



**UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF
BLOOMINGTON
NORMAL**

Love Radically ● Serve Gratefully ● Wonder Daily

[A LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation.](#)
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November 24, 2024

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This Sunday's Worship Service:

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

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](#)

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

12/1 - Hope in the Dark

Cindy Cotton and Claudia Kaufman, Worship Associates

The season of Advent begins with the theme of Hope. This December, when life feels unsteady for many, hope can help to keep us centered and, perhaps, help each one of us craft a path forward.

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

The deadline for the 12/28 and 01/04 Parish News is 12/22 at noon!

[Event Registration Form](#)

[Communication Form](#)

This Week's Events

Sunday, November 24

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM Adult Choir (Walker Room)
8:30 AM – 11:45 AM Childcare (Preschool and Childcare Room)
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM All Ages Sunday Service (Sanctuary)
11:15 AM – 12:30 PM Potluck Brunch (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)

Monday, November 25

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, November 26

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM Walker/4th Tuesday Covenant Group (Walker Room)
5:30 PM – 6:15 PM Fairly Frequent Singers (Jr. High and High School) (Walker Room)

Wednesday, November 27

4:45 PM – 5:15 PM Emerson Singers (up to 5th Grade) (Walker Room)
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Online Covenant Group (Online)

Thursday, November 28

4:00 PM – 9:30 PM Thanksgiving Dinner (Fell Room)

Friday, November 29

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

Saturday, November 30

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM Hanging of the Greens and Cookie Exchange (Fell Room)

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



From the Board

Larissa Armstrong, Board President

Updates from the Board of Directors

The UUBN Board would like to formally thank Dick Hanson for his 20+ years of dedicated service as Buildings & Grounds Committee Chair. He is stepping down from the committee and working to transition knowledge to new people. We are very grateful for all he has done to help keep our church and its grounds beautiful and well-maintained for all of us to enjoy. When you see Dick at church, please thank him for all his hard work! Thank you Dick!

His departure means we need NEW RECRUITS for the Buildings & Grounds Committee. Larissa Armstrong will serve as interim Chair to help keep track of work that needs to be done and to help onboard new committee members. Brad Bell has graciously agreed to take on some of the initial maintenance tasks, but can not do all this work alone! We need YOUR help! Are you good at general maintenance outdoor tasks like raking, mowing, snow shoveling? Interested in helping with some regular checks that you can do monthly or quarterly (depending) when you're at church on Sunday and check off the list (like changing the thermostats seasonally, changing room clocks when the time changes, checking the sump pump periodically)? Do you have good DIY repair skills when a little dry wall needs patched or a door handle breaks or we need some fresh paint? Ideally our committee will have 4-6 people on it, along with additional folks to help with seasonal lawn care and snow removal. This will ensure no one feels over-burdened by the task of building maintenance.

If you are interested in helping us, please contact Larissa at [REDACTED] or catch her at church on Sunday. If we can't find adequate help, that means we'll have to pay outside people to do the work, and our budget deficit will continue to increase.

The Board is almost finished revising our Policies and Procedures Manual, a task required of the Board every few years.

Exciting news: After discussions with the Director of the Bloomington-Normal Water Reclamation District (BNWRD), we received a free estimate from a plumbing group they are working with on a septic replacement program. After receiving the estimate to cap our septic tank and get hooked up to the sewer system (which will cost \$57,750 plus an additional \$34,500 to remove the sewage ejector in the basement and lower sewer invert to match the sewer in the basement), BNWRD offered to cover the \$57,750 costs, waiving \$25,000 and letting UUBN pay off the remainder in yearly interest-free installments of \$1280 over 25 years to pay off the balance. The Board unanimously voted in favor of accepting this offer. We hope to raise the additional \$34,500 from the congregation to cover the sewage ejector removal (more on that later), and the next step is talking with our neighbors at St. John's to ensure they are okay with us making a bit of a mess along the property line between our churches. We are very excited about this generous offer from BNWRD and felt it was too good to pass up.

We will share more details about this at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 8th at 11:30am (complete agenda and supporting documents for the meeting will be shared in a separate email).

If you have any questions please contact Larissa at [REDACTED]
Please remember [REDACTED] are open to attend, and you can contact your Board of Directors at [REDACTED]

In Fellowship,

The UUBN Board of Directors

Larissa Armstrong (President), Julie Prandi (VP), Chad Kahl (Secretary), Nancy Armstrong (Treasurer), Jill Enchelmayer, Karla Bailey-Smith, Richard Seehuus, Hubert Morales, and Brad Bell

Submitted by Larissa Armstrong

Religious Exploration

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

Ready to spend your book money somewhere other than Amazon?

The church has a virtual storefront on Bookshop: <https://bookshop.org/shop/uubn> Bookshop supports independents like Bobzbay in downtown Bloomington through online ordering and shipping to your home. If you purchase through our virtual storefront, the church will receive a small percentage. Not all titles are available but I'm finding that most are.

Rest

My Central Illinois colleagues and I are planning to offer Rest sessions beginning in December. We will 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](#).

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Information Sessions

Sunday, December 1, 11:30-12:30, with childcare

Thursday, December 5, 6:00-7:00, with childcare

Do you have a child in Kindergarten, 1st, 4th, 5th, 7th, or 8th grade? Stop by one of the information sessions to learn more about Our Whole Lives, including our plans to offer the program soon. You can preview the lessons and books, ask me questions, and indicate interest.

Know someone in the community who shares our values and wants inclusive sexuality education for their children? Invite them to attend.

Childcare Sub List

In anticipation of my sabbatical (February - April), I'm putting together a list of people willing to sub as needed in childcare. Subs fill the Safe Congregation role of the second adult in the room. You would be contacted by Blair or the RE Team if one of the Childcare/Preschool staff is sick or needs a morning off. Send me your name and contact information to be added to the list.

Gnagey Library Updated

Check out the updated Gnagey Library! 3 large tubs of books have been removed from the collection to make room for more up to date and relevant titles! We've reconfigured the space to make it more welcoming for hanging out, playing a game, reading a book, or working from church.

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.

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 toward the end of January, TBD. 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.

Stewardship

Emile Garneau, Chair

Pledge Drive Progress

As of Nov. 18th, 98 members pledged \$325,258, 74% of our goal of \$438,204. There are about 40 to 45 members who have not pledged yet.

No one likes to ask for money; certainly no one on the Stewardship Committee. Money is something we don't like to talk about – but essential to maintaining the health of our church. We thank you for your contributions.

The Stewardship Committee: Linda Johnston, Nancy Armstrong, Jack Pace, Claire Hedden, Rain Johnson, Emile Garneau

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 (not pictured), Vicky Phillips, Rain Johnson (not pictured), 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 11/24 and 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 Niemann, Barb Dallinger, and Brad Bell!

Announcements



[Click Here to Sign Up](#)

Interfaith Thanksgiving at YMCA!



the **BNYMCA**

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)

Been Thinking About Getting Married Before the Inauguration?

Given the uncertainty in the country, many queer couples who had already been planning to marry feel a greater urgency to get it done. The church would like to help you do that!

Use [this form](#) to communicate with Rev. Rebecca about your wishes for your ceremony. Ceremonies will happen at two-hour intervals on December 14 and 21.

We will provide an officiant (Rev. Rebecca), our sanctuary, and piano music for no cost.

You bring your license and the people you would like to witness your ceremony.

After you fill out the form, we will be in touch with you about open times.

Once we have reserved a date/time, we will ask for a \$100 deposit to hold your space—we will return the deposit to you on your wedding day. Forfeited deposits will go to Pink Haven which is an organization working to help trans folks out of unsafe states and into safer states.

Have questions? Please call 309-828-0235 or email office@uubn.org.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

*Decorate the Church
Cookie Exchange
Cookie Gift Boxes*

**JOIN US FOR A FABULOUS
AFTERNOON OF
MERRYMAKING AND TREATS
AT UUBN
1:00 - 3:00 PM**

Information:

• Linda Johnston,
309-662-3188,
silolin@comcast.net.
• Rain Johnson,
918-605-5354,
rainjohnson2002@gmail.com
• Brenda Wernick,
608-334-5138,
teatraveler42@gmail.com

Sign up [here](#) to join the fun. Drop-ins welcome.

30 NOV 2024



1. Decorating the Church

You are invited to our annual ***Hanging of the Greens*** where we come together to add a little Christmas Magic to the church for the holiday season. Join the merriment and fellowship while we hang wreaths, roping, ornaments, and other holiday decorations on the tree, in the sanctuary, narthex, Fell Room and hallway.



2. Cookie Exchange - Bakers Unite!



Spread joy with a tray of your baked treats and choose a new assortment of delicious goods to take home.

3. Cookie Gift Boxes - Let's Bake! -

Cookie making at the church for our decorating crew and gifts! Assemblers needed too. Bakers will whip up treats for the decorating team and the gift boxes. We can share the festive yumminess with our homebound friends and those in Senior Residences, as well as our college students who are heading into finals. We expect to fill about 20 boxes with at least 1/2 dozen cookies each.



*Everyone is invited to enjoy the festivities and refreshments!
Drop-ins are always welcome!*

Sign up Online or in the Fell room

Coming December 8: New Member Recognition

If you feel you are ready to become a full-fledged member of UUBN and are ready to sign the membership book, we invite you to join us on Sunday, Dec. 8, for our New Member Recognition during worship. It is a short ceremony to recognize folks who have joined us recently.

If you want to participate or have questions, please contact Blair at office@uubn.org or [309-828-0235](tel:309-828-0235). We also request a photo of yourself and a short bio (limit 125 words) by November 26.

Call for Participants!

Tuesday, December 24th at 4:30 pm

We are beginning to plan for the Christmas Eve service.
Readers and musicians are needed.

If you are interested in participating in the Christmas Eve service and could be a reader, please contact Jan Baird at [REDACTED]

If you are interested in singing or playing a musical instrument, please contact Charlie Berggren at [REDACTED]

Submitted by Jan Baird, worship associate for December 24 service



Giving Thanks, Giving Back

2024 Holiday Shopping Partnership with Crossroads

We are pleased to announce we are 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

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



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

Co-Director

Molly Hjelle, AV Technician

avstaff@uubn.org

Anastasia Guzman, AV Technician

avstaff@uubn.org

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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