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Unitarian Church
1479 Hampshire Street
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Follow us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/UUQuincy
Or join our Members Group:
www.facebook.com/groups/5045352585
The Church Building Use Calendar:
www.uuquincy.org/member/building.shtml
The Church Website & Public Calendar:
www.uuquincy.org/index.shtml

Answering Machine: (217) 222-5468

Rev. Krista Taves, Minister
Mary Ann Freeman, 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 - October 2018

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, October 7:

10:45 a.m. - Sunday Service: **"Nothing is Settled. Everything Matters"**, Speaker: Rev. Krista Taves. Our lives aren't defined by a moment, a day, a year or an event. While we cannot change the past, we can learn to own it so that we can find power in our lives and move into the future on our own terms. This is why "nothing is settled and everything matters". (Walsh) This service will use as one of its sources the video "Formation" by Beyonce. While the video will not be shown in the service because of the use of explicit language and sexualized content, you are invited to watch the video on your own. Here is the link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDZJPJV_bQ
Following the Service - Carry-In Coffee Hour in the Garden Room

Sunday, October 14:

10:45 a.m. - Sunday Service: **"Love the Contradictions"**, led by Marie Erikson and Anna Gabbert.
October's Donate-a-Plate collection will benefit [Cornerstone](#).

Sunday, October 21:

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

Sunday, October 28:

10:45 a.m. - Sunday Service: **"Religion vs. Spirituality: Friends or Foes?"**, Speaker: Andrew Walsh.

Touchstones Theme: Formation

"If life were an art lesson, we could describe it as a process of finding how to turn this mud into that porcelain, this discord into that sonata, this ugly stone block into that statue, this tangle of threads into that tapestry. In fact, however, the stakes are higher than in any art lesson. It is in the school of ...[life] that we find ourselves enrolled and the artifact that is being made is ourselves."
J. I. Packer



"But unless we are creators we are not fully alive. What do I mean by creators? Not only artists, whose acts of creation are the obvious ones of working with paint or clay or words. Creativity is a way of living life, no matter our vocation or how we earn our living. Creativity is not limited to the arts, or having some kind of important career."
Madeleine L'Engle

Join us in exploring the theme of Formation

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Minister's Message

For the last two years, since serving two congregations (Quincy IL and La Crosse WI) I have taken the same Sunday evening flight home from La Crosse WI almost every month. I know most of the TSA folks in La Crosse. They have come to learn that I always bring butter from the Co-Op home with me (you can't get butter like that in Missouri). I will likely arrive in Chicago O'Hare at G19 or G21 and the St. Louis flight generally leaves from K1 or K3. I know every eating establishment between G to K and have chosen The Chicago Cubs Bar and Grill for my dinner during my connection wait, not because I'm a Cubs fan, but because the same waiter tends to be there, he's kind and attentive, the food isn't too expensive, and I like the view out the window.

None of this was second nature when I started this, but over the course of two years, I've developed patterns. I've been formed by those patterns, and to this point, I mostly like the choices I've made.

But the reality is that my choices are limited. The schedule is the airline's. There are rules about seat selection, how you board, the ID you can use, what you can put in your suitcase, and what you have to remove to go through screening. All the choices that I've made are my way of negotiating the systems that I have to go through to get on that plane. The destination is mine, but the way I get there is largely out of my control. This, too, has been part of my formation.

October's theme is formation, which is the lifelong process of becoming. We are formed in so many ways, some of our own choosing, many not. Because Unitarian Universalism developed largely through white middle class culture, we have tended to emphasize the many choices we have about how we are formed. White middle class racialized identity tells us that we have a great deal of power in how we shape ourselves. Those in less privileged places often have a different story that focuses on challenges and barriers that are very powerful - women, people of color, those with disabilities, sexual and gender minorities, the poor and working class, immigrants. It may take tremendous energy simply to survive, and claiming your power takes an extra level of energy and focus. This struggle is part of your formation.

We will spend this month's Sunday services, covenant groups, and religious education thinking about how we've been formed and we have formed ourselves.

This month, my service also involves some homework. Before October 6th, take some time to watch Beyonce's video "Formation" which was released in 2016. I considered playing the video in the service, but the explicit language and sexualized content could be very uncomfortable for some, and there's always the possibility that some parents may need to keep their children with them in the service. For that reason, I'm encouraging you to watch the video on your own: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDZJPJV__bQ,

Watch the version sung at the Superbowl: <http://www.nfl.com/videos/nfl-super-bowl/oap300000634279/Bruno-Mars-and-Beyonce-crash-halftime>

And read a review of the song itself in The Guardian: <https://www.theguardian.com/music/musicblog/2016/feb/08/beyonce-formation-review-super-bowl-rallying-cry-black-consciousness>

The original video may be challenging to watch for some but it is rich in metaphors of the black American experience and its edginess is itself part of the formative process of claiming identity. For those who have to work very hard to claim who they are in our racialized society, it is a strong statement of taking one's own power. Ultimately, that is what the process of formation is about - claiming identity and taking one's own power.

See you in October.
Yours in faith,
Rev. Krista

Minister's Office Hours

Rev. Taves is with us from October 4-6. She is available by appointment on Thursday October 4 and Friday October 5. You can email her at revkristataves@gmail.com.

President's Message

I would like to thank Justin Crouch and Kate Daniels who stepped up to prepare a service when our service with John Pavlovitz had to be cancelled, and the committee chairs who helped with the Committee Fair on the 23rd September.

Work on upgrading the basement is continuing and Bix has completed the trenching on the east wall and removed the nasty flooring that was in the southeast corner. We will be looking for more volunteers at a later time to help haul out the books and remove more furniture so that we can continue the work to improve this space. Our goal is to make this space more appealing, so it can be used for more activities and events.

The board continues to work on the Behavior Covenant. We have borrowed ideas from other churches who have also found a need for such a covenant in view of current events in our society in general. The covenant's goals are to protect ourselves and our members and to provide guidelines for which behaviors are acceptable and which are not. We hope to have this available in our next newsletter so that our members will have time to peruse the documents and provide feedback to us before the Semi-Annual Meeting when we will discuss it more fully.

The board has also discussed re-posting for the position of R.E. teacher and Reverend Taves has graciously helped out by updating the posting. In the meantime, we do still need volunteers, including one adult for this coming Sunday, October 7th. The sign-up sheet for R.E. is on the Tiffany table.

See me to borrow a copy of the book *Serving With Grace*. This little book takes about two hours to read and is packed full of advice and tips for serving on boards and committees. Each board member has a copy and will pass their copy on to their replacement when they leave the board. There are 2 copies available for borrowing. I recommend this book for anyone serving on a committee or thinking about serving.

Mary Ann Freeman, Board President

Uncapped Conversations: Understanding Life Backwards, Living it Forwards. Rev. Krista Taves.

Thursday, October 4th 6:30 p.m. Still Waters Float Center, 900 Broadway, Quincy IL. This open covenant group uses guiding question to deepen in the theme of the evening. Please RSVP Rev. Krista Taves if you plan to come so that we have enough room for all who wish to attend. You are also invited to bring food to share. revkristataves@gmail.com.

Pathways - An Introduction to Unitarian Universalism with Rev. Krista Taves.

October 6, 9 a.m. - noon If you are new to Unitarian Universalism, new to the Fellowship, or simply want to refresher, this 3 hour interactive exploration of Unitarian Universalist history, theology, and congregational life is for you. Bring snacks to share. Childcare is available. Please RSVP revkristataves@gmail.com by October 4th.

HOST A FIRST FRIDAY

First Friday Celebrations are a great way for friends and members of the church to gather for casual conversation. These gatherings have traditionally been held in members' homes. Some who would like to host might feel uncomfortable inviting a large group to their home. An option is to host a First Friday Celebration in the Garden Room. There is a sign up sheet for hosting First Friday's on the Tiffany Lamp table in the Heritage Room, or you may contact Tracee Farmer at traceecay@yahoo.com.

Building & Grounds suggestion box

The Buildings and Grounds Committee is always looking for ways to improve and beautify our church. We have put a suggestion box on the Tiffany Table in the Heritage Room. If you have an idea or see something that needs attention, please write it down, sign it, and put it in the box. This is the best way to let us know what needs to be done, rather than to tell us on Sunday mornings, in covenant groups or other church gatherings. This will help those of us on the Building and Grounds Committee focus on our inner selves and receive the joy and peace that a spiritual journey can bring. Rest assured we will check the suggestion box weekly and ensure that your voice is heard.

The Building and Grounds Committee is a small and devoted group and we are very grateful when you are willing to assist us in large and small ways. Thank you.

A Thank You.....

We wish to express our deepest gratitude for all the many cards, memorials, and kind words we have received from everyone through Leann's father's illness and passing. The support you have given us during this difficult time has been very comforting. With our appreciation, Leann & Mike

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

Thursday, October 4:

6:30 p.m. -- Uncapped Conversations: Understanding Life Backwards, Living it Forwards. Rev. Krista Taves. Still Waters Float Center, 900 Broadway, Quincy IL. revkristataves@gmail.com.

Saturday, October 6:

9:00 a.m. to 12:noon -- Pathways - An Introduction to Unitarian Universalism with Rev. Krista Taves. Please RSVP revkristataves@gmail.com by October 4th.

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