



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

September 15, 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:

Begin Again in Love

Rev. Rebecca Gant and Cindy Cotton, Worship Associate

Ever been in a relationship with another human? If yes, it's 99.99% likely you've lived through an experience of conflict. In this season, our Jewish friends are preparing for the High Holy Days, days of reflection and repentance, of repairing relationships. What relationships in your life could use some reflection, repentance, or repair? Join us to learn more about the essential skill of beginning again after conflict.

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

9/22 - Turning Inward - Babs Allen and Thomas Burr, Worship Associate

The fall equinox ushers in the beginning of the darker half of the year. This time of year can be a time of reflection and rest for many. We will contemplate what it could mean to take time to move inward and find respite.

9/29 - Climate Revival - Chad Kahl and Larissa Armstrong, Worship Associates

We are joining congregations all over the country for a time of renewal and re-commitment at the intersection of the climate crisis and the deep justice commitments of our congregation.

Our services are shared live on zoom, and most-- except 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 are concerned about being visible on camera, 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](#)

This Week's Events

Sunday, September 15

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM Adult Choir (Walker Room)
8:45 AM – 11:45 AM Childcare (Nursery)
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM Sunday Service
10:00 AM – 11:15 AM Religious Exploration for Children and Youth
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM Bloomington Normal Meditation Group (Walker Room)
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM Over the Rainbow YAB Meeting (Fell Room)

Monday, September 16

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

Tuesday, September 17

5:30 PM – 6:15 PM Fairly Frequent Singers (Jr. High and High School) (Walker Room)

Wednesday, September 18

4:45 PM – 5:15 PM Emerson Singers (up to 5th Grade) (Walker Room)
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Craft Night (Fell Room)
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Youth Room Covenant Group (Youth Room)
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM Humanist Group (Offsite)

Thursday, September 19

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM Rehearsal for Baroque'n Consort (Walker Room)
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM Private Event (Walker Room)

Friday, September 20

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](#)

Sign Up Here!

Let's Have a Cook Out!

Our annual Fall fellowship gathering will be a Cook Out on Saturday, September 21, 4 - 7:30 pm on the back lawn. Bring meat or veggies for the grills, a side to share, and your family and friends. Games, bonfire, music. Free and fun, we hope to see you there!

Check the sign up to help out.

Submitted by Claire Hedden

From the Minister's Desk

I'm excited that we will welcome new members to the congregation this Sunday! I hope you'll be there to meet them and have some cake to celebrate!

I will be on vacation Sept 16-29. I am looking forward to reconnecting with family and officiating at the wedding of my best friend's daughter (and my daughter's best friend)!

While I'm gone, if you need a listening ear, please contact Linda Johnston who will be covering Pastoral Care. Worship will be in the very capable hands of the Worship Team and our staff.

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.

Looking for Some Quiet In Your Week?

Vespers Service Mondays at 7 pm

Join me or a Worship Team Member 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

All Ages Coming Out Day Service

Sunday, October 13

Are you part of the LGBTQ+ community? Would you like to participate in a ceremony during our All Ages Coming Out Day Service to proclaim and affirm your (re)naming, your pronouns, or your “coming out” as part of the queer community in a safe space?

This service is streamed live but is not recorded or shared online. RSVP to me by the beginning of October. Let me know what questions or concerns you have.

Sunday Morning 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](#)

College Care Packages

If your UU kids is now a UU young adult in college, let me know if they might like a small care package from the congregation.

Send me their name, address, and (optional) a favorite treat we might include.

Sunday Morning Religious Exploration for Children & Youth began 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>

September - December

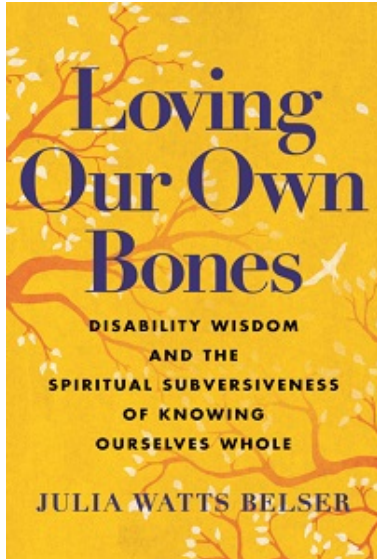
We'll spend time reconnecting with nature and our environment, listening to each other, and learning how our values call us to act for Climate Justice.

January - May

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Sexuality Education for Kindergarten - 3rd, 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 - 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.

Stevenson Library Highlight



Loving Our Own Bones: Disability Wisdom and the Spiritual Subversiveness of Knowing Ourselves Whole is the latest addition to Stevenson Library. From Beacon Press: “What’s wrong with you?” Scholar, activist, and rabbi Julia Watts Belser is all too familiar with this question. What’s wrong isn’t her wheelchair, though—it’s exclusion, objectification, pity, and disdain.

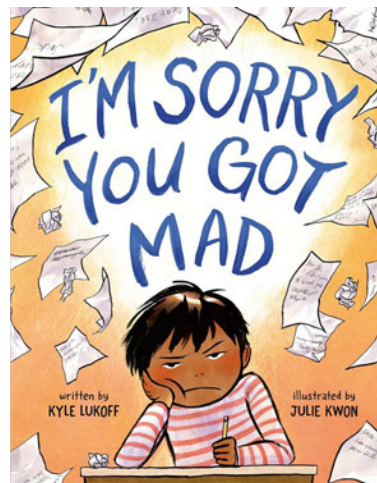
Our attitudes about disability have such deep cultural roots that we almost forget their sources. But open the Bible and disability is everywhere. Moses believes his stutter renders him unable to answer God’s call. Jacob’s encounter with an angel leaves him changed not just spiritually but physically: he gains a limp. For centuries, these stories have been told and retold in ways that treat disability as a metaphor for spiritual incapacity or as a challenge to be overcome.

Through fresh and unexpected readings of the Bible, *Loving Our Own Bones* instead paints a luminous portrait of what it means to be disabled and one of God’s beloved. Belser delves deep into sacred literature, braiding the insights of disabled, feminist, Black, and queer thinkers with her own experiences as a queer disabled Jewish feminist. She talks back to biblical commentators who traffic in disability stigma and shame. What unfolds is a profound gift of disability wisdom, a radical act of spiritual imagination that can guide us all toward a powerful reckoning with each other and with our bodies.

Loving Our Own Bones invites readers to claim the power and promise of spiritual dissent, and to nourish their own souls through the revolutionary art of radical self-love.

Gnagey Library Highlight

I'm Sorry You Got Mad is one of my favorite new additions to the Gnagey Library. **Newbery Honor winner Kyle Lukoff explores the importance of learning to apologize.** Jack wants to apologize for hurting Zoe's feelings. He just can't seem to find the right words. Turns out there's more to an apology than just saying "I'm sorry." *I'm Sorry You Got Mad* is a journey in learning the importance of an apology that goes deeper than just words.



Stewardship News

Our Annual Church Pledge Drive Is Coming!

“Give, not until it hurts but until it helps. Remember, your money is really your time transformed by work in the world. The more you do, the more time and money you will have to share. Generosity is about the freedom that comes from sharing and giving.”

- A.J. Priest

The UUBN Annual Pledge Drive will kick off on September 29 and conclude at the end of October. Our visiting stewards will be making visits to check in with church members, to receive feedback about our church programs and to hear your concerns and hopes for the future goals of the church.

What does it mean to make a pledge? It means you:

- Support our church programs.
- Believe the adults and children within our congregation need a safe space to express themselves.
- Recognize the importance of our staff to make our church a welcoming and loving congregation.
- Believe in the presence of our liberal faith within our community.
- Support UUs in action, as one of the strong voices standing up for social justice.
- Support the UU voices within our community and into the wider world.
- Understand we all make a difference when we all do our part, even when it starts small.

Stewardship Committee:

Emile Garneau, Chair

*Nancy Armstrong, UUBN Treasurer ([REDACTED])

Claire Hedden

Rain Johnson

Linda Johnston

Jack Pace

*Feel free to contact Nancy Armstrong with any questions about pledging and our church finances

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.

- 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 fifth discussion of Søren Kierkegaard's *The Sickness Unto Death*, translation by Bruce H. Hirmmse is Thursday, September 26, when pp. 69-95 will be discussed. 6 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. 4 registered.

The next Share Your Writing session is tentatively set for 7-8 P.M., Wednesday, September 25. Any kind of writing in any stage of development is welcome.

Social Justice Team News

Chad Kahl, Team Lead

Take Action

Ask your legislators to vote for the Farm System Reform Act, S.271 and H.R.797. This Act would place a moratorium on the construction of new or expanding factory farms with a phaseout of existing large facilities by 2040. Factory farms put public health and the food supply at risk, pollute drinking water, damage rural communities and fuel climate change. [Click here to sign up.](#) Fill in your info and click on send my message.

Urge your legislators to include the Fulfilling Promises to Afghan Allies Act (FPAAA), Amendment 2682, as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act. This Act would gain adjustment and permanent residency for Afghan allies who were evacuated to the

U.S. after helping our forces and standing up for human rights in their war-torn country. [Click here](#), fill in your information and click on take action, or scan the QR code on the poster in the Fell Room.

In order to ensure every person has a voice in shaping our communities and our future ask your legislators to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, the Freedom to Vote Act, the Native American Voting Rights Act and D.C. Statehood. [Click here](#), fill in your info, and click on “add your voice.”

For more info contact Debbie Kerrigan at [REDACTED]

Submitted by Debbie Kerrigan for the Social Justice Team.

Phone Banking

UU the Vote/Side with Love is partnering with State Action Networks and grassroots partner organizations to offer national phonebanks.

They are held every Tuesday evening from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

- Sept. 17: Pennsylvania
- Sept. 24: North Carolina
- Oct. 1: (tbd)
- Oct. 8: North Carolina
- Oct. 15: Pennsylvania
- Oct. 22: Texas

More information at UU the Vote/Side with Love’s [events page](#).

Based on feedback from the church about activities for our effort to attain Good Trouble Congregation status, the Social Justice Team will be providing information on text banking options that occur closer to the election, likely in October.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me at [REDACTED].

Submitted by Chad Kahl and the Social Justice Team

NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet 2024

10 Brickyard Dr, Bloomington, IL 61701, USA

September 21, 2024 Saturday, 6:00-9:00 pm, doors open at 5:30 pm

Keynote speaker: State Rep. Carol Ammons

For more information, please contact Julie Prandi [REDACTED]

Submitted by Julie Prandi for the Social Justice Team

[Get Tickets to NAACP Banquet Here](#)

Postcard GOTV Campaign Update

We now have handed out a total 3130 postcards by Sept. 7!

We will be handing out packets of 20 for the LAST TIME on Sept. 15. All these cards must be mailed by Sept. 30! You can also get a packet in the church office from Blair.

We have 970 more cards to do if we are to meet our goal of 4100. These must be completed and mailed between Sept. 15 and 30. You will not return these cards to the church but simply mail them yourself!

If we can't give out all the cards by Sept. 15 (they don't have to be finished then, just picked up by then), Julie can return the remaining addresses to the organizers. Because pages not completed must be reported in sequential order with none missing, please be sure you record the page number you have taken and see that it follows directly in sequence from the page most recently claimed.

For more information, contact [REDACTED].

Submitted by Julie Prandi for the Social Justice Team.

Announcements



**Reimagine Together:
From An Extractive
Age To A New Era**

UU Climate Justice Revival | September 28-29, 2024

UU Climate Justice Revival

Reimagine Together from an Extractive Age to a New Era

We are participating, along with 170 other congregations, in the UU Climate Justice Revival to collectively reimagine a spirit-filled and liberatory future. Through conversations, worship, and advocacy we will work together to realize climate justice and collective liberation in our communities. We will explore new frameworks at the intersection of climate and justice and have the chance to weave together the threads that have always linked our deepest commitments.

The UU Climate Revival will equip UU Congregations to enter into a new era of climate action - one that intentionally and faithfully breaks down silos and cultivates relationships that lead to flourishing collaborations that transform our congregations through climate justice. Together, we can move past systems and cultures of extraction to usher in a new era with love and justice at the center of our climate actions.

PLANNED EVENTS:

Sundays in September - Children and Youth are talking about Climate Justice during Religious Exploration

Sunday, September 22, 11:30am - 12:30pm - Mercy Davison will share the Town of Normal Sustainability Plan.

Sunday, September 29, 10:00-11:00am - Climate Justice Worship Service

Sunday, September 29, 11:30am - 12:30pm - Dialogue to deepen relationships and chart a course for our climate journey.

Sunday, October 6, 11:30-12:30 - Climate Justice Organizing Hour - Get out the vote with Relational Organizing

Thank you to the mUUSIC in the garden:

Volunteers!

MC Ozzy Vannoy
Benjamin Johnson
Luna Johnson
Kathy Packard
Nancy Armstrong
Brenda Wernik
Cooper Spalding
Gabriel Spalding
Jessica Robinson
Claire Hedden

Bands!

SoulSircus
Emily Perkins
EJ Allen
Candy Jamz

Donors!

Garneau Construction
Donny B's Popcorn
Ah Beans
Painted Wraith Curiosity Shoppe
BloNo Pizza Co
Bloomington Spice Works

Submitted by mUUSIC in the garden team: Brad Bell, Rain Johnson, and Emile Garneau

Dinners for 8 is Back!

Sign up through Sunday, September 29

This fall, Dinners for 8 will be back for a new round! This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy fellowship with a small group. All are welcome. Please see FAQs below for additional information.

Sign up

1. Sign up for Dinners for 8, using the online form [found here](#) or complete one of the sheets in the Fell Room.
2. By September 29, complete the online form or give the sheet to Blair in the office.
3. You will be matched with a group of 8 people (plus or minus, approximately 8).
4. Take turns hosting dinners with the others in your group, and let the fellowship flow!

Dinners for 8 FAQs:

Q. Do you have to be a church member to sign up?

A. No. All are welcome to sign up.

Q. Do you have to sign up with a partner?

A. No. Singles are encouraged to sign up.

Q. How many times do you meet?

A. The expectation is to meet 4 times.

Q. Will the same group stay together for all the dinners?

A. Yes.

Q. Is there a set schedule for when the dinners will happen?

A. No. Each group schedules the dates for their dinners.

Q. Do you have to host dinners at your home?

A. No. Restaurants and other locations are fine, if you prefer.

Q. Families welcome?

A. We hope to have enough sign up for the "family-size" option, which includes children.

For more information, please contact Claudia Kaufman at [REDACTED].



This Month's Community Plate Recipient

Project OZ

The offering this month goes to Project Oz. Their mission is to partner with young people to build a foundation that promotes safety, opportunities, and well-being in their lives. Since 1973 they have been helping reunite families, help kids stay in school, teach young people useful skills, and teach students how to keep their lives drug free. They provide counseling, education and career planning, student support services, safety planning, and healthy living strategies to students and families in Unit 5 and District 87. In both McLean and Livingston counties, they provide aid, shelter, and safety for runaway and homeless youth, reaching 8,000 youth every year.

To donate to Project OZ, make out your check to Project OZ 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.

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

Director

Bob Mangia

Co-Director

Molly Hjelle, AV Technician

avstaff@uubn.org

Anastasia Guzman, AV Technician

avstaff@uubn.org

Sara Kaeb, Child Care

office@uubn.org

Board Information

President: Larissa Armstrong

Vice President: Julie Prandi

Secretary: Chad Kahl

Treasurer: Nancy Armstrong

Directors: Karla Bailey-Smith, Brad Bell,

Jill Enchelmayer, Hubert Morales, and

Richard Seehuus.

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

Contact the board at uubnboard@uubn.org.

Trustees

Jack Pace, Paul Packard, and Brad Boesdorfer

Committees

Aesthetics

Building and Grounds

Committee on Shared Ministry

Finance and Stewardship

Denominational Affairs

Memorial Garden Stewards

Safety

Doug Johnson

Dick Hansen

Janet Tulley

Emile Garneau

Nancy Armstrong

Debby Funk

Julie Prandi

Teams

Membership and Outreach
Right Relations
Community Concerns
Green Sanctuary
Helping Hands
History
Religious Exploration (RE)
Social Justice
Worship and Music
Pastoral Care

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

