



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 8, 2024

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This Sunday's Worship Service:

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.

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

9/15 - 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.

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

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.

All are Invited to the September Potluck Brunch

This 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/508084FA9AE29AoFA7-50932048-potluck>

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 8

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
11:15 AM – 12:30 PM Potluck Brunch (Fell Room)
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM Bloomington Normal Meditation Group (Walker Room)

Monday, September 9

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM Lunch Bunch (Irvin Room)
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM PFLAG (Irvin Room)
7:00 PM – 7:30 PM Vespers (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, September 10

5:30 PM – 6:15 PM Fairly Frequent Singers (Jr. High and High School) (Walker Room)
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM Board Meeting (Irvin Room)

Wednesday, September 11

4:45 PM – 5:15 PM Emerson Singers (up to 5th Grade) (Walker Room)
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM Private Event (Irvin Room)
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Exploring Membership (Irvin Room)
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM Monthly Meeting of Many Paths CUUPs (Fell Room)

Thursday, September 12

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

Friday, September 13

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
6:15 PM – 10:00 PM

Over the Rainbow (Fell Room and Outdoors)
Private Event (Walker Room)

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

From the Minister's Desk

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.

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!

Looking for Some Quiet In Your Week?

Vespers Service Mondays at 7 pm

Join me in the sanctuary at 7 pm every Monday for a simple, contemplative 30-minute gathering. This will include words, music, and time to reflect and light a candle for whatever joys or sorrows you'd like to mark. All ages are welcome; we'll have quiet activities for people of all ages.

Stewardship News

Emile Garneau, Chair

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

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

Have a college student who might appreciate a small care package from the congregation? Send me their name, address, and (optional) a favorite treat we might include.

Don't have a college student but want to help with the packages? Let me know!

Covenant Small Groups for Adults Start This Month!

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, each member selects one spiritual exercise out of about seven. At the monthly meeting, you share how the spiritual exercise affected you. Other group members listen without interruption. When you're done listening, you'll share back the connections you made with what someone shared or your gratitude for their sharing. 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:
<https://forms.gle/FvdAm6PUNPBHEptm6>

September - December

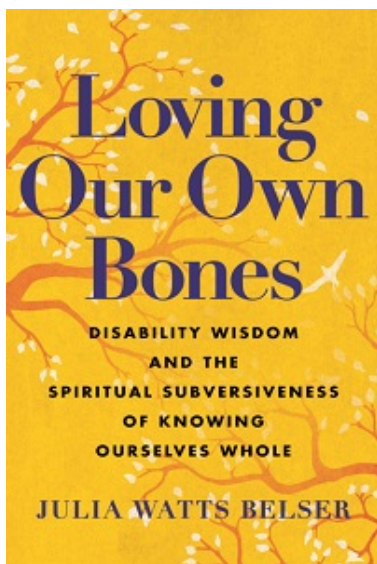
We'll spend time reconnecting with nature and our environment, listening to each other, and learning how our values call us to act for Climate Justice.

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.

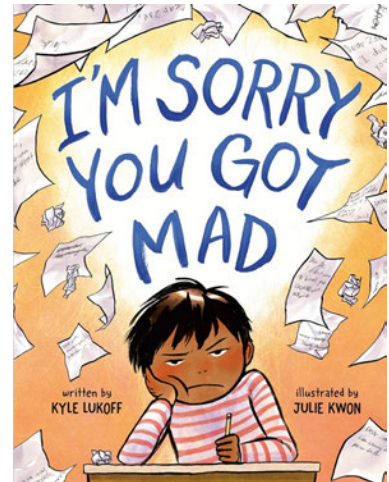
Through fresh and unexpected readings of the Bible, *Loving Our Own Bones* instead paints a luminous portrait of what it means to be disabled and one of God’s beloved. Belser delves deep into sacred literature, braiding the insights of disabled, feminist, Black, and queer thinkers with her own experiences 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.



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. Himmse 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 P.M., Thursday, September 12, on Chapter 18 through end of book. 4 registered.

Announcing LURAN #9 AND #10 as a series: #9 *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain, 1884, followed by *James*, by Percival Everett, Doubleday, 2024. Huck Finn's story is an early insider's look at the white supremacist culture of the United States in the pre-civil war

South through the eye of a ragged white boy helping the enslaved Jim escape his bondage. James is a recasting of the story from the point of view of the runaway. The reading of these back-to-back will be a useful way to look at literature that conveys cultural criticism. Register for one or the other or both by October 1. 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 you are interested in volunteering, please contact Bryan Hinman at [REDACTED].

Submitted by Camille Ehlers

Social Justice Team News

Chad Kahl, Team Lead

Phone Banking

UU the Vote/Side 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.

- Aug. 27: North Carolina
- Sept. 3: Texas
- Sept. 10: Michigan
- 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

Wow!! We have now completed 2800 postcards, counting those that were due to be completed Sept. 1.

We have 1300 more to go to meet our goal. This last postcard effort is devoted to Georgia; you have probably read about all the efforts there to curtail the right to vote. Cards 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.

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:

* [City of Bloomington](#)

* [McLean County Clerk's Office](#)

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: <https://protectthevote.net/>

If you have any question judge experiences, please don't hesitate to reach out to Chad Kahl at [REDACTED]. 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

Announcements

[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

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 encourage you to have questions or interest in becoming a candidate by email at [REDACTED].

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 HHWmclean.org. If you can't go and/or have just a few items, I will be happy to take them for you. Contact me, Nancy Armstrong, at 309-826-2703 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 [download the app](#). Our subdomain is uubn.

Lifelong Access - Learn More!

Donate Here

STEWARDSHIP

Pledges from our members and friends support the ministries of the church.
If you haven't made your pledge for 2024, here is the link: <https://uubn.org/wp/make-pledge/>

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

Doug Johnson
Dick Hansen
Janet Tulley
Emile Garneau
Nancy Armstrong

Teams

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

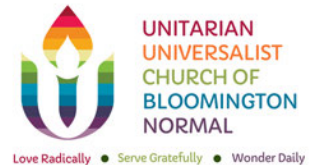
Kathy Packard
Carolyn Moon and Pamela Morgan
Camille Ehlers
Nancy Armstrong
Carolyn Pitts
Joan Banks
Erin Ripley-Gataric, Terina Carter
Chad Kahl
Claudia Kaufman, Rev. Rebecca Gant
Rev. Rebecca Gant

To obtain contact information for the leads of these groups please see the [online directory](#) or [email the office](#).



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