

MAY 2024

# THE BEACON

Newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton.



## May Sunday Services

ALL SERVICES BEGIN AT 10:30AM

### June 2

#### **Building Bridges - Family Ministry Sunday Dylan Cooke**

Join us for an introspective and celebratory look at this year's Family Ministry programming. Using our successes to grow and build towards a more encompassing future as we walk the path of the congregation's promise to the Family Ministry model.

### June 9

#### **Passages**

**Rev. Douglas Taylor**

Join us for our beloved end of the year service in which we welcome New Members, Bridge our youth, and celebrate the births, marriages, and deaths from within our congregation that have happened over this past year. Our Annual Meeting follows this service, after which we host our Annual Picnic!

### June 16

#### **Poohsticks Is the Way**

**Rev. Douglas Taylor**

In Taoism, the concept of wu-wei can be translated as 'effortless action' or 'doing nothing.' But it is not really about doing nothing – it is about allowing what is needed to arise naturally, without clever manipulation or meddling. See also: Winnie the Pooh.

### June 23

#### **GA (General Assembly) Sunday watch party**

This morning, we will gather to take part in the virtual presentation along with thousands of other UUs across the country. Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, MO will lead the Sunday Service at General Assembly 2024

#### 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:

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Binghamton, NY 13905

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Email:

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[www.uubinghamton.org](http://www.uubinghamton.org)

Beacon Newsletter

Deadline: Noon on the last Friday of each month.



## **Summer 2024 at UUCB**

*things are a little different around here in the Summertime,  
but it's still wonderful!*

**Sunday Services:** Our minister, Reverend Douglas Taylor is off the month of July and part of August. Our Summer services are led by an exciting mix of visitors and lay leaders. You can pick up a copy of the 2024 Summer service schedule at the info desk, at the annual meeting and picnic or on our Facebook page or website.

**Online Sunday Services with Zoom:** This Summer, you can enjoy the worship service from anywhere since we will have our services streamed online with Zoom. Take note of the new Zoom link - it is on the website at [uubinghamton.org](http://uubinghamton.org)

**Children and Youth Programs** do not meet over the Summer, but most of the services are enjoyable for all ages.

**Second Saturday Suppers and Last Sunday Lunches:** These will take a Summer break and resume in September.

**Cranberry Coffeehouse** will take the Summer off and resume September 21 with a concert by favorite Ann Hills.

**First Sunday Workshops** will not be held during the Summer, but will start up on October 6.

**Weekly Emails:** You will still receive emails each week during the Summer that tell you what is happening at UUCB.

**Summer Social Hour:** we still have social time with coffee and treats after the the service during the Summer, so feel free to bring a snack to share and join us in the social hall or outside in the courtyard.





# UUCB Annual Meeting and Picnic



**SUNDAY, JUNE 9**  
after the Sunday service


CHILDCARE IS PROVIDED FOR THE MEETING

**Meet in the sanctuary for the annual meeting. Learn about the plans for next year and members will vote on the board and budget changes.**

Join us in the courtyard after the meeting for our annual picnic! Burgers, hot dogs, veggie items and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish or a dessert to share and your own place settings.

Musical Instruments  
lawn games are welcome!







# PEOPLE OF BLESSING SERVICE

**JUNE 5TH 7:00PM**

**CENTENARY CHENANGO ST. METHODIST CHURCH**



An interfaith Pride celebration with community, stories, and song.  
Refreshments served




**Friday June 7th at 6:00 pm with Rev. Douglas Taylor, co-sponsored by our UUCB Rainbow Alliance.**

Join us in the chapel for a glitter blessing. The Spirit can Sparkle! We all have light within us, it is time for us to let it shine and help the world to see the beauty we are together. (Our glitter is biodegradable and mixed with organic Aloe Vera for easy application and clean up.) This ritual is rooted in the experience of LGBTQ+ people and is open to everyone. Also – join us after the blessing for a brief dance party (because there are too many cool songs to use just one for the postlude!)

### **Cans and Bottles for Laundry**

Bring your empty cans and bottles to the collection area in the back parking lot at UUCB. They will be turned in for cash and used to support the Church in the Wild’s Free laundromat project.







**Neighborhood Town Hall Meeting  
Thursday June 27 6:30pm  
in the social hall at UUCB**

Meet with District 2 Binghamton City Council Representative Kinya Middleton to learn about and give input into our neighborhood.



**\*\*\*\*\*UU Weekend at SILVER BAY\*\*\*\*\***

As the seasons change from winter to spring, thoughts return to the loveliness of the natural world that surrounds us. Like spring, fall focuses on the beauty around us. Join us on Indigenous Peoples' Day weekend, October 11-13 (with a discounted option to stay until October 14) on beautiful Lake George at UU Weekend at Silver Bay, surrounded by fellow UUs, gorgeous scenery, and fun activities.

The registration form and a sample schedule of events from the 2023 weekend are available on the Albany UU web site at

Completed forms received by June 2, 2024 qualify for an "early bird" discount. Children under 6 are free, with substantial discounts for older children and youth. Rooms will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis when the completed registration form and deposit are received.

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### Blessing Bag Donations

Summer time is here, and the living is easy – but not for everyone.. We have an ongoing project to assemble ziploc bags for those in need which will contain basic hygiene items as well as a clean pair of socks, a snack and a drink. You can keep one in your car to give to someone you see who made need it. There is a donation basket near the info desk where you can put donations of granola bars, socks, travel size hygiene items. A printed list of suggested items is available at the info desk in the fireside lobby. We will assemble bags at last Sunday lunch on September 29.



# UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## VIRTUAL GA • JUNE 20 - 23, 2024

 Theme:

### **LoveUnites, Stories Ignite**

Unite with fellow UUs as we explore the boundless power of love in our faith community. Ignite your spirit with the incredible stories that shape our faith and inspire change. Dive into the rich tapestry of narratives that have the potential to ignite a brighter future for us all.

### **Virtually Uniting Our Faith Community**

Join the 2024 UUA General Assembly! Dive into a groundbreaking experience from the comfort of your own space. The 2024 UUA General Assembly is going virtual, opening the doors to an incredible opportunity for all to come together, share ideas, and unite our faith community like never before. Experience the warmth and camaraderie of fellow UU members, ministers, and leaders from around the world. This fully virtual event allows us to transcend borders and celebrate our shared values.

### **Inspiring Workshops and Soulful Worship**

Gain insights from influential voices in the UUA community and beyond. Be inspired to make a difference in the world. Explore important topics, share your perspectives, and learn from others to deepen your spiritual journey. Be a part of the change we want to see in the world. Discover opportunities for meaningful engagement on social justice, climate justice, and other initiatives. Celebrate the beauty of UU worship through dynamic virtual services that will uplift your spirit.



### **When**

June 20 – 23, 2024



### **Where**

YourHome,YourSpace,  
Your Connection!

### **Engaging Discussions**

Participate in meaningful dialogues on issues that matter. Engage with thought-provoking workshops and seminars led by visionary leaders. Explore your faith and perspectives with fellow attendees. Let's prove that distance can never dim the power of our collective spirit.

### **Register Now**

Don't miss out on this remarkable gathering of minds and hearts. Secure your spot today to connect, engage, and empower yourself with like-minded individuals who share your faith. Registration is available at [uua.org/ga](https://uua.org/ga). Register before March 1 for the lowest rate. Rates will increase on March 1 and again on May 15.

**Join us at the 2024 UUA General Assembly and be a part of this transformative virtual gathering!**

# Long-time UUCB member Toni Norton is 2024 Woman of Distinction Honoree



Senator Lea Webb's honoree for the 26th annual New York State Senate's Woman of Distinction is one with 96 years-worth of leadership, integrity, dedication and vision.

Ms. Toni Norton, 96, of Broome County, was honored for her nomination at the 2024 Woman of Distinction celebration in Albany on May 14 where women from across the state met and celebrated a lifetime of achievements.

"For the past 26 years, the New York State Senate has honored a select group of remarkable women who have looked beyond themselves to forge stronger communities and create a better New York State," said Senator Lea Webb.

Ms. Norton served as the Chair of Legal Redress Committee in the NAACP Broome-Tioga Branch for over 30 years and is now a member of the Executive Committee. Her "transformative" advocacy for racial justice, contributing to the fight for equity in the Southern Tier is what stood out to Webb.

"Ms. Toni Norton exemplifies these qualities through her lifelong commitment to social justice and community service. She is a beacon of hope and resilience, whose unwavering dedication has left an indelible mark in the Southern Tier. Her advocacy, leadership, and generosity reflect her dedication to community upliftment. Toni's life exemplifies the power of compassion, justice, and service, setting a powerful example for all of us. I am truly inspired by her legacy and proud to honor her as the 2024 Woman of Distinction," Webb said.

On top of her executive role in the local NAACP branch, Norton has been a member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton for many years, and she is a founding member of Justice and Unity in the Southern Tier (JUST) advocating for better conditions in the Broome County Jail.



# Ongoing Events

## UUCB Community Drum Circle

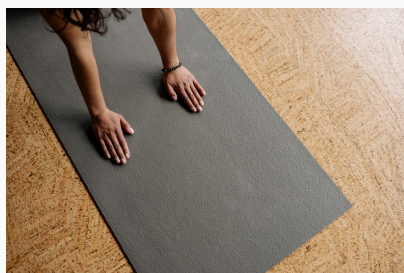
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 6:30PM

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](mailto:bgraham@wesleyan.edu) for more information

## UU Pagans

UU Pagans 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.



# 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](mailto: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.

"Cakes for the Queen of Heaven- On the Threshold"  
June 7, 14  
6-8pm in the chapel at UUCB

"A six-session religious education curriculum in feminist theology for adults and older youth.

When women came together to study our own herstory and to share our personal experiences with each other, we were not just studying the past. We were evolving a whole new world-view and theology for the future."

Come join us as we reconnect with each other and the Mother Goddess in her many forms. You do not have to attend every session. Sign up on the bulletin board today. There is free childcare for this class.

For more information and to register, contact Tiffany Hagberg