

THE BEACON



March 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

March 1

Zen Tales

Emily Richards CRE

Stories from the Buddhist tradition, often called zen tales, are filled with wisdom that continues to be relevant in our modern lives. We will explore lessons of mindfulness and paying attention in this all-ages worship service.

March 8

Know, and Be Not Still

Douglas Taylor

Psalm 46:10 tells us, 'Be still and know that I am God.' Many Jews and Christians take great comfort in this psalm. The advice is sound. It is good to stop and refocus when things are hard. And after the stillness, after the knowing, what's next?

March 15

Guest Minister

Art Suggs

March 22

The Rejected Stone

Douglas Taylor

In Ecclesiastes we hear that the stone the builders rejected is the stone God uses as the capstone. This metaphor is repeated many times in scripture. Who are the rejected among us today? How do we move the margins to the center?

March 29

The Modern Abolition Movement

Douglas Taylor

Welcome to our annual Social Justice Sunday. There is a proposal in our theological circles about abolishing our incarceration system. What might that look like? What is our theology of sin and redemption? How might we promote a society in which everyone has "the right to flourish with dignity, love, and compassion"?

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

Contact us:

 office@uubinghamton.org

 607-729-1641

 Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton
183 Riverside Drive, Binghamton, NY 13905
uubinghamton.org

Minister: Reverend Douglas Taylor



For the Good of All Workshop

March 22 from noon – 1:30 pm.

Dr. David Currie, Ph.D. will be speaking with us in a workshop after service

You may want to read his book beforehand, *For the Good Of All Now!* There is also an excellent website:

<https://forthegoodofallnow.org> to support the path to action.

Humanity stands at the crossroads. What will we choose? *For the Good of All, NOW!* is a guide for embracing connection, oneness, and community.

David Currie addresses many of the different challenges facing humanity today, as well as outlining why the current political systems are failing us. Using candor and historical events, David demonstrates what we need to do to create meaningful change through a deeper understanding of the symbiotic relationship that we have with each other and the planet we call home. David shares insightful tips on how to contribute to meaningful change through Circle, as well as sharing practical steps we can all take to help move the world in a new direction. *For the Good of All, NOW!* strikes at the philosophy that individualism is the best path forward and argues for recognizing the oneness that binds us all. This is not another environmental book about recycling. This is about a movement that can change how we live as a society and how we interact with each other and our environment. *For the Good of All, NOW!* asks us to open up to the possibilities of building a different world focused on caring, connection, and the good of all!

Dining for Dollars Events 2026

Sign up, first come/first served on March 8 and 15!

PLEASE NOTE, WE ARE USING A NEW FORMAT THIS YEAR

- 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, with further sign-ups on a wait list – first come, first served.
- There will be a staffed table in the Social Hall following services on March 8 and March 15, with descriptions and sign-up sheets for all events.
- We will request payment at the time of sign-up. You may pay using cash, check, credit card, or via PayPal on our website.
- Sign-up is in-person only – if you are not able to be in church on March 8 or 15, you may ask a friend to sign up and pay for you.
- If the cost of the events is prohibitive, a limited number of free spots are available for some events.

Contact Debby Herman or Tammy Nist. Listing of events are available at UUCB. See the listing of events on the following page.

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1. Christmas in July Gingerbread House Making Party!

Beat the heat with some holiday cheer! Join Pat Chirumbolo and Karen Manzer for a creative night of gingerbread house making... in July! Perfect for friends, families, and anyone who believes Christmas joy doesn't need snow.

Date: July 10 Location: UUCB Cafe Time: 6:30 PM Spots Available: 10 Cost: \$15.00 per person What's Included: Gingerbread house kit Icing and decorations Delicious Dinner A sweet creation to take home

2. Cocktails and Hors D'oeuvres with Andrea Palmeri and Romney White. Maximum 8 guests, Cost \$40. Date TBD, will be decided once attendees are identified in order to choose a mutually convenient time. Come enjoy good wine, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres with Andrea and Romney at their home in Endwell.

3. Soup-er Game Night, hosted by Vicky Gordon, Jan Fiore, Karen Manzer and Moe Manzer. Saturday, April 4 at 5:00 pm at Jan and Vicky's Binghamton home. 10 guests, cost is \$20. Join us for a wonderful dinner of several delectable soups, salad, bread and Jan's famous pies. This will be followed by some fun, no pressure group games led by Karen Manzer.

4. Brisket & Beyond: A Jewish Culinary Experience Hosted by Carl Cohen and Judy Osburn at their home. Saturday, June 6 at 5:30 pm. 10 guests, \$30. You are cordially invited to an intimate dinner celebrating the rich flavors of Jewish tradition. The menu features classic staples, including savory Chicken Matzoh Ball Soup and a melt-in-your-mouth Beef Brisket. It's an evening of fine food and even better company, all in support of the UUCB.

5. Dinner and a Show with Amoreena Wade and Douglas Taylor at UUCB. Date TBD - late Nov or early Dec. 30 guests, \$35. Enjoy a warm dinner followed by a Readers Theater style presentation by Douglas and Amoreena. This year's play has a holiday theme with a modern twist.

6. Plant - Based Korean Barbecue Lunch & Learn. Hosted by Gerri Wiley and Wes Ernsberger. Saturday, April 11th from 12:00 noon – 2:00 PM at UUCB. 10 guests, cost \$20.00. Enjoy lunch and learn tips and tricks to make easy-to-prepare, tasty, low-cost Whole Food Plant-Based (WFPB) meals. You will go home with the Korean Barbecue recipe and an 8 oz. bag of organic soy curls.

7. An Evening at Kate's Speakeasily, hosted by Kate Thorpe at her Johnson City home. \$20, Maximum 25 guests. 6:30pm -9:00 pm, Date TBD but likely to be a Friday evening in July or August - and weather dependent as we will be hosting you outside., Spend an evening in good company and with good cocktails (both alcoholic and Non-Alcoholic) and lovely hors d'oeuvres. Under 21s are welcome (we will have juices, sodas and appropriate yummy fancy drinks for all ages. If you look younger than 30 and wish an alcoholic drink - you will need to show ID.

8. "Chopped - UUCB Edition" hosted by Jeff Deacon and Heather Kirkland. June 27, 4 pm at UUCB. Cost is \$35 to the church, \$15 to Jeff to support the "Chopped" pantry -both payable at the time of sign-up. Based on the Food Network's popular reality-based cooking TV game show series "Chopped". Show off your culinary skill on a Chef team, serve as guest judge or be in the audience to enjoy the live action and the food! Beer, wine, soft drinks, a light meal and 6 tastings of contestants' creations are included.

9. Musical Cabaret and Dessert hosted by Lynne and Lily Theophannis at UUCB. ADD DATE AND TIME ___ 40 guests, \$25. Enjoy a relaxing evening of delicious desserts and wonderful music provided by Lily and friends!

Welcome Our New Members!



Joey Hanson (they/them)

Joey relocated from Loveland, CO to the Binghamton area in 2024. As a youth, they attended a UU congregation that was formative to their worldview, emphasizing love and peace.

While listening to a podcast featuring Rainn Wilson, they heard a clear message of needing to be part of an in-person community. This sparked a conversation with their partner Sammi and their coming to the New to UU event in November 2025.

Joey enjoys crocheting, digital and film photography, and spending time in nature and looks forward to continuing their journey to finding community here. Welcome, Joey!



Sammi Burnley (they/them)

Sammi is from the area, lived in Colorado for a while and moved back to Binghamton in 2024. Sammi grew up without organized religion and was hesitant to attend as an adult. However, the New to UU event and subsequent Sunday Workshop, Chats with the Minister, alleviated their concerns.

Sammi spends their time doing various fiber arts including knitting, sewing, crochet, spinning yarn, and weaving (often accompanied by their furry friends). They love being in nature and also enjoy being active in their community and volunteering for events like The Philadelphia Folk Festival. Let's extend a warm welcome to Sammi!



Stacy Allen (she/her)

Originally from Long Island, Stacy lived in the area for 20 years, moved away for a few years and has been back in the area since October 2025. She has been a professional Sign Language interpreter for 30 years and has been shifting to a new career involving forest therapy.

Stacy grew up in a Catholic & Jewish household. As a teen, she began a spiritual exploration journey, tasting many spiritual paths. In 2018, she experienced the "dark night of the soul" and subsequently found her people. Stacy relocated back to Binghamton specifically for the large Pagan community and is very excited to be involved in the UU Pagan group and activities.

In her free time, Stacy enjoys hiking, cycling, creating art, communing with nature and all natural beings, and developing her intuitive skills. Welcome, Stacy!



Christina Greenmun (she/her)

Christina has been in the Binghamton area for almost 25 years after growing up in Connecticut in the Baptist faith. After leaving that faith tradition, she began a spiritual journey which has landed her as an active member of UUCB's CUUPS community and a practicing Neopagan.

Christina enjoys music, hiking, reading and art. Be sure to welcome Christina!



Let it Be a Dance

Stewardship Celebration Tea Dance

March 21st from 2-4PM

UUCB Sanctuary & Social Hall

Let's celebrate the 2026-2027 Stewardship Campaign, Be the Way!

- 
- Try English Country Dancing (think Bridgerton) with musical guests "Shepherd & Ewe" and calling from Hilton Baxter.
 - Enjoy a British-style Tea with varied refreshments.
 - Wear "something you need an excuse to wear".
 - We will have a special guest, games, and photo ops!

[RSVP on FB to help us plan :](#)



**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=6052r2ljTnZ3HaSiahbMpWFMuBNdvY.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.

Save the date for our annual Multi Congregation Spirituality retreat

Sky Lake Retreat Center in Windsor, NY
<https://skylakecenter.org/>
Saturday, May 9
Facilitated by Rev. Darcey and Rev. Douglas
and other special guests
Join new and old friends from the
Binghamton, Athens and Cortland
congregations in a day of rest, renewal and
exploration.



1st Sunday Workshops for March 1st

"Life on the Mobius Strip" with Ann Foard in the RE classrooms. A mobius strip is a fascinating geometric object with no inside or outside, no beginning or end. In this workshop we will make mobius strips and consider how they can function as a metaphor for the relationship between our inner and outer lives.

"Building Healthy Relations at UUCB" with the HeaRT team in the Rainbow Room. The members of the Healthy Relations Team are presenting a workshop to help members understand how we can be helpful to anyone experiencing conflict in the congregation. We will use scenarios and discussion to explore the UUCB conflict resolution policy.

"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 families who participate in the "Friends In Need Blessing Boxes" program. All ages are welcome! "Art as Resistance: Many Hands, Many Voices Pennant Making" with Emily Hotchkiss-Plowe & Anna Warfield in the Chapel. Hear from local artist and activist, Anna Warfield, about some of the history and power behind art as a form of resistance. After their brief talk, we will be making pennants to contribute to MindMakers NY and Church in the Wild's Many Hands, Many Voices Project. Some of the materials used for this project are supplied by Broome Creative Reuse.

Many Hands, Many Voices: "Art has always been a tool for standing up to injustice. We invite our community to help create a collective banner – many hands, many voices – grounded in care, dignity, and opposition to fascism, and affirming our shared humanity. Each contribution becomes part of the larger whole, growing into a banner long enough to represent 'miles of resistance' for public viewing."

"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!



We are always looking for ideas for first Sunday workshops – especially workshops that are good for all ages. If you would like to lead a workshop or have an idea about something you would like to see, let Debby Herman know at deborah.a.herman@gmail.com



Come to Silver Bay this Year!

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.

There is no Last Sunday Lunch in March because we are having our Stewardship Celebration Tea and Dance on March 21.



Join us for our 2026 Stuffedie Sleepover Camp!

Sunday March 29th, all ages are encouraged to bring their Stuffedie friends for a week full of fun. Following drop off, check social media daily to see what the Stuffedies are getting up to throughout the week. The tired happy Stuffedies will be ready to be picked up after service on Easter Sunday April 5th. Stuffedies who stay during the Easter service will have a role to play in the service!

UUCB Youth Group

Our youth group is for teenagers and is a great place for them to hang out with other like-minded people in a welcoming environment.

You do not have to be a member or even attend UUCB for your teen to participate.

If you know of a teen who may be interested in being a part of the UUCB youth group, let Tracy know at thollands22@gmail.com

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 just8ow@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 Stekete: Saturdays from 4pm-7pm in the RE Classroom. More info: stek@aol.com



Hiroya Tsukamoto
Saturday March 21 2026
7pm

The Cranberry Coffeehouse is delighted to welcome back guitarist and singer-songwriter Hiroya Tsukamoto, two-time 2nd place winner of International Fingerstyle Guitar Championship. Hiroya began playing the five-string banjo when he was thirteen, and took up guitar shortly after. Originally from Japan, Hiroya came to the United States in 2000 upon receiving a scholarship to the Berklee College of Music.

\$15 at the door

Refreshments are sold during intermission and proceeds benefits UUCB.

An advertisement for the UUCB online store. At the top left is the logo for Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton. The text reads "YOUR ONLINE SOURCE FOR UUCB SHIRTS, MUGS, AND MORE!". A yellow starburst contains the text "COOL UUCB MERCH!". To the right is a QR code. Below these are illustrations of various merchandise: a pink t-shirt with "LOVER of Human Rights", a yellow mug, a blue hoodie with "YOU BELONG", a blue t-shirt with "You Belong", a blue mug with "YOU BELONG", and a green t-shirt with hearts.

UUCB online store
is open for business!

Get your UUCB shirts, mugs, and more at our UUCB online store. Scan the QR code, or visit the website at <https://shopuubinghamton.printify.me/>

There are new styles being added all the time. If you have an idea for a graphic, let Karen Manzer know.