



**UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF
BLOOMINGTON
NORMAL**

Love Radically ● Serve Gratefully ● Wonder Daily

[A LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation.](#)
1613 E. Emerson, Bloomington, IL 61701
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office@uubn.org

November 10, 2024

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This Sunday's Worship Service:

Building Bridges and the Story of America Rev. Rebecca Gant and Babs Allen, Worship Associate

One of our common hymns is "Building Bridges" and it encourages us to reach across divisions. Can we build bridges with people we disagree with in these days following the election?

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

11/17 - National Immigrant's Day

Sean-Thomas Gunnell and Chad Kahl, Worship Associates

There are as many immigrant stories as there are immigrants to this country. Let's celebrate them in our uncertain times.

11/24 - Bread Communion

Rev. Rebecca Gant and Terina Carter, Director of Religious Exploration

In the Christian tradition, the disciples broke bread together during a Passover meal, remembering an escape to freedom on the eve of a crucifixion—when yet another imperial ruling power was asserting its dominance through violence. They broke bread together in the depth of their grief and fear, asserting that the forces of empire, violence, and evil would not extinguish the forces of life and love.

- Rev. Dr. Sheri Prud'homme

The Sunday before Thanksgiving, we'll break bread together to celebrate the abundance of the harvest, the hard work of all who make our lives possible, and the community that gathers to worship together. Our congregation practices a free and open communion; everyone is invited to participate.

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, November 10

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 Children and Youth RE (Back Lawn, Lower Level)
11:15 AM – 2:00 PM Exploring Membership (Irvin Room, Online)
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM Bloomington Normal Meditation Group (Walker Room)
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Youth Advisory Board Meeting for Over the Rainbow (Fell Room)

Monday, November 11

Veteran's Day - Office Closed

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

Tuesday, November 12

5:30 PM – 6:15 PM Fairly Frequent Singers (Jr. High and High School) (Walker Room)
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM Coming of Age for Adults (Walker Room)
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM Private Event (Fell Room, Kitchen, Sanctuary)
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM Board Meeting (Irvin Room)

Wednesday, November 13

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

Thursday, November 14

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

Friday, November 15

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

Saturday, November 16

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

Stewardship

Emile Garneau, Chair

Pledge Drive Progress

The status of the 2025 pledge drive as of 11/4/2024: \$238,759 has been pledged to date (54% of our goal of \$438,204), from 62 members and their families.

The initial phase of our pledge drive ends today. The 26 visiting stewards have done a great job. Their active involvement (with a few exceptions to gather pledges from members who could not be contacted for various reasons) is over and will be celebrated with cake after church. Please come and thank them for their efforts.

The next phase of the pledge drive starts tomorrow, 11/11/2024. For the next month members of the stewardship committee will reach out to those members and friends who have not pledged and, using gentle reminders, encourage them to pledge during November.

We thank you for your generosity. The Stewardship Committee

"My family and I pledge to be a part of something greater than ourselves and know that at UUBN our pledge and support of this church is an investment to our community." - Alicia Wodika

From the Minister's Desk

Dear ones,

I know the news brings more distressing stories each day and that the election is weighing heavy on many of us. I have noticed an increased reactivity in myself-- have you noticed the same?

I hope that you will give yourself (and other people) a measure of grace in these difficult times and that you will take good care of yourself. Remember the things that help you keep your balance, whether that is connecting with friends and family, taking time in nature, meditation or prayer, exercise, or just remembering to take some deep breaths throughout the day.

As far as planning for what the church will do. Next, I think we will just go on doing what we do--affirming our (and everyone's) humanity, providing a place for connection and growth, working for justice, celebrating the joys of life, acting as the hands and feet of love, and caring for one another and our earth.

Terina and I want to remind you of the resources available to help you keep your balance this week and in the weeks to come.

- Vespers, Mondays at 7 pm in the sanctuary. This is a short (30 min), reflective service with plenty of silence and time for meditation.
- [This guide](#), put together by one of my colleagues, offers daily practices and resources such as music, reading and reflection, and resources for children and families.
- Resources for spiritual practice in the Stevenson Library. Come in and browse, check the catalog [HERE](#), or reach out to Terina for guidance. LRE@uubn.org
- Resources in the Gnagey Library for talking with children about scary things they may hear or see. Come in and browse, check the catalog [HERE](#), or reach out to Terina for guidance. LRE@uubn.org

And, as always, if a compassionate listener would be helpful to you, please contact me.

With love,

Rev. Rebecca

PS: I will be at a ministers' retreat November 12-15, and visiting one of our daughters (looking at wedding dresses!) November 16-17. My response times [REDACTED] week will be slower. If you have an urgent need to contact me, please text or call [REDACTED]

Religious Exploration

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

Over the Rainbow & WGLT

Over the Rainbow is a community social group for queer kids that's sponsored by the church in partnership with PFLAG. Money for the group is provided by PFLAG while the church provides spaces and runs the background checks through our insurance (those are also paid by PFLAG). Blair volunteers her personal time as manager. And I'm the staff person who is the contact for the sponsorship (lots of work last summer, not so much now). Read the article and [listen to the interview here](#).

Let's Hike!

Saturday, November 23, 8:30am, Humiston Woods Nature Preserve,

RSVP to LRE@uubn.org

Working on a schedule to walk in nature together once a month. RSVP so I know who to look out for and so we can coordinate carpooling for anyone interested in that. For this first time,

let's meet up at Humiston Woods. [Learn more here.](#)

What are the Children and Teens doing on Sunday Mornings?



Each month we spend one Sunday morning with the entire congregation building community and connections during the All Ages Service and potluck brunch. On another Sunday morning, all the children from Kindergarten age through Senior in high school, build community and connections with each other through a shared activity. In September, Bob Mangialardi led us through warm up games and then taught us some songs. In October, we decorated pumpkins with nature objects, made leaf piles, played in the lawn, and started on a gnome home. In November, we'll have a bonfire and group art project. The other Sundays in the month, we're learning more about nature, spending time in slow, close observation, using our nature journals, looking for bugs, identifying the trees, creating a tree map, and learning about climate justice.

Sunday Morning Adult RE (and Teacher Lunch and Learn) - Neurodiverse and Trauma Informed Spaces for Children and Youth

Sunday, November 10, 11:30-1:30, Walker Room

Special Guest Trisha Malott will help us better understand how to create spaces that are more welcoming to children with trauma and/or who are neurodivergent. The small group of Over the Rainbow facilitators is also invited. If you can attend, let me know how many children you'll have in childcare and/or food needs.

Coming of Age for Adults!

**Six Tuesdays in November & December, 6:00-7:30,
Walker Room**

Adults of all ages will explore their spiritual journey and religious identity. You will reflect on how you got to now, engage with texts as they relate to your spiritual life, and craft a statement about who you are as a person of faith. You're welcome to bring your dinner- we'll have snacks. Let me know if childcare would help you be able to participate.



COMING OF AGE
for Adults

Join us on Tuesdays at 6:00. **This series requires**
; email to LRE@uubn.org or text to
[REDACTED]. Participant range is 5 minimum/12 max.

1. November 12 - Coming of Age...for Adults?
2. November 19 - Stages of Faith
3. November 26 - Your Spiritual Journey
4. December 3 - Statements of Faith
5. December 10 - Developing Your Statement of Faith
6. December 17 - Sharing Your Statement of Faith

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.

- 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.
- January 5, 2025, 2-3 P.M. *Invisible Doctrine: The Secret History of Neoliberalism*, by George Monbiot and Peter Hutchison, Penguin Random House (Crown imprint), 2024.

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, will meet for the second time on Monday, November 11, 7-8 P.M. on Zoom to discuss the first chapters 8-18. After 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. 11 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. 1 Registered.

Social Justice Team News

Chad Kahl, Team Lead

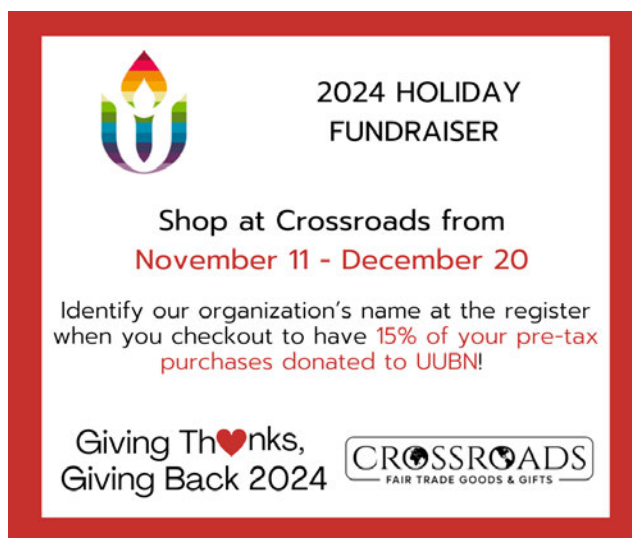
UUBN @ Bed Blitz: Mission Complete

On Saturday October 5 Debbie Kerrigan, Joanne Alexander, and Brad Bell gave an hour and a half of time to represent UUBN and build 3 bed frames for children without beds in our community. Together the Bed Blitz event this year provided, delivered, and installed 130 beds.

If you'd like [REDACTED] interested in participating in the future, contact Brad Bell at [REDACTED]

Submitted by Brad Bell and the Social Justice Team

Announcements



Giving Thanks, Giving Back

2024 Holiday Shopping Partnership with Crossroads

UUWF is pleased to announce it is again partnering with Crossroads Fair Trade Goods & Gifts in the "Giving Thanks, Giving Back" shopping fundraiser! This holiday season the campaign will run from November 11 through December 20! This means UUBN congregants, friends, and supporters can shop any days from November 11 through December 20 and UUBN will receive a 15% rebate on the pre-tax amount.

Customers MUST state to a volunteer at the cash register that their purchase should be applied toward UUBN. This is very important because there are several participating groups

able to shop at the same time for an extended period of time.

In addition to helping UUBN earn money to assist with our projects, the purchases made provide a life with dignity and a consistent income to the artisans whose products are sold in the store. In addition to impacting the lives of the artisans, it enriches the lives of their families and communities as well. SHOP OUR VALUES...SHOP FAIR TRADE!!

For more information, please contact Lin Hinds at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

-- Submitted by Lin Hinds

Nomad Theatre Presents
a staged reading of

#ENOUGH: EVERY FIFTEEN MINUTES

BY MCKENZIE BOYD, ARIANNA BRUMFIELD, WILLA COLLEARY, ANYA JIMÉNEZ, TAYLOR LAFAYETTE, TAIN LEONARD-PECK, CAMERON THIESING, WYN ALYSE THOMAS, MAGGIE MUNDAY ODOM

Friday, November 15th
7:30 pm
805 S Cottage Ave, Normal

Saturday, November 16th
2:00 PM
1613 E Emerson St, Blomington

Admission is Pay What You Can.
50% of proceeds will be donated
to the Illinois chapter of the
Everytown for Gun Safety
Support Fund

SCAN ME 

For more information, scan or
visit www.nomadtheatre.org

*Some plays contain adult language and depictions of gun violence.

Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.
(www.playscripts.com)

Nomad Theatre presents a staged reading of **#ENOUGH: Every fifteen minutes**

A staged reading of #ENOUGH: Every fifteen minutes will be presented by Nomad Theatre Company in the sanctuary on Saturday, November 16 at 2:00 p.m.

SYNOPSIS: Welcome to America, where every fifteen minutes, a person is killed with a gun. In eight short plays written by teens for teens, the winners of the 2022 #ENOUGH: Plays to End Gun Violence competition contend with the way this statistic shapes young people's lives. Taken together, #ENOUGH: Every Fifteen Minutes is a poignant portrait of a uniquely American crisis by the generation it impacts the most.

Admission is pay what you can and 50% of proceeds will be donated to the Illinois Chapter of the Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund.

For more information, please contact Connie Blick at [REDACTED] or visit www.nomadtheatre.org

Submitted by Connie Blick, UUBN Friend and Co-Founder of Nomad Theatre

All Ages Bread Communion

Sunday, November 24 is our traditional All Ages Bread Communion Service. If you would like to participate by sharing a bread related reflection, baking bread to be served during the service, or in any other way, send an email to Terina LRE@uubn.org.

In the Christian tradition, the disciples broke bread together during a Passover meal, remembering an escape to freedom on the eve of a crucifixion—when yet another imperial ruling power was asserting its dominance through violence. They broke bread together in the depth of their grief and fear, asserting that the forces of empire, violence, and evil would not extinguish the forces of life and love. - Rev. Dr. Sheri Prud'homme

The Sunday before Thanksgiving, we'll break bread together to celebrate the abundance of the harvest, the hard work of all who make our lives possible, and the community that gathers to worship together. Our congregation practices a free and open communion; everyone is invited to participate.

[Sign up for the potluck brunch here!](#)

UU's Gather to Spread Some Holiday Cheer! Church Decorating & Cookie Extravaganza!

Saturday, November 30, 1:00-3:00

Three Things for a fabulous Saturday:

1. Decorate the Church for the holidays
2. Cookie Exchange (Bring 3 dozen)
3. Assemble Cookie Gift Boxes (UUBN college youth, homebound friends & seniors)

If you have questions, please contact
Linda Johnston [REDACTED] or
Rain Johnson [REDACTED]
Brenda Wernick [REDACTED]



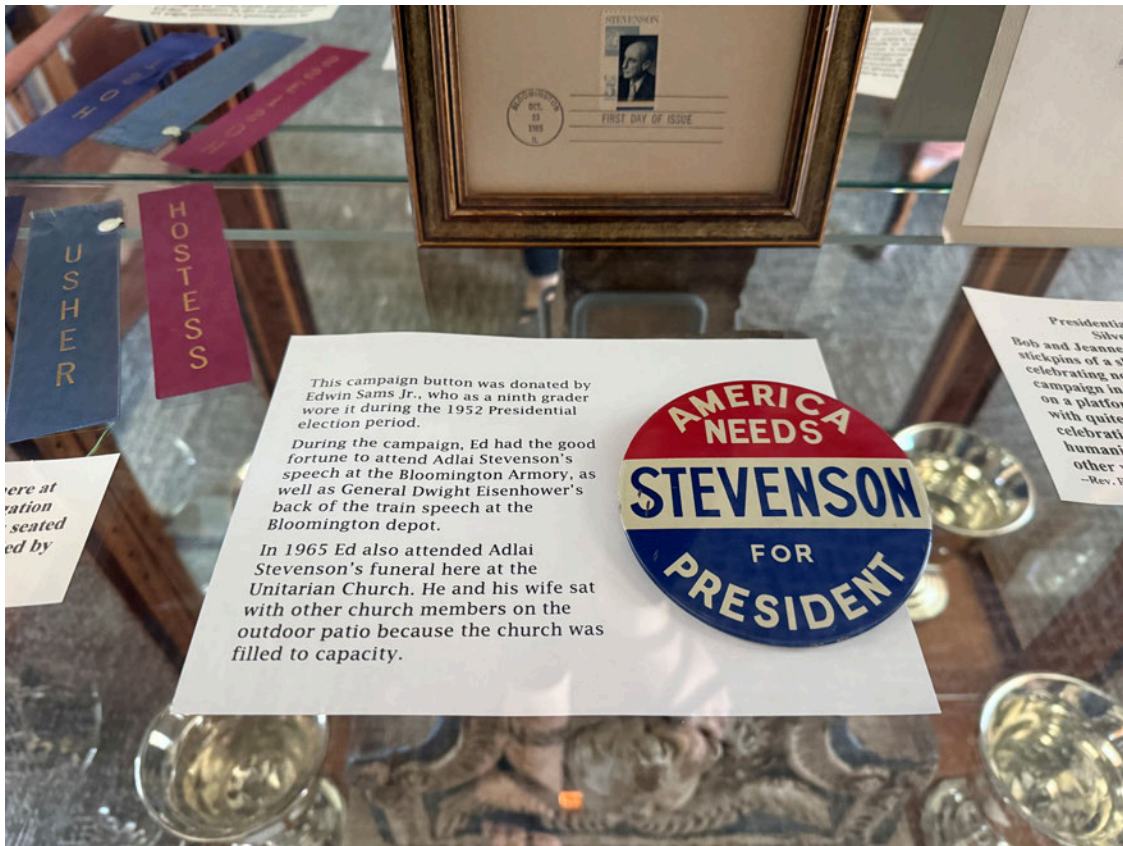


Use the Signup to add your name as a guest. Please include in the comments the total number of people in your party. You can also add the dish you will bring if you know that.

The Church will provide roast turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing and beverages.

Let's Gather for a Festive Holiday Celebration!

[Click Here to Sign Up](#)



This campaign button was donated by Edwin Sams Jr., who as a ninth grader wore it during the 1952 Presidential election period. During the campaign, Ed had the good fortune to attend Adlai Stevenson's speech at the Bloomington Armory, as well as General Dwight Eisenhower's back of the train speech at the Bloomington depot. In 1965, Ed attended Adlai Stevenson's funeral at the Unitarian Church. He and his wife sat with other church members on the outdoor patio because the church was filled to capacity. Please thank Ed for his donation!

Mario Kart 8 DX Chalice Cup Tournament @ UUBN in January!

We are looking for:

- a few volunteers to be tournament organizers (you don't really need deep experience with the game or tournament scene)
- one volunteer to sell snacks and drinks
- people to provide setups (Switch, Mario Kart 8 Dx with all DLC and content unlocked, display, power strip)
- players to fill up a bracket of 64 entrants



te, please email [REDACTED] with what role you would like, if you can provide a whole or partial setup, and which Saturday in January you prefer or if you can not do a specific Saturday, this is especially important for volunteers and those bringing setups. Volunteers won't be able to enter the tournament but will likely be able to play casually as the tournament consolidates in later rounds.

See rules and tournament setup at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Rv_qIfVq8tteQZzu-ThKx_cgIhJPQ7bMtfYG-OT5-T4/edit?usp=sharing

There will be a later announcement to the community to try and fill seats so this is your first opportunity for UUBN members, family, and friends! Hope to see you there!

Submitted by Brad Bell

New! Community Care Board

Check out the in-progress Community Care Board in the Fell Room. On that bulletin board you can find QR codes to sign up to provide practical support to members of the congregation (i.e., rides, meals, help with memorial receptions). If using a QR code is not for you, you can see what the needs are and then speak with Blair in the office to get signed up. Thank you for caring for our community!

-from Rev. Rebecca and the Helping Hands Team



This Month's Community Plate Recipient

Mid Central Community Action's Neville House

This month's donations benefit Mid Central Community Action's program to help victims of domestic violence. In addition to operating the live-in shelter called Neville House, the Countering Domestic Violence program offers 24-hour emotional support to assist families in crisis. Trained advocates provide legal advocacy, youth services, adult therapy, support group for survivors and their children, medical advocacy and professional trainings. They can't replace everything that was taken from a victim of abuse; however, they can help survivors heal by wrapping them up with support and empowering them with the tools they need to succeed.

To donate to Neville House, make out your check to MCCA with Neville House 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

Bob Mangia

oir 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
Good Vibes Crew
Green Sanctuary
Helping Hands
History
Religious Exploration (RE)
Social Justice
Worship and Music
Pastoral Care

Kathy Packard
Carolyn Moon and Pamela Morgan
Camille Ehlers
Kristen Krienert and Alicia Wodika
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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