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Unitarian Church
1479 Hampshire Street
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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>
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<http://www.uuquincy.org/index.shtml>

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 - August 2017

Summer Sunday Adult Religious Education begins at 9:30 a.m.
The Touchstones Theme for August is [Ambiguity & Paradox](#)

Touchstones Theme: Ambiguity & Paradox



The opposite of a correct statement is a false statement. But the opposite of a profound truth may well be another profound truth.
Niels Bohr

Abandon the urge to simplify everything, to look for formulas and easy answers, and to begin to think multi-dimensionally, to glory in the mystery and paradoxes of life, not to be dismayed by the multitude of causes and consequences that are inherent in each experience—to appreciate the fact that life is complex. *M. Scott Peck*



The state of ambiguity—that messy, greasy, mixed-up, confused, and awful situation you're living through right now—is enlightenment itself. *Brad Warner*

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Sunday, August 6:

9:30 a.m. - Adult Religious Education - On Ambiguity & Paradox

Sunday, August 13:

9:30 a.m. - Adult Religious Education - On Ambiguity & Paradox

Sunday, August 20:

9:30 a.m. - Adult Religious Education - On Ambiguity & Paradox

Sunday, August 27:

9:30 a.m. - Adult Religious Education - On Ambiguity & Paradox

Minister's Message

The Unitarian Universalist Water Communion to be celebrated September 10:

In the 1970s and 1980s, 2nd wave feminism transformed Unitarian Universalism. While our faith was always liberal, always progressive, always slightly ahead of the curve in many ways, it was also steeped in patriarchal assumptions. There were very few women ministers. Women were directed towards stereotypically female leadership roles, like Fellowship and Religious Education. Our hymnal still used “men” as the generic for humankind. There was also a strong mind/body split in our worship services. They were very intellectual, some would say sterile, and focused on the mind with little focus on our embodied selves.

White feminism was most appealing to middle class white women, and our churches were and are filled with white middle class women. They joined consciousness raising groups and read Betty Friedan and Gloria Steinem. UU women marched against Vietnam, for nuclear disarmament, reproductive freedom, and the Equal Rights Amendment. It didn't take long for Unitarian Universalist women to look at their churches through a feminist lens and reflect on the ways that they were silenced and excluded in our faith.

In 1977 the Women in Religion Conference, attended by lay and ordained women, began raising the bar. They asked for a sexism audit of the Unitarian Universalist Association. They demanded that time and energy be spent on supporting women in ministry. They expressed the need for a gender neutral hymnal.

In congregational life, UU women began intentionally moving into non-traditional leadership roles to bring about the changes they wanted to see, including the Worship Committee. There was a growing voice among those who wanted more elements of the feminine to be brought permanently into worship. Unitarian Universalist women began bringing different sensory elements into the worship service. They wanted a more spiritual focus, a balance of the head and heart, and they wanted more ritual because it was one of the most effective ways of creating services that celebrated our embodied selves.

One of those rituals was the Water Communion. At a women's conference, attendees were encouraged to bring water from a place that was spiritually significant to them. During the service, each person was invited forward to share why the water was spiritually significant for them. Then they poured some of their water into a communal bowl to signify that all things are connected, including our yearnings, our love, even our suffering.

The Water Communion has been adopted by most Unitarian Universalist churches, even by ours for a short time. It was a moving service. The challenge is that over time, the Water Communion developed into a travelogue. People would bring water from their vacations and the service became more like a show and tell of where we went for the summer. The service became less spiritual and more classist because it held up who had the means to have the most spectacular vacation in places remote from North America. Then as now, some of our members are working class and can't afford expensive traveling vacations. Here at Quincy Unitarian this is why the Water Communion was suspended. It was experienced as a ritual that divided more than it unified.

In congregations across North America, ministers and lay people have been revising the Water Communion to return it to its roots, which was a deeply felt need to reverence the natural world and our interconnectedness with it and each other. The Water Communion has been transformed back to a simple ritual that holds up our radical interdependence, our embodiment of the sacred, and our responsibility to care for each other and the earth.

We will be reinstating the Water Communion at our first formal worship service of the church year. As this summer winds down, be thinking about a place in your life that is spiritually significant to you. If you can go there, collect a small bottle of water to bring with you on September 10th. If you can't go there, water from your tap will be just fine. After all, water comes from one source and returns to it. If you are unable to bring water, there will be a pitcher at the service so that you may pour water to symbolize the place that you hold in your heart.

It will be good to see you when I return in September. Until then, may you be well.

Yours in faith,
Rev. Krista Taves.

President's Message

Soon we will be returning to the church year cycle of Sunday morning services, meaningful projects, traditional events, and committee activities. There is a rising air in August of planning for the new year.

September brings a cleanupooza and a warm welcome with Reverend Krista Taves. I, for one, believe we have benefited from the infusion of professional Unitarian ministry and tradition Krista has brought to Quincy. She has brought us together at a higher level of spirituality and enriched the sum total of wonderful speakers at our services.

It takes the enthusiasm and resources of many to make us the strong Unitarian Church of Quincy. I'm proud to be part of this coming year of manageable challenges and opportunities. We have a great board of trustees. The church members and friends have everything to look forward to.

Dona Reinertsen, 2017 - 2018 President of the Board

Treasurer's Report

Thank you to those of you that have turned in the electronic deposit forms. If you would like to start the electronic deposit, there is NO fee to you for this service. Information can be found on the Tiffany Table or please feel free to contact anyone from the Finance Committee or myself.

Please remember to bring in Hy-Vee bar codes! We are collecting them as part of our ongoing fundraiser. Give your Hy-Vee bar codes to Dienna or put them in the plastic bag hanging on the bulletin board in the Resource Room. Every little bit helps.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Drew
Treasurer, Board of Trustees

Lammas Celebration

Lammas, is a traditional wheat harvest festival celebrated by Pagans and Christians alike, dating back to medieval times. The Unitarian Church of Quincy is hosting a Lammas celebration 6 p.m. Tuesday, August 1, at the church, located at 1479 Hampshire Street. We invite anyone to come with an open mind and a cheerful heart to learn about the history, and celebrate Lammas with us. There will be a small 'harvest feast' planned, we encourage people to bring a finger food or harvest-related food to share. There casting the Circle, Celebration of the Harvest with John Barleycorn effigy burning, foods from the harvest Examples; Apples, grains, breads, berries, barley cakes, berry pies, jellies, colcannon, cider, sun shaped cookies, corn, elderberry wine, grapes, honey, lamb, nuts, potatoes, rice, wild berries. Also herbs. And Drumming.

BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR UPDATES

All backpacks and school supplies have been purchased and are at the church ready for the next step!

THERE ARE THREE WAYS THAT YOU CAN HELP!.....

1. On Tuesday, August 8th at 10:00 a.m. we will need volunteers at church in the Garden Room to fill the backpacks. The more people that come to help, the quicker the process. In the past, this has taken less than an hour.
2. Backpacks need to be delivered to the First Baptist Church on Friday, August 11th from 9:00 a.m. and no later than 12:00 p.m.
3. The actual Back to School Fair is Saturday, August 12th, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Volunteers must arrive by 7:30. Volunteers are needed to hand out backpacks, escort families at the Health Department, help with clothing, etc. There can never be too many volunteers for all that happens at the Back to School Fair!

Membership Directory and Committee Activities

The "Membership Directory" is in the process of updating. We need your input! Please send your updates to Dienna Drew or Mary Beth Gapinski. Email and printed versions will be made available to the church Membership and Friends early this fall.

Pathways to Unitarianism and Greeter Training classes will be conducted by Reverend Taves and supported by the Membership Committee this fall. Pathways is a one-time class offered late fall and spring, open to all. The contributions of attending members is invaluable.

Greeter Training is offered once a year, and those participants become part of a team. The team members agree to greet on Sunday mornings to welcome all and focus on the new attendees in a more structured manner. Dates for greeting throughout the church year are established. Please consider joining the Greeter Team! The Membership Committee follows up periodically with team members and new attendees and sends invitation letters to attend the Pathways to Unitarianism classes. Reverend Taves sends a letter to each new attendee. For more information, please contact a Membership Committeewoman: Dona Reinertsen, chair; Dienna Drew; Mary Beth Gapinski; or Sharon Ervin.

HAVE YOU CHANGED ?

The Membership Committee is compiling the new Church Directory for the coming church year. If you have changed anything -- your address, phone number, etc. please email Dienna Drew, Contact@UUQuincy.org

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

The Fellowship Committee will meet in the Garden Room on Thursday, August 24, at 5:00 p.m. We will be planning events for the new church year and coffee hour procedures. Anyone interested in attending is welcome!

Women's Alliance

The Women's Alliance is gearing up for a new year with new activities. Although the year's programs are still being discussed and approved of, the first meeting will be on Sept. 9th and a Cleanupalooza will be hosted in order to beautify the church in time for resumed services the following day.

We will meet at 9am on Saturday and will have a list of all areas that need attention both inside and out on the Garden Room kitchen counter and also in the Resource Room. We hope that many church members will join us and pitch in because we are a beloved community and a tapestry of many souls!

Hope Abides Covenant Group to form this fall

A new covenant group will be forming at our congregation this fall, the Hope Abides Covenant Group. This is an open covenant group, meaning that you can join at any time. Rev. Krista will be leading the group.

The other covenant group, Deep Waters, accepts new members in the fall and then closes for the remainder of the year. This helps to create relationships of deep trust and understanding. It's no coincidence that the majority of our lay leaders have come through Deep Waters. It's an awesome group.

We also need an open covenant group for those become newly active during the year and also people for who are unable to commit to a twice a month group. The Hope Abides Covenant Group is flexible in its intention. You are also welcome to come if you are part of the

Deep Waters Group and want additional covenant group sessions.

The purpose of a covenant group is to support each person's spiritual growth and to nurture friendships in a spirit of hospitality and affirmation.

Here is the schedule for next year and the theme of each session. If you want to be on the mailing list and receive a monthly reminder, please email Rev. Krista at revkristataves@gmail.com.

One Wednesday a month, 6:30pm - 8:00pm, in the Heritage Room.

Sept 13 - Beauty
Oct 18 - Hospitality
Nov 8 - Faith
Dec 6 - Hope
Jan 10 - Justice
Feb 7 - Love
Mar 7 - Humility
Apr 4 - Transformation
May 2 - Transcendence
May 30 - Wisdom

Deep Waters Listening Group

Deep Waters Listening Group is a covenant group based on Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry. A covenant group agrees on a behavioral covenant to deepen relationships and practice listening skills with an open heart. We meet about every 2 weeks and focus our time together around preselected topics. This year we selected a new book for next year, suggested by Angel Smith: *"How to be an Adult,"* by David Richo. Mary Ann Freeman is ordering books -- they are quite affordable.

Our Listening Group experience has been highly rewarding. Each fall, the Listening Group is open to new members. Our first meeting is: September 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room for new member orientation and organization. We will meet on Monday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room. We welcome you to consider joining us in September. Mary Beth Gapinski is our organizing leader, and you can speak with her or Dona Reinertsen, Sherrie Hays, Lisa Wigoda, Mary Ann Freeman, Kate Daniels or Angel Smith.

Put On Your Thinking Caps

Our congregation faces a major decision in the next few months which will require serious thought and much discussion. We are entering year 3 of our association with Rev Krista Taves. Our contract with Rev Krista has necessitated accessing the reserve fund that was established to supplement a minister's salary. After this church year, that reserve fund will be virtually depleted. This means we will have to generate more income if we want to keep a minister, regardless of whether it's a half-time or quarter-time position and regardless of who is in the position. In fairness to Rev Krista and to ourselves, we should have a sense of direction by the end of this calendar year, so that all may plan accordingly after the first of the year. Please be thinking about what is important to you and be prepared to participate in discussions as we work through our options and come to consensus.

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

Tuesday, August 1:

6:00 p.m. - Lammas celebration at the church.

Sunday, August 6:

9:30 a.m. - Adult Religious Education - On Ambiguity & Paradox

Tuesday, August 8:

10:00 a.m. - Filling Book Bags for our Church's contribution to the Back to School Fair

Saturday, August 12:

8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. - The Back to School Fair at First Baptist Church, 739 N 8th St, Quincy.

Sunday, August 13:

9:30 a.m. - Adult Religious Education - On Ambiguity & Paradox

Sunday, August 20:

9:30 a.m. - Adult Religious Education - On Ambiguity & Paradox

Thursday, August 24:

5:00 p.m. - The Fellowship Committee will meet in the Garden Room

Sunday, August 27:

9:30 a.m. - Adult Religious Education - On Ambiguity & Paradox

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

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 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 [e-mail](#) to the Church or the Webmaster,

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

by contacting any member of the Newsletter Team.

or by mailing a note to the church:

Newsletter

Quincy Unitarian Church

1479 Hampshire Street

Quincy, Illinois 62301