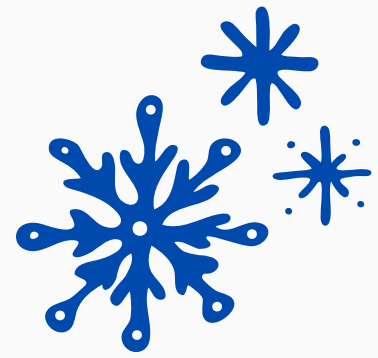


JANUARY 2025

# THE BEACON



Newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton

## January Sunday Services

ALL SERVICES BEGIN AT 10:30AM

### **January 5      Big Story in the Little One Taylor and Cooke**

We all have a piece of the story. We each see from our perspective and know what is ours to know. And tucked inside our little stories is the Big Story we all share. Join us for the First Sunday of Jumpin' January. After the service we will celebrate all our birthdays together! (And there will be cake.)

### **January 12    A Tale of Ch-ch-ch-ch-changes Dylan Cooke**

Change is a tough thing especially this time of year. As a society we have dealt with the disruption of a pandemic and as Unitarian Universalists we just made the courageous choice to adopt values instead of principles. At this point we have mostly fallen back into some sense of normalcy, however is that such a good thing with change around every corner?

### **January 19    Martin and Malcolm in America Douglas Taylor**

Martin Luther King Jr and Malcolm X were often portrayed as opposites, with contrasting ideals and goals. But the two men had a rich and nuanced relationship over the years. How they navigated the struggles can inspire us in our fight against racism and oppression today.

### **January 26    Let's All Get Entangled Douglas Taylor**

Quantum Physics says we are all entangled on a deep level. Our interconnection is a spiritual value among us as Unitarian Universalists. This is more than a sentimental story we tell ourselves – it is how the world is made!

#### 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  
Wednesday

Worship Services: Sundays  
at 10:30am

Children and Youth  
Programs: Sundays at  
10:30am  
Nursery Care during  
services

#### HOW TO CONTACT US:

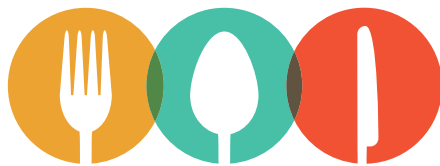
183 Riverside Drive  
Binghamton, NY 13905  
Phone: 607.729.1641  
Email:  
office@uubinghamton.org  
www.uubinghamton.org

Beacon Newsletter  
Deadline: Noon on the last  
Friday of each month.





After each worship service in January, we will offer workshops for all ages. Watch for updates and upcoming workshops in your weekly emails and on Facebook.



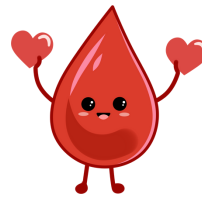
## 2nd Saturday Suppers

UUCB hosts 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 meals as a fundraiser for UUCB.

**January 11** – Southwest Rice Bowls (with or without chicken), side salad, and Tres Leches 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.

This will continue to be a general fund fundraiser.



## Community Blood Drive at UUCB

Saturday, January 18  
9am-2pm  
in the social hall  
Walk-in or make an appointment at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)

## HeaRT Is Ready to Serve!

The Healthy Relations Team (HeaRT) would like to remind everyone that we are available to help you with any conflicts or communication issues - in committees, or between individuals. Healthy conflict is good. It is part of hearing all voices and perspectives. But sometimes disagreements can lead to hurt feelings, or we can get stuck. In those situations, HeaRT is here to help. And it's always better to ask for help sooner rather than later. You can reach out to us at [heart@uubinghamton.org](mailto:heart@uubinghamton.org). We look forward to hearing from you!



## Cranberry Coffeehouse

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).

### John Kirk & Trish Miller Saturday January 18 2025

As part of an annual tradition, John Kirk (North American Fiddler's Hall of Famer, on fiddle, mandolin & more) and Trish Miller (banjo, guitar and fancy footwork) will open the Cranberry Coffeehouse's first concert of the year.

More information (including artist descriptions) is available at the website ([cranberrycoffeehouse.org](http://cranberrycoffeehouse.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](mailto:vgordon2763@gmail.com).



### SAVE THE DATE

Our annual UU Revue (talent show) will be held on Saturday, April 5 at 7pm. If you'd like to share your talent, please contact Vicky Gordon at [vgordon2763@gmail.com](mailto:vgordon2763@gmail.com).

## Mark Your Calendars!

### UUCB Housing Forum



The meeting that decides UUCB's response to the current Housing Crisis in our area.

Saturday, January 25 1pm-4pm  
In the social hall

Refreshments will be provided by HUUB  
Sign up on the HUUB Bulletin board or email [huub@uubinghamton.org](mailto:huub@uubinghamton.org) to RSVP.

# 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](mailto:dfm@uubinghamton.org)

## Happy Birthday Everyone!



Instead of workshops on Sunday, January 5, we will have a big birthday party for everyone. Join us in the social hall for a pizza lunch, games, singing happy birthday and cake!

## THANK YOU SO MUCH!



Thank you to everyone who took a tag from the sponsor a family tree and purchased a gift for a family in need.

Our full calendar of events is at [uubinghamton.org](http://uubinghamton.org)

## 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!

**Service 10:30-11:15**

**Break 11:15-11:30**

**All ages workshops 11:30-12:15**

**Social Hour 12:15-12:45**

In January, we will have workshops every Sunday, as we celebrate Jumpin January 2025.

If you have an idea for a multigenerational workshop, contact Dylan Cooke at [dfm@uubinghamton.org](mailto:dfm@uubinghamton.org)



**Our ABC Soul Matters SGM** (Athens, Binghamton, Cortland “Soul Matters” Small Group Ministry) is a Multi-congregational online session. People are welcome to join any time. We will run 3rd Wednesdays at 6:30 - 8:00 October through May. Co-led by Rev. Douglas Taylor and Becca Boerger. Contact Rev. Taylor for the zoom link.



### **Braver Angels Discussion Group Meeting**

Fed up with today's politics? There is a better way.

Join our Braver Angels discussion group from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 7, at the Vestal Public Library. We will be discussing “Depolarizing Within.” Learn more about this process here: <https://braverangels.org/what-we-do/take-an-ecourse/...>

Braver Angels is leading the nation’s largest cross-partisan, volunteer-led movement to bridge the partisan divide for the good of our democratic republic. Coming out of the election, we’re bringing together “We the People” to find a hopeful alternative to toxic politics. The American Hope campaign is equipping Americans across the political spectrum to work together and demand the same of politicians from both parties.

For more information, contact Jenne Micale at [jennemicale@gmail.com](mailto:jennemicale@gmail.com)



### LAST SUNDAY LUNCH

Sunday, January 26 after the service

Join us on the last Sunday of every month for a congregational potluck. This month's theme is **winter brunch**.





## 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](mailto: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](mailto:buildingbridgesmonthly@uubinghamton.org)



## The Church Mouse Knows...

That **Mary Woodward** washes dishes every Sunday after service and takes the kitchen laundry home to wash

That **Ron Clupper** makes a warm fire each Sunday and makes sure we all have coffee to drink

The **Pat Chirumbolo** has been decoration for special events and made the Christmas tree look beautiful this year.

That **Cecily O'Neil** not only acts a collector, but helps out in the nursery many Sundays too.

The **Carl Cohen** has been busy coming up with great ideas to bring new people to UUCB

The **Lisa Sienkiewicz** has been over-seeing the kitchen for Cranberry Coffeehouse and other events too.

That **Carrie Greenstrom, Debby Herman, and Julie Boyd** took our many sponsor a family gifts to their destination.

That **Chris O'Donnell, Hope Post and Kate Thorpe** have been folding the orders of service on Sunday mornings.

That **Renee Taft** has been decorating the building and making it look welcoming.

That **DJ Goldenberg** has joined the Stream team and helps with clean-up on Sundays too.

If you would like to recognize someone for the Church Mouse, email Karen at [office@uubinghamton.org](mailto:office@uubinghamton.org)

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 they 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 Steketee at [stek@aol.com](mailto:stek@aol.com).

## LGBTQ Social and Support Group

1ST AND 3RD TUESDAYS

The UUCB LGBTQ Social and Support group meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 6-8pm on the Chapel.

## Kadampa Meditation

TUESDAYS 7-8:30PM

Kadampa Buddhist Meditation at UUCB Every Tuesday at 7pm Using meditation and Buddhist wisdom to train our mind, we can reduce negative thinking and learn to think in ways that produce a positive, peaceful outlook. We can respond to daily challenges in a more constructive fashion, improve our relationships and make our life truly meaningful. We gain incredible confidence knowing we know HOW to move forward for a happier life. \$10 fee per week.



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 at [office@uubinghamton.org](mailto:office@uubinghamton.org)

# Ongoing Events

## UUCB Community Drum Circle

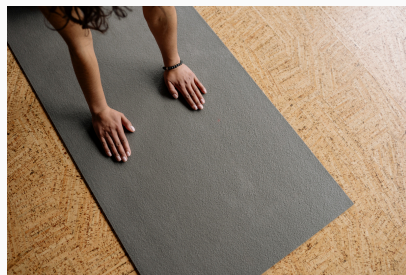
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14 6:30PM

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](mailto: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 in the chapel..

## 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](mailto: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](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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**Find out about all that is happening at UUCB!** Watch for twice a week emails, check out our Facebook group (UUCB Members and Friends) and our public Facebook page. There is a monthly newsletter, The Beacon, available too. There are printed copies of the newsletter in the wall file outside the office and at the info desk, or you can request that a copy be mailed to you at home by asking Karen in the office. Also, check out our calendar of events by clicking the “News and Events” button on our website.