



# THE BEACON

April 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

**April 5**

**Easter's Women**

**Taylor and Cooke**

Join us for one of our favorite multigenerational services of the year. All ages will be together in the sanctuary for stories, music and more to celebrate the Spring season! This year, we listen to the women, the first witnesses!

**April 12**

**We Belong to Each Other**

**Emily Richards CRE**

Douglas Steere, a Quaker teacher, says that the ancient question, "Who am I?" inevitably leads to a deeper one, "Whose am I?" To whom do we belong? And what do we owe to ourselves and one another in recognizing the interdependence of our existence? Emily Richards

**April 19**

**Jo VonRue**

Together we honor the enduring spirit of women who refused to be silent or diminished. Drawing on the poetry of Ada Limón and Audre Lorde, we explore what we owe to those who came before us and to the girls still fighting for their lives today. International Women's Day is March 8th, but every day is a good day to remember how powerful you already are.

**April 26**

**How to Adult**

**Douglas Taylor**


"Adulthood" has become a more complicated challenge for emerging generations. You may disagree with that assessment, but I'm not interested in setting this up as a competition. Instead, let's consider the tasks of being an adult of any age given our current reality


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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)

### Contact us:

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

 607-729-1641

 Unitarian Universalist Congregation of  
Binghamton

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton  
183 Riverside Drive, Binghamton, NY 13905  
[uubinghamton.org](http://uubinghamton.org)

**Minister:** Reverend Douglas Taylor

# Easter Sunday

**Easter Sunday April 5**

**Easter Sunday Service**

Easter Sunday Service 10:30am in the sanctuary.  
All ages will participate in this celebration of  
the season with music, stories and more!

**Flower Pick Up**

If you purchased Easter flowers remember to take  
them from the focal point in the sanctuary after the  
service so you can enjoy them.

**Stuffie Sleepover Camp Pick-up**

Your friend has missed you and has so many stories  
to share about their week at camp!

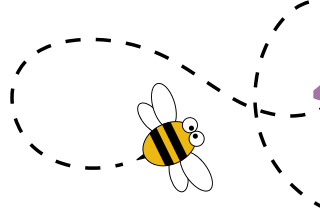
**Easter Sunday Social Hour**

Bring a treat to share and gather in the social hall  
where we will have new babies visiting from  
Manzer's farm and Easter cookies to decorate.

**Easter Egg Hunt**

Everyone is welcome to look for Easter eggs outside.  
Remember to dress for the weather.





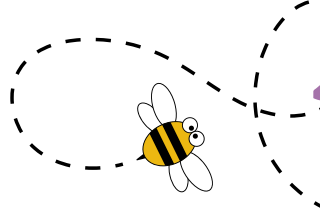
## Stewardship Campaign Update

Thanks to everyone who attended our Let it Be a Dance Party on March 21st. Great music, fun dancing, delicious food and drink were enjoyed by dancers and spectators alike. A special thank you to the organizing committee: Emily Hotchkiss-Plowe, Pat Chirumbolo and Traci Pena, as well as our fabulous musicians - Lee & Julian Shepherd and Allen Lutins, aka The Playford Gang.

We are well on our way to a successful stewardship campaign with \$196,721 pledged to date toward our \$276,579 goal, but we have a ways to go. If you haven't yet turned in your pledge card, please take some time to consider the role UUCB plays in your life and then fill out your card and return it to the church ASAP.



We had so much fun at our Stewardship Celebration Tea Dance!



## Stewardship Campaign Update

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**Worship Committee Is Looking  
for People with Something to  
Say!**

Here at UUCB, we have the privilege to offer our own, lay-led services during the summer. From July 5th through September 6, you have the opportunity to craft a service on a topic of your choice. Worship Committee stands ready to help with details, but it is your chance to offer the congregation a piece of yourself -your heart, your mind, your spirit – YOU. If you think you might have something to share, please contact in person or by email, Kate Thorpe (kthorpe99@hotmail.com), or Hope Post (hope8156@gmail.com) or Douglas (dtaylor@uubinghamton.org).

You Are Invited...

Are you new to Unitarian Universalism?  
Or maybe you are simply looking for  
more connections.

**Try our ABC Soul Matters Small  
Group Ministry**

Becca Boerger and Rev. Douglas Taylor  
facilitate the group on Zoom 3rd  
Wesnesdays of the month  
6:30pm-8:00pm (September-May)  
We are always accepting new members.  
Contact Reverend Taylor at  
dtaylor@uubinghamton.org for the  
Zoom link.



**We are Having a  
community Earth  
Day Event!  
Sat. April 18**



Would you be willing to help us make the UUCB Spring to Spring/Earth Day event special? We love celebrating Spring and Earth Day because it reflects so many of our shared values. It's also a wonderful opportunity to highlight the people and groups in our congregation and community who care about nature and our planet—while having fun, building connections, and learning together.

The 2026 Earth Day theme is Our Power, Our Planet. We would like to register our event on the official Earth Day website; however, we need to make sure that everything is in place before opening it to the public.

I've added the few stations I know about on a SignUpGenius based on our conversations—there are still plenty of open spots. Feel free to jump in or add/edit your ideas. I have also reached out to the Broome County Conservation District and the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County and will keep you posted if I hear back from them. If you have any additional ideas on who else we could reach out to, please let me know.

Thank you so much, again—we're excited to do  
this together!

With Kindness and Gratitude,  
Monika Fridrich

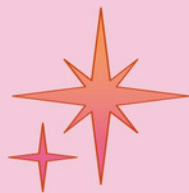
UUCB SOCIAL ACTION HUUB and Reverend  
Douglas Taylor Invite you to

# An Important Conversation

## *About Abolition*



Led by **Catherine Magdala and  
Alex Compton** we'll explore  
Mariam Kaba's  
**We Do This 'Til We Free Us**  
through a presentation, followed  
by discussion and application.

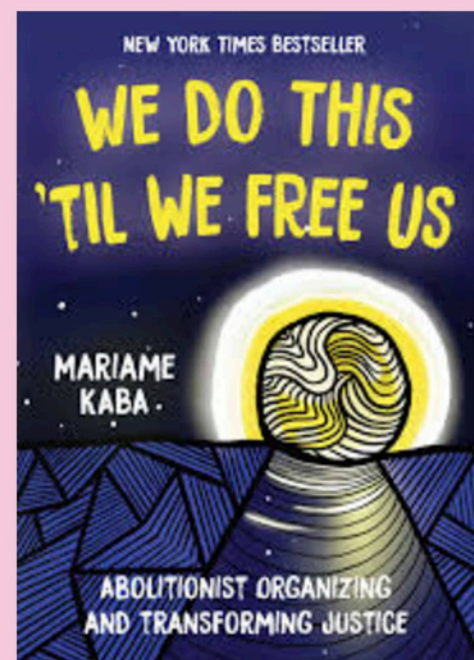


**Sunday, April 12**  
**12:15-2:15 pm at UUCB**

Please RSVP and request  
childcare at  
[huub@uubinghamton.org](mailto:huub@uubinghamton.org).

You do not need to read the book  
to be part of the conversation.

**Refreshments will be provided.**



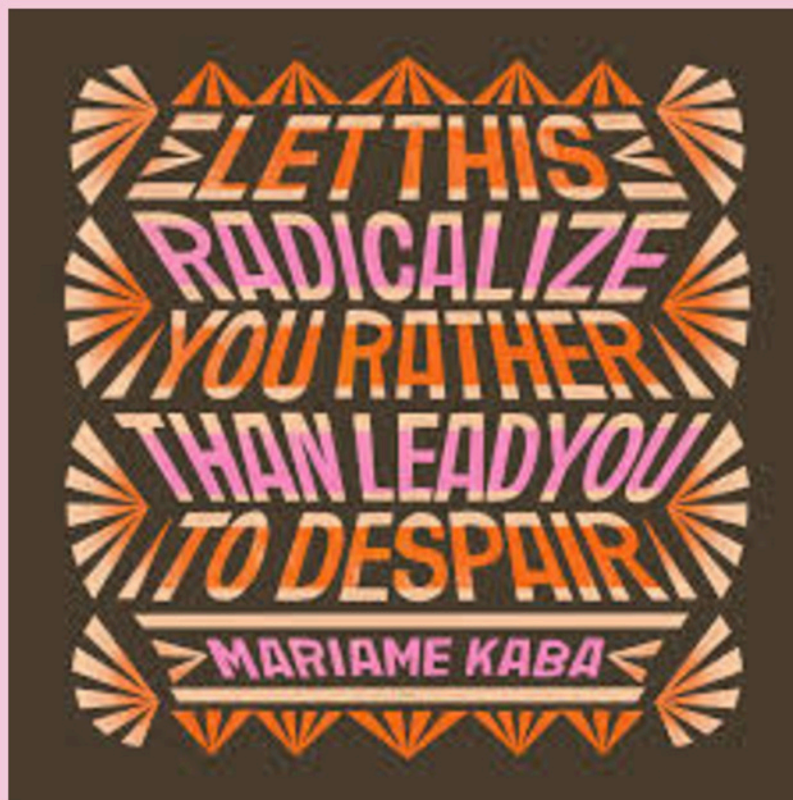


## What's Abolition? Why Abolition?

“Abolition is a holistic approach to systemic social change that includes, but is not limited to: the abolition of slavery; replacing systems and cultures of violence, coercion and control with transformative justice and relational practices; and dismantling the prison-industrial complex as we now know it.

It requires the transformation of our society and the replacement of theologies of retributive justice and violence.”

-UUA 2025 Congregational Study/Action Issue: Abolition, Transformation, and Faith Formation





**Luncheon For Vicky Gordon:** We hope you will join us in celebrating Vicky Gordon's 45 years as our beloved music director, during the service on Sunday, April 26, followed by a catered lunch in the Social Hall. All are invited as guests of UUCB.

**Save the date for our annual**

**Multi Congregation Spirituality retreat**

Sky Lake Retreat Center in Windsor, NY

**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.

More info to come about registration, etc.

**Renewed in Joy!**

**A World Laughter Day–Tea Party** with a  
renewal focus: a joyfull, refreshing  
combination of community healing, spiritual  
uplift, and a bit of whimsy!

A true recipe for an unforgettable event!

Catered by @The Happy Squirrel

Teas by @Blue Moon Apothecary

Saturday, May 2 at UUCB

Doors open at 2 pm

These will go fast, so don't wait!!!!

Tickets on sale until sold out.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/198563581417-2?aff=oddtcreator>

(You are not considered reserved until  
payment is made)

**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

# Welcome Our New Members!

## **Tracy Suggs (she/her)**



Having lived on the West Side for 35 years, the UU congregation has always been visible and neighborly to her. She was moved to action with the political and social changes becoming so virulent. At UU, Tracy has found a message that is both realistic, inspiring, expanding and action driven, along with a congregation of engaged seekers. The congregation has widened my mental and experiential edges, for which she is thankful.

Tracy recently retired from 30 years teaching IB and AP Chemistry at Vestal High School, preceded by Middle School Science instruction. (Both of which she thoroughly loved!) Now she enjoys being retired and choosing when to work as a writer and editor in Albany at State Ed on the new Regents Chemistry Exams. She enjoys people, travel and reading of all types. She especially enjoy my husband and marriage of almost 50 years. Say hello to Tracy!

## **Arthur (Art) Suggs (he/him)**



Art is a retired clergy person, having served four churches over the course of 35 years. His two main professional interests have always been the dialogue between religions, and the dialogue more generally between religion and Science. His understanding of divinity is more closely linked to the quantum field than anything else. This of course proved challenging to many of his parishioners over the years. However, such views explain his affinity to Unitarian Universalism. The UU's openness to Science, to insights from other faiths, as well as their moral center, makes this happily his church home.

Both Tracy and Art are from Indiana. They met in a chemistry lab at Purdue. They then settled in scenic Binghamton 36 years ago, having lived a few blocks from the church for the entire time. They have two successfully launched children, both of whom live in North Carolina.

He enjoy tennis, travel, fishing, home repair, guest preaching, and good conversation. Welcome, Art!

## **Toni Rorapaugh (she/her)**



Toni is a retired public librarian; she worked in Albany at the NY State Library and in other public libraries from Long Island to Hornell, with stops in Binghamton and Vestal. She is a second-generation Italian-American from Long Island, born in Jamaica, Queens.

Toni's religious journey is, let's say, "checkered." She has been both sprinkled and dunked, and has attended services in a number of different Christian churches as well as a few synagogues. Toni has always been a liberal, if not rational. She enjoys hearing from clergy who can bring original ideas to their sermons. She supports women's rights, the right to read, and the rule of law.

Toni is a reader of both fiction and non-fiction. She loves to sing, especially in UUCB's great choir, and in the car! Toni goes to the gym occasionally, and is re-learning to play the clarinet. Glad to have you, Toni!



### **Martin (Mart) Rorapaugh (he/him)**

Mart was born in Norwich and moved to Vestal in 1943. He and Toni live in the house his parents bought in 1950. Mart is a retired mathematics teacher; his last 23 years were in the Vestal Central School District. From 1965 to 1967, Mart served in the Peace Corps in Colombia, where he produced and directed programs in the natural sciences for the Colombian Educational Television Network.

His religious journey amounts to these tenets: 1) Do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God; 2) Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. These tenets seem to align with Unitarian-Universalism.

Gardening of both flowers and vegetables is a major hobby of Marty's. He also enjoys listening to music of the 1920s through the '50s. Extend a warm welcome, to Mart!

## **Reining in the Reptile: Reducing Reactivity in Conflict Saturday, May 2 10:00 to noon**

Healthy conflict—exploring diverse opinions and viewpoints—leads to better decisions, with fewer mistakes or unintended consequences. So why is it so difficult? In this workshop, we will look at the way our “reptile brain” can lead us to react to differences with a threat response (often described as fight, flight, freeze or fawn). The good news is that we have also identified strategies for responding in more constructive ways. Come join us and learn more.

Refreshments will be provided

## **First Sunday Workshops 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

Fellowship 12:15–12:45

## **There are no First Sunday Workshops on Easter Sunday**

*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](mailto:deborah.a.herman@gmail.com)*

## **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](mailto:thollands22@gmail.com)

## **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.

## **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.

## **Reap What You Sow, Don't Lose Heart! a play in 2 acts Saturday, May 2, at 2pm**

A mother's military past collides with her daughter's growing doubt about war and patriotism, igniting a debate about A staged reading followed by a facilitated talkback

Written by Jack Gilroy & Zool Zulkowitz  
Directed by Narani O'Shaughnessy  
For more information visit us on the web at:  
<https://risingtogether.theater/>  
or visit us on Facebook and Instagram

<https://www.facebook.com/risingtogether.theater>  
<https://www.instagram.com/risingtogether.theater>

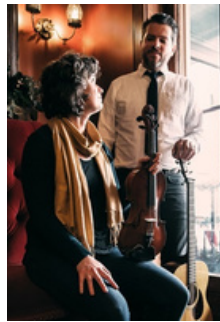
## Ongoing UUCB Events

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



**Drank the Gold**  
**Saturday April 18**  
**7pm**

\$15.00 at the door

Drank the Gold are Oona Grady (fiddle/viola/vocals) and James Gascoyne (guitar/banjo/vocals), who play and sing North Atlantic dance tunes and folk songs.

Steeped in Irish music for as far back as she can remember, Oona spent many years living in Cork, Ireland, where she honed her skills as a fiddle player and Irish music specialist. Upon moving back to her hometown of Ithaca, NY, Oona immersed herself in the local traditional music scene and incorporated old time and Cajun tunes into her repertoire.

Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of Binghamton

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MERCH!

YOU BELONG

YOU BELONG

YOU BELONG

**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.