

THE BEACON



February 2026

UUCB is a progressive, multi faith community of independent thinkers and doers. With over 300 active congregants, our congregation embraces and supports all ages.

We strive to make the world a better place and to reconnect to a life that is rich in meaning and purpose. To fulfill our mission, we are creating an inclusive space that nurtures the mind, inspires the spirit and connects us in care.

Sunday Services at 10:30am

February 1 Embodying Resilience Taylor, Richards, and Cooke

Our theme for February is “Embodying Resilience.” With everything going on in the world and in our hearts, it is important to have resilience! Join us for songs and stories and reflections on how to keep rising.

February 8 “Resilience in Winter” Poetry service Kate Thorpe

February 15 Do We Have Enough Love? Douglas Taylor

In the early 1900's Unitarian theologian James Luther Adams asked if our theology was strong enough to oppose Fascism. He pushed us to dig deep into our beliefs and values, to check our mettle against the needs of the time. Are we equipped any better today?

February 22 Songs of the Civil Rights Douglas Taylor

Harry Belafonte said, “When the movement is strong, the music is strong.” How much of the music from the Civil Rights era has been in your life? Songs like We Shall Overcome, and A Change Is Gonna Come, helped people unify around the values and messages that advanced the movement.

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](tel:607-729-1641) or office@uubinghamton.org

Contact us:

 office@uubinghamton.org

 607-729-1641

 Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton

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183 Riverside Drive, Binghamton, NY 13905

uubinghamton.org

Minister: Reverend Douglas Taylor

Minneapolis Call to Action 2026

This January 2026, I responded to a call from colleagues in Minneapolis to come participate in a gathering of solidarity and resistance against ICE. MARCH (Multifaith Anti-Racism, Change, & Healing) has several Unitarian Universalists in their organizing team and they reached out with this call. I was in MN from Wednesday evening through Saturday morning (Jan 21-24.) I participated in 2 training, 3 community dinners, 4 actions, and several worship gatherings.

I offer particular gratitude to Rev. James Galasinski of UU Canton who was my travel companion and reflection partner throughout the trip. I am grateful to Rev. Oscar Sinclair who was a youth here at UUCB many years back and is now a minister on the ground in MN serving Unity Unitarian Church in St. Paul. I am deeply grateful to our home hospitality hosts Chris and Sarah Greene who opened their home and hearts to us. You may know Chris and Sarah as Carrie Greenstrom's parents!

During my time in Minneapolis, I participated in four different actions. On Thursday, I joined with other clergy to patrol a section of downtown where ICE regularly showed up. We traveled in pairs and wore visible clergy apparel (I wore my yellow stole).

Friday morning I went to the airport to witness and support a protest against Delta Airlines for allowing ICE to fly their immigrant detainees out of the state to detention centers. 100 local interfaith clergy were attested. (Oscar Sinclair was one of them!) They were all released later that day; but the news outlets picked up the story and amplified the message.

I then participated in a 'sing-in' with songs and prayers at the Target store next to their headquarters for their practice of allowing ICE to use Theo parking lots (and several other reasons, but that was primary.)

From there I made my way with a group of colleagues to meet up with the huge march. I was with them for several blocks leading up to the rally at the arena. My group did not attend the rally as we did not all have tickets. We decided to instead stay outside and bless people as they finished the march.

Thank you for all the support and companionship you've shared with me this week. Our presence here has been very appreciated. My work was to show up and witness; and then to bring back the learnings and the message to help activate our community back home. I look forward to what we will do next!

Yours in faith,
Rev. Douglas Taylor

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**Multi-Congregation Book Discussion:
UUA Common Read 2025: Social Change Now: A Guide for Reflection and Connection by Deepa Iyer**

Facilitated by Rev. Darcey Laine and Rev. Douglas Taylor
Wednesday evenings, 2/25 and 3/11 from 6:30-8:00 on Zoom

Social Change Now is a practical guide for those at every stage of their individual and organizational journeys towards justice, equity and solidarity. It introduces an ecosystems framework that includes ten roles that many of us play in service of our social change values. The book includes detailed descriptions and real-world examples, reflection prompts, and accessible tips that can immediately be put into action. This book is a resource that will accompany individuals and organizations not only in times of crisis, but throughout their lifelong social change journeys to build connected communities and equitable systems in our world. RSVP to Rev. Darcey or Rev. Douglas.

Participants can purchase the book and begin reading. The books are available through our UU publisher, or anywhere you buy books. Don't let the cost of the book be a barrier, If you'd like to participate and need a book contact your minister.

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/91095517875?pwd=6o52r2ljTnZ3HaSiahbMpWFMuBNdvY.1>

**Exploring Spiritual Practices (Multi-congregation)
12:30 pm, 3rd Sundays February through May:
February 15, March 15, April 19, May 17
Facilitated by Rev. Laine
In person Athens and on Zoom**

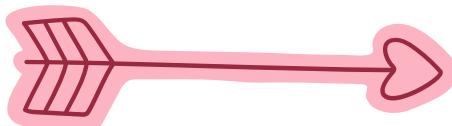


Most people have a spiritual practice, even if they don't know it. Our practices are as diverse as we are. This workshop will give experiential engagement with several different practices, for folks who are curious about exploring new ways of connecting to our deep wise self, with the divine and with the web of life. No experience is necessary. Each session will cover a different practice, attend one or all 4. RSVP to Rev. Laine - minister@uucas.org

UUCB Blessing Box

Our brand new blessing box is out in the front of UUCB near the sidewalk. The Housing team keeps it stocked, but you can help too by bringing in food or hygiene items and putting them in the box anytime. Please avoid putting anything glass or canned during this cold weather.





First Sunday Workshops Sunday, February 1

"Let's Talk About Podcasts" with **Wes Ernsberger** in the Chapel. Since the term was coined back in 2004, there are now over 3 million of them worldwide! What accounts for the amazing popularity of this medium? When do you typically listen to them? What are some of your favorites?

"Faith in Action – Making Valentine Wreaths" with **Julie Boyd** in the Social Hall: All ages are invited to make wreaths to brighten the doors of residents of Good Shepherd Village in Endwell – some of these residents are members and friends of our UUCB community.

"Faith in Action: Valentine's Day Cards for Seniors" with **Pat Chirumbolo and Karen Manzer** in the Social Hall. Let's support Senator Lea Webb's initiative, as she invites community members to create hand-made Valentine's Day cards for nursing home and adult care residents in the Southern Tier. Senator Webb's office will distribute the cards before the holiday. All ages are welcome to help spread joy to seniors across the district.

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



Looking for friendly faces!
Would you like to help greet
visitors on Sunday
mornings? Talk to Carl
Cohen



Mike Agranoff

Saturday February 21
7pm
(Doors open at 6:30pm)

Mike Agranoff is one of those folk performers that steadfastly defies categorization, and yet amasses stalwart fans from folk aficionados of all categories.

\$15 at the door

Refreshments are sold at intermission as a fundraiser for the church.

Elderwisdom Sunday, Feb. 15 at noon

Longtime congregant Carol Finch will be interviewed. Join us as we learn about the life of this amazing woman



Surprise your Valentine with the Gift of the UU Weekend at Silver Bay!

Valentine's Day is right around the corner. Here's a great gift idea for those you love! Gift all or part of the cost of the registration for UU Weekend at Silver Bay. Your family and friends will love it!

This eagerly awaited highlight of the fall season will take place from October 9 to 11, 2026 (with an option of extending your stay until October 12th.)

Register now! The 2026 registration form and the schedule of events from the 2025 weekend are available on the Albany UU web site at

<https://albanyuu.org/blog/uu-silver-bay-weekend/>

Completed forms received by June 7, 2026 qualify for an "early bird" discount. Children under 6 are free, with substantial discounts for older children and youth. Rooms are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis when a completed registration form and deposit are received.

Note: Please consider making a donation when you register to make sure those with financial limitations are able to attend.



It's Chili Cook-off time again! Make a chili to enter into the competition, or bring some cornbread or a dessert to share! We will taste and vote on our favorite chili – the winner gets a prize!

Watch for opportunities to sign up online soon!

Ongoing UUCB Events



Free Yoga in the social hall with Dacia: Thursdays 5pm-6:15pm

UU Pagans: Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 6-8pm in the chapel Contact: Adee Wilson just80w@gmail.com.

LGBTQ Social group: Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month in the social hall from 6-8pm. Contact uucb-rainbow@googlegroups.com.

Role-Playing Tabletop Games with Peter Steketee: Saturdays from 4pm-7pm in the RE Classroom. More info: stek@aol.com

BIG CHANGES FOR DINING FOR DOLLARS 2026!

It's that time of year again – we're looking for hosts for Dining for Dollars events for the coming year. This year's program will be quite different from previous years – sure to be much simpler and less confusing!

Instead of offering events as auction items requiring bids, there will be a set price for each event and we will simply let people sign up until the maximum number of guests has been reached – first come, first served.

Descriptions of the offerings and the date of posting will be publicized well in advance. We will also request payment at the time of sign-up, making the collection of fees much more straight-forward.

So, if you have enjoyed hosting or attending D4\$ events in the past, or would like to try it for the first time, please consider hosting a dinner, cocktail party, movie night, picnic, craft workshop, guided hike or any other fun social activity you can think of – in your home, at the church, at a park – let your imagination be your guide!

It's a wonderful, fun way to support the congregation and its mission, while socializing with your friends at UUCB. Please note that the posted cost of an event goes entirely to the church – hosts who would like to be partially reimbursed for supplies need to request that guests bring a separate donation to the event.

Contact Debby Herman any time for more information, but by February 8 if you'd like to host an event.

This Year's Social Justice Focus

The Housing Crisis in our Community



Housing Focus Updates

Tuesday Night Homeless Outreach conducted by local community organizers continues to see many people in need each week. The need is amplified by the sub-zero temperatures. Some organizers have gone out on extra nights with hot drinks, hand warmers, and emergency blankets, even taking them down to encampments on the riverbank. The team runs out of gloves almost every week and last Tuesday they were handing out socks as hand coverings, until they also ran out of socks.

UUCB Giving Box collects supplies for this outreach. They are currently running low on many of the supplies and appreciate any help that can be offered. Please take a look at the [wish list](#) for information on what is needed. You can order directly from the list or use it as inspiration for things you have at home or want to buy locally.

UUCB members & staff participated in the first two meetings of the Coalition of Congregations in Binghamton (CCB), initiated by Christ Episcopal Church. This interfaith group is in its infancy stage, working on coalition building, meeting one another, and getting to know how the various congregations serve the unhoused community. Here is a [Press & Sun article](#) on the [Coalition of Congregations in Binghamton \(CCB\)](#).

As a direct result of coalition building, Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church made a donation of \$500 to benefit the bus pass program. Half of the bus passes purchased will be given to Family Enrichment and the other half will be distributed through Street Outreach.

The "Friends In Need Blessing Box" has been installed in front of UUCB since November. As soon as it is stocked, items are used. Donations of non-perishable items and hygiene items are greatly appreciated. They can be placed directly in the box or if overflowing, stored on the bottom shelf in the kitchen. Please NO cans or glass during these frigid temps.

Leadership of Southern Door Community Land Trust (SDCLT) has had some health concerns, which has slowed our collaboration. Look for further details in the coming months.



YOUR ONLINE SOURCE FOR UUCB SHIRTS, MUGS, AND MORE!

COOL UUCB
MERCH!



Youth Group is Back!

Ever since the pandemic, UUCB has struggled with attracting enough teenagers to support a youth group. However, we now have a solid youth group program for 14-18 years old (19 if still in high school) that meets every Sunday from Noon-1pm. We are currently planning our next "lock-in" running from the evening of Feb 13 to the morning of Feb 14. Our youth group program is youth-led under the guidance of advisors. It is an intentional community that strives to promote community building, leadership, youth-adult relations, social action, education, and worship based on UU values and principles. If you have a youth in your life that would benefit from being part of an accepting and supportive community, please encourage them to attend. Their family does not need to be UUCB members. Please contact Dylan Cooke- Director of Family Ministry (dylancookeuucb@gmail.com) or one of the advisors (Tracy Hollands (tlhollands22@gmail.com), Kathleen Cooke (mkdcooke@aol.com)) for more information.