



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF
BLOOMINGTON
NORMAL

Love Radically ● Serve Gratefully ● Wonder Daily

[A LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation.](#)
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October 27, 2024

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This Sunday's Worship Service:

Sacred Solidarity: Accompaniment as an Expression of Our Faith

Heather Vickery and Rev. Rebecca Gant

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

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

11/3 - 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.

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?

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 27

- 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)
11:30 AM – 4:00 PM Pink Haven General Meeting (Fell Room)
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM Bloomington Normal Meditation Group (Walker Room)
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Over the Rainbow (Fell Room, Kitchen, Lower Level Classrooms)

Monday, October 28

- 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM Early Birds Covenant Group (Irvin Room)
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM Lunch Bunch (Fell Room)
7:00 PM – 7:30 PM Vespers (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, October 29

- 5:30 PM – 6:15 PM Fairly Frequent Singers (Jr. High and High School) (Walker Room)
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM New(ish) to UUBN (Irvin Room, Online)

Wednesday, October 30

- 4:45 PM – 5:15 PM Emerson Singers (up to 5th Grade) (Walker Room)
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM Humanist Group (Irvin Room)
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Online/Last Wednesday Covenant Group (Online)

Thursday, October 31

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

Friday, November 1

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

Saturday, November 2

- 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM Many Paths CUUPs Samhain (Fell Room)

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

Stewardship

Emile Garneau, Chair

Pledge Drive Progress

Our goal is \$438,204. As of 10/21/2024, we have received \$182,549 (42%) from 39 members.

We can't say it enough - thank you.

"How amazing is it that every Sunday, I get to attend an organization where we collectively work to make our community a more just, joyful, and actionable place to live and thrive! In order to ensure that UUBN is able to continue with these efforts, it's important to financially support [our] work." - Alicia Wodika

The Stewardship Committee

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. Remember that I and the Pastoral Care Associates are available if you need a listening ear, and that our 7PM Monday Vespers service offers an opportunity to unplug from the day and practice just being.

With love,
Rev. Rebecca

Religious Exploration

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

Coming of Age for Adults!

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

UPDATE! I vote early so missed that I scheduled this to start on Election Day. Thanks, Pam Spencer! I adjusted the schedule below.

Coming of Age for Adults is a 6-session series designed for adults of all ages to 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. Join us on Tuesdays at 6:00. **This series requires registration**; email to LRE@uubn.org or text to [309.531.2594](tel:309.531.2594). 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



Museum of Science and Industry Overnight

Saturday, April 5 - Sunday, April 6

Snoozeums are for children ages 6-12 and their adult (18+) chaperones (one required for every five children).

\$85 per-person fee (I have scholarships!) 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. Let me know as soon as possible.

Service Provider Needed for Gender Expansive Resource Center!

We need one more person for the Gender Expansive Resource Center. You could handle whatever kind of 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's the Workflow?

- receive email notification that a request form was completed
- open the request form spreadsheet in Google to add your name to the notes
- contact the client the way they request (usually text) to confirm item, size, and shipping or appointment information
- If shipping, prep items for shipping and then notify me so I can take them to the post office
- If an appointment:
 1. arrange for a time that works for you. Preference is for a time when at least one other person will be in the building.
 2. arrive 10 minutes before the appointment to unlock cabinet and pull out items
 3. appointments usually take less than 30 minutes
- Whether you prep for shipping or have an appointment, update the spreadsheet notes with your plans and end result.

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

UU World

Read the latest UU World online here - <https://www.uuworld.org/issues/fall/winter-2024>

UU World, the magazine of the [Unitarian Universalist Association](#), celebrates liberal religion and the people it inspires. Meet extraordinary individuals, see how Unitarian Universalist communities put their values into action, and explore the ideas and traditions that ground them.

The print magazine is published twice a year, in spring and fall. The website offers free access to print magazine content, along with online-only articles and video, expanded news coverage, and [audio recordings](#) of selected articles from 2008 through Spring 2020.

Members of Unitarian Universalist congregations in the United States receive a print subscription as a benefit of membership, thanks to the generosity of congregations to the [Annual Program Fund](#). Others may [purchase a subscription](#).

The magazine descends from a long line of Unitarian and Universalist publications going back two centuries: Universalist Magazine was founded in 1819 and the Unitarian Christian Register in 1821.

Share Your UU Faith Journey!

UU World is looking for stories of how UUs found their way to Unitarian Universalism or returned to the Unitarian Universalist faith in adulthood. If you'd like to be considered, please send an essay of no more than 450 words along with a photo of yourself and a one- or two-sentence biographical description to world@uuworld.org.

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 first time on Monday, October 28, 7-8 P.M. on Zoom to discuss the first 7 chapters. 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. 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

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 interested in participating in the future, contact
Brad Bell at [REDACTED].

Submitted by Brad Bell and the Social Justice Team

Announcements

Many Paths CUUPs presents

Samhain: Honoring Our Sacred Dead

Saturday, Nov 2, 2024 6:00pm to 9:00 pm in the Fell Room

Potluck, Ritual, and Remembrance

For more information please call or text Sean-Thomas at [REDACTED]

Submitted by Sean-Thomas Gunnell and Many Paths CUUPs.

Host Needed for Our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday, November 28, 4:00 - 8:00, Fell Room

We can't have Thanksgiving Dinner without a host or two! Thanksgiving Dinner is a tradition in our congregation that goes back decades. Hosting is fairly simple. If you're interested, send a note to Blair (office@uubn.org).

- People who attend will be asked to help set up, clean up, and bring a dish to share if they're able - mashed potatoes, dressing, cranberry salad, breads, vegetables, salads, desserts! SignUp Genius will be in Parish Newsletter, FB group, and Order of Service.
- Host will purchase 3 pre-cooked smoked turkeys and store them in the extra church fridge. You'll be reimbursed for the turkeys.
- Host will arrive early to unlock the doors. Tables and chairs will already be set.
- Host will start the turkeys or ask someone to start the turkeys.

- Host will lead Set Up with help: place plates, bowls, silverware, and napkins on buffet table; make coffee and set out cups; set out pitchers of water and glasses.
- Host can bring up board games or conversation games from the youth room or not.
- Host can use the tablecloths in the closet or not.
- Host can cover the tables with paper and set out crayons and colored pencils or not.
- Host can use the Fall decorations from storage or not.
- Host ensures the space is cleaned up, lights are off, trash taken out, and doors locked.

Humanist Group

Wednesday, October 30 from 7:00-8:30 pm, Irvin Room

The Humanist Discussion group will have a 5th Wednesday meeting on October 30 at 7-8:30 pm at the Church. Everyone is invited to bring 5-10 minutes of input to share -- a Tiny Topic. Perhaps you have an interesting read you want to share or a video that piqued your interest. You may have a topic for a potential later, full, discussion that you want to try out. All topics are welcome. To accommodate everyone who wants to speak please be mindful of the time limit.

Submitted by Carolyn Pitts

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 also 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

Organize and Take Action to Help our Trans Siblings

Saturday, October 26 - Dinner for Community and Church Organizers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New(ish) to UUBN

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

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

Virtual attendance is available. If you wish to participate online, please contact the office manager, office@uubn.org or 309-828-0235 to receive the zoom link.

All are welcome!

Submitted by the Membership Team

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 the [redacted] book checkout notebook. Contact Kathy Packard at [redacted] or [redacted] for additional information.

Submitted by the Membership Team

A Message from the Right Relations Team on Justice

"...two things are wanting in American civilization—a keener and deeper, broader and tenderer sense of justice—a sense of humanity, which will crystalize into the life of the nation the sentiment that justice, simple justice, is the right, not simply of the strong and powerful, but of the weakest and feeblest of all God's children." – Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, 1875
As UUs, we know that 'justice', as one of our guiding values, means the quality of being fair and reasonable. And that the justice of rights means the fair and reasonable administration of law and order.

But what about the justice of right relationships?

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

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



This Month'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 [REDACTED] Director

Bob Mangialardi, Children's Choir 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)

Kathy Packard
Carolyn Moon and Pamela Morgan
Camille Ehlers
Nancy Armstrong
Carolyn Pitts
Joan Banks
Erin Ripley-Gataric, Terina Carter

Social Justice
Worship and Music
Pastoral Care

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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