

NOVEMBER 2026

THE BEACON

Newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton

SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:30AM

November 1 "Ancestors, Afterlives, and All Souls"
Taylor and Cooke
For our November 'First Sunday' we will consider what various traditions say about the big question "What happens after we die?" We'll consider Hindu, Islamic, Native American, Christian, and others along with the message from modern physics.

November 8 "Where Do We Go From Here?"
Emily Richards
The election has passed, for better or worse, and we are left with the question, what comes next? Where do we go from here? Our work at the ballot box may be done, for the moment, but there is still so much that our UU values are calling us to do to begin to heal and move forward together.

November 15 "More than Half the Tree"
Rev Laine and Taylor
This is our annual "Collaboration Sunday" (or Union Sunday as such events were known back in the day.) It is a joint worship with Athens, Binghamton, and Cortland UU congregations. This Sunday we will recognize the slow work that happens underground so we can thrive together.

November 22 "The Honorable Harvest"
Taylor and Cooke
At Thanksgiving time, we consider our relationships with the food we harvest. This service is based on the teachings and stories in Robin Wall Kimmerer's book "Braiding Sweetgrass."

November 29 "Lessons I learned as South African diplomat in Palestine"
Sue Mann
Fresh from post-apartheid South Africa, Sue was a young diplomat (and later acting head of mission) in Palestine from 1997-2001. 30 years later she reflects on the enduring lessons of that time.

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

Chidcare Providers: Rebecca Rayne and Lily Woughter

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uubinghamton.org

Find us on Facebook.

"The thinnest yellow light of November is more warming and exhilarating than any wine they tell of. The mite which November contributes becomes equal in value to the bounty of July."

- Henry David Thoreau

Election Day Bake Sale at UUCB
Tuesday, November 3
6am-8pm

You can also support this UUCB fundraiser by stopping by to purchase a treat! If you'd rather not enjoy it yourself, donate it to the Blessing Box—one sweet purchase, two ways to help!



Help Us Make Dinner for Our Neighbors
Sunday, November 15th at 12:30pm

UUCB is coming together to prepare a meal once a month for guests at the United Presbyterian Church (UPC) overnight shelter—and we'd love your help!

SIGN UP IN A WAY THAT FEELS RIGHT FOR YOU: DONATE FOOD ITEMS, ~~HELP WITH FOOD PREP OR COOKING, DELIVER THE MEAL TO UPC, OR LEND A HAND SERVING DINNER.~~

WE JUST NEED FOOD DONATIONS NOW!

Whether you enjoy being in the kitchen or helping behind the scenes, there's a place for you. Together, we can share a warm meal and show our neighbors we care.

SIGN UP online or see Joan Hebb in the Fireside lobby to sign up after service on Sundays.

See Joan Hebb on Sundays to sign up with her directly or to ask questions.



UUCB Town Hall Meeting

Our next Town Hall Meeting is on Sunday, November 15 right after the service. Attend to ask questions and find out future plans for UUCB.



UUCB's BUS PASS COLLECTION PROJECT:

Please keep giving to this important effort. full-day bus pass is $5 and makes a big difference in someone's life. Joan Hebb and Jan Fiore are taking cash donations when ever you can contribute. These bus passes keep people warm as well as providing the means of transportation to jobs, Dr appointments, court appearances, job interviews, etc. Cash donations are accepted by Joan Hebb and Jan Fiore any time.

Unhoused Neighbors Help: The seasons are changing and so are the needs of our neighbors. Be sure to check out the new list of needs on the bulletin board or the wishlist on Amazon. Contact Shawn Steketee for more info about how you can help.

Church Work Day All Hands on Deck!



You are invited to an outdoor work day at UUCB on Saturday, November 7 at 9am-2pm with the property committee.

Lunch will be provided. Please bring work gloves and a drink/waterbottle, and if possible bring safety glasses, steel toe boots, and a hard hat. Dress appropriately for the outdoors. Rain date is 11/14.

Contact Ben GP with any questions at 607-280-0222.

Sharing Our Busy Building

Our church building is a busy place, filled with meetings, activities, and community gatherings! Please help keep it welcoming and ready for everyone by cleaning up after your group, putting away supplies, and returning furniture to its proper place. Another meeting may begin right after yours. Cleaning supplies are in the custodial closet next to the drinking fountain.

After reserving a space, please check the church calendar to confirm that your event appears on the correct date, at the correct time, and in the correct room.
Before leaving, make sure windows are closed and, if you are the last group in the building, doors are locked.

Thank you for helping care for our shared space!

In all things, give thanks

Growing Older -Growing Together Discussion Group

Feeling befuddled by the mind-boggling array of Medicare plans? Losing your current plan?

Our Nov. 8 meeting will be Medicare 101: Overview of Medicare choices, updates for 2027, presented by Nancy Knipscher, Certified Senior Advisor and long-time UUCB member.

Medicare Open Enrollment ends December 7, and some Medicare plans are being cancelled. After her presentation, Nancy will answer your questions about Medicare.

Join us 12 - 1pm in the Chapel. All are welcome, whether you are a senior, caring for someone, or just interested.



More Than We Can Name
A Service of Remembrance
Sunday, November 15 6pm

UUCB is honored to host our annual Transgender Day of Remembrance service, bringing our community together to honor transgender people whose lives have been lost to violence. This gathering offers space for remembrance, grief, reflection, and solidarity. Supporting this service is one way we put our belief in the worth and dignity of every person into action. By showing up, listening, and standing alongside our transgender and nonbinary neighbors, we affirm that their lives matter, their grief is shared, and they belong. All are welcome as we remember those we have lost and renew our commitment to a safer, more loving world.



We Need Volunteers & Food!

Support Our Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance Service!

Sunday, November 15, 2026
6:00 PM

Scan the QR Code To Sign Up to Donate & Volunteer!

Contact: uucb-rainbow@googlegroups.com with questions







November Religious Education Sunday Offerings:

Sunday the 1st
First Sunday Multigenerational Service, children stay in service.

Sunday the 8th
Starting in service, then transitioning to classrooms for religious education after time for all ages.

Sunday the 15th
Starting in service, then transitioning to classrooms for religious education after time for all ages.

Sunday the 22nd
Multigenerational Thanksgiving Service, children stay in service.

Sunday the 29th
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 as we explore Día de los Muertos, a Mexican holiday celebrated on November 1 and 2 to honor and remember loved ones who have passed away. We'll share the heartwarming story A Gift for Abuelita by Nancy Luenn and learn how families celebrate the lives and memories of those they love. To celebrate, we'll prepare two Mexican-inspired recipes: Easy Mexican-Inspired Sopapillas (Sweet Fried Dough) and Mexican Rice and Beans (Savory Rice and Bean Dish).

Our Whole Lives (OWL) and Coming of Age (COA) Registration:
Digital registration for OWL and COA will be coming within the first week of November. If you are interested in having your child participate in either of these programs, keep an eye out for emails and physical QR codes in the building. If you have any questions or are not seeing the above options please reach out to Dylan Cooke at DFM@uubinghamton.org!

UUCB Winter Celebration:
Mark your calendars December 5th from 1pm to 4pm for an afternoon of holiday crafts for all ages, warm beverages and conversation by the fire, an exploration through the night-sky in Kopernik's digital planetarium and more to be announced!

A call for volunteer teachers:
We need Religious Education Leaders! This is a volunteer role where you take a pre-written curriculum and spend the morning during service going over the provided materials with a co-teacher. Due to currently available Leaders Both our 1st through 4th grade classroom and our 5th through 8th grade classroom are combined to fulfill the need to have two adults present each week to ensure the safety and education of our children! Training, a walk through of curriculum, and a guarantee to be paired with a knowledgeable second adult are all promised! Is this something you may be interested in? If so please contact Dylan Cooke at DFM@uubinghamton.org

Yoga with Dacia
Thursdays at 5pm

All are welcome.



Yoga instructor Dacia Legge is offering a free, beginner and trauma-informed yoga class on Thursday evenings between 5-6:15pm inthe social hall. Sessions will incorporate Hatha Yoga, Vinyasa Yoga, mindfulness, various breath work and will end with a living kindness meditation (Metta Meditation). Most postures demonstrated with chair and other modifications.
All are welcome and please bring a yoga mat and any props you use.

November 2026 Schedule:

November 5, 2025: Yin session: This modality is slow-paced YIN yoga where poses are held for 2 minutes and use 3-center breathing techniques. Benefits are increasing flexibility, improving circulation, enhancing joint mobility and reducing stress and anxiety. All are welcome to participate as their bodies allow.

November 12, 2025: Creating Balance: This modality will focus on balancing postures and will include head to toe warm-ups and stretching. Benefits are improving balance, physical stability and core. All are welcome to participate as their bodies allow

November 19, 2025: Inviting Gratitude: This modality focuses on mindfully inviting gratitude by utilizing grounding poses, intention setting and gratitude reflections as we enter the season for giving thanks. All are welcome to participate as their bodies allow LAST CLASS OF 2026!

November 26, 2025: Thanksgiving-no practice this week.

*****PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL NOT BE ANY YOGA CLASSES IN DECEMBER. WE WILL RESUME ON THURSDAY JANUARY 7, 20271********



THE UUCB CHURCH MOUSE KNOWS.....

Jean-Rose Klien and Pat Chirumbolo organized the Election Day Bake Sale Fundraiser.

The UUCB Pagans decorated the building for Halloween.

Wes Ernsberger and Jim Taft mowed the lawn and took care of the grounds.

Ron Clupper spilt and stacked wood for the fireplace, made fires on Sundays, and washed lots of dishes.

Ann Foard washes the kitchen towels and dishcloths and folds the orders of service on Sundays.

Kate Thorpe and Marty Rorapaugh count and record the offering each Sunday.

Carl Cohen bid on and won a second performance of Cherry Bomb Musical for some time next Fall.

Pat Chirumbolo has set up and decorated for many fellowship events.

Alex Compton and Catherine Magdala

Joan Hebb has taken the lead on organizing the monthly cooking of a meal for the UPC overnight shelter.

Shawn Steketee has been keeping an eye on Blessing Box donations and needs.



If you noticed someon that should be added to the Churh Mouse, let Karen Manzer know, so we have recognize them!

Thanksgiving at UUCB

Thursday, November 26



Potluck Dinner
Dessert
Concert with Shepherd and Ewe
Fellowship and Fun.

Watch emails amd bulletin board for more details.



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.



Looking Ahead to December

December 5
UUCB Winter Celebration
Mark your calendars December 5th from 1pm to 4pm for an afternoon of holiday crafts for all ages, warm beverages and conversation by the fire, an exploration through the night-sky in Kopernik's digital planetarium and more to be announced!

December 12 and 13
Holiday Art and Gift Sale
Mark your calendars December 5th from 1pm to 4pm for an afternoon of holiday crafts for all ages, warm beverages and conversation by the fire, an exploration through the night-sky in Kopernik's digital planetarium and more to be announced!

December 24
Christmas Eve Services
We have two services on Christmas Eve - one at 7pm and one at 9pm. You can come to either one- or both!

December 26
Twixmas Party
Join us at UUCB for a Twixmas party between Christmas and New Year's, with a regift swap, games, food and festive fellowship! Bring a wrapped, gently used or unused item for the swap and a holiday treat to share—all ages are welcome, with or without a regift.

CRANBERRY COFFEE HOUSE



Jesse Terry
Saturday November 21

7pm
$15 at the door

Jesse Terry is a graduate of the Berklee College of Music, had a five-year staff writer gig on Nashville's Music Row penning material for major TV networks, and has won prestigious songwriting awards. His seventh album, When We Wander, is the first he wrote since becoming a parent. So it's no surprise the family theme courses through many of its 12 songs.

Performer web page:
silverleafbooking.com/artists/jesse-terry

Coffee, tea and treat are available for purchase and proceeds benefit UUCB.

hello November

Blessing Box Donations Needed

Our Blessing Box, located by the sidewalk in front of the church, is often emptied daily as it serves neighbors experiencing food insecurity.

Donations of non-perishable foods such as granola bars, crackers, peanut butter, pull-top canned goods, shelf-stable meals, and fruit cups are always appreciated. **NO GLASS PLEASE.**

Please place donations on the labeled Blessing Box shelf in the UUCB kitchen. Thank you for helping care for our community!
Questions ask Shawn at stek@aol.com

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!