



Upcoming Sunday Services at UUCB

10:30am

September 10 Adventure Awaits

“What is it you plan to do,” the poet asks each of us, “with your one wild and precious life?” Perhaps you plan to find adventure. Maybe you seek something else, something quieter or more dignified? Life awaits, even now. How will you respond?

Join us as we come back together to celebrate a new church year together. Bring a small amount of water from a place that is special to you to add to our water communion service.

Also: Annual Blessing of the Backpacks

Join us in the playground area after the Sept 10 service where we will bless your backpack, handbag, workbag, wallet or any other item you wish to have blessed.

September 17 Let Our Service Begin

The Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore wrote, “I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy.” Is there an element of service in your life? In our congregation? In what ways do we serve needs greater than our own?

September 24 Roadmap for Repair

Forgiveness and repentance are an annual theme for us. This year, the UUA Common Read is a book about the topic: *On Repentance and Repair* by Danya Ruttenberg. Join me in considering a very old outline for how to move forward after an experience of harm.

October 1 Hold the Door Open (1st Sunday)

Hear a version of our UU heritage that highlights the themes of inclusion and openness. We have our First Sunday services again. We gather all together in the sanctuary from 10:30 – 11:15. Then we have workshops for all ages from 11:30 – 12:15, followed by social hour.

STAFF:

Minister:

Reverend Douglas Taylor

Board President:

Jim Dwyer

Director of Family Ministry:

Dylan Cooke

Music Director:

Vicky Gordon

Office Administrator and Membership Coordinator

Karen Armstrong

HOURS:

Office Hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm
M-F closed on Wed

Worship Services: Sundays at
10:30am

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.

Welcome to an exciting year of spiritual growth and exploration at UUCB.

We are glad you're here!

All ages are valued members of this community. Our program offers a rich variety for faith development opportunities for ALL.

Sundays

Most Sundays Children start with service in the sanctuary before being sung to their classes.

First Sundays: *Worship / Workshops*: Once a month we ALL gather in the sanctuary for service followed by workshops for all ages. Focus on UU values & principles with activities to engage the head, heart and hands. *No classes. Childcare available.* *1st Sunday Format*: Service 10:30-11:15, Break 11:15-11:30, All ages workshops 11:30-12:15, Fellowship 12:15-12:45

Multigenerational Worship Services Our children and youth join their family for service in the sanctuary. *No classes. Childcare available.*

Chapel Chats: Join us on select Sundays in the Chapel after services for a new feature called Chapel Chats. These occasional sessions will be an opportunity to discuss the sermon of the day or to discuss current events in the world through the lens of our UU values. The first session will be Sunday, September 18th at 11:45 in the chapel (and on zoom - remain in the regular zoom room to join the conversation)

Choir: Do you like to sing? Then consider singing with the UUCB choir. Rehearsals are weekly from 6:30 – 8 on Thursday evenings in the sanctuary. Please consider joining us for our rehearsal on September 22 (there is NO rehearsal on Thursday September 15). The choir typically sings twice a month. However, there is great flexibility. If you are only able to join us for one song or a few months, that is fine. Questions? Call or text Music Director Vicky Gordon at 607 222-5836.

Last Sunday Lunch: Join us in the social hall for a themed potluck lunch on the last Sunday of every month. Let Karen Armstrong know if you would like to be a part of the last Sunday lunch committee.

Beyond Sundays

Social Events Join us for the holiday related activities, special events, potlucks, talent shows, movie nights, fundraisers, and more! Watch the calendar and bulletin for news.

Adult Programs provides a variety of educational programs for everyone. This Fall has relationship workshops, anti-racism talks, book discussions and more. Online and in-person options. See their brochure for ongoing programs & upcoming classes.

Community Events: We love our community events including Veggie Fest, Porchfest and Trunk or Treat. We welcome your ideas for more of them!

Our 2023-2024 Children's and Youth Programs



Theme Based Curriculum

What is "Soul Matters"? Each month, our services and children's Faith Development activities are devoted to a theme, like "Cultivating Relationship" or "Opening to Joy" or "Healing." We approach these general themes from several lenses and angles throughout the month. And we explore the themes in Sharing Circles, small groups of adults committed to deeper exploration with regular companions.

These groups offer the gift of spiritual connection, where we listen to each other, to our lives, and to our deepest selves. We are encouraged to experience the themes, not just analyze them, and to offer each other the gift of listening.

2023-24 themes: The Gift of...

September: Welcome
October: Heritage
November: Generosity
December: Mystery
January: Liberating Love
February: Justice & Equity
March: Transformation
April: Interdependence
May: Pluralism
June: Renewal



Hello Congregants!

Come play and do crafts with our young members! We are currently seeking volunteers for our childcare programs (Nursery and Elementary age). We are looking for people who are enthusiastic and dedicated to the future of our congregation. With only a commitment for one day a month is expected. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact our Director of Family Ministries, Dylan Cooke at dfm@uubinghamton.org



A Word from Our Minister

Reverend Douglas Taylor



I've been out of the office quite a bit this calendar year.

This summer I've had vacation and study leave time. And back at the beginning of the year, I was away on sabbatical. First, let me assure you – I am back in the office and we are planning for a good and exciting fall season together!

Second, I've noticed some general confusion from a few people in the congregation about the differences between vacation, study leave, and sabbatical. Those are all different ways to talk about times when the minister is not in the office. Allow me to pull the curtain aside and reveal what is happening during those different times.

Every year I receive 4 weeks of vacation and 4 weeks of study leave. That is more than most people receive from work. This amount of time is standard across UU ministry these days. It is a recognition that many weeks the minister is working on Sunday and often on Saturday as well – not to mention most holidays! It is my practice to take 2 weeks of vacation and 4 weeks of study leave every summer (all of July and half of August.) I then slip the rest of my vacation time into the regular year at different times depending on what is going on.

“Vacation” is just what most people imagine it is. For me, it is time away from work.

“Study Leave” is time when I am relieved of usual ministry duties so that I can plan and prepare for the coming year. Typically study leave is spent reading, outlining my Sunday schedule of sermons, and preparing for programs I will teach. It also includes communicating and planning with lay leaders about some things – but usually I am not in the office or in meetings.

“Sabbatical” is different, it is not every year and is meant to be a complete disconnect from all ministerial duties for the congregation. Sabbaticals are usually a few months long. I've had three sabbaticals during my 20 years of ministry with UUCB. I have used Sabbatical time to work on writing, to revitalize my prayer practice, to study Process Theology, to learn more about digital ministry, and most recently to study the Tao Te Ching.

I've been blessed by our congregation and its leadership. The time I have for in depth study and continued learning (as well as spiritual practice and retreat) is a boon not just for me. It is a blessing I then use in my ministry. Thank you, to all of you who continue to support my ministry in the congregation.

-douglas

UUCB

Community Drum Circle

**Wednesday, September
13 at 6:30pm**

Create a sense of community by joining in our all ages drum circle. Long-time drummer Rob Wandell will lead us on the journey. The drum circle offers equality because there is no head or tail. It includes people of all ages. The main objective is to share rhythm and get in tune with each other and themselves. Bring your own drum or borrow one of ours. Contact Jim Dwyer for more information.



Yoga at UUCB

Mondays at 5pm

(Begins September 11)

Join us for a beginner's yoga class led by Irena Trubnikov.

Bring a mat or towel and a water bottle with you.

Learn With Us!

September 2023 Adult Programs

Soul Matters Small Group

(zoom only) Wednesday, Sept 20 6:30 pm

PRESENTERS: Rev Darcey Laine and Rev. Douglas Taylor. Offered jointly by the Athens, Cortland and Binghamton UU congregations, this will be a chance to connect and share spiritual themes with members of your own congregation, and with your neighbors.

Soul Matters groups offer the gift of spiritual connection. Around us swirls a shallow, frantic and materialistic culture that regularly leaves us cut off from our deepest selves, life's gifts and needs greater than our own. Many of us come to church hungry to mend these sacred connections that get frayed and torn. Soul Matters exists to support this journey of reconnection to life, others and ourselves. Please RSVP for each session to dtaylor@uubinghamton.org to receive the zoom link.

Chapel Chats

Sundays, Sept 17, 11:45am Social justice In-person and on Zoom

Join us on select Sundays in the Chapel after services for a new feature called Chapel Chats. These occasional sessions will be an opportunity to discuss the sermon of the day or to discuss current events in the world through the lens of our UU values. (remain in the regular zoom room to join the conversation from home)

Coming Up in October:

October 2-6 is Banned Books Week

Banned Books Week is an annual event celebrating the freedom to read. Banned Books Week was launched in 1982 in response to a sudden surge in the number of challenges to books in schools, bookstores and libraries. We will have a week of informational programs and activities at UUCB, so watch for more info to come!

Reminders

GOT GMAIL? If you do and you are not receiving our weekly emails, look in your “promotions” folder. The emails are likely in there!

Donations: You can make a donation to UUCB or pay your annual pledge by using our Paypal link found in our weekly connection email and also on the front page of our website.

Calendar items: It’s a new church year, so make sure the office is aware of your committee or group meetings and events so we can make sure the calendar is up to date.

Securing the Building: When you leave the building, please check to make sure that you have closed all windows and doors, turned off all lights, and extinguish all flames.

Nametags: Remember to wear your nametag and let Karen know if you need a new one.

Looking Ahead...



*Our Annual **Holiday Art and Gift Sale** will take place on Saturday and Sunday, December 9th and 10th. This is a really fun event, and an important fundraiser for UUCB. To get on the list to have a table or to help out at the event, please contact Lynne Theophanis.*

GET CONNECTED

Focal Point: Sign up to do a focal point on a Sunday. It is easy, fun, and you can be creative! The sign-up sheet is on the “Get Involved” bulletin board in the hallway, or you can contact **Renee Taft** for more info.

Friendly Faces: Would you like to help greet visitors and help them find their way around UUCB? Talk to Hope Post to find out more.

Family Ministry: Get involved on the ground floor and make a difference in our new ministry format. Talk to **Dylan Cooke** to learn more.

Social Action: Our Social Action HUUB is looking for your interest and talent! We have openings on the team for a Team Liaison, a Clerk, a Promotions & Tech person, and Action Team Leaders. Talk with current SA HUUB members to learn more about these opportunities to participate.

Contact Lynne Theophanis, and Douglas Taylor.

Aesthetics Team: Do you like decorating for holidays and making sure things look their best? Join our new aesthetics committee! Ask **Hope Post or Renee Taft** for more details. We could use fresh ideas!

Sunday Service Associates: We always need new folks to help make the worship service run smoothly. Talk to **Kate Thorpe** if you would like to help out on a Sunday morning.

Social Hour Hosts: Do you like coffee and getting the snacks first? Then you may be the perfect person to help with the social hour on a Sunday! Ask **Carl Cohen or Ron Clupper** for more info.



The Church Mouse Knows:

Hope Post has been watering the many plants and adding decorative touches to our space to make it welcoming and beautiful.

Wes Ernsberger and Joe Thompson and Mary Woodward have been keeping up with mowing and yard work. Mary has been planting flowers too!

Too many people to list helped out at Porchfest and Veggiefest this year.

Blake Schmutz and Dorothy Haverly have stepped in to play piano for Sunday service on short notice.

Dylan Cooke and Rebecca Rayne have been sorting and cleaning to get ready for Children and youth programs to begin.



5th Annual Trunk or Treat at UUCB

Sunday, October 29th
2-4pm

Wear your costume and bring your favorite trick or treat to this fun event. Halloween fun for all ages with trunks full of treats, cider, donuts and more! Candy and non-candy treats available too. We need lots of candy for this event—we ran out 3 times last year!

Beginning on October 1, there will be a collection box in the office. Let Karen Armstrong or sign up on the get involved bulletin board if you would like to be involved with this the event. Spaces are limited!

Bookkeeper Notes: Our UUCB Bookkeeper Tammy Nist is a whiz with our books and would like to remind everyone of a few things to make purchasing and reimbursements run smoothly:

- Submit a green form with all invoices and receipts. They are in the office, or Karen can email you one.
- Check with Tammy for the best way to purchase. We have accounts with certain local businesses and restaurants.
- We do not reimburse sales tax, so make sure to get a tax-exempt form from karen in the office if you will be making a taxable purchase.



GREEN

MATTERS

CUUPS: Covenant of UU Pagans meets 2nd Tuesdays at 6:30. CUUPS is an open community for people interested in Earth Centered religions such as Paganism, Wicca, Reconstructionism, Heathenry, Shamanism, and African Diasporic traditions (just to name a few). Our mission is to enlighten and share our experiences and knowledge with the greater community, and to provide a welcoming home for Earth Centered and Unitarian Universalist centered practitioners alike. We welcome all who are interested in exploring an Earth Centered path, regardless of spiritual tradition, age, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

We always welcome new members, whether you're an experienced Pagan practitioner or just interested in learning more about it.

Crafting Circle: We would love to restart this fun crafting day once or twice a month. Is anyone interested? Let Karen Armstrong know.

Young Adults Coalition: Starting up Soon! Talk to Rev. Taylor for more info.

P.R.I.D.E (People Respecting Individuality, Diversity and Equality) LGBTIQQ

This group needs to be resurrected. Is anyone interested in taking the lead? You can make it your own!

Depression Support Group: A group of people affected by depression or depressive disorders. Meets at 6:30pm on Monday evenings at UUCB. No need to register, you can just show up.

Overeaters Anonymous: A 12-step style meeting for those with food addiction. Meets Sunday evenings at 6:30pm in room 8. All are welcome.

A Green Sanctuary is a congregation that lives out its commitment to the Earth by promoting sustainable living and environmental justice. The UUA Green Sanctuary Program is a structured process that is designed to help individual congregations successfully make the transition to becoming a Green Sanctuary.

In June 2008, our congregation voted to create the Green Sanctuary Committee. In September 2010, we were accredited by UUA as a Green Sanctuary. We recognize that being a Green Sanctuary is an ongoing process and continue to work for a just, sustainable world. If you wish to learn more or become part of Green Sanctuary, contact Wes Ernsberger
(607.342.6049 /
wesernsberger@gmail.com).