



**UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH OF  
BLOOMINGTON  
NORMAL**

Love Radically ● Serve Gratefully ● Wonder Daily

[A LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation.](#)  
1613 E. Emerson, Bloomington, IL 61701  
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**September 22, 2024**

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

### **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.

**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

### **9/29 - 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.

### **10/6 - What Are You Harvesting? - Rev. Rebecca Gant and Claudia Kaufman, Worship Associate**

The Christian Bible includes several references to planting and harvesting, most with the implication that what you plant (or put out into the world) comes back to you. If this seems true, how does that affect our choices as we go through life? And in this season when our Stewardship Committee is asking the congregation to pledge a financial gift, what will we plant? What will we harvest?

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 22

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  
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Adult RE: Normal Sustainability Plan (Walker Room)  
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM Stewardship Envelope Stuffing Party (Irvin Room)  
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM UU the Vote Button Session (Fell Room)  
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM Bloomington Normal Meditation Group (Walker Room)

## Monday, September 23

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

## Tuesday, September 24

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM Walker Covenant Group (Walker Room)  
5:30 PM – 6:15 PM Fairly Frequent Singers (Jr. High and High School) (Walker Room)  
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Visiting Stewards Training (Irvin Room)

## Wednesday, September 25

4:45 PM – 5:15 PM Emerson Singers (up to 5th Grade) (Walker Room)  
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Online Covenant Group (Online)

## Thursday, September 26

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM Rehearsal for Baroque'n Consort (Walker Room)  
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM Social Justice Team Meeting (Online)  
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM 4th Thursday Covenant Group (Irvin Room)

## Friday, September 27

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM Celebrate Democracy Power Hour (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

# Stewardship

Emile Garneau, Chair

## Our Annual Church Pledge Drive Is Coming!

“There is only one reason for joining a Unitarian Universalist church and that is to support it. You want to support it because it stands against superstition and fear. Because this church points us to what is noblest and best in human life...You want to support a UU church because it is more concerned with human beings than with dogma.”

Rev. John Wolf

The UUBN Annual Pledge Drive will kick off on October 6th and conclude November 10th. 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

Claire Hedden

Rain Johnson

Linda Johnston

Jack Pace

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

# From the Minister's Desk

I am 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.

## Looking for Some Quiet In Your Week?

### Vespers Service Monday at 7 pm

Join Babs Allen in the sanctuary at 7 pm 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 have quiet activities for people of all ages.

# Religious Exploration

Terina Carter, Director of Religious Exploration, [LRE@uubn.org](mailto:LRE@uubn.org)

Click Here to  
Join!

## Red Cross Blood Donation Team

Do you donate blood through the Red Cross? Join our church team, Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington Normal, on the #RedCrossBloodApp and we can see the impact our church community is making.

## College and New Young Adult Care Packages

If your UU kid is now a UU young adult in their first few years of living away from home or a college student, let me know if they might appreciate a small care package from the congregation! Send me their name, address, and (optional) a favorite treat we might include.

## Pollinator Pocket

We're officially a Pollinator Pocket! Bill Wilson's suggested name UU Bee N is the name that appears on the Illinois Extension's map of pockets. Here's the list from our application.



Playspace Rain Garden planted by Larissa and Claire: flag iris, great blue lobelia, columbine, common ironweed, turtlehead, cardinal flower, swamp milkweed, queen of the prairie, liatris spicata, new england aster, pale purple coneflower, wild bergamot

Pollinator Garden planted by the K-5th RE group: Wild Petunia, Aromatic Aster, Butterfly Milkweed, Columbine, Meadow blazing star, Yellow coneflower, Slender mountain mint, Pale purple coneflower, Swamp milkweed, Rough blazing star, Golden Alexander, Foxglove beardtongue, Wild bergamot, Gooseberry

West sanctuary wall planted by Kathy Packard: mountain mint, wild quinine, ox eye sunflower

Magnolia tree garden: prairie smoke and bluestem

## 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.

## Community Resources for Alzheimer’s and Dementia Caregivers

### **Carriage Crossing Senior Living Dementia Family Support Group**

Date: Every second Thursday each month

Time: 4:00 pm

Location in person: 1402 Leslie Dr, Bloomington

Contact: (309) 603-2500

### **CCSI & Alzheimer’s Association Caregiver Support**

Date: Every first Wednesday each month

Time 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Location: Activity and Recreation Center, 600 E. Willow, Normal in the upper-level Celebration Room

Contact: Angie Raymer, McLean County Caregiver Advisor, Cell: (217) 606-1162, Office: (309) 661-6400 ext. 106

### **Caretakers Path Caregiver Support Bloomington**

Date: Every last Wednesday each month

Time: 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Location in person: 1701 E College Ave, Bloomington in the lower-level conference room

Zoom Hybrid: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/95116246535>

Meeting ID: 951 1624 6535

Contact: Angie Raymer, McLean County Caregiver Advisor, Cell: (217) 606-1162, Office: (309) 661-6400 ext. 106

### **Alzheimer's Association Alzheimer's and Dementia Caregivers Support Group**

Date: Every second Tuesday each month

Time: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Location in person: Calvary United Methodist Church, 1700 N Towanda Ave Normal

Contact: Mary Sanko [sanko@frontiernet.net](mailto:sanko@frontiernet.net)

### **Bloomington Public Library - Memory Care Kits**

Available for all patrons to check out with their library card, memory care kits give people the opportunity to recall moments from the past. Containing photographs, music, movies, and activities, these kits can help trigger memories and provide a bridge for caregivers and loved ones to communicate and connect. Kits can be placed on hold. Patrons can find available memory care kits on the 2nd floor of the library.

<https://www.bloomingtonlibrary.org/memory-care-kits>

## **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](#)

## **Drop In Covenant Group**

**Tuesday, October 1, 6:00-7:30, Multiplatform**

Our new Covenant Group is perfect for anyone who wants to work on their spiritual development but can't commit to regularly attending monthly meetings. Using a monthly packet, participants will engage with one spiritual exercise and one reflective question each month. Come to the group prepared to share what you learned and to listen deeply to others.

This group will be facilitated by Rev. Rebecca. Gatherings are scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month. You'll discuss the materials from the previous month (ie. on October 1, you'll share your experiences with the September packet).

Email me or Blair to be added to the email list for the materials, reminders, and Zoom link.

# First Wednesday All Ages Game and Grub

Wednesday, October 2, 5:00-7:00, Fell Room

Everyone is invited! We'll have pizza and salad. Bring a snack to share if you're able. No nuts or peanut butter please!

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. Terina is hosting this month.

[Click Here to Sign Up!](#)

## Halloween Party and (Soup and Salad) Potluck for All Ages

Sunday, October 20, 4:00-6:00, Fell Room

All are invited! Dress up in your favorite costume and join the party! Bring soup or a salad to share. Sign up to help (or sign up to bring cheese pizza instead of soup or salad).

Hosted by Sarah Boesdorfer.

## 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. 7 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. 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]

# Announcements

## Member Anniversaries

Congratulations to our members who have celebrated milestone years July-September!

40 years – Roger Anderson

20 years – Marilyn & Ross Hadden, Marilyn & Gary Johnson, Julie Prandi & Jim Reid, Anna Wells

5 years – Sandy Aronen, Harvey Thomas

1 year – Andi & Craig Cooley

Submitted by the Membership Team



As we enthusiastically march ourselves to the polls, we can also share our values. Let's celebrate democracy together with a volunteer session for making buttons and stickers!

Join the fun on Sunday September 22 from 3:30 to 5 pm

Sign up to create fabulous election bling at:

[volunteersignup.org/P9874](https://volunteersignup.org/P9874)

Writing Postcards? Join the party!

Bring your cards along - no sign up necessary.



# Celebrate Democracy Power Hour

**5:00 - 6:30 pm**  
**Friday, September 27**

Come vibe in the Fell Room with all your faves (Nacho Cheese Doritos, coconut based mocktails, or whatever adult beverage you would like to share) while we joyfully work together to expand our 'good trouble.'

Make buttons & stickers for educators, write postcards, support local election efforts. (See the Volunteer Session Explainer in the newsletter for more info.)

Drop by for a minute or stay a while (maybe enjoy the fire in the back - weather permitting, hang around for a quick game, etc.)

**CHAT AND DASH, OR STAY FOR A SPELL, WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU!**

Submitted by Brenda Warnick

## What is Helping Hands?

It is a committee made up of members and friends of the Church whose purpose is to help one another in time of need.



Team members generally provide assistance with receptions for memorial services and recognition events; meals when a member is unable to cook for medical reasons; transportation to and from medical procedures; and, rides to church for congregants who do not drive.

Where there is a need, the team members provide assistance to the best of their ability.

Generous assistance is only a phone call or email away. Members and friends need only ask.

for \_\_\_\_\_ s  
or \_\_\_\_\_

## UUBN Capital Projects Update

We are in contract with Coach House Garages for the construction of a new storage garage to be built this fall on the back lawn. This new building will offer us more space, easier access for all, and open up more parking when the old garage is taken down in the winter/spring. The accessible sidewalks along the parking lot, to the memorial garden and playspace, and to Emerson St. will be added in the spring.

We would not be able to make these improvements without the capital pledges made by many of you! Thank you for your continued contributions in this 3 year commitment!

Submitted by Claire Hedden

## Church Fire Drill on October 13

There will be a fire drill during Sunday service on October 13. The alarm will sound and you will be given directions on evacuating the building and assembling at the rear of the church. Stay calm and follow directions!

For more information please contact Julie Prandi (██████████)

Submitted by Julie Prandi for the Safety Committee



## 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

## 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](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

Bob Mangia

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)

## 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



## 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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