



**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](http://uubn.org)  
[office@uubn.org](mailto:office@uubn.org)

**October 13, 2024**

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

### **All Ages Coming Out Day**

**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.

## 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

### **10/20 - Harvest - Cindy Cotton and Sean-Thomas Gunnell, Worship Associates**

Harvest traditionally serves as a time for communities to come together. As a beloved community, we will come together to reflect on the theme of harvest exploring gratitude, community, and growth.

### **10/27 - Sacred Solidarity: Accompaniment as an Expression of Our Faith - Heather Vickery and Rev. Rebecca Gant**

Accompaniment is the radical act of being with someone even when it is hard and you don't know how things will turn out. With the increase in fascism across our country, our society often tells us to isolate, take care of our own first, and fear the other. However, our faith calls us to hold love at the center, to recognize everyone as family even if we've never met, and to support and follow the lead of those most impacted by systems of oppression. Join us to learn of the ways UUs are accompanying trans and gender expansive individuals and families, asylum seekers and others on the frontlines of building the beloved community.

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](#)

## Staff Off for Monday Holiday

This Monday, October 14, is Indigenous People's Day- a holiday designated as a paid day off in our church Personnel Manual. Staff will be off this day and the office will be closed. Any messages that come in on Monday will be returned later in the week.

## This Week's Events

### Sunday, October 13

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  
11:15 AM – 12:30 PM Potluck Brunch (Fell Room)  
3:00 PM – 6:00 PM Worship and Music Planning Retreat (Irvin Room, Online)  
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM Bloomington Normal Meditation Group (Walker Room)

### Monday, October 14

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

### Tuesday, October 15

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

### Wednesday, October 16

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

### Thursday, October 17

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

### Friday, October 18

6:00 PM – 9:30 PM Adult Game Night (Fell Room, Kitchen)  
6:15 PM – 10:00 PM Private Event (Walker Room)

**Saturday, October 19**

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM    Private Event (Fell Room, Kitchen)

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



[Sign Up for the Potluck Here!](#)

## Coming Out Service Potluck!

A light brunch after the All Ages Coming Out Service. This sign up is to invite you to help set up, help clean up, bring a 9 x 13 casserole OR sweet breads OR fruit salad OR something brunchy.

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) so that all can join the fun and fellowship.

Sponsored by the Stewardship Committee

# Stewardship

Emile Garneau, Chair

## STEWARDSHIP NOTES

Your pledge is kept confidential – only four people know the amount of your pledge, Nancy, Blair, Emile and you. You are not judged or valued based on the amount of your pledge. Only you know if the dollars you pledge reflect the value you associate with your church experience in terms of community, missions, and covenant.

Active stewardship of our church includes volunteer participation. We are all in different places with respect to life and our ability and interest in volunteering. Review and update your preferred church activities. We need more volunteers – for committees, potlucks, RE, single events, an afternoon. If you currently are “lightly” volunteering and want to get more involved in your church, commit today to call and see all the ways you can help.

The Stewardship Committee

# From the Minister's Desk



## Welcome Our New Staff Member!

Adrienne Alt is the new Preschool Lead Teacher in the Childcare Room. We are happy to have her! You might already know Adrienne as a frequent volunteer with our youngest UUs. Stop by and say hello.

Here's what Adrienne says about herself:  
My name is Adrienne Alt and I am currently back in school pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Education. I have worked in a few different childcare settings including before and after school programs through the town of Normal's park and recreation department and two daycares in town. The best part about childcare work is interacting with children and being able to share my creativity with them too.

## 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.

## Help for Those Affected by Hurricane Helene

Our UUA Disaster Relief Fund gives grants to those affected by natural disasters.

You can contribute at this link: [www.uua.org/giving/disaster-relief](http://www.uua.org/giving/disaster-relief)

# Religious Exploration

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

## Nature Playspace Update

When we removed the old wood playset, we had no idea it would take this long to create the vision the youth group had for a replacement. We've had challenges like COVID, wildfire smoke(!), increased supply cost, and volunteer and contractor availability.

What has been done: sod was removed from an expanded area, free pavers were used to create a mowing edge, two truckloads of playground mulch were spread, tree limbs were trimmed, playset purchased and built, benches made, logs and stumps delivered.  
What still needs to be done: build and install a music wall, install the play canoe, build and install a small stage with 4 corner posts, arrange stumps, logs, and limbs for jumping, sitting, and building, build accessible pathways to connect to back lawn pathways.



[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.

- November 2, 2-3 P.M. *Transgender History: The Roots of Today's Revolution*, by Susan Stryker, 2nd edition, Seal Press (CA), 2017.
- December 1, 2-3 P.M. *Autocracy, Inc.: The Dictators Who Want to Run the World*, by Anne Applebaum, Penguin Random House (Doubleday imprint), 2023. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize.

The sixth and final discussion through end of book of Søren Kierkegaard's *The Sickness Unto Death*, translation by Bruce H. Hirmmse, is Thursday, November 21, 7-8 P.M. 6 Registered.

LET US READ A NOVEL (LURAN) #9 *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain, 1884, is in the process of scheduling its first session. After we finish discussing Huck Finn in several sessions, we'll read and discuss LURAN#10 *James*, by Percival Everett, Doubleday, 2024, a recasting of the Huck Finn story from the point of view of the runaway Jim. 10 registered.

The next Share Your Writing session will be Tuesday, November 19, 7-8 P.M. Any kind of writing in any stage of development is welcome. 6 registered.

Announcing a new discussion focused on a book about climate change. In response to the UUBN Service on September 29 and to Larissa Armstrong's provocative talk on climate change, which included a reference to *What If We Get It Right: Visions of Climate Futures*, by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson, Penguin Random House, 2024, I offer this opportunity to read, reflect on, and discuss Johnson's ideas about what can be done, both individually and collectively. Register by sending me an email by January 1, 2025, to give yourself and the world a new year's gift of thought and action.

## From the Office

### Help Needed in the Office

I would occasionally like to take a Sunday off to visit out of town family, but to do that I need coverage in the office. Can you help?

While it's about 4 hours of work, it's an infrequent commitment (no more than three times a year). I'd train you on how to handle Sundays. You'd do things like turn on/off the lights, lock/unlock the doors, print orders of service, count the offering, and a mishmash of other things. Mostly, you would be taking messages and directing questions to the appropriate people.

There's a handy dandy checklist and I'd have you sit with me one Sunday to see how it works.

If you're interested in helping me out by adding your name to the backup list or have questions let me know at [office@uubn.org](mailto:office@uubn.org).

## Social Justice Team News

Chad Kahl, Team Lead



**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 \_\_\_\_\_

-Submitted by Brad Bell and 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. 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 soon.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me \_\_\_\_\_.

Submitted by Chad Kahl and the Social Justice Team

# **Announcements**

**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 (██████████)

Submitted by Julie Prandi for the Safety Committee

## Organize and Take Action to Help our Trans Siblings

Saturday, October 26 - Dinner for Community and Church Organizers

Sunday, October 27 - Service led by Heather Vickery, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Sunday, October 27 - Planning Meeting and Lunch - All are invited! RSVP to <https://forms.gle/eazFfLNBstM9ABe48>

Did you know Illinois is considered one of the most affordable safe states for trans and gender expansive people? Heather Vickery from Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) joins us at the end of October to help us get involved in supporting trans folks relocating to Central Illinois or needing a short term landing spot.

In many states, our trans and gender expansive beloveds are under attack and fit the criteria to be designated as internally displaced people (IDPs) by the United Nations. The UUA and UUSC developed direct partnerships with frontline trans-led organizing to create networks of safety and direct support for beloveds who need to relocate, access healthcare across state lines, or stay as safe as possible where they are.

During the Planning Meeting & Lunch on **Sunday, October 27**, we will break into four planning groups (housing, fundraising, daily needs, and systems support) to map out resources and connections we can bring to this work and we'll consider next steps. Attending this meeting and sharing your ideas does NOT commit you to continued involvement.

If you already know you want to help in a continuing capacity, let [Rev. Rebecca Gant](#) know! Possible roles include (but are not limited to):

- Housing Host
- Welcoming Team Member
- Care and Passenger Accompaniment
- Mutual Aid and Welcome Village Coordination
- Operational/Administrative Volunteer

## Are you an animal lover? Did you know there's a UU organization focused on issues related to animals?

UU Animal Ministry (UUAM) helps UUs live into our values in relation to animals by promoting compassion, justice, and respect for all beings. Stay connected through their newsletter, social media, or at [UUAM.org](http://UUAM.org) to learn about events, educational programs, and advocacy efforts. Whether it's the annual Celebration and Blessing of the Animals or exploring how UU values call us to care for animals, you'll find inspiring ways to take action nationally or by forming a local chapter. Join in and help create a more compassionate world for animals!

Attend the Annual Celebration and Blessing of the Animals!

### **Join UU Animal Ministry for their Annual Celebration and Blessing of the Animals**

An uplifting online event honoring the animals in our lives and the broader world. This joyful gathering will feature an inspiring speaker, beautiful readings, poetry, and music, all centered on our deep connection with animals. Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 13, at 3 PM CT and come celebrate with us in a spirit of love and reverence. All are welcome! Go to [uuam.org](http://uuam.org) for more details and to join the event.

### **Join Our Pet Loss Support Group**

Losing a beloved pet can be heartbreaking, and it's important to have a space to grieve and heal. UU Animal Ministry offers a compassionate Pet Loss Support Group, led by Chaplain Rev. Russell Elleven, to provide comfort and understanding during this difficult time. Held online the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm CT, the group offers a safe space to share your feelings and connect with others who have experienced similar loss. Whether you're dealing with a sick pet or mourning one who has passed, you don't have to go through it alone. To join, contact Rev. Elleven at [relleven@gmail.com](mailto:relleven@gmail.com) for Zoom details.

## **New(ish) to UUBN**

**Tuesday, Oct. 29, 6-8 p.m.**

Are you new to our congregation and want to know more about us? If so, please join us for one session on Tuesday, Oct. 29, from 6-8 p.m. in the Irvin Room. You will learn more about our theology, religious exploration, social justice work, small groups, how we celebrate together, how we share our burdens, and have a tour of the building.

Virtual attendance is available. If you wish to participate online, please contact the office manager, [office@uubn.org](mailto:office@uubn.org) or 309-828-0235. If having child care would help you attend this session, please contact the office by October 18.

All are welcome!

Submitted by the Membership Team

## **You Can Help UUBN Expand Our Outreach!**

Have you heard the phrase, "UUBN is the best kept secret in town"? We'd like to share that secret, and you can help.

If you know of a community event where we should be sharing our values, the Membership/Outreach Team has just the thing for you. Our Outreach Kit has the materials that you need, including a rainbow tablecloth, banners, tabling supplies and pop-up canopies. Except for the large items, everything is in 2 boxes. You also might want to add some additional UUA brochures, located in the church office, that apply to your specific event. The main thing you will want to add are some enthusiastic helpers!

The kit is kept in the Stevenson Library at the Stevenson Library at the church office. Contact Kathy Packard at [redacted] at [redacted] or [redacted] at [redacted] for additional information.

Submitted by the Membership Team

## **A Message from the Right Relations Team on Justice**

"...two things are wanting in American civilization—a keener and deeper, broader and tenderer sense of justice—a sense of humanity, which will crystalize into the life of the nation

the sentiment that justice, simple justice, is the right, not simply of the strong and powerful, but of the weakest and feeblest of all God's children." – Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, 1875  
As UUs, we know that 'justice', as one of our guiding values, means the quality of being fair and reasonable. And that the justice of rights means the fair and reasonable administration of law and order.

But what about the justice of right relationships?

In a community that centers right relationships, justice is not one-size-fits-all. Instead, it provides individualized justice that is tailored to every member of a community and their unique connections. Our Right Relations Team seeks to be attentive and responsive to the needs of our members. We mend tears in our social fabric and respond to conflict and harmful acts by making things right...not necessarily 'even'.

Want to learn more about the Right Relations Team? Contact Carolyn Moon at



## This Week's Community Plate Recipient

### Planned Parenthood of Illinois

Planned Parenthood of Illinois health centers provide a wide range of safe, reliable health care — and the majority is preventive care, which helps prevent unintended pregnancies, reduce the spread of sexually transmitted infections through, and screen for cervical and other cancers. They also provide gender affirming care for trans and non-binary people as well as delivering age appropriate, comprehensive and medically accurate information that empowers women, men, teens, and families to make informed choices and lead healthy lives.

To donate to Planned Parenthood of Illinois, make out your check to Planned Parenthood of Illinois 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](mailto: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 [REDACTED]

Bob Mangia [REDACTED] oir 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

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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