

MAY 2024

# THE BEACON

Newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton

## May Sunday Services

ALL SERVICES BEGIN AT 10:30AM

May 5 Be Kind to All Kinds Taylor and Cooke

Our monthly theme is “Pluralism.” We can talk about our differences and celebrate them! With kindness as a guide, we have what we need to build something amazing together! Join us after worship for our 1st Sunday Workshops

May 12 Darlyne Mitchell

May 19 Whom Would Jesus Cancel? Douglas Taylor

“Cancel Culture” continues to be a problem. It is the urge to remove, silence, or ‘shut down’ a person, a group of people, or an idea that is deemed harmful or dangerous. It is a desire for consequences in response to a perceived menace. But what is the spiritual value in ‘canceling’?

May 26 The Colors of Communion Douglas Taylor

We will have a Child Dedication ceremony, distribute the 3 Sisters seeds, and we’ll have our annual Flower Ceremony. Please plan to bring a flower to share. We will spend some precious time together in communion with the flowers and the messages we can find among the blossoms.



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

Beacon Newsletter

Deadline: Noon on the last  
Friday of each month.

## **1st Sunday Workshops for May 3 “Pluralism”**

**Co-creating a Chalice Banner”** with Pat Chirumbolo in the Social Hall. Join in making a banner for our sanctuary using handprints cut from colored felt. Trace and cut your handprints during the workshop, and Pat will take them home and shape the prints into a chalice design mounted on a fabric background. Fun for all ages!

**“Faith in Action: Blessing Bags”** with Karen Manzer in the Social Hall. We will assemble bags of helpful items to keep in our cars and hand out to people we see in the community that could use them. If you have any of the following items that you could contribute to this project, please bring them with you on Sunday: gallon Zip Loc bags, socks, travel size toothpaste, soap, shampoo, or body wash; washcloths, single size snacks like granola bars, protein bars, peanut butter crackers; menstrual products, bandaids, first aid ointment, Chapstick, candy. All ages are invited to participate in this service project.

**“The Big Annual UU Conference”** (In the chapel and on zoom) with Douglas Taylor  
This year at the UUA General Assembly 2024, we are having the second vote on the Article 2 changes from the Seven Principles to the new Circle of Values. Also, it is fully online, which makes it easier and more affordable to attend. Come learn more about what is going on and how you can be involved.

### **CHILD DEDICATION CEREMONY      Sunday, May 26th**

On the last Sunday in May we will have Child Dedications in the service. (That is the date of our Flower Ceremony as well, but that is another conversation.) Speak with Rev. Taylor or Dylan Cooke if your family would like to participate, or if you have questions.

What is a Child Dedication?

Most faith traditions have a way of welcoming young ones into the community and blessing them. In our Child Dedication services we recognize that children are a blessing, born whole and good. We, the parents, extended family, and congregation, are asked to ‘dedicate’ ourselves to creating a nurturing community in which our children will grow.

What happens during the dedication?

During the service, we invite the families who plan to participate to come forward together. We have a ‘naming’ portion of the ceremony and a ‘blessing’ portion of the ceremony. It is suitable for all children, not just infants or just youth!



## Special Collection on Sunday, May 19

### “WeOutside607”

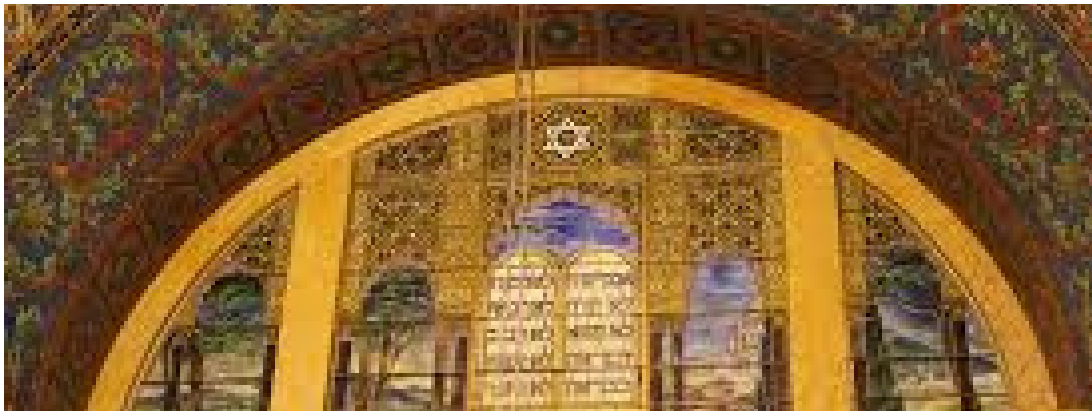
Weoutside607 is a volunteer run youth initiative aimed at creating fun outdoor activities for youth and families in areas where there isn't much in the way of recreational resources, such as playgrounds. Their goal is to give a leg up to the future generations by providing them with opportunities of art, music, play, creativity and fun!

### The Giving Box “May” The Broome County Humane Society

The Humane Society is an independent, non-profit animal welfare organization. They receive no government funding, but rely on the generosity and kindness of the people in our community to continue to care for the 150+ animals in our care at any given time. They are dedicated to preventing animal cruelty and finding homes for abandoned, abused and homeless animals. They serve the community by sheltering animals, finding them homes, investigating reports of animal cruelty, educating people of all ages, and rescuing animals from threatening situations.

Some of the items that you can donate to the humane society are: Pedigree puppy food, medium sized dog biscuits, nylabones, leashes, collars, metal dog bowls, canned pumpkin, Cat collars, fleece blankets, cat toys, Purina Cat Chow and Kitten Chow, brooms and dust pans, hand soap, latex gloves, hose spray nozzles, carabiners, spray bottles, trash bags 913 gal and 45+gallon.

For a complete list of items, pick up a copy of the **Humane Society's Wish List** next to “**The Giving Box**” in the coatroom at UUCB.



## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SACRED SITES TOURS AND REFRESHMENTS**

Each year, the New York Landmark Conservancy organizes a day where local churches and other buildings of worship can open their doors and welcome folks in to view their unique and beautiful architecture.

This year's theme is "Welcoming Our Neighbors" and we hope you will join us in welcoming folks to UUCB on that day!

UUCB will once again be a stop on the annual PAST Sacred Sites Open House Day - May 19th. We will be open to the public from 1:00-3:00 for tours and light refreshments. A video will also be running during that time. Volunteers are needed to serve as tour guides from 1:00 - 2:00, 2:00 - 3:00, or 1:00 - 3:00 and to make some baked goods that we can have available to our guests.

If you are interested in either serving as a tour guide, provide refreshments, or both, please contact Andrea Palmeri at [apalmeri@stny.rr.com](mailto:apalmeri@stny.rr.com). Let her know how you would like to help out. Thank you!

## **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.





\*\*\*\*\*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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### **Neighborhood Town Hall Meeting Thursday May 30 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.

### **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 blue donation bin near the info desk where you can put donations of granola bars, socks, travel size hygiene items. A printed list is available at the info desk in the fireside lobby.

“  
No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.”  
Charles Dickens



*Classy*

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:DFM@uubinghamton.org) for registration information or questions.



# 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](http://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!



## **Nominations for two remaining Board positions are open!**

Our covenant states that “service is our LIFE”! We are looking for members who would like to serve this congregation on our Board of Directors, or on an elected Church Committee. Right now, we have vacancies on the board for a Clerk and a Trustee.

A Trustee is a member of the guiding Board of UUCB and serves a 3 year term. There are 10 Board members.

Of these, 4 are Officer Trustees: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Clerk.

There are 4 other Trustees, plus two non voting members, the Minister and the Director of Family Ministry.

The board meets a minimum of 10 times per year, on the third Thursday evening of the month at the church.

The Clerk’s main responsibilities are to attend and take minutes of Board of Trustees and Congregational Meetings, and be the second signature on checks and contracts with the Board President.

If you are interested, or would like to nominate someone, please contact a member of the Leadership Development and Resources Committee (LDR).

LDR Members:  
Sondra Pruden  
Linda Malone  
Madeleine Cotts  
Janice Fiore



# Ongoing Events

## UUCB Community Drum Circle

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 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

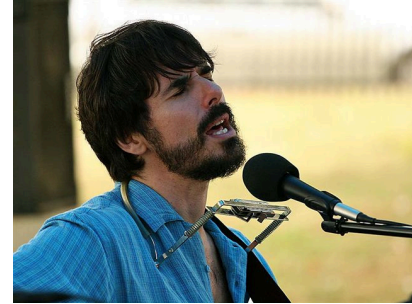
Mondays at 6pm  
Anyone who is affected by depression is welcome to join us.

## Cranberry Coffeehouse



**“Spook Handy”**

**Saturday May 18**



Spook Handy performed alongside Pete Seeger at festivals and concerts more than 50 times between 2003 and 2013, learning firsthand many of Pete’s songs and the stories behind them. Even more, he learned who Pete Seeger was and what he stood for. Spook is now traveling throughout the U.S. and Canada with his “Remembering Pete Seeger” World Tour, keeping alive Pete’s tradition by sharing songs by Woody Guthrie (Pete’s most notable mentor), Pete Seeger, and a healthy handful of new songs Spook wrote under Pete’s tutelage.

**Bring a Friend Sunday**  
**Sunday, May 26**

Do you know someone who is curious and would like to come to a service at UUCB? Bring them for a special day just for them!

## Last Sunday Lunch

**SUNDAY MAY 26 11:45AM**  
**“SPRING GARDEN PARTY”**

Bring a dish to share and your friends and family for our end of the month after service potluck.

**"Cakes for the Queen of Heaven- On the Threshold"**  
**May 3, 10, 17 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

# 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.

### **American Red Cross Binghamton Community Blood Drive at UUCB**



Friday, May 17 1-6pm in the social hall

You can sign-up to donate on the American Red Cross website by searching for our blood drive or you can sign up on the easel in the Fireside lobby on Sunday mornings.