



**UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF
BLOOMINGTON
NORMAL**

Love Radically ● Serve Gratefully ● Wonder Daily

[A LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation.](#)
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November 17, 2024

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This Sunday's Worship Service:

National Immigrants 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.

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

11/24 -All Ages 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.

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

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 17

- 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)
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM Baroque'n Consort 35th Anniversary Concert (Fell Room, Sanctuary)
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 (Irvin Room)

Monday, November 18

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

Tuesday, November 19

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

Wednesday, November 20

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

Thursday, November 21

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

Friday, November 22

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

Saturday, November 23

- 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Private Event (Fell Room, Sanctuary)

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

Stewardship

Emile Garneau, Chair

Pledge Drive Progress

As we reach the end of our 2025 Stewardship campaign, we have received 71 pledges totaling \$250,379, which is 57% of our goal. Increases have been averaging 8%.

We are extremely grateful to those who have pledged and know that many people are about to pledge.

Your financial support makes possible our mission and all the good programs at UUBN. We will make followup phone calls next week to folks who haven't pledged by Sunday Nov. 18. Please be kind to your Stewardship Team and pledge today by [clicking here](#).

If you're not sure if your pledge was recorded, check with Blair at office@uubn.org. Thank you!!

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 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

Note from Terina:

Last week I attended the Liberal Religious Educators Association's (LREDA) Fall Conference with a focus on collaboration with colleagues and rest as resistance. There were about 200 of us online and I met in person with the DREs from Peoria, Urbana, and Springfield. Many great things came out of this gathering. A couple things you might be excited to hear about are our new Bookshop account and our planned Rest as Resistance programming.

If you're ready to spend your book money somewhere other than Amazon, the church now has a virtual storefront on Bookshop: <https://bookshop.org/shop/uubn> Bookshop supports independent bookstores like Bobzby in downtown Bloomington through online ordering and shipping to your home. I've started creating book lists for Common Reads, Time for All Ages, and each OWL group. If you purchase books through our virtual storefront, the church will receive a small percentage. Not all titles are available there but I'm finding that most are.

My Central Illinois colleagues and I are planning to offer Rest as Resistance sessions beginning in December. We'll offer a monthly online session for the 4 congregations and I will offer a monthly in person session for our community. During these 45 minute gatherings, we'll hear a reading from *Rest as Resistance* by Tricia Hersey; we'll rest together; reflect on rest as resistance in a capitalist society, and leave with a "practice to resist grind culture" from Tricia Hersey's [Rest Deck](#).

Next year's Common Read is *Social Change Now: A Guide for Reflection and Connection* from Deepa Iyer. Our Sunday Adult RE offering in January will be based on the work in this book. You can order and start reading now OR come ready to learn.

An intention for RE this year is a congregation wide conversation about the goals for Religious Exploration for all ages. Look for December dates and come ready to talk about your expectations, your needs, and your interests.

Another intention this year is consistent, ongoing training as additional support for RE teachers. Last Sunday, Trisha Malott, Clinical Social Worker and Director of Central Illinois

Bridge Academy (<https://www.cibridge.org/contact>), led a lunch and learn for RE teachers and Over the Rainbow facilitators. We learned how to be more welcoming to children and youth who are neurodiverse or have a trauma background. Thank you for participating Connor, Allison, Ryan, James, Blair, Cheryl, Joanne, Rae, Sawyer, Sara, Claire, Javi, Mary Ellen, Meghan, Mercy, and Adrienne!

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](#).

Tools for Tending: Post-Election Spiritual Care Space

Thursday, November 21, 6:00-8:00pm, online

Join Side With Love, BLUU, and DRUUMM for [Tools for Tending: Post-Election Spiritual Care Space](#). This 2-hour special event is open to all and will help tend our spirits through somatic practices, spiritual grounding, and small group connection. Combining structured elements, reflection time, music, facilitated caucus spaces, and visioning exercises, we hope you will feel grounded, strengthened, and held.

Let's Meander!

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

RSVP to LRE@uubn.org

I'm 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](#). Next month will be in town.



Gnagey Library New Additions

These new titles are ready to check out. Please use the white checkout binder to record the title, your name, and the date.

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 third time on Monday, November 25, 7-8 P.M. on Zoom to discuss chapters 19-28. 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. 2 Registered.

Social Justice Team News

Chad Kahl, Team Lead



UUBN shows up for Midwest Food Bank

On Friday, November 1 we got out our largest volunteer team in years to Midwest Food Bank! Scott and Jan Reynolds, Kristen Krienert, Kristen Johnson, Joann Koebel, Brenda Wernick, Jack Pace, David Pace, Vicky Phillips, Rain Johnson, Jordan Walter (not pictured), Kelly Kamowski, and Brad Bell helped quality control and repackage canned food to get ready for distribution out to areas of need.

We are going as a group about quarterly. If you are interested in joining a future outing, get on the [redacted] e time convenient for the most members. Contact Brad Bell at [redacted] to get on the list.

- Submitted by Brad Bell and Social Justice Team

Good Trouble Congregation

Several months ago, we decided to pursue Good Trouble Congregation status through UU the Vote. They ask congregations to pursue two Organizing goals and two Voter Contact goals. Here is a brief overview of what we accomplished.

For our two Organizing goals:

- * Collaborating with partners, such as the League of Women Voters of McLean County and the Salvation Army, we had UUBN members at over a dozen events.
- * A half-dozen UUBN members served as election judges.

For our Voter Contact goals:

- * Over sixty UUBN members and friends wrote over 4,000 postcards.
- * We sent 45,000 text messages.

Thanks to everyone for their hard work in our election and voting efforts!

- Submitted by Chad Kahl and the Social Justices Team

Prison Ministry News

Holiday Cards for People Behind Bars

Spend a few minutes after Sunday service in the Fell Room on 11/17, 11/24, 12/1 to write a card with a short message (sample messages will be provided!) We have thirty addresses and cards all ready to go! We will use the church for the return address.

Chalice Circle at Logan

Marie-Susanne joins Cindy Cotton to lead this Chalice Circle! It is scheduled twice a month, although it has been frequently cancelled in the last several months because of a shortage of staff at the prison. Since Logan is slated to close after a new facility is built, lots of staff are leaving now and it is hard to hire new people. Cheers for Marie-Susanne and Cindy; as well as for prison pen pals like Deborah Nieman, Barb Dallinger, and Brad Bell!

Announcements

Interfaith Thanksgiving at YMCA!



INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE 2024

November 24th | 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Join us for a service revolving around what unites us with a focus on community and camaraderie. Pie will be provided in the Community Room afterward.

- ASL interpreter will be present
- A freewill offering will be taken for the American Red Cross hurricane relief



[LEARN MORE BNYMCA.ORG](https://www.bnymca.org)

Nov 28, 2024 at UUBN Church

You are invited for Thanksgiving Dinner 4-6 pm

*Church provides turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, and beverages.
Bring a dish to share (check signup sheet in Fell Room for needs).*

Sign up online or in the Fell Room

Games & puzzles after dinner for those who would like to stay - or join us 6 to 9 pm for extra fun.

We Give Thanks

[Click Here to Sign Up](#)



2024 HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER

Shop at Crossroads from
November 11 - December 20

Identify our organization's name at the register
when you checkout to have **15% of your pre-tax
purchases donated to UUBN!**

Giving Th♥nks,
Giving Back 2024



Giving Thanks, Giving Back

2024 Holiday Shopping Partnership with Crossroads

We are 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

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]

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



If you are interested in participating, 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 survivor 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 2025, 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

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Sara Kaeb, Child Care

office@uubn.org

Adrienne Alt, 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 the board 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

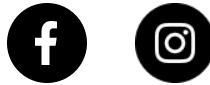
Doug Johnson
Dick Hansen
Janet Tulley
Emile Garneau
Nancy Armstrong
Debby Funk
Julie Prandi

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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