



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF
BLOOMINGTON
NORMAL

Love Radically ● Serve Gratefully ● Wonder Daily

[A LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation.](#)
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October 6, 2024

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This Sunday's Worship Service:

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?

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

10/13 - 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.

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.

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, October 6

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

Monday, October 7

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

Tuesday, October 8

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, Online)

Wednesday, October 9

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

Thursday, October 10

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

Friday, October 11

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Over the Rainbow (Fell Room)
6:15 PM – 10:00 PM Private Event (Walker Room)

[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

Pledge Kickoff

October 6th is the official Kickoff of your 2025 pledge campaign, which will end on Nov. 10th.

We are "self-funded"; there is no outside organization which gives us money. When you make your pledge decision please give as generously as you can.

There will be donuts after the service in the Fell Room.

For more information contact Emile at [REDACTED]

Submitted by the Stewardship Committee

Visiting Stewards

The 2024 Visiting Stewards will be recognized at the Oct. 6th Sunday service. Please commit to welcoming them for a visit.

There will be donuts in the Fell Room after the service. Please come and meet the stewards.

For more information please contact Emile Garneau at [REDACTED]

Submitted by 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

Religious Exploration

Terina Carter, Director of Religious Exploration, LRE@uubn.org

Organize and Take Action to Help our Trans Siblings

Saturday, October 27 - Dinner for Community and Church Organizers

Sunday, October 28 - Service led by Heather Vickery, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Sunday, October 28 - Planning Meeting and Lunch - All are invited! RSVP to office@uubn.org

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 28, 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 the office 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

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



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.

Family Overnight at MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY

Last year we went to the Field Museum in April. This year we're going to the Museum of Science and Industry. Snoozeums are for children ages 6-12 and their adult (18+) chaperones (one required for every five children). The per-person fee (we have scholarships available) includes overnight admission with parking, hands-on science activities, tours, Giant Dome Theater screenings, a Snoozeum patch and breakfast. Space is limited and pre-registration is required.

I'd like to get our reservations started. How do ya'll feel about January? Or should we do April again? Let me know!

Friday, October 18, 2024

Saturday, January 18, 2025

Saturday, February 22, 2025

Friday, March 7, 2025

Saturday, April 5, 2025

Saturday, June 7, 2025

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 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

Blair 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 offertory, 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.

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> on Oct 25, or for more information please contact Brad Bell at [REDACTED]

-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. 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 soon.

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

Shirley - BLM Book Club

Wednesday, October 9 at 7:00 pm

Please join us and our guest facilitator, Nikita Richards, the internal/external communications and legislative affairs officer for the Office of the Governor's Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion on Wednesday, October 9 at 7:00 pm at the Bloomington Public Library in the conference room to discuss the biopic *Shirley* (2024 1hr 57 min) about the trailblazing campaign of the first-ever Black congresswoman, Shirley Chisholm, to become the president of the United States.

The film *Shirley* is available on Netflix.

If you can't access *Shirley* (or you want to screen two movies!), watch *Chisholm '72: Unbought & Unbossed: The First Black Woman to Run for President* (2004 1hr 16min) Chisholm '72 is available through Kanopy, a free streaming service available through the Bloomington and Normal libraries.

This is a hybrid meeting of a public book club and our first partly in-person meet-up since the pandemic. Our intersectional and intergenerational public book club welcomes new and occasional members.

If you will be attending online, please register for the meeting and get the zoom link by emailing the event



Understand Your Practice
A Half-Day Meditation Class

October 12th
Only on Zoom

Learn More
Take a Picture

INSIGHT MEDITATION
COMMUNITY OF
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Understand Your Practice: A Daylong Meditation Class

Saturday, October 12th - Happening only on Zoom

Understand Your Practice is a donation-based class made for you to learn more about the foundational practices of Insight meditation (samatha-vipassana & metta). In this class, Ryan Barfoot will introduce you to how these practices can be easily applied to your own practice of mindfulness. In this class you will learn how to develop concentration, awareness and lovingkindness in skillful ways that brings joy and cultivates wellbeing.

For more information, please contact Ryan Barfoot, at [REDACTED]

Submitted by Ryan Barfoot and the Insight Meditation Community of Bloomington-Normal

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 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



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.

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

Coir 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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