APRIL 2025

THE BEACON

UUCB
service. love. justice

Newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton

April Sunday Services

ALL SERVICES BEGIN AT 10:30AM

April 6 "Songs for the Journey" Taylor and Cooke
Music is a form of communication unlike any other. It gets into our brains differently that just words. With a focus on how it stirs us into joy, let us open ourselves to the power of music this morning. Our First Sunday worship for all ages is followed by workshops.

April 13 "A Cooperative Game" Rev. Craig Schwalenberg
Would you like to play a game? Which game? You choose. The game isn't important to me. If we play together, then they're all the same. And we'll win or lose together, cooperatively.
Rev. Craig Schwalenberg (per/pers) is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister raised in the Midwest, transplanted to New York (near the source of the Susquehanna.) After 15+ years serving as a parish minister and interim minister, per has started a new community ministry as Your Game Minister— sharing the fun and wisdom where spirituality and play cross paths. Pers ministry is one of connections, storytelling, hospitality, and games. Per is a supportive member of the Liberal Religious Educators Association and an active member of the Unitarian Universalist Society for Community Ministers. Rev. Craig is co-author of the RPG social justice curriculum, Building a Better World.

April 17, 5:30 pm Maundy Thursday Douglas Taylor
Come celebrate a UU communion service that honors its Christian origin while moving into an expansive understanding of our kinship with the whole universe. All are welcome.

April 20 "Rise, Rise Again" Taylor and Cooke
This Easter we consider the subversive and empowering message Jesus brought to the world. While most UUs do not consider ourselves to be Christian, we still value the life-giving message of love and hope. Join us for story, song, play, and power!

April 27 "Poems of Joy and Laughter" Rev. Douglas Taylor
Let's have a little fun. Let's have some words that feel good in our mouths like good poems. We could be smiling and laughing more if we want that. Sometimes that's just what we need. Sometimes, that's just what the whole world needs. (And here's an invitation – send me a poem you think fits this theme!)

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

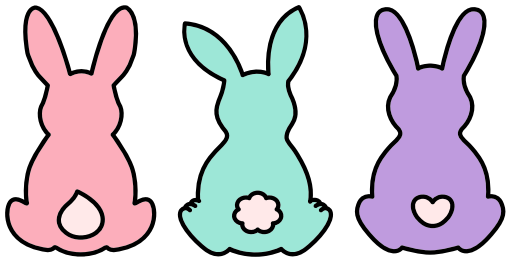
HOURS:
Office Hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm M-F closed on Wednesday

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.



UUCB CHOIR

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.

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.

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!

1st Sunday Workshops for April 6: "Joy"

"The Wildflowers of UUCB" with Wes Ernsberger in the Sanctuary and on Zoom. Did you know we don't have any weeds on the UUCB grounds? Just wildflowers. One of the perks of helping with the gardening is you get to be among them throughout the growing season. Join Wes Ernsberger as he shares with you some of the pictures he has taken over the years. The beauty of wildflowers can bring us all joy!

"Painting "Stained Glass" Windows in the Social Hall" with Karen and Moe Manzer. We will be using washable paint to add some color to the social hall windows for the month of April. All supplies will be provided. No artistic talent required. Appropriate for all ages, but don't wear your very best clothes. Let's bring a splash of joy and color to our Social Hall!

"Faith in Action - Easter Baskets for our Neighbors" with Julie Boyd in the Social Hall. Please join us in decorating and assembling Easter baskets for the children who attend Easter dinner at the First Presbyterian Church in Johnson City. We will also be making a few more spring wreaths to brighten the doors of our neighbors in the Susquehanna Nursing Home. Let's spread some joy to both young and old - all ages are welcome!

"Coffee and Conversation with the Minister (or ... with a UUCB Leader)" with Rev. Taylor in the Library. Grab a hot beverage and join us in the library to learn a little more about our congregation and ask any questions. This monthly offering is aimed for newcomers, but open to anyone!

PYSANKY FOR PEACE- UKRAINIAN EGG PAINTING WORKSHOP
SATURDAY, APRIL 5 10AM-2PM

Learn the ancient Ukrainian art of "Pysanka" Egg painting, as well as the significance of pre-Christian and Christian Spring Equinox traditions in Ukraine. The workshop is limited to 40 people. The workshop is FREE! Any donations will go towards the Together for Ukraine medical equipment fund for emergency rescue workers in Ukraine.

This event is a potluck showcasing traditional Ukrainian Easter foods. Please bring a dish or beverage to share if you can! This event is open to egg-painters of all ages and experience levels!

The workshop will be held on Saturday, April 5 from 10AM-2PM and is co-sponsored by the UU Pagan Group and Together for Ukraine Foundation, Inc.

The UU REVUE
Our Congregational Talent Show
Saturday, April 5 7pm in the sanctuary

Come out for an evening of great entertainment

Refreshments will follow the show.

A WEEK OF FUN FOR YOUR STUFFED FRIEND!

REGISTRATION AND DROP OFF IS SUNDAY APRIL 13!

Questions?
Dylan Cooke at
dfm@uubinghamton.org

DONATIONS ARE NEEDED FOR THIS EVENT

We are taking donations of plastic fillable easter eggs (used is fine) and candy or other small trinkets that would fit into the eggs.
Donations can be placed into the basket in the fireside lobby.

Also if you would like to help with this party, let Dylan Cooke know at dfm@uubinghamton.org

Spirituality Retreat at Sky Lake

Our annual UU Spirituality Retreat will take place on Saturday, May 10, from 9:30 - 5:00, at Sky Lake Retreat Center in Windsor, NY. This will be a day of fellowship, workshops, music and more, led by Reverend Douglas Taylor for members of UUCB and the Athens and Cortland congregations. In addition to the scheduled program, there will be ample time on your own to hike the wooded trails, enjoy the lake views, or to relax on the porch.

A non-refundable fee of $30.00 covers your lunch and all activities. No one will be turned away because of inability to pay. Those who can afford more and wish to contribute to the good of the cause are invited to add a few extra dollars to your payment.

Car-pooling will be available. If you would like a ride or can provide one, please indicate that on your registration form.

Registration forms can be found onthe bulletin board outside the office at UUCB or a downloadable link will be available soon. The deadline to register is May 1st. This deadline is necessary for the staff at Sky Lake to accommodate our group.

Contact retreat organizers Douglas Taylor or Ann Foard with any questions you have.

Chris Noyes
Saturday April 26 7pm

This is Chris Noyes' first appearance at the Cranberry Coffeehouse. Hailing from the eastern shore of Maryland, she sings original songs, songs about the Chesapeake Bay, traditional Celtic, as well as tunes from the American Songbook – accompanying herself on guitar and ukulele.

The Cranberry Coffeehouse is the longest continuously-running showplace for traditional folk and acoustic music in New York's Southern Tier. We present a wide variety of American music, as well as folk and traditional music from around the world. *The concerts have been hosted at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton church for over 30 years.*

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 meal as a fundraiser for UUCB.

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.

Saturday, April 11 will be **Scalloped Potatoes and ham.**

This will continue to be a general fund fundraiser.

Last Sunday Lunch - April 27
"Charcuterie Board"

On the last Sunday of every month, we have a themed potluck lunch after the service. Bring something to share for our **Charcuterie Board** theme in April. A charcuterie board is a selection of bite-sized cold appetizer foods such as cured meats, cheeses, nuts, dried or fresh fruits, breads, crackers, chocolate, veggies, and more!

Lighting the Way
UUCB 2025

2025-2026 Stewardship Campaign News!

Beloved Congregation,

I am delighted to share some exciting news regarding the progress of our stewardship campaign. Thanks to the generosity and commitment of our dedicated members, we have reached an inspiring milestone. Together, as of 3/26/25, we've raised 37% of our goal after 31% of our campaign duration! That is a testament to our collective faith and dedication to the future of our church community. Your pledges are not just numbers; they are symbols of hope and instruments of purpose, enabling us to enhance our programs, support our outreach initiatives, and maintain our sacred space.

As we continue towards our pledge goal of $265,254, let us maintain this momentum and encourage others to join in. Every contribution, no matter the size, furthers our mission and strengthens our community. Please consider the value that UUCB has in your life. The pledge campaign ends May 1, 2025. Thank you for your unwavering support and for believing in the power of what we can achieve together.

With gratitude,

Tim Wolcott, Stewardship Campaign Chair

Elderwisdom

Sunday, April 13 after the service
Join us in the sanctuary after the service as we learn about the interesting and full life of **Dolores Elliott**. She will be interviewed by **Carol Finch.**

The UUCB Giving Box

Our **Giving Box** is located in the coatroom and it is maintained by Shawn Steketee who also helps get the items to the people who need them most. Thank you Shawn!

Houseless Donations Needed

Cotton Socks
Shorts
Rain Gear (ponchos, umbrellas)
Razors
Shaving cream
Soap
Band-aids
sunscreen
tick repellent/bug spray
ChapStick
Portable snacks
large Ziploc bags
bus passes

Resisting Fascism -
a three-session multi-congregation ZOOM class for adults
(Curriculum by Rev. Monical Dobbins, adapted by Rev. Jo VonRue)

April 8th, April 22nd, May 6th 7-8:30pm

Inspired by Rev. Cecilia Kingman's 2023 Berry Street Essay "My Little Pony Was Right: Fascisms Without and Within", and the popular work of Dr. Jason Stanley and Dr. Timothy Snyder, both of Yale University, this class seeks to help adult students make connections between the rise of fascism and the institution of the church, and develop practical strategies for living a life that resists the habits of mind that allow fascism to take root in society.
Join congregations in Syracuse, Binghamton, Oneonta, Cortland, and Utica in a multi congregation opportunity to resist fascism together.
Registration is required, please contact Teri Coon at office@mmuus.org to register.

CRONE CON 2025

Friday, May 2-Sunday, May 4

Join us for an introspective weekend of wisdom, merriment, and ritual, as we come together to learn about ourselves and each other and reclaim our sovereignty.

Open to women ages 35 and up
Registration info and workshops will be announced soon!
$35-$60 per person sliding fee scale
Scholarships available

Sound Bath, Tarot Readings, Yoga, Crafts, Breath work, and more!

Contact Adee Wilson or Tiffany Hagberg for more info or to register.

Labling Food at UUCB

We have some food allergies in our congregation. Please remember to include a list of ingredients with the food dishes you bring to UUCB, especially if they contain common allergens. There will be paper and pencils available at our events so we can do this.

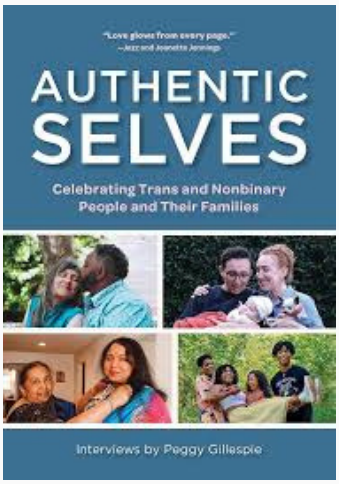
Taking Action!

"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



The UUA Common Read Discussion
"Authentic Selves"
a class led by
Reverend Douglas Taylor

The 2024-25 UU Common Read is Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families (Skinner House, 2023). Through interviews and photo portraits, the subjects of this book invite readers into their real lives--their revelations, challenges, joys, and networks of support. This Common Read invites UU groups to explore the nature of living authentically and the ways connections among us help us thrive.

Using the stories from the book and exercises in the curriculum, the workshops offer and introduction to concepts of gender, exploration of how personal and communal identities are formed, and what it feels like to stand with full authenticity in your body and mind.

Ongoing Events

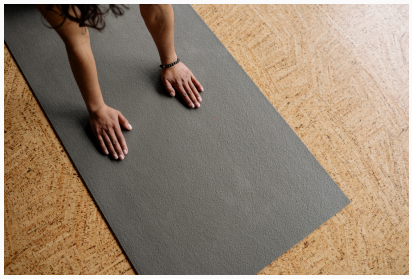
UUCB Community Drum Circle

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9 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 (similiar to Dungeons and Dragons) for ages 12 and up 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.

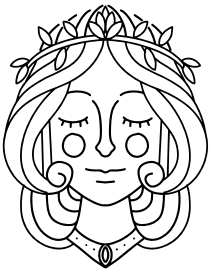
Meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at UUCB from 6-8pm

UUCB Rainbow Alliance

First and third Tuesdays at 6pmin the social hall.
A place where LGBTQI people can be in a safe space with others who understand.

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 ot office@uubinghamton.org



Rise Up and Call Her Name

Furst class is April 3 then–4th Thursdays of each month from 6:30-8:30pm until September 25
Class led by Tiffany Hagberg

Rise Up and Call Her Name is a self-contained 7 session course that weaves together spiritual stories worldwide that honor female divinities. By focusing on artistic and intellectual tools which facilitate self development and personal integration, these stories become relevant and inspiring to the individuals participating. To RSVP or for more information, email Tiffany Hagberg at jadezworld21@gmail.com

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Andru Bemis 4/12
Jesse Bigger 4/17
Lauri McCoy 4/22
Pat Chirumbolo 4/24
Robert Rayne 4/25
Lynne Theophanis 4/29
Douglas Taylor 4/30
Bird Song 4/30

If you aren't on the birthday list and want to be, please contact Karen Manzer at office@uubinghamton.org

What Are You Reading?

You are invited to share what you've been reading in the What Are You Reading and or Listening to This Week?" page and want to recommend to others on the UUCB Facebook page. It's another way of connecting similar interests and finding new sources of ideas among us. I read for enjoyment as well as for learning. Sometimes it's a welcome distraction from the news and other times a means of going deeper into what's happening in the world. I encourage you to check it out! Contact Jan Fiore for more information.

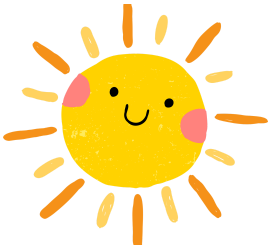
UUCentral East Region of the UUA offers "Learning, Transformation and Community Networking Days: Leading with Love at the Center"

"2025 is calling; how will Unitarian Universalists respond?" An additional scholarship is available from the Leader Development and Resource Committee for this UUA leadership event. The scholarship is available for someone who would like to attend the Central East Region training, either in-person in Syracuse on May 3rd, or streaming on April 5th. For information about the day, see CER Learning, Transformation and Community Networking Days: Leading with Love at the Center | Central East Region | UUA.org or speak with any member of the LDR Committee: Madeleine Cotts, Debby Herman, Pat Kissick or Kathleen McKenna.

Join Alex Compton in the UUCB chapel on the second Saturday of the month at 3:30pm for an LGBTQ film and discussion. Watch for details about April's film.

Strengthening our Democracy

We have recently started a Google Group for UUCB members and friends to trade ideas and information on what we can do to help preserve, and then strengthen, our democracy. If you would like to join the discussion, just send an email request to Wes Ernsberger at wesernsberger@gmail.com



The SUNSHINE CIRCLE makes and sends cards for several occasions—and typically meets on the last Monday of each month from 6 pm to 7:30 pm in the social hall - see you Monday April 28!
We will provide the supplies needed to make the cards but always feel free to bring your own too. All are welcome (interested youth too).

If you would like to add a recipient to our monthly list, learn more or sign up to volunteer, contact Traci Pena at getticklepink2015@gmail.com or (607)779-8910

Easy Ways to Help Folks in Need

Our Houseless outreach workers and the Family Enrichment Network have expressed a need for city bus passes for their communities.

- If you'd like to help these are some ways:
- · Donate to the collection for Family Enrichment Network so they can buy the passes they need for their clients going to a variety of appointments and jobs ($40 for a one month pass) .
- · Donate to a fund that will purchase unlimited day passes ($5) to give to our Outreach workers who will distribute them to the houseless folks.

Joan Hebb and Jan Fiore are coordinating this outreach. You can give either of us cash at any time. There is great need in the community and this will be an ongoing effort to help in a small but significant way

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 the social action HUUB at huub@uubinghamton.org to be on the UUCB social action mailing list.

Friendly Faces Wanted: We are looking for people who can greet visitors one Sunday per month (even less if we get enough volunteers) from 10-10:30am. Let Karen Manzer know at office@uubinghamton.org if you can help with this

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 Sunshine Circle: Meet monthly to craft and create cards to send to folks in our UUCB community. Reach out to Traci Pena at getticklepink2015@gmail.com for more information.

Sunday Morning Welcome Team: Be on hand on Sunday mornings to welcome visitors, show folks were 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, discussion, dance party, movie night? Talk to Douglas Taylor 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.