



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

August 18, 2024

This email could be cut short by your email program. [VIEW THIS EMAIL IN BROWSER](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)

This Sunday's Worship Service:

Nevertheless, She Persisted

Rev. Rebecca Gant and Chad Kahl, Worship Associate

We'll be digging into some UU history, talking about the Prophetic Sisterhood (also called the Iowa Sisterhood). What can we learn from the women ministers who accepted calls to churches on the frontier in the late 1800s and early 1900s?

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](#)

Upcoming Services

8/25 - All Ages Water Communion - Rev. Rebecca Gant and Terina Carter, Director of Religious Exploration

You're invited to bring a small amount of a water from a place that is important to you to add to the communal bowl. A potluck lunch follows the service.

9/1 - All Ages UU Heritage - Rev. Rebecca Gant and Terina Carter, Director of Religious Exploration

Why are UUs talking and writing about Values instead of the Seven Principles? Why has this changed and how will it affect what we do here in our church? And what in the world is a JetPig? Join us on the first Sunday in September as we explore these questions and more.

Our services are shown live on zoom, and most-- except for our All-Ages services-- are recorded and posted on YouTube. You may be seen on Zoom or in the recording if you sit in a pew that is not 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.

Potluck!



Join the Worship Team after the All Ages Water Communion Service on 8/25 for brunch and fellowship.

The team will provide Main dishes suitable for omnivores as well as vegans.

You are invited to help set up, clean up, and/or bring a dish to share. Clearly mark your dish if it's vegan, vegetarian, gluten free, or has one of the 8 major allergens (milk, eggs, fish, Crustacean shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat, and soybeans).

Click on the button to sign up. Thank you!

[Sign Up Here!](#)

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

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, August 18

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM Sunday Service

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Adult RE: Redefined Values of Our Faith (Walker Room)

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM Many Paths CUUPs Lughnasadh (Fell Room)

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM Team, Committee, and Affiliated Group Meeting (Irvin Room)

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM Bloomington Normal Meditation Group (Walker Room, Online)

Monday, August 19

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM Lunch Bunch (Irvin Room)

7:00 PM – 7:30 PM Vespers (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, August 21

5:00 PM – 8:00 PM Open House, Bookbag Blessing, and Ice Cream Social

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Craft Night

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM Humanist Group (Offsite)

Thursday, August 22

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

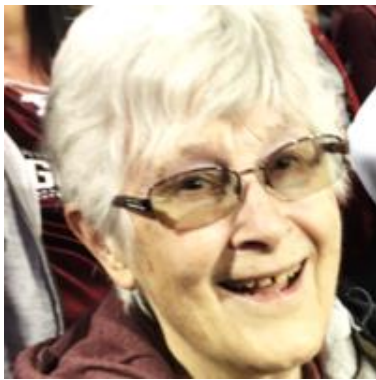
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM Social Justice Team Meeting (Online)

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM 4th Thursday Covenant Group (Irvin Room)

Friday, August 23

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

To View the Full Events Calendar Click Here



Elaine Cushman Memorial

August 24

Visitation at 1:00,

Memorial Service at 2:00

A memorial service for former member Elaine Cushman will be held on Saturday, August 24. Visitation begins at 1 PM, and the service will begin at 2:00.

Elaine's obituary may be found [here](#).

Cards may be sent to her husband, Roger, and their children, Lori and Steve, at 3045 Buena Vida Circle, apt 104, Las Cruces, NM 88011.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Children's Discovery Museum in Normal by clicking [here](#) or writing a check made out to the museum with "Elaine Cushman Memorial" in the memo line.

From the Minister's Desk

New Pastoral Care Associates Commissioned August 4



Three new and one returning Pastoral Care Associates accepted their commission on Sunday, saying that they will "listen with compassion, care for themselves and one another, tend to the sacred in their encounters, and ask for help when they need it." These dedicated folks are available to anyone who is facing a challenge and needs someone to talk with. To connect with Pastoral Care at UUBN, please contact me (Rev. Rebecca) at minister@uubn.org.

L-R Sandy Aronen, Linda Johnston, Janet Tulley, and Dave Shanahan

Blessing Booth at Pridefest August 3 is a Great Success

At Pridefest in Downtown Bloomington, clergy and lay people from 10 area congregations collaborated to offer a Blessing Booth. People who visited the booth were invited to take a blessing ribbon, leave a blessing ribbon, or receive a spoken blessing from one of the clergy who were present. It was a joyful and moving experience for me and the other volunteers.



Thanks for Sharing Your Wisdom!

Many thanks to Bill Rau, Jim Parr, Jack Pace who said "yes" to my invitation to speak at our August 4 service. We'll do it again next year-- if you're over 80, watch your inbox next spring for an invitation to share your "This I Believe" essay with the congregation.

Looking for Some Quiet in Your Week?

Vespers Service Mondays at 7 pm

Join me in the sanctuary at 7 pm every Monday for a simple, contemplative 30-minute gathering. This will include words, music, and time to reflect and light a candle for whatever joys or sorrows you'd like to mark. All ages are welcome; we'll have quiet activities for people of all ages.

Religious Exploration

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

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE - ONLINE SERIES

Wednesdays, September 4 to October 9

7:00pm-8:15 pm CT on Zoom

The Faith Forward program out of the First Unitarian Church of Dallas is offering an online session of their Spiritual Practice series. This series helps participants develop regular disciplines of the spirit - practices that help us connect with the sacred. Each session offers a forum for learning, sharing, and growth that can enrich our faith journeys.

Fee: Free because we are Faith Forward congregation subscribers!

For more information or to register, email me at LRE@uubn.org. **Deadline to register is Monday, September 2.**

Covenant Small Groups

Small Group Ministry is a time-tested and flexible way to connect members and friends and help deepen their Unitarian Universalist faith. Using a themed packet, each month you select one spiritual exercise out of about seven. When you gather with your group, you share how engaging with the exercise affected you. Other group members will listen without interruption. When you're all done listening to each other, you'll share back the connections you've made with what someone shared or your gratitude for their sharing. Then there's social time at the end for more casual conversation. The accountability of having the monthly group meeting helps people spend a little time on their own development. That amount of time can vary each month depending on your schedule and interest. Some Covenant Groups also do service work together or gather socially outside of the meeting time.

Regular attendance at the once a month meeting is expected. If that would be difficult, we're starting a new drop in group. Meetings start in September. Let me know which one you'd like to join or if you have questions.

- Drop In Group - new group for people who want to join a covenant group but can't commit to regular attendance, date and time will be decided by what works for most of the interested people (in person and online)
- Walker Covenant Group - 4th Tuesday, 4:00pm (in person only)
- Online Covenant Group - Last Wednesday, 7:00pm (online only)
- Youth Room Covenant Group - 3rd Wednesday, 6:30pm (in person and online, meets on the lower level)
- Early Birds Covenant Group - Last Monday, 9:00am (in person only)

Our Small Group Ministry provides:

- Intimacy or building community and deepening relationships.
- Ultimacy or providing opportunity for deeper spiritual exploration and search for meaning.
- Group Pastoral Care or listening deeply to one another as each shares stories of their life journey. Deeper needs can be communicated to Rev. Rebecca or our Pastoral Care Associates.
- Stickiness or the likelihood that people will feel that the congregation is their spiritual home.

- Accountability or the practice of being in a covenantal relationship by making an intentional commitment to one another in service of the gathered group and its higher purpose. Leadership Development for facilitators and organizers.

Sunday Morning Religious Exploration for Children & Youth begins September 8!

Over 29 mornings in Religious Exploration (RE), 11 All Ages services, church and community service projects, and countless opportunities for Fun & Fellowship, children and youth will build deeper connections, discern their personal beliefs with a foundation in Unitarian Universalism, and see values put into action.

Not signed up yet? **Register children in childcare through high school:**
<https://forms.gle/FvdAm6PUNPBHEptm6>

Have questions about the plans for this year or why church is important or any other concerns or questions? I'd love to talk with you.

NatUUre

"When times are urgent, slow down" - Bayo Akomalafe

"None of us are going to save this planet alone. But we can shift patterns of destruction in our own ecosystem. If we learn the place and fall madly in love, how could we not interfere in the destruction and make change." - Lydia Wylie-Kellerman

We'll spend time reconnecting with nature and our environment, listening to each other, and learning how our values call us to protect our land.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Sexuality Education for Kindergarten - 3rd, 4th and 5th, 7th and 8th Grades

We'll have time to build connections, friendships, and covenant before OWL begins later in the church year. The OWL schedule is based on facilitator availability, size of the group, and family schedules. Kindergarten - 3rd Grade OWL and 4th & 5th Grade OWL usually happen on Sunday mornings; 7th/8th Grade OWL usually happens at a time other than Sunday morning.

Adult RE: Redefined Values of Our Faith

Sunday, August 18, 11:30-12:30, Walker Room



Article II is the part of the Unitarian Universalist Association's bylaws that contains our 7 Principles and 6 Sources. The bylaws require a review of Article II every 15 years to see if what it says still rings true for our faith. At the General Assembly in June, UUs from around the world shared their thoughts on proposed changes and then voted overwhelmingly to accept them. Come to this session to learn more about the new wording of our values, what's happening to the 7 Principles and 6 Sources, and where we go from here.

Adult RE: Normal Sustainability Plan

Sunday, September 22, 11:30-12:30, Walker Room

Mercy will share information about the Sustainability Project presented to the Normal Town Council on September 16.



[Read More Here](#)

Online Small Groups

Email Tom at [REDACTED] or text/call [REDACTED] 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.

- September 1, 2-3 P.M. *The 48 Laws of Power*, Robert Greene, Viking Press, 1998.
- October 6, 2-3 P.M. *Minority Rule: The Right-Wing Attack on the Will of the People—and the Fight to Resist It*, by Ari Berman, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2024.

- November 2, 2-3 P.M. *Transgender History: The Roots of Today's Revolution*, by Susan Stryker, 2nd edition, Seal Press (CA), 2017.

The fourth discussion of Søren Kierkegaard's *The Sickness Unto Death*, translation by Bruce H. Hirmmse was August 15, when pp. 55-69 were discussed. Next session TBD. 5 Registered.

LET US READ A NOVEL #8 *The Sympathizer*, by Viet Thanh Nguyen. The third discussion is Thursday, August 22, 7-8 PM. Read Chapters 12-17. 4 registered.

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 recasting 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 for one or the other or both by October 1. 1 registered.

The next Share Your Writing session will be at the end of September, day and time TBD. Any kind of writing in any stage of development is welcome.

Social Justice Team News

Chad Kahl, Team Lead

Postcard Campaign

As of August 12, our congregation has either already mailed or picked up a total of 1800 postcards; those already given out in August should be returned to the church by Sept. 1 if possible. There are plenty of postcards still to be picked up! Come after church to get your packet of 20 postcards.

Join the fun! 50 UUBN members or friends have already participated!!

For more information, please contact Julie Prandi at [REDACTED]

Submitted by Julie Prandi for the Social Justice Team

Unveiling the Truth About Carbon Capture: In the Gulf South

Monday, August 19, 4:00 p.m. on Zoom.

Expert panelists will share their extensive knowledge and insights on the environmental, health, and economic impacts of Carbon Capture, as well as explore sustainable alternatives. This is a unique opportunity to hear from thought leaders and activists dedicated to advocating for environmental justice and meaningful climate action.

For more information, please contact Julie Prandi at [REDACTED]

Submitted by Julie Prandi for the Social Justice Team

[RSVP Here](#)

Important Dates for the November 5 General Election

September 26 – Early Voting and Voting by Mail Begins
October 8 – Regular (paper) voter registration closes
October 9 – Grace Period Registration and Voting Begins
October 20 – Online Voter Registration closes
October 31 – Vote by Mail application deadline for receipt by election authority
November 4 – Last day for Early Voting

More information:

- * [City of Bloomington Election Commission](#)
- * [McLean County Clerk's Office Elections](#)
- * [Illinois State Board of Elections](#)

Have other questions, reach out to the Social Justice Team via Chad at [REDACTED]

- Submitted by Chad Kahl for the Social Justice Team

Election Judges Needed

As part of our effort to attain Good Trouble Congregation status, the Social Justice Team is encouraging congregants to consider becoming an election judge. Our goal is to have at least two election judges from UUBN this year.

Not only are you helping fellow citizens cast their ballots and participate in our democratic process, but you are also affirming the 5th Principle of Unitarian Universalism: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

The City of Bloomington Election Commission and the McLean County Clerk's Office are looking for volunteers.

For more information, including qualifications, pay, and applications, refer to:

- * [City of Bloomington](#)
- * [McLean County Clerk's Office](#)

If you have any questions or election judge experiences, please don't hesitate to reach out to Chad Kahl at [REDACTED] who is one of several UUBN members who has served in this role. If you sign up, please let the email Chad to let him know.

Submitted by Chad Kahl and the Social Justice Team

Women's Pagan Circle at Logan Correctional Center

On August 1, I was able to gather again with the women who are currently incarcerated at Logan Women's Prison to hold a ritual for Lughnasadh, the first harvest ritual.

There were about 12 women in attendance, most of whom have been coming regularly.

This ritual marked a full circle around the wheel of the year with this beautiful group for me.

We have celebrated all eight Pagan holidays together and have formed friendships with each other. We have built a beautiful community in a setting that actively discourages doing so. The program of rituals is the best attended program at the facility.

I continue to work with UU Prison Ministry of Illinois to find ways to make sure this circle can continue and receive equal treatment alongside other faiths.

-Babs Allen

Announcements

All Church Open House, Blessing of the Bookbags, and Ice Cream!

Wednesday, August 21, 5-8 PM

Spread the word! Invite a friend! All are welcome!

- Rev. Rebecca and Terina, Director of Religious Exploration, will answer questions and hear your ideas for the church year.
- Chat with Charlie Berggren, Music Director, about adult choir, and Sunday morning music.
- Children and youth choir director Bob Mangialardi will be on hand to answer questions about those choirs.
- Blair, Office Manager, will help you add your photo and emergency contact to the church directory.
- Wander through the Religious Exploration rooms and meet some of this year's teachers.
- If you're thinking about joining a small group, Covenant Group participants can tell you more about their experience.
- Tom Clemens will answer questions about the online programming he facilitates.
- Gnagey and Stevenson Libraries will be open for checking out items.
- Have a little one at home? Our childcare room will be open to try out all the toys.
- Connect with many of our committees and teams.
- Finish the scavenger hunt for a small prize.

At 6:00, we'll bless the donated school supplies and items you use for school or work. Everyone will go home with a special tag to attach to your school or work bag.

What to Bring

Bring any items (ex. notebook, laptop, backpack) you would like to have blessed as you begin a new school and work year.

We will also be collecting school supplies for those in need. The list is above.



Youth Choirs

The UUBN choirs consist of the Fairly Frequent singers (Junior and Senior High age) and the Emerson Street Singer (4 years old to Junior High). The first youth choir rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 4. Choir rehearsals for youth are every Wednesday through the school year, excluding holidays. Rehearsals are usually between 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., depending on the schedules of the children.

The youth choirs add greatly to the enrichment of the Sunday services and help to develop music skills in the singers. We look forward to meeting you and your children on August 21 at the Open House!

on please contact Robert Mangialardi



Submitted by Robert Mangialardi

Adult Choir Begins August 25th!

Do you love music and singing? The UUBN adult choir is a welcoming community of enthusiastic singers that is always looking for new faces to join us!

Whether you're a lifelong choral singer or are just dipping your toes in the musical pool for the first time - ALL ARE WELCOME!

Adult choir will meet Sunday mornings before service starting August 25th from 8:45 - 9:45am in the Walker Room. Childcare will be provided every Sunday!

For more information, please contact Charlie Berggren at .

Submitted by Charlie Berggren, Music Director

You're Invited to Exploring Membership

Wednesday, August 28 and September 11 from 6:00-8:00 pm

Have you been thinking about church membership? 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. Wednesdays, August 28 and September 11, 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 office@uubn.org or 309-828-0235 if this is your preference. If having childcare would help you

attend these classes, please contact the office manager by August 19.

If you decide to become a member, you'll have the opportunity to sign the membership book at our September 15 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 kjpbooks@frontier.com.

Submitted by the Membership Team

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Ecology Action Center is conducting their annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection event on Saturday, September 28. Advance registration is required by September 19. You can find out more information at HHWmclean.org. If you can't go and/or have just a few items, I will be happy to take them for you. Contact me, Nancy Armstrong, at 309-826-2703 so we can talk about what you have and how to get it to me.

Submitted by Nancy Armstrong, Green Sanctuary Committee

Vendors wanted for Music in the Garden

September 7th, 4:00-8:00 pm

We are hosting an evening of live music in the backyard of the church on September 7th and would love to have as many vendors as we can fit on the South end of the yard. Church members have priority acceptance.

Application form: https://forms.gle/_____
Or email or text Rain Johnson at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

We need your help getting this set up, communicated, and taken down. Click the button to sign up!

[Click Here to Volunteer to Help!](#)



This Month's Community Plate Recipient

Lifelong Access

The offering this month goes to Lifelong Access (formerly Marcfirst), which provides specialized programs that serve children and adults with developmental disabilities, including autism. Their programs include pediatric therapy, community-integrated living arrangements, and employment support. The goal is to help people become more independent in their daily life; this involves training in adaptive living skills and promotion of economic self-sufficiency.

To donate to Lifelong Access, make out your check to Lifelong Access 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.

Lifelong Access - Learn More!

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 [REDACTED] or contact the office by phone or at office@uubn.org.

Communications are confidential.

Ongoing Group Gatherings

Covenant Groups:

Lay-led small groups that meet once a month to deepen and expand the ministry of the congregation through spiritual and emotional connection. Email [Terina](#) to join a small group.

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 [REDACTED] Director

Bob Mangia [REDACTED] Air Director

Molly Hjelle, AV Technician
avstaff@uubn.org

Anastasia Guzman, AV Technician
avstaff@uubn.org

Sara Kaeb, Child Care
office@uubn.org

Maddy Robinson, 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

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
Claudia Kaufman, 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](#).



Copyright (C) 2024 UU Church of Bloomington. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)

