

#### <u>A LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation.</u> 1613 E. Emerson, Bloomington, IL 61701 309-828-0235 <u>uubn.org</u> <u>office@uubn.org</u>

### September 1, 2024

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## This Sunday's Worship Service:

### **All Ages Our Faith 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.

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.

## **Upcoming Services**

#### 9/8 - Our American Covenant - Rev. Rebecca Gant and Jan Baird, Worship

#### Associate

Our country was founded on big ideas about the ability of citizens to govern themselves, and to work together to form a "more perfect union." Each election cycle, we are presented with various ideas about HOW our country should fulfill what Senator Raphael Warnock called in a recent speech "the American Covenant." What sort of Covenant would our faith's values guide us to create for our country? And what is our part in upholding that covenant? Join us as we explore.

## 9/15 - Begin Again in Love - Rev. Rebecca Gant and Cindy Cotton, Worship

#### Associate

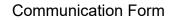
Ever been in a relationship with another human? If yes, it's 99.99% likely you've lived through an experience of conflict. In this season, our Jewish friends are preparing for the High Holy Days, days of reflection and repentance, of repairing relationships. What relationships in your life could use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

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** 



## **Need Support?**

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



## **This Week's Events**

#### Sunday, September 1

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
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM First Sunday Non-Fiction Book Group (Online)
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM Bloomington Normal Meditation Group (Walker Room)

#### Monday, September 2

#### Labor Day - Staff Holiday

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM Lunch Bunch (Irvin Room) \*No Vespers This Week\*

#### **Tuesday, September 3**

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

#### Wednesday, September 4

4:45 PM - 5:15 PMEmerson Singers (up to 5th Grade) (Walker Room)6:00 PM - 8:00 PMAll Ages Game and Grub (Fell Room)7:00 PM - 8:30 PMHumanist Group (Irvin Room)

#### Thursday, September 5

1:30 PM - 3:00 PMRehearsal for Baroque'n Consort (Walker Room)6:00 PM - 8:00 PMTrue Colors Book Club (Fell Room, Online)7:00 PM - 8:00 PMPrivate Event (Irvin Room)

#### Friday, September 6

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

4:00 PM – 8:00 PM Music Festival (Outdoors)

To View the Full Events Calendar Click Here



### Help and Vendors Wanted for mUUsic in the Garden Saturday, September 7th, 3:00-8:00 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: <u>https://forms.</u> Or email or text Rain Johnson at

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

Click Here to Volunteer to Help!

# **From the Minister's Desk**

## **Childcare News**

Our new-ish childcare provider Maddy Robinson has had to resign due to some unanticipated family issues. We wish her well in her future endeavors. Because she is leaving, we will need to hire a new childcare provider. We hope to have someone in place in early October. Do you know someone who might be a good fit? Please share this job posting with them!

## **No Vespers This Week**

Join us at 7:00 pm on Monday, September 9 for our next service of quiet and contemplation.

# **From the Board**

## **Greetings fellow congregants!**

Your board has been hard at work the last few months. Here are some updates:

#### **DRE Sabbatical**

The Board approved a 3 month sabbatical for Terina from 2/1/25-4/30/25. Terina and the Religious Exploration Team will coordinate to ensure a plan to cover her tasks is in place prior to her break. The benefits of the sabbatical for our Director of Religious Exploration: a respite to break away from the established routine and weight of responsibilities, a chance to be stimulated by new learning, and time and space to reflect on the meaning of one's work and commitment. The benefit to the congregation is: a refreshed religious professional, application of experiences/knowledge/resources gained on sabbatical, and the opportunity for volunteers in the congregation to take more ownership of the Religious Exploration Ministry and its direction.

Terina has been working hard taking on more responsibilities than are in her purview, especially during the pandemic and after, and we were thrilled to approve this opportunity for her to grow and rest.

#### Solar Update

Our solar project application was submitted to the Illinois Solar for All program. A reminder we are applying for this program because the funds available from the state to help recoup the

costs are higher inside this program. We hope to know if our project was approved by the end of August. Then we'll work on permits and ordering materials, with a tentative planned construction start date in early January. If all goes according to plan, we will be fully powered by the sun by February, 2025!

#### **Volunteers Needed**

The church is in desperate need of more volunteer help from YOU! Be on the lookout soon for a comprehensive list of areas where we could use some help, and please think about signing up to help out somewhere. A vibrant church community takes all of us, and there are a variety of opportunities so there should be space for everyone to help within their comfort levels and abilities.

In the meantime the Board has two immediate asks:

- **The Safety Committee** needs a new member or two! If you have a knack for order and want to help organize our bi-annual safety drills, and help keep track of the church's safety mechanisms (fire extinguishers, first aid kits, AED, exit lights, etc). Please consider lending your time! The committee meets once a month and has a few additional responsibilities, but nothing too terribly time consuming.

As a reminder, anyone is welcome to attend our monthly meetings held at 6:30pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the church. We just request that you let us know in advance if you plan to attend so we can ensure we have enough seats for everyone. Monthly meeting minutes are available to members in the "For Members - Important Documents" section of the website. If you need help accessing that portion of the site, please let Blair know!

Your board members are also always available to you, either in person Sunday morning after service, or via email! If you message uubnboard@uubn.org it will reach all board members! Warmly,

Larissa Armstrong, Board President

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

# **Religious Exploration**

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

### All Ages First Wednesday Game and Grub

Wednesday, September 4, 6:00-8:00pm, Fell Room

Everyone is invited to First Wednesday Game and Grub! 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. Rain is hosting this month!

## All are Invited to the September Potluck Brunch

#### Sunday, September 8, 11:00-12:30, Fell Room

Sign up to help set up, clean up, and/or bring a dish to share. Because our congregation practices Radical Hospitality (https://www.uua.org/leaderlab/radical-hospitality-theology) and Preemptive Radical Inclusion (https://www.uua.org/central-east/blog/better-together/who-are-you-expecting), please 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).

We don't expect a Loaves and Fishes miracle; signing up and bringing a dish lets us invite visitors, new people, and people who didn't know about the potluck to stay and join in this great community building event. Click the link to sign up. Thank you!

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084FA9AE29A0FA7-50932048-potluck

## LAST CALL -

### **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 <u>LRE@uubn.org</u>. **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)

## 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: <u>https://forms.gle/FvdAm6PUNPBHEptm6</u>

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 act for Climate Justice.

#### 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.

## 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.



## **Online Small Groups**

Email Tom at 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 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. 5 Registered.

LET US READ A NOVEL #8 *The Sympathizer*, by Viet Thanh Nguyen. The fourth discussion will be 7-8 PM, Thursday, September 12, when pp. 69-95 will be discussed. 5 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 will be at the end of September, day and time TBD. Any kind of writing in any stage of development is welcome.

# **Community Concerns**

Camille Ehlers, Team Lead



## Dog Boarding Volunteer Opportunity

Are you a dog lover who would be willing to temporarily board someone's dog while they seek drug treatment? There's a need in our community for about two to four people a year that can't get treatment unless they have a housing solution for their four-legged furry companion. If yo ng, please contact Bryan Hinman at

Submitted by Camille Ehlers

# **Social Justice Team News**

Chad Kahl, Team Lead

## **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 j

Submitted by Julie Prandi for the Social Justice Team

Get Tickets to NAACP Banquet Here

## Thank You for Giving to the School Supply Drive

We are a giving congregation! We collected 98 items to help students in Unit 5 and District 87 this year who may have started school without all that they needed (or run out before the end of the year!). A big shout out to the person that donated the 30 pack boxes of glue sticks. There will be no shortage of gluing projects this year! Thank you to all that donated and joined in blessing these supplies.

Submitted by Camille Ehlers

## **Postcard GOTV Campaign Update**

If you are working on GOTV postcards or letters from another non-partisan organization, please let Julie know, so we can add it to our running total. Mary Zeller and Janine Toth have each done 200 cards from separate campaigns, which brings our total to 2800 as of August 24. A new group of cards/addresses will be available starting September 1. Our goal is 4000.

**Have you seen the Social Justice Team chart in the Fell Room?** It maps out our progress on becoming a "Good Trouble" congregation. If you have done voter registration this year, please write the date of your effort and the group who organized it; if you have become an election judge, please add your name to our list!!

For more information, contact

Submitted by Julie Prandi for the Social Justice Team.

## **Election Judges/Poll Monitors**

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 this year.

Not only are you helping fellow citizens cast their ballots or ensuring that every election runs smoothly and everyone's votes are counted, 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:

\* <u>City of Bloomington</u>

\* <u>McLean County Clerk's Office</u>

If you are interested in becoming a poll monitor, the following non-partisan organizations offer opportunities:

\* NAACP: https://naacp.org/events/poll-monitor-training

\* Common Cause: <u>https://protectthevote.net/</u>

If you have any tion judge experiences, please don't hesitate to reach out to Chad Kahl at Chad is one of several UUBN members who has served in this role. If you sign up to be an election judge or poll monitor, please email Chad to let him know.

Submitted by Chad Kahl and the Social Justice Team

# **Stewardship News**

Emile Garneau, Chair

## **Our Annual Church Pledge Drive Is Coming!**

"At the heart of Unitarian Universalism is the faith that every person can make a meaningful difference in our communities and in the world... Giving is a way to express our beliefs and use our financial power in positive ways." T. Sweetser

Our Annual Pledge Drive will kick off on September 29 and conclude at the end of October. Our church 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 (Control of the Second Second

## Announcements

## **Right Relations Team Update**

The Right Relations Team is in place to help resolve conflicts in the congregation and to help the congregation affirm and understand our Behavioral Covenant. Speaking directly, listening intently, welcoming difference, fostering a culture of consent, and accepting that conflict is inevitable are simple ways to understand our five part covenant with each other. Since forming, we've led two Sunday services, hosted an intensive Difficult Conversations seminar over Zoom, hosted discussions, and sat in on a few difficult conversations within the congregation. We have also addressed concerns and issues brought to us by staff and members.

So...what if something is really a problem? After we developed and approved the behavioral covenant, the Safety Team created a process to help deal with what we called Unproductive Conflict. We are now thinking of this as Destructive Behavior, which is when someone's behavior threatens the safety and wellbeing of other members or the congregation.

The current policy tries to cover a lot of different situations and begins by asking folks to work it out together, then seek help, asking church leadership and/or the Team to mediate or

intervene. From there, the Team is empowered by the board to ask for changes, seek outside help, limit a person's access, and even bar a person from church participation in the most extreme cases. The policy is located on page 52 of the Policy Handbook.

We're in the process of reviewing the policy because we've learned a lot in the last few years. Our church community is a sacred space. We want all who enter to feel welcomed and safe. If you have concerns or suggestions about the Behavioral Covenant or about the policy, please feel free to contact Carolyn Moon at cjmoon@mac.com, or the other members of the Team: Claire Hedden, Pamela Morgan, Reverend Rebecca.

Submitted by Carolyn Moon

## Yoohoo from the Nominating Committee!

The Nominating Committee, Ann Crumpler, Claire Hedden, and Jack Pace, are curious about you! Our task is to get to know you and your strengths that could be applied to a future position in our church community. From the pool of congregation members, we recruit members to be elected candidates for the Board of Directors, Trustees, and Nominating Committee.

#### What does a Trustee member do?

Through following our Trust Bylaws, the three Trustees ensure UUBN's financial stability by managing our long term financial assets. They serve 3 year terms and submit quarterly reports.

#### What does a Board member do?

Our Board addresses topics related to our policies, our planning, and our budget. They meet monthly and serve 3 year terms. There are nine Directors on the Board and four hold one year term officer positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. All are welcome to attend the Board Meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm either on zoom or in person at church.

All of these roles are defined in our Policies and Procedures Handbook available here. As an autonomous UU congregation, we get to define our priorities, care for each other, and our church. We may be reaching out to you soon, and encoura have questions or interest in becoming a candidate by email at the second seco

Submitted by the Nominating Committee: Anne Crumpler, Claire Hedden, Jack Pace

## **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 <u>HHWmclean.org</u>. If you can't go and/or witems, I will be happy to take them for you. Contact me, Nancy Armstrong, at so we can talk about what you have and how to get it to me.

Submitted by Nancy Armstrong, Green Sanctuary Committee



### 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 <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: <u>https://uubn.org/wp/make-pledge/</u>

If you need to adjust your pledge, email Nancy Armstrong at 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 <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 <u>avstaff@uubn.org</u>

Anastasia Guzman, AV Technician <u>avstaff@uubn.org</u>

> 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 <u>uubnboard@uubn.org</u>.

### 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 <u>online directory</u> or <u>email the office.</u>



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