

THE BEACON



A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton

April 2022

We are currently meeting in-person and online for Sunday services.

Upcoming Services Sundays at 10:30am



April 3 **Awakening**

Taylor and friends

Where do we come from? Why does the cat smell like that? Is there a creator of everything? How does a clock work? What do we owe one another? We have so many questions! Our curiosity can be the beginning of understanding, it can awaken us to life!

April 10 **Be a Wetland: Appreciating and Protecting Life in Unitarian Universalist Community**

Like a wetland, something magical happens in UU communities. When we are accepted, nurtured, and challenged, together we can make the world a better place. But we need to make sure we support and protect these valuable spaces.

April 17 **Life's Broken Miracles**

Taylor, Cooke and Lerner

Our Easter Sunday will include stories, music, and reflections suitable for the whole community. During this key holy day for Christians, we will consider how the message of miracles and new life can reach all of us.

Apr 24 **Elements of Style**

Rev. Douglas Taylor

I don't mean the writing style guide. I am talking about the elements of earth, air, fire, water, and spirit. The old taxonomy of the four (or five) elements is still informative and can serve to guide our spiritual growth.

STAFF:

Minister:

Reverend Douglas Taylor

Board Co-Presidents:

Jeff Deacon and Paul Bange

Religious Education

Coordinator: Andrea Lerner

Religious Education Assistant:

Dylan Cooke

Music Director:

Vicky Gordon

Office Administrator:

Karen Armstrong

HOURS:

Office Hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm

M-F closed on Wed

Worship Services: Sundays at 10:30am ((in-person and online)

Children and Youth Programs:

Sundays at 10:30am

Nursery Care during services

First Sunday of the Month:

Worship service at 10:30am followed by workshops for all at 11:30am

HOW TO CONTACT US:

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Binghamton, NY 13905

Phone: 607.729.1641

Fax: 607.729.1899

Email: office@uubinghamton.org

www.uubinghamton.org

Beacon Newsletter Deadline: Noon on the last Friday of each month.



Our building is brand new, but it still needs our personal touches and details. We will be hosting a big UUCB Spring Cleaning Day on Saturday, April 2 from 10am-2pm. Join us! Lunch and fun

JOIN US FOR ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● FIRST SUNDAYS

1st Sunday Workshops for April 3: "Awakening"

"Awakening Our Minds and Spirits with Zentangle" with Kathleen Cooke (Meeting Room): Zentangle is a mindful art form using pen on paper tiles to create repeating patterns. Awaken your innate creativity through this meditative practice.

"Faith in Action - Easter Baskets for our Neighbors" with Julie Boyd (Room 6-7): Please come join in decorating and assembling Easter baskets for the children at the Trinity Memorial Sunday soup kitchen. Your presence is welcome!

"Exploring our 7 Principles" with Rev. Douglas Taylor (online): Join us for an abbreviated workshop from 11:30 until a few minutes before noon. We will look into where they came from and what they include as well as a little about the theology underneath them!

UUCB In-Person Gatherings Policy: March 2022 Update

On February 17, the UUCB Board of Trustees approved an updated version of the UUCB In-Person Gatherings Policy. This policy strives to be responsive to future changes with four levels of precautions, based on the 7-day-average case counts for Broome County posted on the COVIDActNow website:

- Level 1 (0 to 1 cases): no restrictions
- Level 2 (1.5 to 24.5 cases): can meet, with somewhat fewer restrictions than level 3; approval form required
- Level 3 (25 to 74.5 cases): can meet, with restrictions similar to when we first reopened last fall; approval form required
- Level 4 (75 or more cases): no in-person gatherings

For example, on February 18, the date of this post, the COVIDActNow website shows 35.8 cases per 100,000 residents, which corresponds to Level 2.

Druid Group Meets Twice a Month at UUCB

The Maple Labyrinth Druid group continues to meet biweekly via Zoom or in-person.

As the weather improves, they will do more outdoor activities. Currently we're reading the book, **"Wild Magic: Celtic Folk Traditions for the Solitary Practitioner"** by **Danu Forest**, and doing some of the activities.

They are also working on their calendar for the upcoming year and plan activities that contribute to our goals of caring for the earth, connecting with the land, learning, fellowship and healing the land and ourselves.

All who are interested in earth-centered spirituality from Celtic traditions are welcome to join us. They have been meeting the **2nd & 4th Fridays from 7:00-9:00**, but with the change of seasons, they may be meeting earlier sometimes, and/or on weekends for activities. Anyone who wants more info. about what we do can contact Karen Marsh & she will respond to you.

Prayer for Peace

Rev. Douglas Taylor (Unitarian Universalist)

For the “Interfaith Vigil for Peace” held at the Jewish Community Center

March 9, 2022

(Barely two weeks into the Russian war on Ukraine)

Two days ago, renown cellist Yo-Yo Ma played a concert at Kennedy Center which he began with the Ukrainian National Anthem. Earlier that same day, Yo-Ma was reportedly seen by several people playing his cello alone outside the Russian Embassy. A lone cellist, playing in protest to the violence.



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Yo

It is reminiscent of the protest by Vedran Smailovic 30 years ago during the 1992 Bosnian war. Smailovic was the principal cellist of the Sarajevo Opera at the time and witnessed a bombing that killed 22 people. So, the next afternoon, dressed in his formal concert attire, Smailovic set up in the place where the shell had burst and he played Albinoni Adagio in G Minor. He returned day after day to the same place to play the same piece. He played for 22 afternoons while the war ravaged the city around him. He played one day of music for each person killed in the explosion.

Blessings upon cellist Yo-Yo Ma this week for reminding us of this act of courage and defiance, of protest and beauty, this prayerful call for peace and dignity in the midst of violence and destruction.

A reporter had asked Smailovic 30 years ago, what he was doing, what he hoped to accomplish, if he might not be a little crazy – risking his life to play his cello in the middle of the street in the middle of a war day after day. Smailovic responded:

“You ask me if I am crazy for playing the cello. Why do you not ask if they are not crazy for shelling Sarajevo?”

Let us be grateful for the reminders we find in these days. Reminders that we need not be drawn into responding to violence with more violence. Reminders of courage and human dignity, reminders that offering beauty in the midst of violence can be an act of prayer and of protest. We are still here. We still care about our world. The human spirit is stronger than this war, and peace will prevail on earth.

O Spirit of life, God of us all
We gather for healing and for peace this day
We see conflict in the world and indeed even in our own hearts
We long to build a peaceful world and to be a peaceful people
We pray: may we be restored and made whole
We pray for peace in the world,
for peace among all nations and people
For peace in our neighborhoods
and in our families and for peace in our hearts
But not only for peace, O God, we pray also
For hope and human dignity, for grace and strength to lift us up
With humble voices we lift our hearts seeking a balm
When we are discouraged help us know we strive not in vain
Fill us, O Spirit with faith and with courage
And with the audacity to believe we can make a difference
And that peace will one prevail on earth.
In the name of all that is holy



***Find more of Reverend
Douglas Taylor's writing,
sermons and more on his
blog:***

douglastaylor.org

We pray
May it be so Reverend Douglas Taylor

UUA News and Opportunities for Connection



Multi-Platform General Assembly

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. That remains true even when we cannot gather physically. In 2021, GA had more than 4,000 registered attendees participate from remote locations around the world. Although we give up the face-to-face interaction and hugs that are prevalent when we meet in-person, we retain our dedication to community and make our experience more accessible and more environmentally sustainable.

In 2022, we will have the option of meeting online or in-person! For those who enjoyed the convenience and accessibility of remote participation, General Assembly will continue to offer virtual attendance with robust programming and enhanced delegate discussion tools. For those who have been missing the physical experience, GA 2022 will also feature face-to-face interactions, hanging banners, a browsable exhibit hall, meals with friends old and new, local site attractions, and more! **Join us June 22 - 26, 2022 online or in-person in Portland, Oregon.**

All GA attendees and exhibitors are required to provide proof of Covid-19 Vaccination for in-person attendance at General Assembly. In addition, masking is required and physically distanced seating options will be reserved in our meeting spaces. Currently, free Covid-19 testing is available Monday to Saturday from 8 am - 3 pm, by appointment or walk-in, at a testing site in front of the Oregon Convention Center. Appointments may be scheduled online. Visit <https://www.uua.org/ga> for more information and to register.

Our UUCB Family

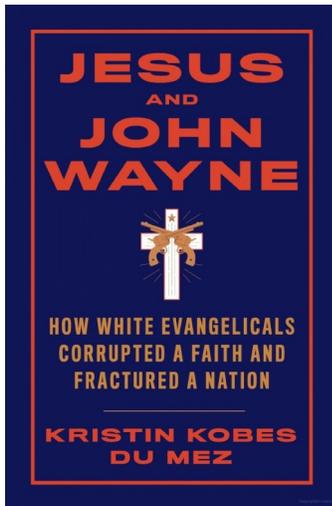


It is with great sadness that we share news of the passing of a beloved UUCB member and friend **JoAnn Freer** passed away today in Florida. We will inform you as soon as we know the plans for her memorial service. We will miss her smile, laughter, and most of all her friendship.



Elderwisdom is Back!

Sunday, April 10th, : “Elder Wisdom.” Peggy Naismith will be interviewed by Kathleen McKenna. In person, immediately after the Sunday service.



Sunday, April 3rd, noon-1:30: (because of first Sunday workshops, the time for this program may change so watch for details)

“Racism, Masculinity and Religion.”

Book discussion of *Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals*

Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation, by Kristin Kobes Du Nez.

Facilitated by Sondra Pruden and Art Suggs. One reviewer writes, “...for generations, white male evangelicals and their supportive wives have been building a movement of brazen masculinity and patriarchal authority, in hopes of finding a warrior who could extend their authority to the White House...a searing sobering book, one that should be read by anyone who wants to grasp our political moment and the religious movement that helped get us here.” Visit kristindumez.com for more information. On Zoom using the same link as for the Sunday service.



Wednesday, April 6th

6:30-8 p.m.

“Soul Matters,” our monthly discussion with Douglas and Darcey Lane. Contact Douglas at dtaylor@uubinghamton.org or 607-729-1641 to register.

Pagans Doing Potluck

Everyone is welcome to bring a dish to share and join us on Friday, April 29 at 6pm at UUCB. You can learn about paganism, meet some new friends, or see some old ones.

Annual Spirituality Retreat

Saturday, May 14; 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

With Reverends Darcey Laine and Douglas Taylor

at Sky Lake Retreat Center in Windsor, NY

Sponsored by the UUCB Adult Programs Committee

Returning to our bodies, returning to our communities!
We will explore our spiritual lives together

Meals are included in the \$25 cost.

Pre-registration required. See Debby Herman or the main office for details

Masks will be required indoors

Find a registration form at our website or at UUCB.



Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Binghamton

183 Riverside Drive

Binghamton, NY 13905



Movie Night

April 16 at 6pm

'HOP'

Pizza and Popcorn too!