

THE BEACON

May 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

May 3 **“Awakening Curiosity”** **Taylor, Richards, and Cooke**

We are a curious people. Join this morning for story and song as we explore our curiosity in community! Our “First Sunday” structure includes workshops following the service for all ages!

May 10 **“How Simple Is It?”** **Joe Cleveland**

Join UU minister and musician Rev. Joe for an exploration of the complexities of what Unitarian Universalists believe with the help of the song “(Ours Is a) Simple Faith” by David Tamulevich.

Rev. Joseph Cleveland is a banjo player, peanut butter and jelly sandwich maker, and Doctor Who fanatic from Minnesota who's made Central New York his home. After a brief ministry in central Michigan, he served the UU Congregation of Saratoga Springs, NY, for more than ten years. Trained in both science and literature as well as religion, Rev. Joe is fascinated by how we can find wonder and create meaning in our lives through music, ritual, and story. Rev. Joe is the spouse of Kristin, a UU Membership Professional, and they live in Liverpool, NY.

May 17 **“Not a Handout, not a Payoff, not a Bribe”** **Douglas Taylor**

The topic of reparations still seems loaded with inaccurate assumptions despite years of public discourse. Justice and repair remain very difficult topics to approach when everyone just wants to forget what happened – especially from a systemic perspective.


May 24 **“Women’s Day”** **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. Also, this Sunday we will hold our annual Flower Ceremony. Bring a flower to share.

May 31 **“Is This a Gay Church?”** **Douglas Taylor**

Our congregation is publicly pro-LGBTQ+ and we are not exactly a ‘gay church’ but we also kind of are a ‘gay church.’ We are not a space exclusively for LGBTQ+ people, but we are a space that leans into the values of many LGBTQ+ spaces such as being judgement-free, encouraging authentic expression, and embracing many ways to be a family.

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

Celebration of 45 Years with Our Music Director was a Hit!

So many people helped to make Vicky's party on April 26th such a wonderful, memorable event! Jean Rose-Klein, Pat Chirumbolo and I are grateful for everyone's contributions, and we want to try and thank you all. Apologies to any of you who aren't on this list, but know that you were appreciated!

Lindsey and Dan Williams, Lily Woughter, Ginny Quackenbush, Wes Ernsberger, Ron Clupper, Dacia Legge, Jean Rose-Klein, and Katie Replogle (from the Athens-Sheshequin UU church) provided the special music during the service. Pat provided the decorations and flowers and she also put together the memory book for Vicky. Jean solicited input for the memory book and organized the catering, provided by her talented chef/son Daniel Klein. Karen Manzer designed and printed the programs and made the "piano" cake.

Our cookie bakers were Karen Manzer, Nancy Lee, Kyla Potvin, Lee Shepherd, Shawn Steketee, Leah Struck, Kathleen McKenna, Kathleen Cooke, Pat Kissick, Dorothy Haverly, Ann Foard, Sondra Pruden, Ginny Quackenbush, and Carol Finch. Tim Wolcott, Irwin Cohen, Ron Clupper, Nancy Lee, and Carol Finch helped us with set-up on Saturday. Many people jumped in and helped with clean-up, including Scott Clarke, Blake Schmutz, Wes Ernsberger, Gerri Wiley, Ben and Camille Plowe, Ron and Pat Kissick, Leah Struck, Liz Herman, Suzanne Sullivan, Pat Chirumbolo, Ann Foard, Ron Clupper and Jean Rose-Klein (the last 3 of whom stayed till the bitter end!). Several members of our youth group helped serve dessert - Katelyn Rosso, Alex Olivo, Ian Nichols, Bryson Nichols, and Emmett Walerko. Nancy Knipscher helped in the kitchen, and Gay Canough made sure we had a sound system.

Douglas shared many stories and thoughts about Vicky's life and contributions in his usual warm and witty fashion. And the UU Kazoo Band brought the party to a close with a bang! Over 40 people were involved, about 1/4 of the congregation. So it really does take a village, or a congregation! Many thanks to all – we love you Vicky!

-Debby Herman



UUCB Earth Day Event was Educational and FUN!



On April 18, our Earth Day celebration brought together about 50 members of our community for a joyful and hands-on day of connection and care for the earth. The event was filled with creativity and learning, featuring art projects, a composting workshop, and a fascinating look at isopods and their role in nature. Families gathered for story time with Minister Douglas Taylor, while others explored the used book sale, enjoyed face painting, and got their hands dirty making seed bombs and planting flower and wheat seeds. It was a beautiful day of shared values, laughter, and simple, meaningful ways to nurture both our community and the planet



Rev. Douglas Taylor Reads Earth Day Story to attendees



Wes Ernsberger explains how our compost system works at UUCB



Moe Manzer shares information about isopods, "Nature's Composters"



Beth Teuber leads a planting station



Ben Girtain-Plowe heads up the grounds clean-up crew



We are looking for One more UUCB Delegate for GA

The UUA General Assembly (GA) is the big annual gathering of the Unitarian Universalist Association—think of it as part conference, part family reunion, part town hall, with a dash of summer camp energy. Each year, thousands of Unitarian Universalists—delegates from congregations, ministers, religious educators, and individuals—come together (in person or online) to connect and learn.

Delegates vote on things that guide the whole denomination, like:

- Statements of conscience (shared values on social issues)
- Changes to bylaws or governance
- Elections for UUA leadership

There are workshops, worship services, speakers, music, and panels on everything from justice work to spiritual growth to congregational life.

A community celebration

It's also about joy, identity, and connection—people worship together, sing together, march for causes, and build relationships across congregations.

GA is where Unitarian Universalists collectively ask “Who are we becoming, and how do we live our values in the world?”

Have you always wanted to attend the Unitarian Universalist Association’s annual General Assembly, but couldn’t make the trip? ***This year the week-long gathering, running from June 14-21, will be held entirely online.*** We have one more delegate slot available - if you would like to represent UUCB as a delegate at the meeting, contact Rev. Douglas Taylor soon. And of course you can also attend GA without serving as a delegate. For more information, go to uua.org/ga or speak with Rev. Taylor or Jeff Donahue.

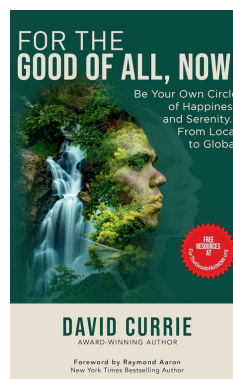
What is a Child Dedication?

Most faith traditions have a way of welcoming young ones into the community and blessing them. In our Child Dedication services we recognize that children are a blessing, born whole and good. We, (parents, extended family, and congregation,) are asked to ‘dedicate’ ourselves to creating a nurturing community in which our children will grow.

Here at UUCB, we host Child Dedication ceremonies during our Sunday worship services. Spring is an excellent time for these ceremonies. If your family would like to have a Child Dedication ceremony this spring, please contact Dylan or Douglas to learn more and to schedule.



Homeless Outreach Supplies Needed Spring/Summer List



New Workshop

Co-creating a World For The Good Of All NOW!

**Thursdays from 5:30 to 6:30pm, May 7,
14, 21 and 28.**

The catastrophe of climate change caused by our species is so awesomely frightening that we struggle with how to choose life. A beloved teacher of mine, Joanna Macy wrote: “The worldview now emerging—if we are bold enough to experience its implications—lets us behold anew and experience afresh the web of life in which we exist.”

It is not enough to grasp the magnitude of this moment in history—the Great Turning— it “...is the act of courage and love we make when we dare to see our world as it is.” (Joanna Macy) Through a long history of seeing with new eyes, Unitarian Universalists have moved along with many others, from struggling to reform broken systems, to transform them into a world they dared to see. Every path starts with a first step. We invite you to take this first step on a four week introductory Four Turns Path—from Me2We2Us2All—as we come together for each other and for the good of all now.

Co-creating a World For The Good Of All NOW!
—Together

Please arrive a little before 5:30 to get settled in your seat. Thank you.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

Please invite friends. No fee is required.

Each season brings its own challenges for our unhoused neighbors. This is the Spring/Summer list of supplies that are needed for our unhoused neighbors. Please donate only items you would give to your own loved ones: high-quality, clean, unexpired, and functional. Please only donate what is on this list. Supplies can be dropped off in the coatroom.

This outreach is organized by local community organizers, and some are members of UUCB.

These supplies are given directly to the unhoused in front of the bus station every Tuesday night at 9 pm.

- spring/summer clothes for men & women
- t-shirts, shorts, tank tops, cotton pants, light jackets/hoodies
- clean and good quality spring/summer shoes: sneakers, flip-flops, rain boots, walking shoes
- NEW packages of women's/men's underwear
- NEW cotton/bamboo socks for adults
- rain ponchos sanitary pads, razors, travel size of these things: shampoo, conditioner, body wash baby/hygiene wipes
- NEW individual packaged pain relievers Orajel, anti-fungal foot creams/powders, wound care accessories (ointments, band-aids, etc.) blankets bug-spray (include for ticks) batteries (AA & AAA) flashlights canopies/bungee cords/ tents packages of water pre-packaged/individual-sized snacks: beef jerky, chips, baked goods, granola bars, apple-sauces, crackers, etc.
- Questions? contact:
collectivesurvival@proton.me

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.

A \$30.00 fee covers your lunch and all
activities.

Registration forms are on the Adult
Programs bulletin board.

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 Wednesday 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.



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

Exploring Spiritual Practices (Multi-congregation)
12:30 pm, 3rd Sundays
May 17 is the last session

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 Member!



Michael Hagquist (he/him, they/them, she/her)

When Michael was younger, he was very curious about religion. They were a very active member of the Baptist Church Choir, Vacation Bible school, and a Boy Scout. When she was about 12-13 yrs old, he discovered pagan & wiccan practices and no longer went to the Baptist church. Somewhere around 2008-2009, they joined the Binghamton Pagan Community (BPC). In 2014, she had her daughter, Izabella.

He recently reconnected with an old friend from BPC. So recruited them to join the UU pagan group and game night. Once she learned of all the various organizations/committees within the UU that help people of the community, they knew they were meant to become a member of the UU. Helping people has always been something that comes naturally to her. Easter Sunday 2026, he decided wanted to sign the book and join all of the wonderful folks at UUCB. Here is to starting a new volume of their life!

She was previously a NYS Certified Peer Advocate, followed by a Health Homes Care Manager Asst, and then Health Homes+ Care Manager. He became burnt out extremely quickly. Their health, mental & physical, took a severe downward spiral and she lost everything & everyone. Now he wants to go back to school and become his own boss.

Michael is a pure blood Binghamtonian, born and raised in Port Dickinson. They graduated from Chenango Valley Jr./ Sr. High. Class of '07. She has many hobbies and interests: crafts (of all types), gardening, hiking, camping, baking (cake decorator), and cooking. Also a Holistic/Shamanic practitioner. Welcome, Michael

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



On the first Sunday of each month we have a shortened workshop service followed by workshops and activities for all ages.

APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS!

“Planting Flowers, Making Beauty” outdoors with Julie Boyd
All ages are invited to help brighten our property by planting a few colorful annuals. Please bring a trowel or other garden tools if you’re able.

“Flower Blooms with Monika” with Monika Fridrich in the Social Hall.
Learn how to make colorful paper tissue flowers, as well as seed balls to keep or give away. All ages welcome!

“Resistance Singing” with Emily Richards in the Chapel
Come and learn songs to use for actions as well as information about the new national movement Singing Resistance. Why singing? Songs and singing together have the ability to deeply move us and open our hearts. Singing has historically been a critical part of social movements globally as well as here in the US. Singing Resistance is building a mass movement of singers to protect and care for our communities in the face of rising authoritarianism. All ages are welcome to join in the singing!

And be sure to join our CUUPS community in celebrating Beltane with a Maypole dance in our courtyard.

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

REAP WHAT YOU SOW, DON'T LOSE HEART!



Written by
**Jack Gilroy &
Zool Zulkowitz**

Directed by
Narani O'Shaughnessy

A staged reading followed by a facilitated talkback

A mother's military past collides with her daughter's growing doubts about war and patriotism, igniting a debate about morality, bravery, and history

ANGELA KLAWITER
Ellie Golden

LISA DUTCHER
Major Jennifer

J. VACLAV MICHALEC
Talkback Facilitator

Saturday, May 2, 2 PM

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton
183 Riverside Drive Binghamton, NY 13905**

RisingTogether.theater

Reap What you Sow, Don't Lose Heart **Saturday, May 2 2pm** **in the UUCB sanctuary**

Reap What You Sow, Don't Lose Heart is a two-woman play by Jack Gilroy and Zool Zulkowitz (Rising Together Theater Company) featuring a mother-daughter debate on the morality of war, contrasting military service with nonviolent resistance. The play explores a loving yet deeply conflicted relationship, promoting dialogue on peace.



Sacred Sites Open House

UUCB will once again be a host site for the Sacred Sites tours, sponsored by the Preservation Association of the Southern Tier. We will provide building tours, refreshments and a children's activity on Sunday, May 17th, from 1:00-3:00.

If anyone is interested in helping out with tours or refreshments, please contact Andrea Palmeri - apalmerihome@gmail.com
Here is a link to our page on the New York Landmarks Conservancy website, which will be included in advertisements for the event.



Town Hall Meeting **Sunday May 17 12pm**

This annual UUCB town hall meeting is where we discuss our plans for next year and what we will be voting on in our annual meeting in June. Questions and comments are encouraged.

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



Kray Van Kirk
Saturday May 16 2026
7pm

A fine finger-style guitarist with a precise baritone, Kray Van Kirk has a Ph.D. from the University of Alaska, but he set science aside to write songs, tell stories and summon heroes. “We are driven by myth and the seasons of the heart,” he says, “and the stories are all true. There is a dark cave inside each of us, and monsters of all kinds lurk there, all the more lethal for being hidden. The quest is to journey inside, render the monsters powerless, find whatever it is that burns at the core of your soul and bring it back into the light. In a world divided it is critical to write songs and tell stories that show absolutely everyone they get to be the hero. Nobody is left behind.” Of this charming, Quixotic, and decidedly eclectic performer, the Borderline Folk Club in New York wrote, “It is what every singer-songwriter should aspire to.”

Performer web page: krayvankirk.com
Refreshments are sold in the cafe during intermission to benefit UUCB.



**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.