



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF
BLOOMINGTON
NORMAL

Love Radically ● Serve Gratefully ● Wonder Daily

[A LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation.](#)
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November 3, 2024

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Fall Back

this Sunday!



This Sunday's Worship Service:

All Souls' Day Service of Remembrance
Rev. Rebecca Gant and Thomas Burr, Worship Associate

As the wheel of the year turns and we move toward winter, we will take time out to remember our loved ones and those members of our congregation who have died in the last year.

Bring a memento of your loved ones to add to our communal altar.

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

11/10 - 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. How can we build bridges with people we disagree with in these days following the election?

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.

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 3

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)

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Community Concerns Meeting (Walker Room)
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM First Sunday Non-Fiction Book Group (Online)
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM Bloomington Normal Meditation Group (Walker Room)

Monday, November 4

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

Tuesday, November 5

5:30 PM – 6:15 PM Fairly Frequent Singers (Jr. High and High School) (Walker Room)
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM Drop In Covenant Group (Irvin Room, Online)

Wednesday, November 6

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

Thursday, November 7

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

Friday, November 8

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Over the Rainbow (Fell Room, Kitchen, Lower Level Classrooms)
6:15 PM – 10:00 PM Private Event (Walker Room)

Saturday, November 9

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM Gay Semanko Memorial (Fell Room, Kitchen, Sanctuary)
4:00 PM – 11:00 PM Private Event (Fell Room)

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

Stewardship

Emile Garneau, Chair

Pledge Drive Progress

Our goal is \$438,204. To date we have received \$200,609 (46% of our goal) from 49 members.

Our pledging tree is displayed in the Fell Room, with a leaf for every pledge. Please view it. Your church community thanks you for your generosity.

"Our family is new to the UU community and have come to really value its role as a safe haven for its members and its outreach programs to the community at large. I also appreciate the transparency with which the church is run, and its commitment to evolving and growing. One way we show our support is through pledging financially." - Marie Houghton

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 in the various scenarios that are possible after the election, 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

Religious Exploration

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

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. Join us on Tuesdays at 6:00. **This series requires** [redacted]; 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



COMING OF AGE
for Adults

Does the Congregation Still Want to Host a Gender Expansive Resource Center?

When I leave on sabbatical, we need two people in place to support the Gender Expansive Resource Center or we'll need to end our partnership with Prairie Pride Coalition.

If you're interested in supporting this work, you could handle whatever kind of in person appointment comes up (around 4 a month total). Or you could process only the requests for shipping items (around 4 a month total). Our goal is for client requests to be acknowledged within 24 hours and to be processed within 2-3 days.

What do you need?

- training from me and/or Sawyer
- personal email account you check every couple days for notification a request form was completed
- a phone for texting clients
- knowledge of and access to Google Sheets (similar to Excel)
- time to meet clients at the church for appointments (usually weekday evenings or Sundays)
- vehicle to meet clients at the church for appointments
- compassion & listening skills

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, 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.

Social Justice Team News

Chad Kahl, Team Lead

Join the Fight for Rent Stabilization

Thursday November 7th, at 7pm

Bone Student Center, Circus Room

How can we keep skyrocketing rents under control? Support the bill HB4104 to lift the current state ban on rent stabilization! We'll be hearing more from ISU students as to how they've been affected by the price-gouging of corporate landlords like Young America, Redbird, Class Act Realty, and SAMI. Invite your neighbors and students to help build this movement to ensure everyone can enjoy stability in our homes and communities! Please RSVP for this event at bit.ly/isultb. Presented by Lift the Ban Coalition.

tion, please contact Julie Prandi at



Submitted by Julie Prandi for the Social Justice Team



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 @ 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

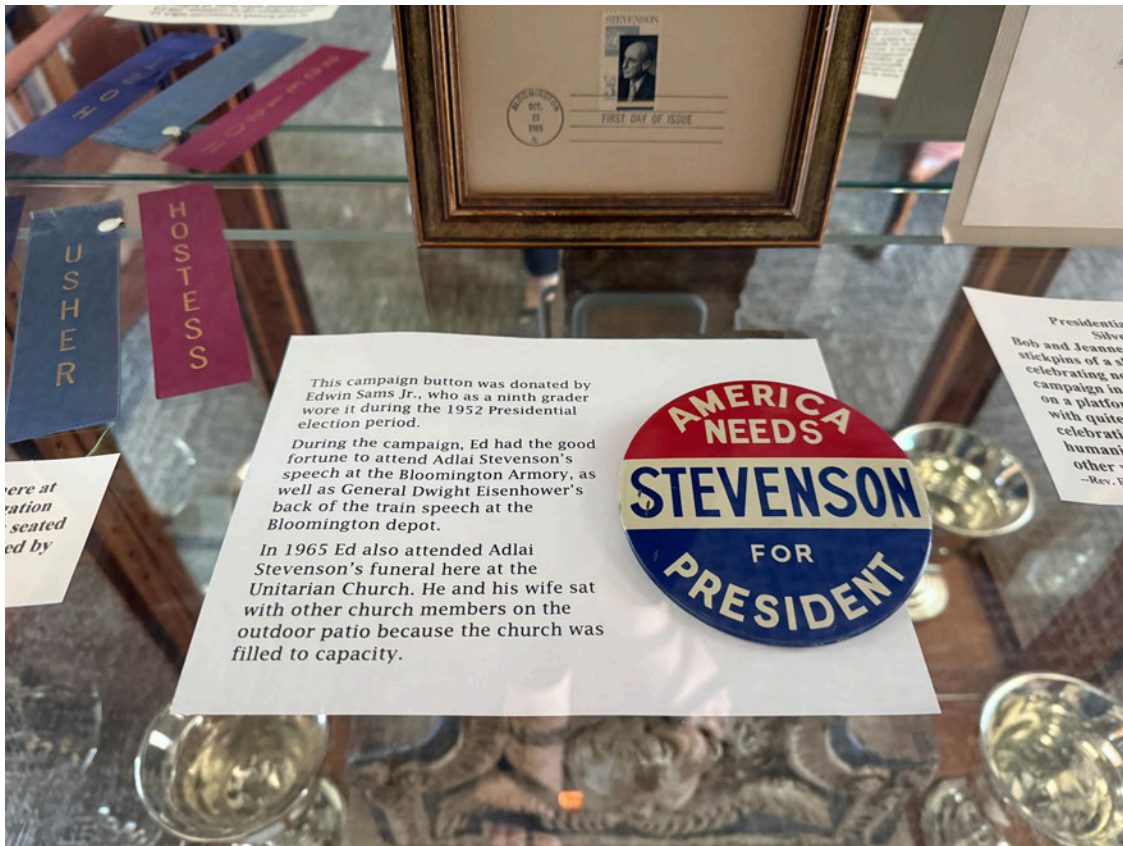
Brad Bell at



interested in participating in the future, contact

Submitted by Brad Bell and the Social Justice Team

Announcements



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!

Post-Election Gatherings

[DRUUMM Election Evening Gathering Space](#) [BIPOC only]

7pm Central Tuesday November 5

A space of support and spiritual care for BIPOC UUs on the evening of Election Day.

[Forward Together with UUtheVote: After Election Day](#)

7pm Central Wednesday November 6

A time for spiritual tending, regional connections, and holding space for emotional responses.

[Forward Together with UUtheVote: Meaning Making & Immediate Action](#)

7pm Central TBD – The day after the election is called

A focus on immediate action steps, regional assessments, and spiritual nourishment.

[UUANI Statewide Post-Election Gathering](#)

6:45pm Tuesday November 19

We will celebrate what we've done, debrief the results, and pivot to our ongoing Democracy work in Illinois.

2025 Monthly Plate Offering Selection

Sunday, November 3rd, 11:30 AM, Walker Room

Have you ever wondered how we choose which non-profit organizations in the community we give to? Do you know of one that aligns with our values that you'd like to share? Would you like to help decide who we give to in 2025? If so, join me November 3rd! As the Community Concerns Chair, I will share information about who we donated to this year and have you, our congregation, decide who we give to next year. If you have an idea of an organization that is a 501(c)3 in our community that aligns with UU values that we have not given to, please bring information about the organization for discussion.

Aren't able to make it but have ideas you'd like to share? Email me at [REDACTED] ideally before this meeting, and I will incorporate the information into our discussion.

Submitted by: Camille Ehlers, Community Concerns Chair

Do you like to write on whiteboards?

The Membership Team is looking for someone to update the whiteboard in the Welcome Room once or twice a month. That person should have good printing skills; art ability is not required but would be a bonus. We will provide the content; [REDACTED] post it. Please contact Kathy Packard, Membership Team leader, at [REDACTED] or contact the church office at office@uubn.org.

Submitted by the Membership Team

You're Invited to Exploring Membership

Sunday, Nov. 3 and 10, from 11:30-1:30

Have you been thinking about church membership? Do you want to know more about becoming a member, our faith and our church? You're invited to join us for our two session Exploring Membership class from 11:30-1:30 Sundays, Nov. 3 and 11, in the Irvin Room. We'll serve a light lunch.

We'll go into depth about the history of UUism, our theology, how we conduct our church business, our community events, and the advantages of becoming a member. Each session covers something different, so we encourage you to attend both classes, but if you can only attend one, we can provide material from the other class for you to review.

Although we'll meet in person, you can attend virtually on Zoom; contact the church office manager at office@uubn.org or 309-828-0235 if this is your preference.

If you decide to become a member, you'll have the opportunity to sign the membership book at our December 8 Sunday service. Then we'll celebrate with cake afterward!

Registration is not required b [REDACTED] ntact the [church office](#) or Kathy Packard, Membership Team leader, at [REDACTED].

Submitted by the Membership Team

Pink Haven - Organize and Take Action to Help our Trans Siblings

What an amazing turn out for our Pink Haven Weekend! Representatives from Wesley United Methodist, ACLU, Prairie Pride Coalition, ISU Queer Coalition, and PFLAG joined members of the congregation to make about 40 people in attendance for the planning lunch on Sunday.

If you weren't able to attend, but would like to be included in additional planning and preparation, 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

If you'd like to support Pink Haven through direct donation: [Click Here](#)

If you'd like to support Pink Haven by purchasing some swag: [Click Here](#) or [Here](#)

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

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])

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

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!](#)



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](#)

You Can Help Us Expand Our Outreach!

Have you heard the phrase, "Our church 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 [redacted] book checkout notebook. Contact Kathy Packard at [redacted] or [redacted] for additional information.



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

Director

Bob Mangia

Co-Director

Molly Hjelle, AV Technician

avstaff@uubn.org

Anastasia Guzman, AV Technician

avstaff@uubn.org

Sara Kaeb, Child Care
office@uubn.org

Board Information

President: Larissa Armstrong
Vice President: Julie Prandi
Secretary: Chad Kahl
Treasurer: Nancy Armstrong
Directors: Karla Bailey-Smith, Brad Bell,
Jill Enchelmayer, Hubert Morales, and
Richard Seehuus.

Monthly Board Meetings are in Irvin
Room and Online at 6:30 on the Second
Tuesday of each month. All are welcome to
attend. Contact the office for the Zoom
Link.

Contact the board at
uubnboard@uubn.org.

Trustees

Jack Pace, Paul Packard, and Brad Boesdorfer

Committees

Aesthetics
Building and Grounds
Committee on Shared Ministry
Finance and Stewardship
Denominational Affairs
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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