July 2  “The Theology of Murder Mysteries”  Ann Foard

What do murder mysteries have to do with theology or with UUs? Surprisingly, they share a common value - to fix a broken world and restore justice. The difference is that in the mystery, the puzzle always gets solved.

July 9  “Disabled Joy: Honoring Disability Pride Month”  Amber Brown

In a world where Disabled folks/people with disabilities face lifelong challenges, it's important to remember that we have talents and strengths, as well as joys to celebrate. This service aims to suggest that we do not just need to be aware of ministering to people with disabilities/Disabled folks (accessibility, etc.) but to encourage folks with disabilities to minister to others as well. That is - not just ministry FOR this often-marginalized group, but ministry by and with people of disabilities/Disabled folks. We will also encourage thoughtfulness around disabled joy.

July 16  “Poetry Service”  
Peggy Mersereau, Kate Thorpe and Poetry Friends

This service is sure to touch, inspire and delight. Come prepared to engage the senses.

July 23  “Finding Hope in Difficult Times: Mental Health Struggles Affect Us All”  Amanda Jones

“There is hope, even when your brain tells you there isn’t.” (John Green) Whether you have lost your job, dealt with grief or having a child, life is difficult sometimes and it’s easy to feel alone. Let’s consider how our community can make you feel more connected.

July 30  “Death with Dignity”  Ann Foard, Ferd Haverly, Ellen McNulty, Darlyne Mitchell and Sondra Pruden

In 1988 the UUA passed a General Resolution entitled The Right to Die with Dignity. This resolution stated that:

“It is every person's inviolable right to determine in advance the course of action to be taken in the event that there is no reasonable expectation of recovery from extreme physical or mental disability.”

Today, 35 years later, this important call for end-of-life choice continues to struggle to be heard. This service will explore the evolution of this “inviolable right” from a personal and public policy perspective.
August 6  “Let Beauty Seduce You”  Trebbe Johnson

In the midst of suffering, it's possible to be seized by a sight or sound or action whose startling beauty pierces your heart. Such beauty doesn't necessarily diminish the anguish, but it does give us a glimpse into something vital and wondrous. Do we dare to grab hold of such moments when they visit us?

August 13  “The HeaRT of our Congregation”  
HeaRT Team (Becca Boerger, Dylan Cooke, Ellen McNulty, Christine McWhirter and Lynne Theophanis)

We all want a strong community at UUCB, and a big part of that is learning how to have healthy conflict. Learning how to express our full selves, even when we disagree, frees up our spiritual and emotional energy to care for each other and pursue our mission. Come learn about how the Healthy Relations Team (HeaRT) can help to make that possible.

August 20  “Progressive Religion”  Rev. Douglas Taylor

I don’t mean it like that. Yes, we are ‘progressive’, but for this service I’m actually thinking about ‘progressive dinners,’ (and I didn’t want you all to think I was offering food.) Join us for a playful and thought-provoking service throughout the building and grounds (we’ll start in the sanctuary.)

August 27  “Church: Why Bother?”  Rev. Douglas Taylor

The trends are upon us! Attendance and participation in religious communities are declining in the US across the board. This has been going on for a while, but the pandemic increased things. Maybe there’s good reasons for not attending that we can learn from. What do people need today that we could offer?

September 3  “Walking With the Goddess”  
Tiffany Hagberg and Cakes for the Queen of Heaven participants

How different would life have been if Deity was imaged as female? Since the dawn of womankind, the Goddess has been worshipped and revered. Let us remember and invoke the Divine Feminine that is within us.

Welcome to Worshipful Wednesdays

A new midweek Zoom opportunity

Worship can happen any day of the week! This summer, beginning July 5, UUCB will offer an abbreviated worship experience at 7 pm Wednesday evenings, on Zoom. Each week, we will have a chalice lighting, Joys and Sorrows, a recorded sermon from another congregation, and a time for discussion. Designed especially for those who cannot attend services on Sunday, Worshipful Wednesdays are an opportunity for anyone who wants a midweek spiritual community. Check it out! https://zoom.us/j/92119572923
News from General Assembly

We had five delegates from UU Binghamton attending General Assembly this year: Dylan Cooke, Becca Boerger, Jeff Donahue, Gay Canough, and myself. This was a good and exciting gathering. There were some amazing worship services and very good workshops. Some highlights for those of us serving as delegates include the election of a new UUA president – the Rev. Dr. Sophia Betancourt, voting to move the Article II revisions on to the next step of a full year of study, and a contentious business resolution about divestment and reparations.

That Business Resolution ultimately failed to pass, but the youth and young adults at GA were strongly in favor. Many people spoke passionately on both sides of the resolution. It was a call to devest from fossil fuels in our UUA common endowment funds immediately. While this particular resolution failed, many leaders in the UUA are committed to spirit behind the resolution and the conversation about divestment will continue.

Rev. Dr. Sophia Betancourt’s election is a big deal. As one headline put it: “Unitarian Universalists elect first woman of color, openly queer president.” Which is to say, Betancourt occupies a particular social location that will be of great value as we move into the future. I also love that she is an ethicist and theologian – I love to hear her respond to questions and situations with depth and clarity! She will serve a 6-year term.

And finally, the Article II revision has been moved into the next phase. We had many discussions and amendments throughout this week’s General Assembly, and 86.3% of the delegates approved the proposed package (meaning, the revisions along with the amendments that had passed.) Now we have a year to live with the document, to preach with it, teach with it, and generally see if it will serve. Next year we will be asked to vote again for a final decision. We will be hearing a lot more about this from me and others throughout the coming year.

In 2024, General Assembly will be 100% virtual. Then in 2025 it will be held (in person and online) in Baltimore, Maryland. Consider serving as a delegate or attending for the worship and workshops.

-douglas
Many Hands Make Great Light Work (And Great Coffee)
Please consider being a resource to help us be with each other in fellowship after Sunday Services. Currently our fellowship hour set-up and clean-up is dependent on too few people. We are asking people to step up to take a turn, even if it is one Sunday every other month.

Thanks to our new kitchen and new equipment, set-up and clean-up can be done far easier than in our old kitchen. It can easily be done by one person but it is more fun with two. So find a friend that you would like to partner with and we will provide you with the instructions and support to make this simple but important contribution to UUCB. We are looking for 8 pairs (16 people) who are willing to learn how to set up and clean up. Please contact Carl Cohen at 607-353-2275 if you are interested.

Jim Dwyer is our new UUCB President for the year 2023-2024. Welcome Jim! Thank you for taking on this important role! You can find the entire list of board members as well as committee chairs on our website at uubinghamton.org.

The New York State Convention of Universalists (NYSCU) Annual meeting is coming to UUCB on October 20-21, 2023

NYSCU is a great organization. This year, they gave out over $100,000 in grants to 20 different UU congregations/organizations. UUCB has benefitted from grants and loans from NYSCU in the past (and no doubt will benefit in the future). UUCB, like other members of NYSCU gets a say in the NYSCU activities and budget via delegates every year. More about NYSCU can be found here: https://nyscu.org/

The annual convention/meeting is 90% fun workshops and speakers and 10% business. The meeting last year had about 50 in-person participants and probably a similar number of people who attended via Zoom. The intent for this year is to once again have a hybrid meeting, though I suspect we will get higher in-person attendance this time. People do sign up and pay a small registration fee, so we will know the numbers before the convention.

So, mark your calendars and plan to attend.
Banned Book Outdoor Movie Nights at UUCB

Friday, July 21
7:30pm
James and the Giant Peach

Friday, August 18
7:30pm
Charlotte’s Web

Bring a lawn chair or a blanket and join us in the playground for outdoor movies! Popcorn and drinks will be provided.

If it rains, the movie will be in the social hall.
Election Day Bake Sale
Thanks!

A hearty shout-out to those who helped make the UUCB, Primary Voting Day Bake-Sale this week a big success… $280 worth of success!

Thank you to those who staffed the bake-sale table from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.: Kira and Morrigan Boyle and Gabe Wright. Morrigan and Gabe are two of our UUCB Youth… what great, engaging kids!

And thank you to all of our talented UUCB bakers; without YOU this wouldn’t have happened. We’ll see you all in November for General Election Day!

from: Jean Rose-Klein and Christine McWhirter, hosts for UUCB as a 2023 Broome County Polling

Join us after service on the last Sunday on every month for a themed potluck lunch. Bring a dish to share and invite your friends and family too!

Themes

Sunday, July 30 is
“Outdoor Picnic Favorites”
Bring something you like to have at your picnics.

Sunday, August 27 is
“Beat the Heat”
Bring something you like to have when it is too hot to cook!
**Off-Site Zoom Services this Summer**

This Summer, UU Binghamton, NY will have in person worship but no zoom Sunday morning connections as we are giving our tech team a break.

Wonderfully, the Athens and Cortland congregations have invited our zoom attenders to join them as they visit other congregations over the summer! Here is the schedule for this summer’s Athens/Binghamton/Cortland Sunday morning worship visiting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Worship Service</th>
<th>Worship Service Link</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jul-2</td>
<td>Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick MD</td>
<td><a href="https://frederickuu.org/home/index.php">https://frederickuu.org/home/index.php</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul-9</td>
<td>UU Meeting House of Chatham MA</td>
<td><a href="https://www.uumh.net/sunday-services">https://www.uumh.net/sunday-services</a></td>
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<td>Jul-16</td>
<td>UU Fellowship of Northern Westchester, Mount Kisco, NY 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Joint Picnic hosted by UU Cortland, NY</td>
<td><a href="https://www.uufellowship.org/">https://www.uufellowship.org/</a></td>
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<td>Jul-23</td>
<td></td>
<td>Albert J. Durkee Memorial Park, Homer, NY. Located on Route 11, 1/2 mile north of the center of the Village</td>
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<td>Jul-30</td>
<td>Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring, MD</td>
<td><a href="https://uucss.org/worship/">https://uucss.org/worship/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug-6</td>
<td>UU Fellowship of Poughkeepsie (NY)</td>
<td><a href="https://www.uupok.org/welcome">https://www.uupok.org/welcome</a></td>
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<td>Aug-13</td>
<td>May Memorial UU, Syracuse, NY</td>
<td><a href="https://mmuus.org/worship/upcoming-worship-services/">https://mmuus.org/worship/upcoming-worship-services/</a></td>
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<td>Aug-20</td>
<td>UU Church of Somerset Hills, Somerville, NJ</td>
<td><a href="https://uucsh.org/worship/services/">https://uucsh.org/worship/services/</a></td>
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<td>Aug-27</td>
<td>UU Society of Amherst, MA</td>
<td><a href="https://www.uusocietyamherst.org/worship/upcoming-worship-services/">https://www.uusocietyamherst.org/worship/upcoming-worship-services/</a></td>
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<td>Sep-3</td>
<td>May Memorial UU, Syracuse NY</td>
<td><a href="https://mmuus.org/worship/upcoming-worship-services/">https://mmuus.org/worship/upcoming-worship-services/</a></td>
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