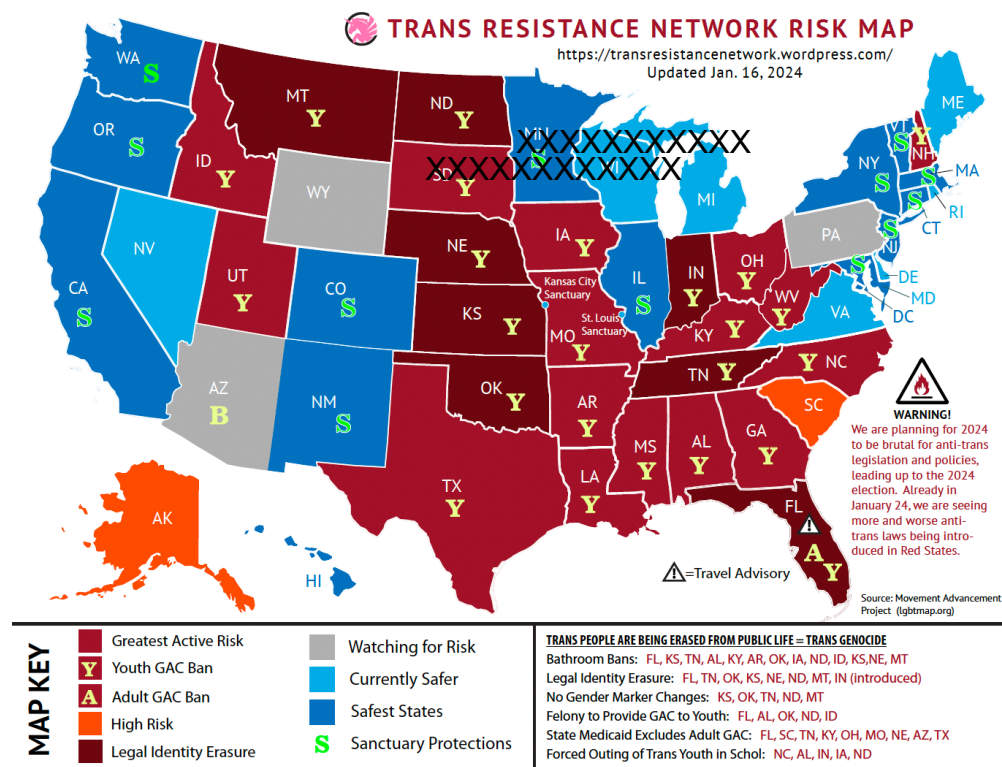
Looking for Readers and Musicians

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 [clicking here](#). We look forward to hearing from many of you!

Submitted by Claudia Kaufman, Worship Team

Religious Exploration News

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



Pink Haven Coalition & Our Response to Anti-LGBTQI Legislation

As many of you know, our trans and gender expansive Beloveds are under attack and being criminalized* in many US states. This is so serious that they fit the criteria to be designated as internally displaced people (IDPs) by the United Nations. The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) are partnering directly with frontline trans-led organizing to create networks of safety and direct support for Beloveds who need to relocate, access healthcare across state lines, or stay as safe as possible where they are. Because of safety concerns for these trans organizers, we are prioritizing security over transparency right now, which is allowing us to move together in deep trust during these crucial, scary times. This network has come to be known as the Pink Haven Coalition.

A small group of UUBNers met with Heather Vickery from UUSC to learn more about how we can get involved in supporting trans folks hoping to relocate to Bloomington-Normal or needing a place to land for a short time on their way to

a new home community. **Illinois is considered one of the most affordable safe states!** UU of Peoria is already involved and the hope is that all Central Illinois UU churches will join in.

Have you ever wondered how you would have supported people whose rights were being violated in the past? Now is your chance to take action! Soon we will schedule a planning meeting that will be open to all. During that meeting, we will break into four planning groups (housing, fundraising, daily needs, and systems support) to start mapping out what resources and connections we can bring to this work and consider what next steps might be.

Want to help immediately? You can visit www.PinkHaven.org and click donate. All donations are moving directly into the hands of trans-led organizers and being used to support trans and non-binary people in accessing the resources and support they need to survive and thrive. We are deeply grateful to First Parish Malden UU Congregation for serving as the fiscal sponsor for this work.

*Learn more:

<https://translegislation.com>

<https://newsisout.com/2023/11/how-conservative-playbook-project-2025-could-affect-lgbtq-people-if-it-comes-to-pass/21317/>

<https://globalextrémism.org/project-2025-the-far-right-playbook-for-american-authoritarianism/>

<https://msmagazine.com/2024/02/08/project-2025-conservative-right-wing-trump-woke/>

Transgender Day of Visibility

What a wonderful celebration of Transgender Day of Visibility! A reminder to allies - someone identifying themselves to you as part of the transgender community doesn't mean they consent to being asked invasive personal questions or that they want to talk to you about that one aspect of their identity. Not sure what to talk about? Here are some conversation starters:

- What did you think of the worship service? I loved the last hymn!
- Have you been to Game Night/Craft Night? I've been wanting to try it out.
- Our last potluck was amazing! Did anything tempt you to go for seconds?

- Have you tried one of the meditation groups? What do you like to do to relax?
 - Doing anything fun this weekend?
 - I'm just getting started listening to Podcasts. Do you listen to any podcasts you'd recommend?
 - I've been listening to Beyoncé's new album. What kind of music have you been listening to?
 - I just finished reading *Erasure*. It was really good! What was the last good book you read?
-

Adult RE: You and Your Local Environment

Sunday, April 7, 11:30-12:30, Walker Room

Learn numerous ways you can strengthen and protect our local environment with our own Larissa Armstrong, Assistant Director at the Ecology Action Center. Get a crash course in how to reduce your waste through proper recycling and with different composting options. Help protect our local watersheds by reducing stormwater runoff pollution. Save energy in your own home with increased efficiency and renewable energy options. Help keep our air clean by planting trees. You can also get some information on numerous volunteer opportunities!

Earth Day! Dirt Communion

Sunday, April 21

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.

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.

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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 XXXXXXXXXXXX@XXXXXX or text/call ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ 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.

- 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.
- 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.

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, Chair

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

Carbon Capture/Sequestration Lobby Day

Wednesday, April 17 from 9:00-2:00

Typ text here

The CCS Lobby day is April 17 in Springfield, 9am to 2pm. Illinois People's Action will be lobbying to protect the public from CO2 leaks as a result of carbon capture, transport and storage. Once CCS pipelines or sequestration wells get built, they will NEVER go away. You are the missing piece. [Please register for Lobby Day HERE.](#)

Submitted by Julie Prandi

Announcements

CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOP



DATE:
SAT, APRIL 13TH



TIME:
9AM TO 12PM

The Immigration Project is partnering with the Bloomington High School (BHS) - Key Club for The NAI Citizenship Workshop in IL! We have available **NAI Financial Scholarships**, which could pay for your full USCIS fees.
Scan the QR code below.

Registration is required to participate!

<http://tinyurl.com/Citizenship-Google-Form>



Scan and submit the form to be able to register! We will contact you for a legal appointment!



Or contact our office to register: Phone: 309-829-8703 ext. 102 or 106. Email: intakes@immigrationproject.org



The Talents and Treasures Auction is Now Available!

[Click here](#) to start your shopping.

Silent Auction bidding starts April 8.

Tickets for the Live Auction April 13, sold after service or at the door (though early ticket sales help us with the count for food) Doors open at 6pm with Live Auction starting at 7pm.



Help support UUBN, get some great stuff, and have a great time.

New this year: Raffle tickets to win a seat at The Armstrong's Dinner or Plan a Worship Service with Rev. Rebecca. The Raffle winner will be selected before

bidding begins. See Catalog for more details. PLEASE “check out” your raffle tickets as soon as you get them so they are “purchased.” You will pay later, but need to register it as bought and not just in your cart.

Also, we need a few volunteers to help make the event run smooth on Saturday April 13. You can volunteer and bid at the same time. No conflict of interest. If you are able to help, please [sign up here](#).

Submitted by Sarah Boesdorfer

Beltane

Saturday, May 4, 4:00, Fell Room

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 Saturday, May 4 at 4:00pm in the Fell Room. Bring one of you favorite dishes to share with friends. Contact Sean-Thomas if you wish to be part of the ritual. You can also join us for the planning meeting for Beltane on Wednesday on **April 10 at 7:00pm in Fell Room**. You can find out more on the Facebook Page for ManyPathsCUUPS.

Submitted by Sean-Thomas Gunnell

Help UUBN Become Known in Bloomington-Normal!

Sunday, April 14, 11:30, Irvin Room

You know how people say "I didn't even know this congregation existed"? We'd like to make that a thing of the past and need your help. At 11:30 on Sunday, April 14, join us in the Irvin Room to suggest events where we could set up a table or a booth to get the word out. We are also looking for friendly faces to staff those tables. Let's become the worst-kept secret in town!

What's on our schedule so far:

Downtown Bloomington Farmers' Market Bake Sale booth (June 1), Juneteenth (June 22), Pridefest (Aug. 3), Festival ISU (end August/early September), ISU Drag Show (postponed; no date scheduled yet)

Questions or ideas? Contact Kathy Packard at [XXXXXXXXXXXX](mailto:kpackard@uubn.org)
-submitted by the Membership Team

Prostate Cancer Sufferers/Survivors

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



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.

Bridge Group Restarting!

Hi, there has been interest in restarting the Bridge Group. We are going to try Thursday evenings at 7PM, partly in an attempt to make it more accessible to those with day jobs. Depending on the interest, we may explore an afternoon session. Experience is NOT required! We all have had to learn sometime and now is the time! For more information, please contact Dave Fitch at [XXXXXXXXXXXX](mailto:dfitch@uubn.org)

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 xxxxxx@uubn.org or (765) xxx-xxxx8 (call or text) for if you have questions.



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 [here](#) or from your smartphone when you [download the app](#). Our subdomain is uubn.

STEWARDSHIP

Pledges from our members and friends support the ministries of the church.

If you haven't made your pledge for 2024, here is the link: <https://uubn.org/wp/make-pledge/>

If you need to adjust your pledge, email Nancy Armstrong at ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ or contact the office by phone or at office@uubn.org.

Communications are confidential.

Ongoing Group Gatherings

Adult Game Night: We will 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:

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

~~[XXXXXXXXXX](#)~~

Children's Choir Director

Bob Mangialardi

~~[XXXXXXXXXX](#)~~

AV Technician

Molly Hjelle

avstaff@uubn.org

AV Technician

Anastasia Guzman

avstaff@uubn.org

Child Care

Sara Kaeb

office@uubn.org

UUBN Board Information

President: Larissa Armstrong; Vice President: Julie Prandi; Secretary: Chad Kahl; Treasurer: Nancy Armstrong. Directors: Karla Bailey-Smith, Brad Bell, Jill Enchelmayer, Hubert Morales, and Richard Seehuus.

Monthly Board Meetings are in Irvin Room and Online at 6:30 on the Second Tuesday of each month. All are welcome to attend. Contact the office for the Zoom Link.

Contact the board at uubnboard@uubn.org.

UUBN Trustees

Jack Pace, Paul Packard, and Brad Boesdorfer

Committee Contacts

Aesthetics	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
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	Sean-Thomas Gunnell
Bloomington-Normal Humanist Group	Karl Smith
UU Women's Federation	Lin Hinds

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

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