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Follow us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/5045352585/?fref=ts>
The Church Building Use Calendar:
<http://uuquincy.org/member/building.shtml>
The Church Website & Public Calendar:
<http://www.uuquincy.org/index.shtml>

Unitarian Church
1479 Hampshire Street
Quincy, Illinois 62301

Answering Machine: (217) 222-5468

Rev. Krista Taves, Minister
Dona Reinertsen, Board President

The church office is staffed irregularly. We appreciate your patience when you leave messages on the Church Answering Machine or send us e-mail.

Sunday Services - December 2017

Adult Religious Education begins at 9:30 a.m.
Our **Sunday Church Services** begin at 10:45 a.m.
Children and Youth Religious Education Classes are during church services.
We enjoy a **Coffee Hour** in the Heritage Room following each service.

Sunday, December 3:

9:30 a.m. - Adult Religious Education
10:45 a.m. - Sunday Service: **"When Hope Eludes."** Speaker: Rev. Krista Taves. As we begin the Advent season, let us explore what hope means when it seems distant and elusive, even a rebuke to reality.
Following the Service - "The Hanging of the Greens"
After Decorating - a Soup Luncheon in the Garden Room

Sunday, December 10:

9:30 a.m. - Adult Religious Education - Rev. Krista Taves. We will explore the theme of hope and the common good for ourselves personally and for society generally.
10:45 a.m. - Sunday Service: **"When Hope Shimmers."** Speaker: Rev. Krista Taves. During Hanukkah, the Jewish people celebrate an unlikely victory before a massive foe, a victory that secured their survival. We will approach the spiritual practice of hope when it is the difference between surviving and not.
Following the Service - "Second Sunday" Carry-In Coffee Hour in the Garden Room

Sunday, December 17:

9:30 a.m. - Adult Religious Education
10:45 a.m. - Sunday Service: **"A University of Hope."** Speaker: Phil Conover, president, [Quincy University](http://www.uuquincy.org).

Sunday, December 24:

There will be *no Sunday morning Service* on Christmas Eve.
6:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service: **"When Hope Claims."** Speaker: Rev. Krista Taves. Sometimes hope doesn't give us a choice. It lovingly beckons us into the promise of renewal. Our Christmas Eve Donate-a-Plate collection will benefit the [Transitions Diaper Fund](#).

Sunday, December 31:

10:45 a.m. - Sunday Service: **"Poetry Sunday."** Bring a poem (or two or . . .) to share.

Touchstones Theme: Hope



Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work: you don't give up.

Anne Lamott

The first candle represents the past. May we learn its lessons. The second candle represents the present. May we act with compassion and courage on behalf of the world. The third candle represents the future. May we move boldly into it. The fourth candle represents hope. Without hope, the present is uninhabitable and the future is unimaginable. With hope, as the Rev. Gordon McKeeman knew, "our lostness is found, our fragments are united, our wounds begin healing, our spines stiffen, and our muscles grow strong for the task..."



Hope is the thing with feathers / That perches in the soul / And sings the tune without the words / And never stops at all.

Emily Dickinson



Please join us in exploring the theme of Hope

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Minister's Message

"Hope is the thing with feathers / That perches in the soul / And sings the tune without the words / And never stops at all." Emily Dickinson

This past autumn, due to my brother's illness and death, I was able to experience the turning of the season at three different latitudes - Wetaskiwin Alberta (53°N), Leamington Ontario (42°N), and central Missouri (38.6°N).

In Wetaskiwin, fall lasts about 3 weeks. Trees that are brimming green the last week of August turn yellow almost overnight and quickly empty thanks to the relentless winds. The skies shimmer with flocks of geese that rarely rest. The fields are filled with combines late into the night as the canola harvest is brought in. Sometimes it shows as early as Labor day. By late September, the fields and skies are empty, all is quiet. By mid-October snow is a given. Spring won't arrive until May.

In Leamington, the nights begin growing chilly in mid August and the weeds begin going to seed. The crickets sing full-throated until mid September. The trees turn by late September. Fall is most brilliant the first week of October and becomes dull in about a week. Then the fall rains and grey skies set in by November. In between rains the corn is harvested.

In St Louis, fall gains steam in late September. The gardens are still offering their abundance. The resourceful gardener will plant kale and other greens that weather the winter. The grass still needs to be mowed. If the rains have come just right through the summer and early fall, brilliant colors set in late October/early November. With the first freeze most of the chiggers and ticks are gone and the best camping months begin. Trails that were thick and buggy all summer are now open and ready. The thinning woods allow the sun to penetrate to the forest floor. The honeysuckle, invasive as it is, provides a feathering of green through the woods well into December.

These different falls are exquisite, showcasing the transition of the season. The natural world gradually becomes quieter and quieter, with the only reliable sound that of the wind whistling through the tall Missouri trees, the bending Alberta grasses, and the emptied southern Ontario fields. The surface of the earth appears to die.

And yet we know that it does not. The abundance of the previous season dies so that new abundance is possible. In the emptiness that is revealed, we have space to breathe, the earth has space to breathe. The air becomes crisp and clear and the skies become icy blue. We can revel in the emptiness knowing that it will be filled again.

This is why we often use nature imagery to help us reclaim hope in our lives. When our lives empty and some of the abundance we trusted in dies, we search for ways to hold onto the hope that things will get better, that we have things to look forward to, and that someday life won't be so hard. We grasp for the silver lining in whatever difficulties we are facing.

We are entering a month filled with holidays dedicated to hope. Hanukkah offers us the temple lamp that never runs out of oil, Solstice the returning sun, Christmas the birth of a child, Kwanzaa that despite the ferocity of life, there will always be first fruits to relish and trust in.

As fall moves towards winter, we will honor the difficulties of the year that is coming to a close, prepare ourselves to anchor in the truths we learned from them, and welcome the new life that beckons.

Yours in faith, Rev. Krista.

Minister's Office Hours

Monday, Dec 4	- 10-noon
Tuesday, Dec 5	- 10-noon
Wednesday, Dec 6	- 10-noon
Thursday, Dec 7	- 10-noon
Friday, Dec 8	- 10-noon

A special thank you

Thank you to everyone who reached out to me during this difficult fall. Knowing that I had the blessing of the congregations I serve and the Boards of Trustees to help take care of my brother and support my family during his two-month battle with cancer gave me much comfort and strength. Thank you as well to everyone who worked beyond the call of duty to make the adjustments necessary because of my absences. I look forward to returning the kindness and generosity that was extended to me and my family.

Yours in gratitude, Rev. Krista.

President's Message

I want to warmly thank vice president Mary Ann Freeman for taking over the board these past two months while I had surgery with a successful outcome and recovery. Mary Ann addressed several important issues, and I am pleased that the board collaborated so well. Our Unitarian values have been at work.

In addition, the board has provided quality "Touchstones" children's Religious Education. Board members who love our church services have often given up the speaker's presentation to be with our youth. Please thank them when you get a chance. And, consider being the second adult in the room. That way, only one board member needs to leave services at a time.

Mary Ann, Mary Beth, Angel, Lisa, Kate, I, and a few others stepped up, and I challenge others in the congregation to do the same. Tell a board member that you would like to be the second adult in the classroom, and you can pick a future date(s) on the schedule. For insurance purposes, there is a short background check form on the Tiffany Table in the Heritage Room to complete and take to the local Board of Education at the Court House. It takes only a few minutes to complete the process.

There are a few items to consider in the church by-laws that the board would like to hear your input and get a vote for the January semi-annual meeting. One has to do with the number of board members, changing it from 9 to 7. Many of you have served on the board in the past and need a break. The other item is the rigidity of the church year. We want to make it possible for changes in the start date and end date that we meet for services, with ample advance notice to the congregation and public, of course.

Reverend Krista Taves is anticipated to return in December. Please be gentle and considerate of Krista's grieving process as she takes up her ministerial duties for us. It will be great to reconnect with her in Quincy!

There is a Christmas tree in the Heritage Room, sponsored by the Social Action Committee. It sits on a small table: money contributions are requested instead of gifts this Christmas season. The money will benefit the Teen Reach organization, to purchase round folding tables. Committee chair Tracee Farmer can answer your questions.

Look for information elsewhere in the Newsletter about Hanging of the Greens and a soup lunch on December 3rd, sponsored by the Fellowship Committee. I have always had fun with everyone running around with sprigs of pine (provided by Paul Miller) and chains of lights! This is a tradition not to be missed! Bob and I will be bringing my Persian noodle soup (meatless) again.

December 24th, plan to enjoy a casual EVENING gathering for Christmas Eve, with a carry in of treats, wine, etc. Be prepared for your Diaper Fund donation. There will be NO Sunday morning church services on the 24th.

I have found that participation and volunteering in this church brings me many rewards. Hopefully, more of our visitors, friends, and members will use their UU spirit of Christmas to prompt them to actively engage in the work and joys and relationships our church family has to offer. Merry Christmas.

Respectfully,
Dona Reinertsen, 2017-2018 Board of Trustees president

First Friday Celebration

There will not be a First Friday in December. MaryBeth Gapinski will be hosting in January. More details will come later!

If you are interested in hosting a First Friday, please sign up in the Heritage Room or contact Tracee Farmer. Contact@UUQuincy.org

Greeters at the doors

Sunday morning greeters are needed! You don't have to be a member to participate. There is a sign-up sheet on the Tiffany Table. It's easy! Come at 10:15 a.m. Smile. Welcome people. Hand out Order of Service sheets. Keep an eye out for new people, and give them the half-page information sheet to complete and return. Front door Greeters are expected to ask two people to assist with the collect baskets. Questions? Ask Dona, Dienna, Mary Beth, or Sharon, Membership Committee.

BOOK STORE

The church book store will be holding a sale on Dec. 2nd from 9am--2pm. We are hoping to move some of the inventory we already have to make way for the biggest sale with our annual Plant, Book & Bake sale in April so to that end, we are not accepting any book donations at this time unless they are children's books.

Please join us to help patrons carry sale items to their cars and for coffee and Xmas cookies.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Plan to stay after church services, Sunday, December 3, for our annual "Hanging of the Greens." Paul Miller will be bringing a truckload of his farm fresh pine boughs to adorn our sanctuary. All hands are needed to complete these tasks: placing the cut greenery in the window sills and on the pews, hanging the wreaths, and stringing some lights. The Fellowship Committee is hosting a soup luncheon in the Garden Room after the decorations are in place. Please join the fun.

Unitarian Church Tee Shirts

Just a reminder that if you are interested in a new (or your first) Unitarian Church shirt, the deadline is December 3rd. Forms are on the Tiffany Table in the Heritage Room. They can be placed, along with a check, in the Social Action folder in the Resource Room.

Hope Abides Covenant Group

Rev. Krista Taves. Wednesday December 6, 6:30-8:00 p.m. The Heritage Room. This open covenant group welcomes you into a personal exploration of the experience of hope in your life.

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

The Women's Alliance will have a Christmas party luncheon at Tony's Too on Dec. 9th at noon. There will be a small gift exchange. The business part of the group is postponed until the following Saturday (the 16th and time to be determined) when we plan on assembling gift baskets.

GIVING TREE FOR TEEN REACH

This Christmas season the Social Action Committee has decided that instead of adopting a Good News Family, we will request monetary donations as our gift to Teen Reach.

I spoke with Dennis Williams, the director of Teen Reach, and asked how we could help. Dennis shared that they would like round tables. They had visited a similar organization in St. Louis and the round tables allowed for a more family feel during meals and other activities.

From the research that I have done, a 60" foldable round table is about \$135.00. Wouldn't it be great if we could donate at least 5 tables? All money donated will go toward that cause.

Dona Reinertsen has placed a tree by the fireplace in the heritage Room. There is a gift bag with envelopes. Please feel free to place donations in the bag or give them to Tracee Farmer or Leann Flanagan. Donations will be accepted through December 17th after church.

Thank you so much for your consideration. Any amount is welcomed and appreciated.
Tracee Farmer, SAC

CHRISTMAS EVE GATHERING

The Fellowship Committee is hosting a gathering immediately after the Christmas Eve Service. We are asking the congregation to bring a sweet or savory snack to share. A non-alcoholic beverage will be provided. Please bring your own wine or beer if you desire.

Burns Night Supper

Plans are underway for our [Burns Night Supper](#) on January 26. Those who would like to help make this celebration happen, may join us at our next planning meeting on Dec.15, at 5:30 PM, in the Garden Room.

This Burns Night Supper will be an evening of pomp and revelry. After a traditional blessing, the presentation of the haggis . . . and a toast or two . . . the feast will be served. Non-alcoholic drinks will be provided, BYO spirits, if you wish. The feast will be followed by music, poetry, and numerous toasts, all with a Scottish theme in the spirit of Robert Burns.

Reservations are \$20 each and may be made by e-mail to burns@flan3.net or by contacting Mike Flanagan. When the \$20 has been paid, the reservation has been confirmed. Please pass the word.

New Quincy School has Unitarian Name – Rooney Elementary

Dr. Abby Fox Rooney was a member of our church, as were her parents, Abel and Abigail Fox. She regarded the church windows of 1913 as very common. The windows of the Heritage Room and of the south wall matched the present windows of the west wall. The original north window, past the organ, matched the small, high window that we see in the south wall. She proposed a campaign to obtain four memorial, picturesque windows. This was enthusiastically accepted, and the beautiful windows were installed, with ceremonies, in 1916.

Dienna Drew

UUANI

The Unitarian Universalist Advocacy Network of Illinois is offering weekly actions to help guide us in our desire to Stand on the Side of Love. The weekly actions include phone calls, letters, and direct action with our elected representatives. The actions address state and national issues that we are passionate about. There is something for everyone. UUANI offers a wide variety of ways to make your voice heard on the issues that you care about.

To receive the weekly actions, contact <http://bit.ly/UUANIActionofWeek> or go to their website at <http://www.uuani.org/>. You can also LIKE UUANI on Facebook.

Quincy Unitarian Church Activities Calendar

Saturday, December 2:

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. – Unitarian Church Book Sale in the Basement of the Church.

Sunday, December 3:

9:30 a.m. - Adult Religious Education

10:45 a.m. - Sunday Service: "**When Hope Eludes.**" Speaker: Rev. Krista Taves. As we begin the Advent season, let us explore what hope means when it seems distant and elusive, even a rebuke to reality.

Following the Service - "The Hanging of the Greens"

After Decorating - a Soup Luncheon in the Garden Room

Wednesday, December 6:

6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. – Hope Abides Covenant Group with Rev. Krista Taves, in the Heritage Room.

Saturday, December 9:

12:noon – The Women's Alliance Christmas party luncheon. Please [Contact the Church](#) for additional information.

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