

A LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation.

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August 11, 2024

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This Sunday's Worship Service:

No Service No Service this Sunday, August 11th

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

8/18 - Nevertheless, She Persisted - Rev. Rebecca Gant and Chad Kahl, Worship Associate **8/25 - All Ages Water Communion -** Rev. Rebecca Gant and Terina Carter, Director of Religious Exploration

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).

Sign Up Here!

Click on the button to sign up. Thank you!

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) if you need a listening ear, practical support such as rides or meals, or short term financial support.



This Week's Events

Sunday, August 11

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

Monday, August 12

 11:45 am - 1:00 pm
 Lunch Bunch (Irvin Room)

 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
 PFLAG (Irvin Room)

 7:00 pm - 7:30 pm
 Vespers (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, August 13

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm Board Meeting (Irvin Room)

Wednesday, August 14

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm Private Event (Irvin Room)
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm Monthly Meeting of ManyPaths CUUPs (Fell Room, Online)

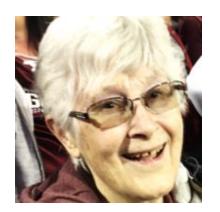
Thursday, August 15

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

Friday, August 16

6:00 pm –9:30 pm Adult Game Night (Fell Room) 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 hu

e, at

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.

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 these three (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.

What's Up in August Worship?

August 11 there is NO worship service. Not having a service that day was always the plan so 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?

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

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. Ministry happens in relationships. Small group ministry deepens and expands the ministry of a congregation by providing an intentional container for those relationships.

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.

Each group of no more than 10 people meets once a month, using materials based on a monthly theme. If you're interested, let's talk!

- 1. Drop In Group new group for people who want to join a covenant group but can't commit to regular attendance
- 2. Walker Covenant Group 4th Tuesday, 4:00pm
- 3. Online Covenant Group Last Wednesday, 7:00pm
- 4. Youth Room Covenant Group 3rd Wednesday, 6:30pm
- 5. Early Birds Covenant Group Last Monday, 9:00am

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.

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

"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

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 - 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 and 5th Grade OWL usually happen on Sunday mornings; 7th and 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 or text/call or text/call 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 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

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

School Supply Drive for Bloomington-Normal students

Ends August 21st, Fell Room

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/ls/1C5D8XJZ2HLVV? https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1C5D8XJZ2HLVV? https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/IwARoIeVwpjgcIAxR6lT8Nfurq2gkppgTagkvVlntygaOqfQYE71PBECbI2R4&pldnSite=1">https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/wishlist/ls/wishlist/ls/wishlist/ls/wishlist/ls/wishlist/ls/wishlist/ls/wishlist/ls/wishlist/ls/wishlist/ls/wishlist/ls/wishlist/ls/wishlist/ls/wishlist

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



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!

n 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

Rummage Sale

BIG thanks to Rain Johnson for running with her idea of restarting our rummage sale tradition. She did a huge amount of work in a short amount of time. And thanks to all the

people who helped! Rain said the support of the congregation was wonderful between all the people who dropped off things to sell, signed up and showed up to help, or dropped things off and stayed to help.

In about 7 hours, the sale made just over \$3500! This was an amazing run at figuring out if we want to start rummage sales again and what works best with the volunteers and space we have.

Ella (my oldest) and I were talking about church rummage sales and which ones we like (we're serious church rummage sale connoisseurs). We like Normal First United Methodist (cashiers in every room, items sorted by rooms spread over 3 floors), Wesley (at the Interstate Center, they serve lunch), and Second Pres (an entire gym of clothes racks!) because they're huge, have a lot of stuff, and are "run like a business" in Ella's words.

These "run like a business" sales all have A LOT of volunteers working the prep days and sale days, price each individual item or type of item, and have a lot of room to spread out. Our favorite sales though are St. John's (so organized), St. Luke's (the nice minister, bake sale, and cool fireplace) and Trinity Lutheran (no air conditioning-boo). Ella suggested those are our favorites because we like the community atmosphere. Shoppers help each other find things and point out good items that seem to be getting passed over; volunteers are relaxed and engaged with the people shopping.

These "run like outreach, community building, mutual aid, and still making money" sales all use fewer volunteers and sell things by asking people to "make an offer" except for a few "price as marked" items.

Ella and I talked about how this seems like a business/capitalist mindset vs community building mindset. We appreciate both, but have a preference for community building and mutual aid.

Like our Downtown Bloomington Farmers Market Bake Sale, items at our Rummage Sale were "make an offer." Unlike the bake sale, some items were "price as marked." This might seem unusual to people who have rummage sales at home or were involved when we did rummage sales in the past (and stopped because volunteers burned out). This new way seemed fitting both for our values and our abilities.

This rummage sale enhanced our connection with our community, reduced the number of things that end up in a landfill, and improved our connections with each other through service. Thank you Rain for organizing us, inspiring us, and helping us live into our mission.

You're Invited to Exploring Membership

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

Have you been thinking about membership at UUBN? 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 <a href="https://hww.ncenter

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. _____ or or 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.

-Submitted by Camille Ehlers



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 <u>download the app</u>. 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/

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 <u>Terina</u> 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

<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
office@uubn.org
Office hours vary. Please make an appointment: 217-722-3586 (call or text)

Charlie irector

Bob Mangia oir 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

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) Kathy Packard Carolyn Moon and Pamela Morgan Camille Ehlers Nancy Armstrong Carolyn Pitts Joan Banks Erin Ripley-Gataric, Terina Carter 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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