



UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH OF  
BLOOMINGTON  
NORMAL

Love Radically ● Serve Gratefully ● Wonder Daily

[A LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation.](#)  
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**August 4, 2024**

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## **This Sunday's Worship Service:**

### **This I Believe**

**Rev. Rebecca Gant and Jan Baird, Worship Associate with Bill Rau, Jack Pace, and Jim Parr**

**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

**8/11 - NO SERVICE**

**8/18 - Nevertheless, She Persisted** - Rev. Rebecca Gant and Chad Kahl, 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?**

**Parish News Deadline: Tuesdays at 9 am**

[Event Registration Form](#)

[Communication Form](#)

## Need Support?

Email Rev. Rebecca ([minister@uubn.org](mailto: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 4

9:45 am – 11:15 am          Childcare (Childcare Room)  
10:00 am – 11:00 am Sunday Service (Sanctuary)  
11:00 am – 12:00 pm Fellowship Hour (Fell)  
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm Bloomington Normal Meditation Group (Walker Room, Online)

## Monday, August 5

11:45 am – 1:00 pm      Lunch Bunch (Irvin Room)  
7:00 pm – 7:30 pm      Vespers (Sanctuary)

## Wednesday, August 7

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm      All Ages Game and Grub (Fell Room)  
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm      Humanist Group (Offsite)

## Thursday, August 8

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

## Friday, August 9

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm      Over the Rainbow (Fell Room, Kitchen)  
6:15 pm – 10:00 pm      Private Event (Walker Room)

[To View the Full Events Calendar Click Here](#)

# From the Minister's Desk

## What's Up in August Worship?

Next month you won't want to miss worship! **August 4** we will hear from some octogenarians in the congregation. What wisdom do they have to share with us? How have their religious and spiritual beliefs evolved over time?

**August 11** there will be NO worship service. Not having a service that day was always the plan so that we could host training for facilitators for our Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality education program throughout the building. However, not enough people registered for the training, and it was cancelled. In the meantime, I had let staff know they could have a Sunday off that week. It wouldn't be fair to now tell staff that they have to cancel their plans, so we're going to be closed that day and give everyone a day off. Some Welcome Team members will be at church to greet anyone who misses the memo. I hope you'll take the opportunity to explore another UU church's Sunday service- either online or in person!

**August 18** 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?

**August 25** is our All-Ages Water Communion. 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.

## Who Likes to Throw a Party?

In search of people to help make fellowship events happen... We used to have a Fellowship Committee that coordinated social events at the church, but those folks have moved on to other things. We'd like to reconstitute a similar group. It could follow the same pattern as the previous committee or forge a new path. Some of the events you might coordinate include the September Turkey Smoke, Thanksgiving dinner, and the Christmas Eve Cookie Reception. Curious? Please reach out to Rev. Rebecca for a (no obligation!) conversation. We can decide together what this new group might do and how it might operate.

## Looking for Some Quiet in Your Week?

Beginning Monday, August 5, join me in the sanctuary at 7 pm every Monday for a simple, contemplative 30-minute gathering. This will include words and 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](mailto:LRE@uubn.org)  
Planning Team: Erin Ripley-Gataric (Team Lead), Jeska Vannoy, Mercy Davison

## 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

Two quotes are guiding the preparation for this church year's programming:

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

"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

The best way to teach care for the environment to children is to first help them connect with and learn to love their environment. Then we can talk about Climate Justice. 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, 1st, 4th, 5th, 7th, 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/First 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.

## Library Highlights

The board has given permission to sell the corner entertainment center in Gnagey Library. This heavy oak piece was purchased from Whitacre's about 20 years ago but is like new because it doesn't see daily use. Contact me if you're interested.



New books are available to be checked out!

1. *Where Two Worlds Touch: a Spiritual Journey Through Alzheimer's Disease*

2. *Loving Our Own Bones: Disability Wisdom and the Spiritual Subversiveness of Knowing Ourselves Whole*
3. *Fat Church: Claiming a Gospel of Fat Liberation*
4. *A Black Women's History of the United States*
5. UUA Common Read for 2024-2025: *Authentic Selves Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families*
6. *This Way to Change: A Gentle Guide to Personal Transformation and Collective Liberation*
7. *All Boys Aren't Blue, A Memoir-Manifesto*

## All Ages First Wednesday Game and Grub

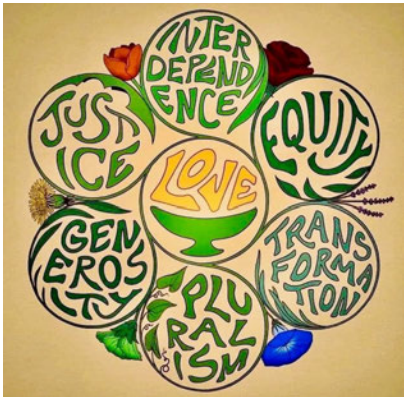
Wednesday, August 7, 6:00-8:00, Fell Room

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

Bring a snack to share. No nuts or peanut butter please!

## 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.

Embracing sustainable practices ensures the conservation of natural resources and directly contributes to the enhancement of residents' quality of life, fostering a healthier and more vibrant community. Building on our rich legacy of sustainability from the earliest initiatives of Jesse Fell to our burgeoning collection of LEED buildings



and landmarks, the Town of Normal is poised to take the next giant leap towards a greener future.

[Read More Here](#)

The Vision 2050/Sustainability Plan will carve out a roadmap that reimagines the Town as a beacon of sustainability by mid-century.

This initiative signifies our collective commitment to protect our environment, set vital new goals and prioritize actions that significantly enhance sustainability in the Town of Normal.

From green spaces that lend an air of tranquility to our community, to the Uptown Circle that won an EPA award, our achievements are a testament to our continuing dedication to sustainability.

## 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, is 7 pm, August 15. 5 Registered.

LET US READ A NOVEL #8 *The Sympathizer*, by Viet Thanh Nguyen. The third discussion is TBD. 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

## School Supply Drive for Bloomington-Normal students Ends August 21st

The Back 2 School Alliance is taking donations for Unit 5 and District 87 students.

You can also order supplies on their wish list items on Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/lz/1C5D8XJZ2HLVV?fbclid=IwARoIeVwpjgcIAxR6lT8Nfurq2gkppgTagkvVlntygaOqfQYE71PBECbI2R4&pldnSite=1>

These donations are accepted all year so that no student is left without the supplies they need to succeed. You can find out more at <https://www.back2schoolalliance.org/>.

Bring supplies from the supply list between now and August 21st, where we'll wrap up the collection at the All Church Open House and Blessing of the Bookbags.

-Submitted by Camille Ehlers, Social Justice and Community Concerns Committees





## Postcards for Florida!

There is a new batch of 500 postcards for the Florida general election. Haven't done a set of 20 yet? It's time to pitch in!!

We are writing to alert 969,000 registered Black women voters in Florida to the urgency of voting early this fall. Floridians will have 6 constitutional amendments on their ballot: reproductive freedom, education, campaign finance, property taxes, hunting, and marijuana. Florida has abolished permanent vote by mail, established strict photo ID requirements, and undermined the voting rights of returning citizens who have served their jail terms.

Pick up postcards at church and return (including stamps) to church because we need to hold them and not mail them until October. Don't forget to leave your name and the number of your packet (at the top of the info sheet, the number on the address page). This way Julie can tell who returned postcards and which addresses have not yet been completed. Please return these to the church or to Julie by August 5th.

For more information contact Julie Prandi [REDACTED]

Submitted by Julie Prandi for the Social Justice Team.

# 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, children and youth choirs, and Sunday morning music.
- 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.



[Sign Up Here!](#)

## Potluck!

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

Let's keep the celebration of coming back together after the summer going as we enjoy some delicious food!

The team will provide Main dishes that are 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!

## Vendors wanted for Music in the Garden

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

We are hosting an afternoon 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. \\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](https://forms._____)

Or email or text Rain Johnson at \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



## Become a Conversation Partner with ENGIN

Interested in learning about another culture, helping someone practice conversational English, or just want to use some of your volunteer hours through work? Consider helping a Ukrainian practice their English skills through ENGIN.

ENGIN is a nonprofit organization changing the world one conversation at a time. Their program connects English speakers with Ukrainians for weekly, one-on-one conversation practice, and cultural exchange. ENGIN believes in the power of a conversation. This initiative helps participants improve their English skills and build friendships.

As a volunteer with ENGIN, Camille was matched with Alyona in Kyiv in May of 2023, and has been chatting with her weekly ever since. Sharing their culture through weekly conversations, they have built a strong connection across oceans. She had such a great time that she now meets with Anna, also from Kyiv, since January.

Join Camille and thousands of global volunteers in this valuable opportunity to make a difference in someone's life from home. Learn more at [www.enginprogram.org](http://www.enginprogram.org).

-Submitted by Camille Ehlers

## 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 [REDACTED]

Submitted by Charlie Berggren, Music Director



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:LRE@uubn.org)  
Available by Appointment

Blair Broughton, Office Manager  
[office@uubn.org](mailto: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](mailto:avstaff@uubn.org)

Anastasia Guzman, AV Technician  
[avstaff@uubn.org](mailto:avstaff@uubn.org)

Sara Kaeb, Child Care  
[office@uubn.org](mailto:office@uubn.org)

Maddy Robinson, Child Care  
[office@uubn.org](mailto: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](mailto: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  
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](#).



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