



**UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF
BLOOMINGTON
NORMAL**

Love Radically ● Serve Gratefully ● Wonder Daily

[A LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation.](#)
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September 29, 2024

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This Sunday's Worship Service:

Climate Justice 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.

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

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?

10/13 - All Ages Coming Out Sunday - Rev. Rebecca Gant and Terina Carter, Director of Religious Exploration

National Coming Out Day is a day to support anyone "coming out of the closet," ie. LGBTQ people's self-disclosure of their sexual orientation, romantic orientation, or gender identity. First celebrated in the United States in 1988, the initial idea was grounded in the feminist and gay liberation spirit of the personal being political, and the emphasis on the most basic form of activism being coming out to family, friends, and colleagues, and living life as an openly lesbian or gay person. Members of the UU LGBTQ+ community are invited to participate in a ceremony to proclaim and affirm new names, pronouns, or "coming out" in a welcoming and celebratory space. All the choirs will sing; we'll share a potluck brunch after service.

This service is streamed live but is not recorded or shared online later.

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 29

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM Adult Choir (Walker Room)
8:30 AM – 11:45 AM Childcare
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 Climate Justice Dialogue (Sanctuary)
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Visiting Stewards Training (Irvin Room)
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM Bloomington Normal Meditation Group (Walker Room)
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Over the Rainbow (Fell Room)

Monday, September 30

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM Early Birds Covenant Group (Irvin Room)
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM Lunch Bunch (Irvin Room)
7:00 PM – 7:30 PM Vespers (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, October 1

5:30 PM – 6:15 PM Fairly Frequent Singers (Jr. High and High School) (Walker Room)
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM Drop In Covenant Group (Irvin Room, Online)
7:30 PM – 9:30 PM Vice Presidential Debate Watch Party (Fell Room)

Wednesday, October 2

4:45 PM – 5:15 PM Emerson Singers (up to 5th Grade) (Walker Room)
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM All Ages Game and Grub (Fell Room)
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM Humanist Group (Offsite)

Thursday, October 3

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

Friday, October 4

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

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

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 kicks off on **October 6th** and concludes **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 ([REDACTED])

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.

Sabbaticals

We are excited to announce that both Reverend Rebecca and Terina will take sabbaticals in 2025! Terina's sabbatical is February 1 through April 30. Rev. Rebecca's sabbatical is April 21-August 17.

Sabbaticals for religious professionals are different from sabbaticals for academics. Ministry and church leadership is a deeply invested calling - emotionally, psychologically, and communally - that goes beyond the bounds of a 40 hour a week job. To maintain the health and wellbeing of both the minister or religious professional and the congregation, Unitarian Universalist ministers and religious professionals take sabbatical leave for the purpose of rest and restoration. When they return, they bring a rejuvenated spirit back to the congregation, replenishing the vibrancy of our covenants and values.

What does this mean for Religious Exploration, Sunday Services, rites of passage, and Pastoral Care needs that occur during the sabbatical?

Before Terina's sabbatical, she will work with the congregation, RE teachers, Worship Team, and Covenant Group facilitators to create plans for the continued success of religious exploration programming for all ages. Blair's administrative support for RE will continue.

During Rev. Rebecca's sabbatical, the Board will contract with a sabbatical minister to preach and support our Worship Team, provide pastoral care and support our Pastoral Care Associates, and support our staff during the sabbatical time.

More details to come in future newsletters and brochures, but for now we want to make sure you know well in advance - and are ready for lots of delicious food and tasty treats for the send off and welcome back parties to celebrate this time-honored Unitarian Universalist tradition!

Check out these articles for more information.

<https://www.uua.org/leaderlab/sabbatical>
<https://www.uua.org/leaderlab/sabbaticals-all>

submitted by the Minister's Sabbatical Task Force:
Jill Enchelmayer, Allison McLeod Carlson, Ginny Pace, and Cheryl Springwood

Looking for Some Quiet In Your Week?

Vespers Service Monday at 7 pm

Join us 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

Nature Playspace Update

Ready to help pull the pieces together to have the Nature Playspace open sometime in October? Let me know which part you can take the lead on making happen.

- 9/23 - 10/4: build 3 Leopold benches with provided supplies
<https://www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/DNR-News-Releases/ArticleID/1218/Build-a-Leopold-bench> (Brad Bell and ??)
- 9/23-10/4: build a music wall with provided materials but don't install it until after the playset is built
- 9/27-10/4: build and install a purchased playset, estimated delivery 09/26 (Brad Boesdorfer, Rain Johnson, and ??)
- 10/1 - 10/4: Thanks to Erin Furimsky's family, we have a canoe! We need to drill drainage holes for marine plugs, dig a trench, lay in two railroad ties, fill with sand, and nestle the boat into the trench - all AFTER the playset is installed
- 10/1 - 10/4: install music wall AFTER the playset and canoe are installed
- 10/1 - 10/4: build and install a small stage with 4 corner posts, materials reimbursed
- 10/1-10/4: arrange stumps, logs, and limbs for jumping, sitting, and building

Youth Group Help with All Ages Services

A couple of newer youth asked how they can help out on Sunday mornings. There are ways to help on any Sunday (reading during a service, lighting and extinguishing the chalice), but helping during All Ages Sunday is a great way to meet people. If you're in choir, you're likely already busy during an All Ages service. If you're not in choir, but want to help out, we're looking for 3 greeters and 1-2 kitchen help. Let me know if you want to sign up or if you have questions.

- October 13 - Coming Out Day
- November 24 - Bread Communion
- December 22 - Winter Pageant
- January 19 - Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Service to Our Community

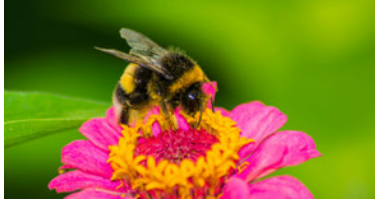
LAST CALL -

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

Be Part of the 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 on October 13 to proclaim and affirm your (re)naming, your pronouns, or your “coming out” as part of the queer community in a safe space? Or read something? Or light the chalice? Or share a short reflection?

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.

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 sixth discussion of Søren Kierkegaard's *The Sickness Unto Death*, translation by Bruce H. Hirmmse, is TBD. 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. 8 registered.

The next Share Your Writing session is TBD. Any kind of writing in any stage of development is welcome.

Social Justice Team News

Chad Kahl, Team Lead

Postcard Campaign Summary

Our church completed 3967 Get Out the Vote postcards, which even though it does not hit our target of 4100, it comes pretty close. Hurray for the 63 people who participated in this effort! Nine people did 100 or more postcards. A special shout out to the two people who wrote the most cards, 200 postcards each: Rachel Lapp Whitt and Pam Spencer. If you have done GOTV postcards or letters (with a non-partisan organization) and not yet reported them, please do so.

For more information, contact [REDACTED]

Submitted by Julie Prandi for the Social Justice Team.

Want to find out whose on your ballot and/or what the candidates are thinking, try these options:

Ballotpedia: Illinois - <https://ballotpedia.org/Illinois>

Illinois State Board of Elections - <https://votersguide.elections.il.gov/>

League of Women Voters - <https://www.vote411.org/>

League of Women Voters, Illinois Chapter - <https://illinoisvoterguide.org>

UUBN @ Midwest Food Bank Again

Friday, November 1 from 1:00-3:00 pm

Want to spend a couple hours on a Friday afternoon with others from church helping package food to be shipped out those in need? We have planned a group outing for Friday, November 1 from 1:00-3:00. Ages 13+, closed toed shoes required, but I promise it's nothing difficult.

You must sign up at this link directly <https://x.gl> _____ n on Oct 25, or for more information please contact Brad Bell at [REDACTED]

-Submitted by Brad Bell and Social Justice Team

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.

- 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

Announcements

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.

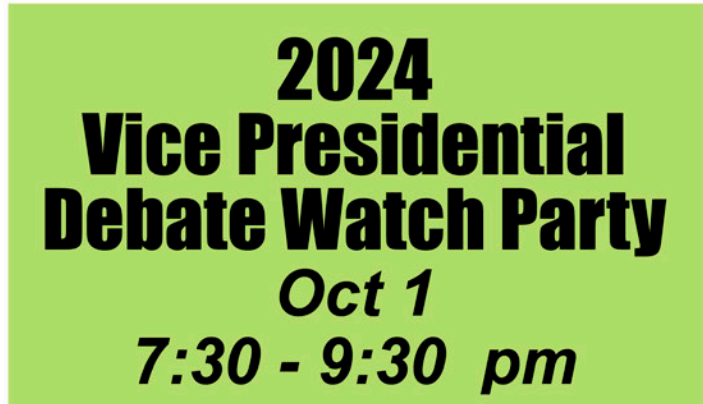
Q. Do you have to host dinners at your home?

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]



Join us in the Fell Room for light snacks and soft drinks (provided) at a community viewing of the debate between

Governor Tim Walz and
Senator J.D. Vance

**STOP BY FOR A FEW MINUTES OF THIS HISTORIC EVENT
OR FOR THE ENTIRE DEBATE. ALL ARE WELCOME!**

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

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.

Need more information? Contact Carolyn Pitts
309-825-0833 or carolyn@pacepittsfamily.net

Church Fire Drill on October 13

There will be a fire drill during Sunday service on October 13. You will be given directions on evacuating the building and assembling at the designated gathering spot on the back lawn. Stay calm and follow directions!

For more information please contact Julie Prandi [REDACTED]

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 Comate 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



This Week's Community Plate Recipient

Ecology Action Center's Free Tree Program

Everyone in Bloomington-Normal deserves to enjoy the benefits of trees in their neighborhood. With data from the US Environmental Protection Agency and the American Forests Tree Equity Score, we have identified West Bloomington as a high priority area for planting trees. To address this, we have started the West Bloomington Free Tree Program—Free native sapling trees to income qualifying West Bloomington residents!

To donate to the Free Tree Program, make out your check to Ecology Action Center with Free Tree in the memo 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](#).



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