

SEPTEMBER 2024

THE BEACON

Newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton

September Sunday Services

ALL SERVICES BEGIN AT 10:30AM

September 8 The Sweet, Sweet Water of Life

Join us for our annual Ingathering service with story, song, and thoughtful reflection. Where do you go for healing? How does compassion lead you deeper into your living? Remember to bring some water to share into the common bowl for our Water Ceremony.

September 15 How to Disagree with a Friend

We're deep into the 'politically divided' time of the year. Many people struggle between taking a stand or keeping things calm, rocking the boat or going with the flow. It is one thing to be strident on social media or with your poster board at a rally. But how do we navigate 'hot button' issues with a friend?

September 22 You Did Not Create Us to Kill Each Other

The International Day of Peace is the 21st. And wars continue around the world. Religion is mis-used and perverted into a tool to perpetuate war. We must call up the truth found in each of our various faiths leading us to peace.

September 29 Prevailing Green

Join us for the 2024 UU Climate Justice Revival in which we are called to "Reimagine Together: From an Extractive Age to a New Era." This 'new era' needs our connections, our nourishment, and our vision for the blossoming future.



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.

Splinters from The Board

Greetings from your new Board of Trustees!

Every year we hope to keep you informed of our work on behalf of our Congregation, but truthfully, our communication can be spotty. At our recent retreat, we resolved to add to the end of each agenda the question: What do we need the Congregation to know?

Hopefully this little change will improve our communications. In addition, we plan to keep having Quarterly Town Hall Meetings (October, January, March and May – specific dates TBA), re-activate our Board Listening Ear periodically, and to produce a Board Splinters column once a month. In addition, we are also your fellow congregants and friends. You can easily reach out to us with questions, answers or concerns whenever needed. We are: Kate Thorpe (President), Tim Wolcott (President Elect), Gay Canough (Treasurer), Jenne Micale (Clerk), Ferd Haverly, Shawn Steketee, Carrie Greenstrom, Bob Neigh (Trustees), Dylan Cooke (DFM) and Douglas Taylor (Minister).

This month, the Board would like to share some updates with you on some ongoing issues you may be wondering about.

Acoustic Tiles – for sound abatement in Social Hall and Café- will be installed by Kline (the contractors that did our renovations) in early October at the latest and possibly sooner. The cost for this is covered by funds retained in our Capital Campaign line. They also plan to help fix the issue with our kitchen hood fan sometime after that.

Ground Source Heat Pump (GSHP) – You may have noticed a pipe overflowing water across our back parking lot. The system clogs with iron-loving bacteria, but otherwise works fine to heat and cool our building. The overflow happens when the system is being used. Dailey, the company that installed the system, has been and continues to work with us to solve this problem (even though we are now out of the warranty phase). The Board will be calling for a GSHP Taskforce (to include, among others, Wes Ernsberger and Ed Ware) to continue to work on solving this problem. Please reach out if you are interested in serving here.

Parking Lot – Madeline Cotts has been in contact with Guthrie regarding other issues affecting our back parking lot. In that email, she thanked them for patching the holes in our driveway (which they took responsibility for because our drive continues to be accessed by hospital employees). In addition, Madeline noted that their Phase 1 plan for addressing the frequent flooding of the 3 newcomer spaces had not resolved that issue and that the more extensive Phase 2 plan will need to be implemented. They will be meeting to put that plan into motion.

Stewardship- The Board would like the congregation to be aware that Becca Boeger is stepping down from chairing Stewardship this year. Thank you, Becca, for your service! Although the Stewardship Campaign does not launch until the spring, we would very much like to get a chair and a team into place this fall. Please let us know if you would like to serve in any capacity on this vital committee.

Continued

Long Range Planning: The time has come to convene a new Long Range Planning group. Our last plan, written in 2014 and updated in 2020, has brought us a long way. Now is a good time to evaluate where we want to go from here. This is an exciting project that will eventually involve the input of every congregant. Again, if you are interested in knowing more about this taskforce or in serving on it, please let us know.

In service with love,
Kate Thorpe
Board President

UUCB Board Members: Kate Thorpe (President), Tim Wolcott (President Elect), Gay Canough (Treasurer), Jenne Micale (Clerk), Ferd Haverly, Shawn Steketee, Carrie Greenstrom, Bob Neigh (Trustees), Dylan Cooke (DFM) and Douglas Taylor (Minister).



We ask that everyone wear a name tag on Sundays, so we can get to know each other and be welcoming to visitors.

If you would like a nametag, or need a new one, let Karen Manzer know or fill out a nametag request form at the info desk.

It is our policy to only use first names on children's name tags.



The UUCB Rainbow Alliance has purchased pronoun buttons for us to add to our nametags. They are located in the coat room on the nametag cart.

Choose yours and add it to your nametag. It is important to normalize using pronouns in order to be inclusive and welcoming to everyone.



UUCB is a Welcoming Congregation
Welcoming Congregation is a term for congregations that have voted to affirm, welcome and support gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and support LGBTQ+ people, including those whose gender identities are gender-fluid and non-binary. This concept came about because people of non-majority sexual identity often feel unsafe in religious organizations, feeling that they must stay "in the closet" or feeling subtly excluded.



Join us after the Ingathering service on Sunday, September 8 for a bagel brunch. Make sure to bring along your backpack, work bag, purse, wallet, etc. for a special blessing by Reverend Douglas Taylor.



A big Veggie Fest Thank You!

Thanks to all who had a role in making this year's Veggie Fest another great success!

From all of the volunteers, to those of you who just came to eat and support our fundraiser in that way - we appreciate it!

We made well over \$3000, including over \$1000 on the flea market. Thanks again to everyone for contributing! What a fun, community-building event!

UUCB YOGA IS BACK!



Beginning on Monday, September 23, our weekly FREE yoga classes resume with yoga instructor Irina Trubnikov at 5pm. Bring a yoga mat or towel, some water, and wear loose comfortable clothes.



Community Blood Drive at UUCB

Tuesday, October 1 1pm-6pm

We are excited to host our second blood drive at UUCB. Make your appointment online at redcross.org





Adult Choir is Seeking New Members

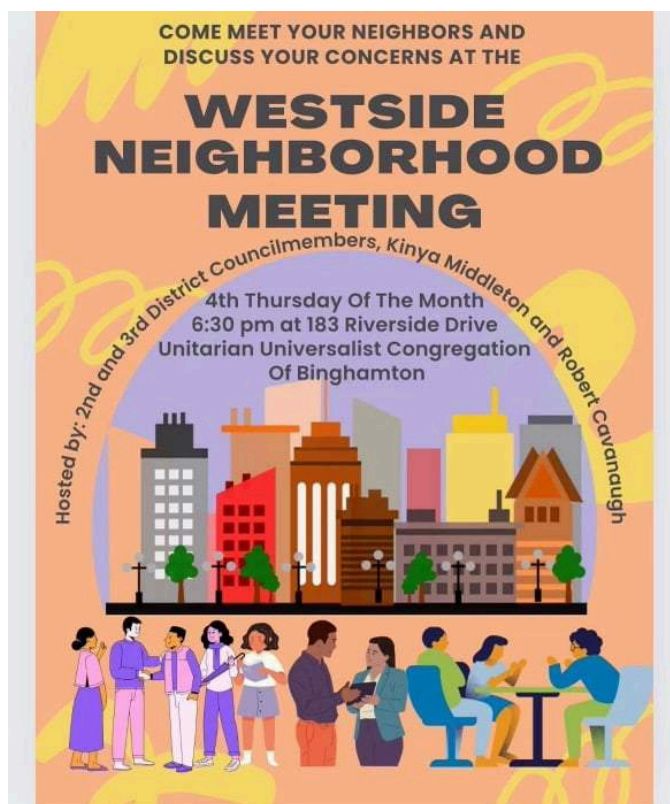
There is nothing more uplifting than being part of a vocal community, and the choir's contribution is a vital part of our Sunday worship together.

We are a welcoming group of enthusiastic and welcoming people who join in our love of music and desire to express ourselves through song. We embrace a variety of musical styles (e.g. spirituals, show music, classical, folk), and encompass a range of musical backgrounds. You need not have a "trained" voice to participate. The ability to sight-read is also not required.

Rehearsals are weekly from 6:30 – 8 on Thursday evenings in the sanctuary. Please consider joining us for our first rehearsal on August 29.

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. You needn't feel that you have to make a long-term commitment (although that would please me!).

If you have any questions or just want to know more about the choir, please call or text me at 607-222-5836 or e-mail me at vgordon2763@gmail.com.

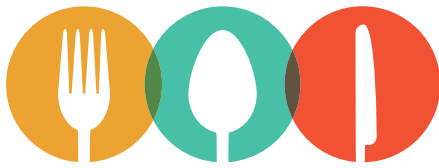


Westside Neighborhood Meetings

If you live on the Westside of Binghamton, you are invited to attend the monthly neighborhood meetings held at UUCB on the 4th Thursday of the month at 6:30pm.

These meetings are hosted by 2nd and 3rd district councilmembers Kinya Middleton and Robert Cavanaugh and are a good place to find out about changes and information about your neighborhood.





2nd Saturday Suppers



Cranberry Coffeehouse

Our favorite dinner spot is opening again this Fall. UUCB will once again host a delicious and nutritious home cooked meal for a very affordable price on the second Saturday of each month. Thank you to Nancy Knipscher and Lisa Sienkiewicz for cooking these meal as a fundraiser for UUCB.

You may want to cut out the schedule below out so you can add it to your calendar or post it on your fridge.

September 14 – breakfast for dinner - Scrambled eggs, pancakes with bacon or veg alternative, yogurt parfaits

October 12 – baked ziti, salad, coconut cake

November 9 – stuffed peppers, Texas toast, carrot cake

Format/prices will remain the same- \$6 main dish, \$3 side dish, \$3 dessert. Folks are encouraged to eat in or bring own containers for take out. Cash is preferred.

We will be taking December off as we will both be involved with the Art and Gift Sale kitchen again. Second Saturday Suppers will resume in January.

This will continue to be a general fund fundraiser.

Cranberry Coffeehouse hosts a live music performance on the 3rd Saturday of each month in the UUCB sanctuary.

Suggested donated for these events is \$10 per person but no one will be turned away for an inability to pay.

Coffee, tea and treats are available for purchase and the proceeds form those sales benefits UUCB.

Please Note: Concerts have moved to 7:00 pm (they used to be at 7:30 pm).

Saturday, September 21: Anne Hills

Saturday, October 19: Andrew Van Norstrand

Saturday, November 16: Steve Strauss

Saturday, December 21: Bells & Motley (Sondra & John Bromka)

More information (including artist descriptions) is available at the website (cranberrycoffeehouse.org).

UUCB Family Ministry



Looking at this coming congregational year we will have offerings for children of all ages!

Nursery care will continue to be offered every Sunday morning unless specified otherwise. Our youngest kiddos can expect structured and unstructured time with our staff.

Starting Sunday September 15th Elementary and Middle classes will be kicking off using the Soul Matters Curriculum. Children will get to explore their curiosity with a dive into our newly voted in article 2 changes and how that interacts with our greater communities as we live out our mission.

Youth Group is looking to start up meetings again this year. Look out for more information to come as the group plots its course through the congregational year.

For more information contact Dylan Cooke at dfm@uubinghamton.org

Blessing Bag Donations

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 near the collection basket in the fireside lobby. We will assemble bags during first Sunday workshops on October 6.



Last Sunday Lunches Return

Our popular “Last Sunday Lunch: themed potluck will resume on Sunday, October 27. The theme for the lunch is “Halloween”. Join us in the social hall after the worship service and bring something to add to our Halloween lunch.



Our congregation is joining UUs across the land to revive our commitment to climate justice.

September 28, 2024 - Interactive workshops for all ages

September 29, 2024 - Worship followed by an advocacy hour

This is an all-church and all-ages event. All of us will learn new frameworks at the intersection of climate and justice and have the chance to weave together the threads that have always linked our deepest commitments. The UU Climate Revival will equip UU congregations to enter into a new era of climate action—one that intentionally and faithfully breaks down silos and cultivates relationships that lead to flourishing collaborations that transform our congregations through climate justice. See more details at the UU Climate Justice Revival website and FAQs.



First Sundays at UUCB

On the first Sunday of each month, our multi-generational worship service offers innovation in the Sunday Service experience. Designed to increase opportunities for connection and explore many different ways to tap into our intellectual, creative and spiritual depths, we gather for a shorter service in the Sanctuary and then spread out for different workshops. The hardest part is often deciding which experience to choose!

First Sundays have been on hold for the Summer, but will resume on Sunday Oct., 6

- Service 10:30-11:15
- Break 11:15-11:30
- All ages workshops 11:30-12:15
- Social Hour 12:15-12:45



Taking Action!

"Here at UUCB, social action is the congregation's work!

The Social Action HUUB exists to support the creation and maintenance of social action teams.

You can either brainstorm an idea for a social action project and then fill out an application on the HUUB bulletin board or sign up to be on someone else's team. The teams are listed on the bulletin board. If you have any requests, thoughts, or questions, please get in touch with the HUUB at huub@uubinghamton.org. Please do not offer ideas or request things from HUUB members individually. Please email the whole HUUB. "

Building Bridges Periodical

Do you want updates on what is happening in our greater community? Do you like sharing your thoughts and opinions on social justice? Do you enjoy reading other people's thoughts and opinions about social justice? The Social Action HUUB publishes a monthly periodical called **Building Bridges Periodical**. To subscribe and get the Submission Guidelines, email buildingbridgesmonthly@uubinghamton.org.

September's Special Collection (Ingathering Service on 9/8): CARES

CARES Advocates for Families, Inc (Community Advocates Restoring Educational Standards) helps students and families of color in the Binghamton school district disrupt the racialized and class based social injustices, promote equity along the lines of race and class and promote restorative justice in communities and within the Binghamton City School District.

To execute our mission, CARES operates using a community organizer toolset, namely relational organizing. CARES has successfully implemented several programs in the Binghamton City school district, including the Parent Mentor Program, in which a parent is present in a classroom to help mitigate referrals and suspensions for students of color. CARES provides advocates to accompany families attending disciplinary meetings and hearings. CARES provides training for Parent Advocates throughout the year around transformative justice, trauma-informed care, and creating social capital within the Binghamton City school district for parents who could otherwise be racially excluded. The annual CARES Backpack Giveaway has supplied thousands of children with a free backpack and school supplies

PRIDE
COFFEE



Second Saturday
of Each Month
9:30AM

see old friends and make
some new ones!

Centenary Chenango Street
Methodist Church
438 Chenango St., Binghamton NY
13901

Coffee, Teas and Pastries
All Are Welcome!



Each month, we choose a community organization that we can help by collecting donations of items that need. **The Giving Box** is set up in the coatroom and the monthly recipient is noted. If you have any questions about The Giving Box, or have an idea for a recipient who can use our help, you can contact Shawn Steketeer at stek@aol.com.



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. Find out more about the good work the Church in the Wild is doing at churchinthewild.org

Giving Box

September Recipient NOMA's Hygiene Pantry

The North of Main Community Center or, NoMa has continued to provide the community in need year-round with necessities including clothes and hygiene. For the last four years, NoMa has offered a clothing closet and personal hygiene pantry for people to stop and pick items they need for free. The closet and pantry rely completely on donations.

Needed: socks, underwear, deodorant, soap, shampoo, menstrual products, toothpaste, tooth brushes, lotion, lip balm.

Please place new/unused items in the box in the coatroom at UUCB.

Ongoing Events

UUCB Community Drum Circle

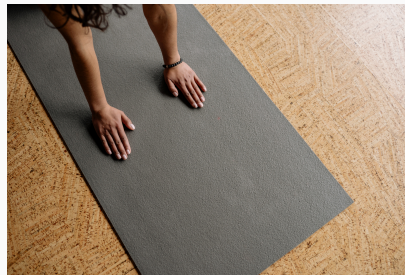
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 6:30PM

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 Jenne Micale at Jennemicale@gmail.com 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.

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.

You can find our complete calendar of events at <https://74087865.view-events.com>

If you have an event to add to the calendar, contact Karen Manzer at 607-729-1641 or office@uubinghamton.org

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 on Sunday.

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.

Social Hour Team: Talk to Ron Clupper after service on Sundays or call him at 607-727-8516 if you would like to be a part of the team that hosts social hour on Sunday mornings after the service.

Join the Caring Team: Help us identify and reach out to those in our community who need it. Reach out to Karen Manzer at office@uubinghamton.org to find out more.

Sunday Morning Welcome Team: Be on hand on Sunday mornings to welcome visitors, show folks where the coffee is, and more. Reach out to Karen Manzer at office@uubinghamton.org to be a part of this team.

Make your own group or event: Do you have an interest that you would like to share with others? Would you like to start up a monthly crafting group, LGBTQ group, discussion, dance party, movie night? Talk to Karen Manzer about your idea and how it can get added to the UUCB calendar.