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Unitarian Church
1479 Hampshire Street
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Answering Machine: (217) 222-5468

Rev. Krista Taves, Minister
Mike Flanagan, 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 - May 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, May 7:

Sunday Service: **"No Longer Business as Usual,"** Speakers: Rev. Krista Taves, Mike Flanagan, Angel Smith, George Herendeen. You know when you've got your plan and you believe you know where you're going and how you get there, and reality crashes in? What are you going to do? Fighting to stay the course may be tempting, but it usually just makes things worse. Sometimes you just have to stop, look, listen, and let go. Unitarian Universalism is in that kind of place right now when it comes to understanding how systemic racism influences what happens within our faith communities. How are we unintentionally excluding, silencing and disempowering people of color inside Unitarian Universalism? We can no longer do business as usual.

Following the Service – Our Annual Meeting of the Congregation
Following the Annual Meeting – Carry-In Luncheon in the Garden Room

Sunday, May 14:

Adult Religious Education - Our American Roots. Rev. Krista Taves. We continue our exploration of the early years of American Unitarianism and American Universalism.

Sunday Service: **"Healing the Heart of Democracy,"** Speaker: Rev. Scott Aaseng. We can keep on having half-conversations about who's right and who's wrong, and further feed the brokenness that threatens to tear us apart. Or we can see each other as part of a larger We--a We that is broken, but a We that is in this brokenness together. Rev. Aaseng will explore Parker Palmer's "habits for healing the heart of democracy" as ways to ground our work for justice.

May's Donate-a-Plate collection will benefit **The Back to School Fair.**

Sunday, May 21:

Sunday Service: **"The Art of Being Uncomfortable,"** Speaker: Alexis Engelbrecht-Villfane. Being uncomfortable is an important part of transformation. Alexis will explore ways in which one can ask, in the words of American Buddhist nun Pema Chödrön, "How can I practice right now, right on this painful spot, and transform this into the path of awakening?"

Sunday, May 28:

Sunday Service: **"TBA"**, Speaker: TBA

Minister's Message

American Unitarian Universalism is in a significant moment. We've been moving towards it with increasing speed for almost three years. Let me explain. When Michael Brown was shot in Ferguson MO, the nation focused on race in a way that we had not seen in some time. The tensions over the meaning of his shooting divided some and brought others together. What became clear to many is that the shooting highlighted the depth of systemic racism that many, especially whites, wanted to downplay and minimize.

In our Unitarian Universalist faith, there was much consternation and sometimes conflict over how to respond to the emerging Black Lives Matter movement. Those with family in law enforcement felt torn between standing with their loved ones and struggling with the face of racial bias in the criminal justice system. Many ministers and lay people joined the protests that mushroomed across the nation. Unitarian Universalist People of Color raised their voices, challenging us all to stand together in this crucial time and not to shy from the work at hand. The Black Lives of Unitarian Universalists Organizing Collective was formed to coalesce the voice of African Americans in our movement. They have often been our prophets, speaking of things that many of us don't want to hear or are afraid to say.

In the intervening years, at every General Assembly, which is our annual national conference, the delegates who gathered recommitted our association of congregations to continue the hard work of dismantling systemic racism both within our congregations and in the movement as a whole. It felt like we were living our principles faithfully and becoming more like the beloved community we wish to be.

A few months ago, however, we received a reality. Black Lives of UU had challenged the Unitarian Universalist Association Board and Leadership Council to be more intentional in hiring people of color at the highest levels. There are no people of color in regional lead positions. Our association is divided into regions and each region has a staff team with its own Regional Lead. In March the newest regional lead hire was revealed, another white male, when an equally qualified woman of color had also applied. Black Lives of UU demanded that the UUA Board recognize the white supremacy thinking that lead to a status quo decision. Many white Unitarian Universalists joined them to amplify the message. The President of the UUA, Rev. Peter Morales, decided that he was the wrong person to lead the association through this challenge and stepped aside. The individual who was offered the Regional Lead Position has declined the offer. Two other high level UUA staff people have also tendered their resignations to create room for new vision. The UUA Board has put in place a three-person team to fill the President position until the election of a new President in June. The three person team is former UUA President Rev. Bill Sinkford, Rev. Sophia Betancourt, and Leon Spencer, three highly-respected African American leaders in our movement.

Black Lives of UU has asked every Unitarian Universalist congregation to commit a Sunday for a Teach In about the what white supremacy looks like in liberal congregations. It's a scary prospect for many people. We don't like to think that as liberals we can be racist or that we are part of the problem. However Unitarian Universalist of Color often experience being disempowered in our congregations. They are asking us to take responsibility for how we exclude non-whites with our implicit assumptions and practices. They are asking us to look with open eyes at how Unitarian Universalism often centers the white experience.

To date, 540 congregations have committed to a teach-in. With the full support of the Board of Trustees and the commitment of those in our congregation who have been working through the Beloved Conversations program which focuses on racial justice, we will hold our Teach In on May 7th. This excites me. It says to me that the yearning for wholeness and healing is strong enough that we are willing to welcome a time of introspection and accountability. My profound hope is that we will become the world we dream about and a model for other liberal institutions to follow.

This is a tender time and it's also a transformative time. Let us move through the possibilities of this moment with compassion, conviction, kindness, and hope.

Yours in faith, Rev. Krista Taves

Minister's Office Hours

Sunday May 7 – Sunday May 14	
Monday May 8 –	10 am – 1 pm
Tuesday May 9 –	10 am – 1 pm
Wednesday May 10 –	10 am – noon
Friday May 12 –	10 am – 1 pm

President's Message

I want to start by inviting all of you to our Annual Meeting, following the Sunday service on May 7, 2017. After our meeting, we will have a luncheon in the Garden Room.

I will be leaving the board after this meeting. I've served as President of the Board for two years, and it's time for me to give it all away. It's time for some of us "Old folks" to step aside and make space for a new era of Unitarian-Universalism in Quincy. This has been "My Church" for more than fifty years. I want to give it all away to a new generation. I'm giving you a proud heritage, a warm and inviting church building, a set of principles for guidance into our future, and a bond of togetherness, the "We" that we share with each (and every) other. Please care for us gently, wisely and thoughtfully. I hope that I've not caused too many unintended consequences.

Speaking of unintended consequences -- It's been nearly two years now since we set out on an experiment together. Rev. Scott Aaseng was leaving us, and we had the opportunity to expand upon the good experience that we had with his quarter-time ministry. Our Search Committee found Rev. Krista Taves who was looking for a half-time ministry. We recognized that our budget wouldn't support a half-time ministry at that time, but we had reserves. Our reserves could carry us for three years in support of a half-time ministry.

Our hope was that during those three years, our congregation would appreciate the value of a half-time ministry. We hoped that through an increase in the size of the congregation and an increase in the amount of money pledged to support our ministry, we would be able to fully support Rev. Krista's half-time ministry for many years to come. It was an ambitious experiment and it's not working out as well as we had hoped.

Few of us would dispute that Rev. Krista is a role model for the advancement of liberal religion in our community. The part that's not advancing is our ability to pay the monetary cost. I don't think there is a "magic bullet" answer to this problem. Leann and I increased our pledge again this year. Did you? Our budget this year totals \$86,483. It has been trimmed to the bone. The pledges we had received when our budget was prepared added up to \$40,824. Last time I checked we had 72 members. Throw those numbers around for a few minutes. Divide the total budget by the number of members. Divide the amount pledged by the number of members. And compare these numbers with the amount of support that you are giving to the Unitarian Church this coming Church Year. Take the time. Do the math.

Our ministry needs your support. We must find ways to bring our ambitions into balance with our resources. The experiment is failing. It will not continue without change. The solution is yet to be discovered.

Mike Flanagan, (outgoing) Board President

Joys and Sorrows to be shared during Worship.

Our Worship Services now include a special time for the sharing of Joys and Sorrows. There is a Joys and Sorrows binder at each entrance to the church. This is a place for you to write a joy or sorrow that you would like to share with the congregation. You can also send your joy or sorrow by Saturday to contact@uuquincy.org and it will find its way to us. Then during the service, after the opening hymn, we will share these with the congregation, followed by our traditional Unison Affirmation.

If you are wondering what is appropriate to share during this time, here are some guidelines:

- news about hospital stays or health concerns of members and friends and people you care about, provided you know the person would want you to share it
- births, weddings and deaths
- special anniversaries
- important life transitions, like moving a loved one into a facility, children leaving for college, retiring, moving, grand/child starting school, middle school, high school
- special accomplishments (this is often enjoyed by children who will want to share they got an award or won a contest, things like that)
- gratitude for some work done by volunteers in the congregation or in the community
- concerns for people we care about

It's best to refrain from partisan commentary or cheering for sports teams! And this is not a place for general announcements.

Our hope is that this will become a treasured way of sharing those important things with the congregation so that we can better support each other in the daily joys and struggles we face each day.

If you have a joy or sorrow you would like shared and are unable to write it in the book, please send it to contact@uuquincy.org.

Women's Alliance

The Women's Alliance will not be meeting in the month of May but instead have a get together on Wednesday June 7th for the express purpose of electing officer positions and to plan for the coming years programs. Guests are welcome to attend at any time the Women's Alliance meets.

Dogwood Parade Porch Party Celebration

Saturday, May 6th at 9:15. Please contact Contact@UUQuincy.org for information as to where to meet. Please bring a breakfast/brunch item to share.

There will be two options for giving at the celebration. You can bring food to be donated to Quanada OR you can give a check or cash to donate toward the Teen Reach program.

Plant Book & Bake Sale

Earth Day was the perfect setting for our annual plant, bake, and book sale on April 22nd. Thanks to the hours of hard work by many members and friends of the church we had another successful sale. It seemed that the crowds were down but the spirits remained high and the weather was beautiful. Mark your calendar for next year's sale on April 28, 2018.

The book store did a very brisk business during the Plant, Book & Bake sale. There was the initial stampede at the beginning and customers came downstairs steadily all day. A huge shoutout of thanks to bookstore volunteers Jean Schweda, Joe Conover, Beth Lane, Dona Reinertsen and Jennifer Law Harvey and also Butch Gapinski and David Hayes for doing the heavy work of carrying boxes of books out to the customers vehicles.

And a heartfelt thank you to all who donated their time and talent in making so many delicious pies, cakes, cookies, breads, cinnamon rolls, & mustard for our hugely successful bake sale. Never have our cinnamon rolls sold so fast, the oven couldn't keep up. Our huge table filled with nearly two dozen pies was quickly devoured by our loyal customers.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

On Sunday, May 7, 2017, following our Sunday Service, we will convene our Annual Congregational Meeting. Among the questions to be voted upon will be the election of three new board members who will each be elected to serve a three year term. Our Nominating Committee has asked Judy Crocker, Angel Smith and Michael Drew to join our Board of Trustees. Members will be given the opportunity to nominate additional candidates, at the meeting. The Church Budget for the 2017-2018 church year will need to be approved, and we will have this opportunity to share other issues and concerns of our congregation.

Those of you who cannot attend are encouraged to send your Proxy to the meeting, designating another member who may cast your vote.

Carry-In Luncheon, Sunday, May 7, 2017

The Fellowship Committee invites you to stay for lunch after the Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 7. We will provide hot turkey sandwiches with gravy and beverages. We ask that the congregation bring a side dish or dessert to share. The Annual Meeting has been scheduled for the first Sunday in May, because the second Sunday is Mother's Day. Therefore our monthly carry-in is also the first Sunday. Coffee Hour on Mother's day will be provided by the committee in the Heritage Room.

VHS --- DVD

Our church has some VHS tapes that we would like to have transferred to DVDs. If anyone can do this for us, please contact Dienna Drew, Contact@UUQuincy.org

Congregational Workshop Opportunity!

Open to all!!! Instead of traveling to attend a UU workshop on justice, we have one coming to our door step! Please join Scott Aaseng, former consulting minister at this church, as he facilitates a discussion on "Re-Visioning Our Work for Justice". This will take place in the Garden Room on Saturday, May 13 from 9:00 – 11:30. We will share what we have done under the umbrella of "social action", including the Beloved Conversations group and the Deep Waters Listening group, explore other forms and ideas to include under "social action", and begin to re-vision at least some of these efforts as justice work. This is another step in our journey to becoming a Beloved Community, a goal our congregation identified three years ago.

We look forward to seeing everyone there! Please RSVP to Tracee Farmer by email: Contact@UUQuincy.org

IS MEMBERSHIP IN YOUR FUTURE?

We invite all who feel at home in our church community to sign the membership book. To do so you accept the commitment to build your own theology in a church where no creed or dogma is set forth for you. And you recognize a responsibility to share your time and resources for the support of our church home.

The membership book is available every Sunday, and a member of the Board of Trustees or the Membership Committee will be there to assist you.

Dienna Drew

Deep Waters Listening Group

Heritage Room, on Mondays: May 1, 15 and June 5, 2017, at 6:30 p.m.

May 15th and June 5th are the final meetings of Deep Waters Listening Group for this church year. Chapters 13 and 14 of "Listening Hearts" will be covered. As mentioned before, the group will soon be selecting a new book for next year, and our meeting schedule will fit the book chosen.

Once the upcoming church year begins, Deep Waters will be open for new members. This is a covenant group, so once we begin, a bond of trust, sharing, forgiveness, and safety are established with written rules. We also give to our church. Speak with a member for more information: Mary Ann, Mary Beth, Sherrie, Angel, Lisa, Dona, and Kate.

Social Action Committee

While there is a “lull” in SAC specific activities, behind the scenes Leann Flanagan and I will be meeting with the NEW Chair of SAC, TRACEE FARMER. We are sharing our electronic files as well as any “collective wisdom” we have about chairing the Social Action Committee. With Tracee in charge, and Leann’s experience, I know the committee and our SAC activities will not miss a beat!

And please be on the lookout for any school supply sales that can be used to fill the 50 boy kindergarten backpacks we will provide for the Back to School Fair in early August. If you find a great deal, please post on the church Facebook page.

I want to thank everyone who has contributed their time, talents, and financial contributions to the Social Action activities during the years I have been Chair / Co-Chair. What a great group of committee members! With them, and the contributions of the rest of the members and friends of the Quincy Unitarian Church, being Chair of SAC has been the easiest and most fun “job” I have ever had.

Thanks again,
Lynn Mercurio, Co-Chair

FAMOUS UNITARIANS – QUINCY STYLE

Two of the names being considered for Quincy’s new schools were Unitarian Church members – Dr. Abby Fox Rooney and Cora Benneson.

Dr. Rooney (1844-1934) suggested the beautiful windows which were installed in 1916, 2- 3 years after the building was finished. In 1874, she was the first woman physician licensed in Illinois, and specialized in obstetrics and diseases of women and children in St. Mary Hospital.

Miss Benneson (1851-1919) was one of the first female lawyers, earning her degree in 1880.

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 UuadvocacyIllinois@gmail.com or go to their website at <http://uu-advocacy-illinois.org> . You can also LIKE UUANI on Facebook.

Quincy Unitarian Church Activities Calendar

Saturday, May 6:

9:15 a.m. – Dogwood Parade Porch Party Celebration – Ted & Sandy Morrison’s front porch – 2018 Maine Street. Please bring a breakfast/brunch item to share.

Sunday, May 7:

10:45 a.m. - **"No Longer Business as Usual,"** Speakers: Rev. Krista Taves, Mike Flanagan, Angel Smith, George Herendeen.

Following the Service – our Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

Following the Annual Meeting – Carry-In Luncheon in the Garden Room

Saturday May 13:

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – A workshop on: "Re-Visioning Our Work for Justice," Led by Rev. Scott Aaseng.

Sunday, May 14:

9:30 a.m. - Adult Religious Education - **Our American Roots.** Rev. Krista Taves.

10:45 a.m. - Sunday Service: **"Healing the Heart of Democracy,"** **Speaker:** Rev. Scott Aaseng.

May’s Donate-a-Plate collection will benefit **The Back to School Fair**

Monday, May 15:

6:30 p.m. - Deep Waters Listening Group - in the Heritage Room.

Sunday, May 21:

10:45 a.m. - Sunday Service: "The Art of Being Uncomfortable," Speaker: Alexis Engelbrecht-Villfane.

Sunday, May 28:

10:45 a.m. - Sunday Service: "TBA", Speaker: TBA

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About the Quincy Unitarian Church's Newsletter

The Newsletter is prepared every month for contributing Members and Friends of Quincy's Unitarian Church. The goal is to provide a convenient and accessible means of communication among those who value Quincy's Unitarian Universalist community. Visitors to the church may receive a complimentary printed newsletter for three months. Additional copies are available at the church.

News should be submitted by the Monday before the first Friday of the month in order to be included in that month's printed newsletter.

Our Newsletter is available in two ways: via "Snail-Mail" and by e-mail. Your choice and your requests as well as all changes of address, subscription requests, and newsletter article submissions may be made . . .

by contacting any member of the Newsletter Team,

by leaving a message on the church's answering machine at (217) 222-5468,

by e-mail to the Church or the Webmaster.

or by mailing a note to the church:

Newsletter

Quincy Unitarian Church

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Quincy, Illinois 62301