

OCTOBER 2026

THE BEACON

Newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Binghamton

SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:30AM

October 4 “Room on the Broom” Taylor and Cooke

Each month, we have “First Sunday” with an all-ages worship followed by workshops for everyone. With story, song, and reflection we will explore this month’s theme of Courage.

October 11 “Listening to Indigenous Wisdom” ~ Returning to the Great Tree of Peace

Tiffany Hagberg

When the early European Colonizers first landed on Turtle Island, what they found were nations and tribes who were banded together and chose to live in peace and reciprocity with each other and the land they stewarded. They tried to teach their ways to the newcomers and how to live in harmony with each other and Mother Earth. The results of not heeding Indigenous wisdom and teachings are clear. Now is the time to listen and return to the Great Tree of Peace.

October 18 “The Cost of Kindness”

Rev. Douglas Taylor

it costs you nothing to hold the door for the next person, right? But if money is not the reason for the scarcity of compassion and kindness in our society, why then are we so mean so often?

October 25 “Redeeming Omelas”

Rev. Douglas Taylor

Ursula Le Guin’s short story about Omelas asks us to notice who must suffer so that society may thrive? Who pays the cost for our capitalist culture? Does it need to be this way? How will we respond?

Minister: Rev. Douglas Taylor

Board President: Debby Herman

Music Director: Vicky Gordon

Dir. of Family Ministry: Dylan Cooke

Office Admin and Membership
Coordinator: Karen Manzer

Childcare Providers: Rebecca Rayne
and Lily Woughter

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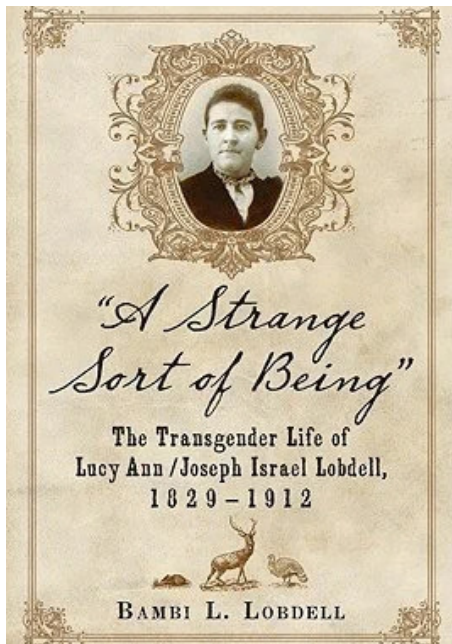
Find us on Facebook.



"AUTUMN IS MORE THE
SEASON OF THE SOUL
THAN OF NATURE."
— FRIEDRICH
NIETZSCHE

Growing Older Discussion Group

Join us on the 2nd Sunday of the month in the chapel after the worship service (starting Oct 11) for sharing and conversation about the journey of growing older.



Special Sunday Presentation

"A Strange Sort of Being"

Sunday, October 18 at 12pm in the chapel

Author Bambi L. Lobdell, Ph.D. (an English and women's studies scholar at the State University of New York, Oneonta) will present the story of her distant relative Joseph Israel Lobdell (born Lucy Ann Lobdell in 1829), an American pioneer who lived and worked as a man for roughly six decades.



Author Bambi Lobdell will present at UUCB on Oct. 18

Reap What you Sow: Don't Lose Heart

Play Saturday, October 17 at 10am in the sanctuary

The Rising Together Theater Company presents this powerful play explores the inner conflict of a young woman who loves and respects her mother, a career military officer, while struggling with deep disagreements about war and patriotism. The performance offers an excellent opportunity for post-show discussion.



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!**

First Sunday Schedule

Service 10:30-11:15

Break 11:15-11:30

All ages workshops 11:30-12:15

Fellowship 12:15-12:45



1ST SUNDAY WORKSHOPS FOR OCTOBER 4TH

“Courage and Community” with Alex Compton-Monell in the Chapel and on Zoom. Visible members of LGBTQ populations are often called "brave" for doing the everyday things of life--everything from having kids to dressing in gender affirming ways. But what is truly inspiring is the way that LGBTQ folks have found how to survive by building networks of care and advocacy in the face of overt oppression. Here is where we can find models of community that can teach us to find hope and have courage when the future seems bleak. This workshop will have some short videos, discussion, and an activity to help think about the application of the concepts discussed.

“World Blessings” with Family Ministry in the Classroom. Join us as we explore our new UU curriculum and learn about the cultures and religions of the world through cooking! This Sunday, we’ll learn about Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur while preparing couscous with seven vegetables, apples, challah, and honey. Come ready to cut, season, cook, and share!

"Faith in Action – Supporting Our Neighbors” with Julie Boyd in the Social Hall. We will make sandwiches and fill lunch bags for the women living at the YWCA. All ages are invited to lend a hand! Additionally the Children’s Home of Wyoming Conference is in desperate need of diapers and wipes for their foster care program. If you would like to help fill that need, please bring donations to the church on October 4th.

“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!



Family Ministry in October 2026

Sunday the 4th

First Sunday Multigenerational Service, children stay in service.

Sunday the 11th

Starting in service, then transitioning to classrooms for religious education after time for all ages.

Sunday the 18th

Starting in service, then transitioning to classrooms for religious education after time for all ages.

Sunday the 25th

Starting in service, then transitioning to classrooms for religious education after time for all ages.

Events and happenings:

First Sunday World Blessings (Cooking Curriculum)

Demonstration:

Join Monika Fridrich Sunday October 4th during our workshops to explore our new UU curriculum and learn about the cultures and religions of the world through cooking! We will be learning about Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur while preparing couscous with seven vegetables, apples, challah, and honey. Come ready to cut, season, cook, and share!

Prospective teachers should stop by to see what Sunday morning volunteering looks like!

Open Family Ministry Meeting:

Sunday, October 11th, Family Ministry will be holding our first meeting of the congregational year. Our current talking points for this meeting include Brainstorming ideas for additional activities and offerings this congregational year, talking about the logistics of our currently scheduled events, and support of our Sunday morning RE programming.

More is welcome to be added so if you have an interest in being part of guiding our trajectory through this congregational year please feel free to join us!

UUCB Autumn Celebration:

Join us for our fellowship presented multi-generational, Last Sunday Lunch, celebration of Autumn. You can expect an autumnal-favorites potluck meal and seasonal crafts from spooky to harvest themed. Perfect for any left of enjoyment of this time of year!

SUNDAY • OCTOBER 25

LAST SUNDAY LUNCH FALL CELEBRATION

AFTER THE SERVICE

Join us in the Social Hall for fall activities and fun!

If you are able, bring a favorite fall food to share.

ALL ARE WELCOME



SUNDAY • OCTOBER 25

MEET THE BOARD

HAVE YOUR CAKE AND CHAT, TOO!

Join us after the service during our Last Sunday Lunch for a sweet opportunity to meet this year's Board members!

Stop by our table at the back of the Social Hall for dessert and conversation about our goals for the coming year.

BRING YOUR QUESTIONS, SHARE YOUR IDEAS,
OR SIMPLY STOP BY TO SAY HELLO!



THE CHURCH MOUSE KNOWS.....

Shawn Steketee, Tiffany Hagberg, Gay Canough and others go out to the bus station on Tuesdays to give food to those in need.

Christina Zaverucha organized an effort to keep the roofers safe from ICE as they repaired our roof.

Shawn Steketee has been the cash register person for several fundraisers already this year including Porchfest, T-shirt and mug sales, the ice cream social and the Cherry Bomb Musical performance.

Ben Girtain Plowe has been a helpful resource for the property committee.

UNHOUSED NEIGHBORS SUPPORT

As the weather turns colder, the needs of our neighbors change. Please see the current list of needs on the bulletin board or check out the Amazon wish list. Contact for this effort is Shawn Steketee at stek@aol.com



Have you joined a Chalice Circle yet?

These small groups meet once a month for a themed discussion. It's a great way to get to know some new people!

Sign up board is outside the sanctuary.



Wes Ernberger mowed the grass and kept the grounds tidy all Summer long.

Andru Bemis tuned the sanctuary piano.

Carl Cohen organized the Cherry Bom Musical Performance and scheduled people to staff the welcome table on Sundays and for big events.

Andrea Palmeri took the lead on the Veggiefest/Porchfest event.

Alex Compton and Catherine Magdala were point people at UUCB and provided helpful resources for those affected by ICE.

Shawn Steketee, Gay Canough, Traci Pena and Jan Fiore, and Karen and Moe Manzer have cooked and delivered meals to the UPS overnight shelter this Summer.



So many members and friends of UUCB stepped up to support the roof work that took place this summer! There were too many of you to name individually, but we are grateful and proud that so many of you jumped in to help protect our roofers.

Very special thanks to Christina Zawerucha for leading the effort and organizing the volunteers – a daunting and time-consuming job. Alex Compton-Monell, Carl Cohen and Emily Hotchkiss-Plowe were also key to the success of the effort, and devoted many hours to making it all come together, managing communications with the Board, the roofers and the volunteers.

In addition, the Veggie Fest team was wonderful about working around the disruptions to the building and grounds, and were able to still put together a fun, modified version of our annual event during Porch Fest, maintaining our popular flea market and selling various drinks and goodies.

And Karen Manzer, as always, was supportive and patient, working through all the craziness going on around her. So we on the Board wish to thank every one of you who helped in any way, and we appreciate the cheerful patience of the entire congregation as we navigated the process.

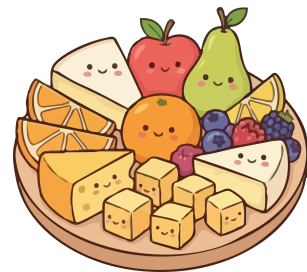
We are grateful for the beloved community so evident here at UUCB.



KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS NEEDED

We are looking for folks to make mittens, hats, scarves, and blankets to keep our unhoused neighbors warm this fall/winter.

You can make something on your own to donate or gather as a group by the fire at UUCB to create together!



SOCIAL HOUR DONATIONS WELCOME!

We would love to have donations of snacks for social hour on Sundays.

Savory snacks like cheese and crackers and bagels are especially requested.



Cranberry Coffeehouse



Alex Radus

Saturday, October 17, 2026 • 7 p.m.

UUCB Sanctuary

\$15 donation at the door

Americana • swing • blues • folk • storytelling

Coffee, tea, and treats sold as a fundraiser for UUCB.



CUUPS Meetings

The Covenant of UU Pagans meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 6pm.

The second Tuesdays are a craft and discussion night and the 4th Tuesdays are for our Pagan rituals.

Everyone is welcome to come to a meeting and learn more!

For more information about CUUPS or the Samhain Celebration, contact



Our LGBTQ Social Group Meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month in the social hall at 6pm to play board games and other activities. Join us!

LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER



TUESDAY • NOVEMBER 3

ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our church will be a polling place again this year. Help us welcome our neighbors and bring back our Election Day bake sale!

We have the experience. Now we need a few new people to help organize and run the sale.



A little baking. A lot of welcome.

JOIN THE TEAM

Jean Rose-Klein
rosekjean@hotmail.com



A Death Positive Gathering!

NOVEMBER 7, 2026

8 AM TO 9 PM
163 RIVERSIDE DRIVE,
BINGHAMTON NY

This conference invites professionals, artists, healers, and everyday seekers to reimagine death not as an end, but as a threshold.
A safe place to start conversations!

JOIN NOW

www.facebook.com/groups/thethreshold2026

EMAIL
Traci@bundymuseum.org



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF BINGHAMTON

GATHER AROUND THE TABLE

Thanksgiving Potluck

at UUCB

Thursday, November 26

Come share food, gratitude, and community.

More details coming soon!

YOU BELONG AT OUR TABLE

