

MARCH 2024

THE BEACON

Newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton



March Sunday Services

ALL SERVICES BEGIN AT 10:30AM

March 3 “What the Dragonfly Knows” Taylor and Cooke

Transformation is a word we use a lot in religion. How much do we really know about ‘becoming.’ Join us this morning as we talk about the intersection of ‘becoming’ and ‘belonging!’ And join us after for First Sunday workshops. (This is also the launch of our Stewardship season.)

March 10 “Faithful Anxiety” Reverend Douglas Taylor

Not all anxiety is bad or unhealthy – often, but not always. Systems thinking has given us the phrase ‘non-anxious presence’ as personal goal when dealing with conflict. But a good level of anxiety is healthy for a system and an individual to aid in healthy functioning.

March 17 “Democracy Unveiled in Song” Geoff Kaufman

This service asks us to take a careful look at the nature and state of our “democracy” in the United States. Until recently, many of us, including the speaker, may have taken its security for granted, but now it is clearly in peril and we must ask: how do we respond? I seek the answer through music.

March 24 “Deeper into the Well” Reverend Douglas Taylor

The world around us grows more divisive and draining. We find ourselves as ‘consumer’ even as we feel ourselves as one of the things being consumed! We are longing for a dimension of depth in our living.

March 28 Thursday, 6:00 pm Maundy Thursday Douglas Taylor

All are welcome to join in our annual communion service. Gathering in our chapel, we use elements of the traditional Christian communion ritual with a Unitarian Universalist twist. Our historic UUCB communion silver will be used.

March 31 Non-Traditional Easter Sunday Taylor and Cooke

STAFF:

Minister: Reverend Douglas Taylor

Board President:

Kate Thorpe

Director of Family

Ministry: Dylan Cooke

Music Director: Vicky

Gordon

Office Administrator and

Membership Coordinator:

Karen Manzer

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

HOW TO CONTACT US:

183 Riverside Drive

Binghamton, NY 13905

Phone: 607.729.1641

Email:

office@uubinghamton.org

www.uubinghamton.org

Beacon Newsletter

Deadline: Noon on the last Friday of each month.



1st Sunday Workshops for March 3

“Soul Matters style discussion about Stewardship” with Rev. Douglas Taylor in the Chapel and on Zoom.

The Soul Matters model offers questions for deeper discernment and discussion. Rev Taylor has crafted a small set of reflective questions for our time together. All are welcome to participate (meaning – you don’t have to be an official member to join this conversation!)

“The Wi\$dom Path: Money, Spirit, and Life” with Becca Boerger in the Rainbow Room.

This workshop will include activities to help participants explore their feelings on some themes related to money and wealth, and their personal stories of giving. The exercises are taken from a 12-session UUA curriculum which explores many issues related to money and community.

“What is Going on Behind the Scenes? – Building Tour”

with Dylan Cooke, starting from the Fireside Lobby.

Please join Director of Family Ministry Dylan Cooke, for an informational tour around the building. We will be discussing what staff do outside of Sunday mornings as we walk through each room. After the tour, Julie Boyd will be running our usual Easter month Faith in Action workshop, decorating and assembling Easter baskets for the children at the Trinity Memorial Sunday soup kitchen. All ages welcome!

Special refreshments available at all workshops to give us energy for the stewardship campaign!



Dressing the Chancel Table

Each week, the Chancel Table displays the beautiful Chalice that symbolizes our faith. The chalice is the focal point. Over the years, it has become a tradition to enhance the chalice with a table cover, candles, and other items that may speak to the theme of the day.

If you would like to volunteer to continue this focal point tradition, please put your name on the sign up sheet for the Sunday of your choice. You may use items and table covers found in the focal point closet and/or bring items from your home. Your arrangement is your expression and can be simple or elaborate. If you have questions, text Hope Post (607 727-1956) or contact members of the Worship Committee.

2024 Stewardship Campaign
Rising to the Challenge — Together!
From your Stewardship Team – Becca, Barb, and Dorothy



For me, UUCB is an integral part of life in Broome County. This is the only option I have for an in-person religious community. I am so glad I could raise my children with the UU worldview. Through readings, sermons and sharing of life-stories, I have accrued wisdom that has guided me in making decisions about how to live, treat others and what it means to be human.

Barb Nordstrom

I have been a member of UUCB for almost three years, and I felt welcomed from the very beginning. I've shared moments of joy and struggle with new friends, learned new things in workshops and classes, and been inspired on Sunday mornings. And every week, I get a dose of hope, that there are so many brave, generous, committed souls, making the world a better place.

Becca Boerger

For over four decades I have found inspiration and countless friends at UUCB. I support UUCB so that others can have similar experiences.

Dolores Elliott

Why do YOU come to UUCB? Whatever your individual reasons, we all belong to a community committed to spiritual inspiration, social justice, and caring for each other. We make a difference in the lives of our members and in the world.

We also face challenges. Like many religious organizations, we lost members during the pandemic, at the same time we took on an ambitious, mission-driven renovation. The Board has looked at the budget for next year, and they estimate that we need a 15% increase in total pledges to maintain our current staffing, including our full-time minister, and have a balanced budget. We know we cannot request this kind of increase every year. We are growing, and we are already working on plans and programs so future pledge campaigns will not make such large requests.

What is UUCB worth to you? What can you give to sustain your spiritual home? We are asking everyone to consider making an increase in your annual financial pledge. Only you know your personal situation. Some of you can increase by 15%; some even more. Others are already pledging as much as they can. We are grateful for whatever you can give.

We are a vibrant community with a strong foundation and energy for a bright future. Together we will rise to meet this challenge!



New to UU Happy Hour
Friday, March 8 5:30-6:30pm at UUCB

We invite our recent and not-so-recent visitors to this special informal gathering for refreshments and socializing with Reverend Taylor, Karen Manzer and Andrea Palmeri.

Childcare is available.

Please RSVP to Karen Manzer at office@uubinghamton.org

Children and Youth Programs at UUCB



Young Adults

Young Adults are defined as individuals from 18 to 35 years of age by the UUA and are a valuable cohort in our congregation. They are encouraged to attend adult programming but occasionally have events and programming directed specifically for age range. Keep an eye open for programming posted here. If you would like to host young adult programming or workshops, please reach out to DFM@uubinghamton.org

Youth Group

Youth Group is for our 9th to 12th grade members and currently meets once a month on Second Fridays at 5:30pm. Please reach out to our youth advisors at youthadvisors@uubinghamton.org for registration information or questions.

RE

Religious Education is offered to our 2nd-8th grade children. Split between two classrooms and following the Soul Matters Curriculum, all non-multigenerational service Sundays. Please reach out to Dylan Cooke at DFM@uubinghamton.org for registration information or questions.

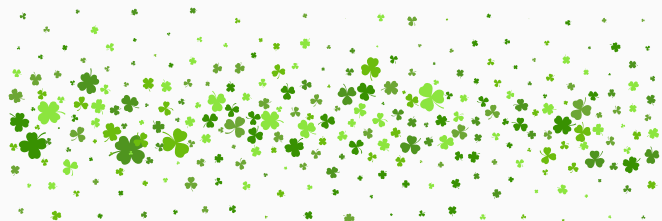
First Sundays

First Sundays at UUCB are shortened multigenerational services followed by an exciting array of workshops afterwards.

Nursery

Our Nursery care is for our youngest members and is provided by our experienced & professional childcare staff each Sunday during worship services, and by request for after service activities and for congregational events. Sensory friendly activities, music, books, toys, games, simple crafts and free play are offered.

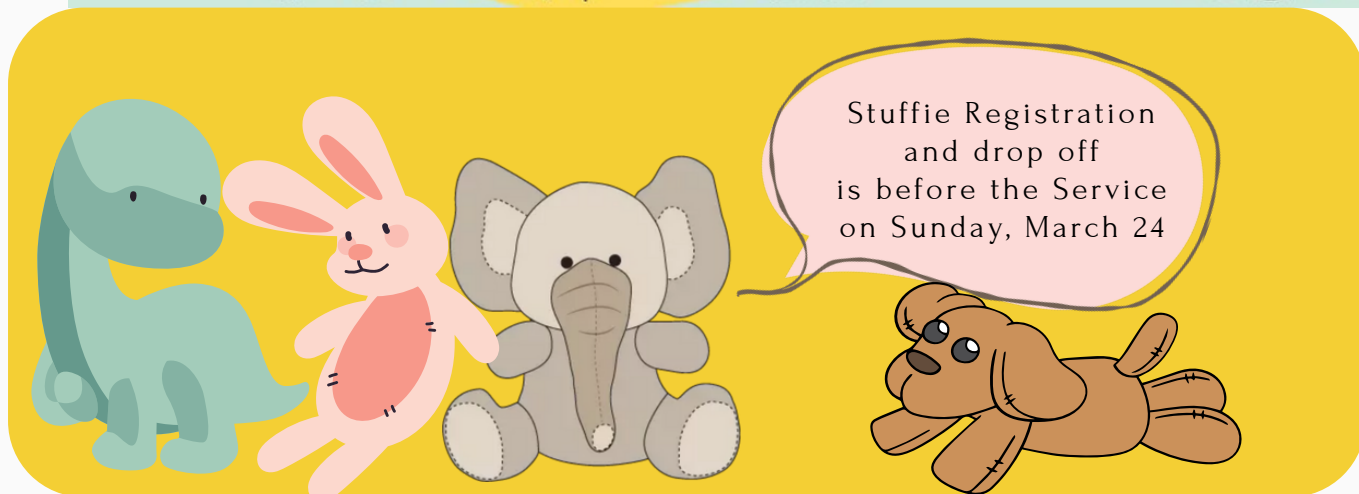
Please reach out to Dylan Cooke at DFM@uubinghamton.org for registration information or questions.





A special visit from June the Pig and some of her farm friends too!





Ongoing Events

UUCB Community Drum Circle

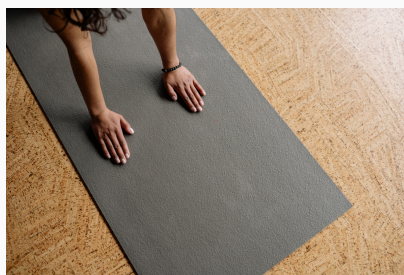
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 6:30PM

Create a sense of community by joining in our all ages drum circle. 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.

Beginner Yoga

MONDAYS 5PM

Yoga instructor Irena Trubnikov leads us in a yoga class each Monday. All are welcome. Bring a mat or towel, a water bottle and wear loose comfortable clothing.



Role-Playing Tabletop Games

SATURDAYS 4-7PM

Join us for exciting and fun role-playing games (similar to Dungeons and Dragons) with Dungeon Master Peter Steketee. We meet in the classroom at the end of the hallway.

Belly Dance with Pixie and Bonita

SUNDAYS 5:30- 6:30PM

Belly Dance is exercise for the body and mind which is enjoyable for all ages, body types, and abilities.

Students should dress comfortably and consider wearing clothing that hugs the body to show subtle movements. Hip scarves are optional and will be available for purchase. Water is recommended.

Cost is \$15 per class and cash, venmo, PayPal, cashapp are accepted
Contact Bonita Graham bgraham@wesleyan.edu for more information



The Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) is an organization dedicated to networking Pagan-identified Unitarian Universalists (UUs), educating people about Paganism, promoting interfaith dialogue, developing Pagan liturgies and theologies.

Meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at UUCB at 6:30pm.

Depression Support Group

Mondays at 6pm
Anyone who is affected by depression is welcome to join us.

Second Saturday Supper

Saturday, March 9 at 5:30pm in the social hall.

Enjoy a homemade meal for a very fair price and raise some money for UUCB too! Thank you to Lisa Sienkiewicz and Nancy Knipscher for cooking and hosting!

Elderwisdom

Sunday, March 17 12pm in the sanctuary

Join us as we learn about the interesting life of Jeff Donahue as he is interviewed by Hope Post.



ON REPENTANCE AND REPAIR PART 2

The UUA Common Read Book Discussion

Facilitated by Douglas Taylor
March 26 6:30-8pm

The UU Common Read of On Repentance and Repair explores the writings of the 12th century Jewish physician and scholar, Maimonides. Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg offers a contemporary, lively interpretation of the ancient text, inviting people of any and all faiths toward accountability practices that can transform our relationships and help to make us whole.

Last Sunday Lunch

SUNDAY MARCH 31 11:45AM
EASTER SUNDAY

Bring a dish to share and your friends and family for our March theme "Egg's cellent Easter Brunch"



This is a wonderful opportunity to share your talent, and is open to our youth as well. I am happy to accompany any singer or instrumentalist that needs a piano. All offerings are welcome - instrumental, vocal, dance, poetry reading, etc. If interested, or if you have any questions, please contact Vicky Gordon at vgordon2763@gmail.com.

Cranberry Coffeehouse

2 concerts in March!



Geoff Kauffman
Saturday March 16 2024
7:30pm (doors open at 7pm)

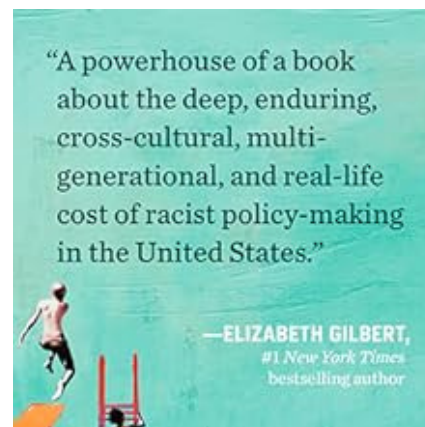
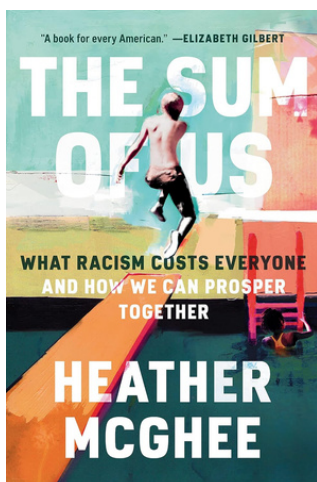


Geoff Kauffman (guitar, concertina and bones) is best known to a lot of people for his 35 years of singing and organizing maritime music at Mystic Seaport Museum in Connecticut. He maintains an active touring schedule featuring music from such formative influences as Tom Paxton, Joan Baez, and Steve Gillette, as well as songs collected in the Catskill Mountains (where he grew up) and his time as a Sloopsinger with the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater with Pete Seeger. Since his retirement from Mystic in June of 2019, Geoff has turned greater attention to music that speaks to issues of social justice, the climate crisis and our need to find common ground, together with songs that caught his ear over the years for their pure grace and beauty. Among his eight (to date) albums is “Folk Songs of the Catskills: A Celebration of Camp Woodland” featuring folk songs collected in the Catskills, on which Geoff is joined by a wonderful cast of performers including Pete Seeger, Ronnie Gilbert, Jay Ungar & Molly Mason and Eric Weissberg. Performer web page: geoffkauffman.com

Eloise and Co.
Friday, March 29 2024
7:30pm (doors open at 7pm)



Eloise & Co. (Becky Tracy on fiddle, octave fiddle & vocals, Bethany Waickman on guitar & Rachel Bell on accordion, piano & vocals) features the combined creative force of three of the country's most sought-after traditional musicians: Becky Tracy, Rachel Bell, and Bethany Waickman. These three dig into powerhouse reels with electrifying grit and unapologetic drive, while savoring the spacious beauty of jigs and waltzes, with styles ranging from French to Celtic to Quebecois. Originally thrown together at an event where Becky led the contra dance portion of the evening and Rachel led the French dance part of the evening, they have continued to fuse these two elements into their concerts and dances, as well as adding songs and original compositions to the mix. Their latest project was a series of music videos filmed in unique Vermont places, all of which are available on their website at www.rachelbellmusic.com/eloiseandco.



NEW DATE!

Why Anti-Racism Matters for Everyone “The Sum of Us Book” Discussion

Sunday March 24 at 12pm (after the Sunday service)

Why should white people care about anti-racism?

In what ways do white people stand to benefit from doing anti-racism work?

When we talk about anti-racism in the US, the assumption is usually that because of white privilege, white people have to give something up in order to work for racial justice. Is this really true?

In her New York Times bestselling book, *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*, economist Heather McGhee details the ways racism harms everyone. Reading this book is encouraged, but no one will be shamed or turned away if they don't read it. Join Dr. Marguerite Wilson for an interactive discussion of the book. All are welcome.

First Sunday Workshop Leader Opportunities

Do you have a passion or a skill or a fun idea that you'd like to share with other congregants as a workshop on one of our 1st Sundays?

Multi-generational workshops are encouraged, but workshops targeted for adults or mainly for children are also welcome.

They can be, but need not be, related to our monthly Soul Matters themes – upcoming themes are March: Transformation, April: Interdependence, May: Pluralism. For more information, or to discuss or offer to lead a workshop, please contact Debby Herman.

Get Connected

Easy Ways to Get Involved at UUCB

Help the outreach committee do their job! Share info about UUCB and our events on Facebook, in your social circles, and out in the community. Bring a friend to an event or to a UUCB service.

Bring a snack to share for social hour.

Social Action: Our Social Action HUUB is looking for your interest and talent! Contact Catherine Magdala at catheriner1312@gmail.com to be on the UUCB social action mailing list.

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.

NEW! Joys and Sorrows help needed: Kate Thorpe needs help during Joys and Sorrows to write the name of each in person speaker and quick notes on what each shares. Please speak to her or any usher for more information.

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.

Greeter/ Info Table: Staff the information table on a Sunday morning and greet visitors. Talk to Karen Manzer for more info.