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Unitarian Church  
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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 - May 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, May 6:

10:45 a.m. - Sunday Service: **"21<sup>st</sup> Century Beloved Community."** When Martin Luther King spoke of Beloved Community in the 1960s, he spoke in the context of racial equality between black and white, the United States' involvement in Vietnam, and poverty. Since then, the concept of Beloved Community has become central to the theologies of many progressive faith traditions, including ours. What has changed and what has stayed the same in the past 50 years? Speaker: Rev. Krista Taves. New Member recognition during services. Following the Service - Carry-In Coffee Hour in the Garden Room (to coincide with the 1:00 p.m. Board Meeting).

### Sunday, May 13:

10:45 a.m. - Sunday Service: **"Why Be a Congregation?"** Speaker: Doug Muder  
May's Donate-a-Plate collection will benefit the [Back to School Fair](#)

### Sunday, May 20:

10:45 a.m. - Sunday Service: **"What Do We Personify?"**  
Speaker: Alexis Engelbrecht  
Following the Service - Annual Congregational Meeting  
Following the Meeting - Luncheon in the Garden Room

### Sunday, May 27:

10:45 a.m. - Sunday Service: **"Rebirth in a Sluggish Spring: Emerson on Metamorphosis."** Speaker: Michael Keller

## Minister's Message

In late April, the Unitarian Universalist Association made an announcement that has a whole lot of ministers hoping for change and some ministers hopping with anxiety. The process by which Unitarian Universalist ministers are fellowshiped is under review. This is nothing new. The Fellowshiping process is constantly adjusted to ensure that ministers have the competencies to be effective leaders and that they develop particular skills to help our faith remain relevant. It is the latter that has energized this latest reform movement.

To understand why this is happening, we have to understand the significance of the Ferguson Uprising on Unitarian Universalism. When Michael Brown, a young African American, was shot by a white police officer in Ferguson Missouri and the streets filled with a rebellion that lasted almost a year, Unitarian Universalist People of Color hoped that White Unitarian Universalists would be eager to join in the resistance. Instead, a divisive debate revealed not only the gap in the lived experience of whites and people of color, but also the gap in how white and people of color understand that gap and how it shapes the daily reality for people of color. Since Ferguson,

### Touchstones Theme: Beloved Community

Community does not descend down from heaven. We have to shape it right here on Earth. We all crave belonging and a sense of community. We are not meant to be alone. We deserve both solitude and connection. These are not opposites as much as they are rhythms of our soul. I find myself thinking a lot about community—what it means, what it does to our hearts, and what happens to us when we live without it. I look around me and wonder how community is shaped, and missed. Religion at its best has always been about linking together [the] individual quest and communal fellowship. ... We need each other. Omid Safi



I have found deep meaning in the Hebrew phrase *Tikkun ha'olam*, [which means] 'repair of the world,' for surely the world, wonderful as it is, is broken. In [one of] his essays, Emerson said there is "a crack in everything God has made." I submit that one of the central missions of the Unitarian Universalist movement is trying to fix these cracks, repairing the world and creating the Beloved Community of Love and Justice. Rev. Richard Gilbert

*Even, and especially, the hidden cracks within people who hurt as we hurt, who hope as we hope.*



### Join us in exploring the theme of Beloved Community

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Heart, by Tim Marshall on Unsplash

there has been a growing critical mass of white Unitarian Universalists and Unitarian Universalist people of color urging the association to engage in a time of intense self-reflection to discern how the construction of whiteness shapes Unitarian Universalism. We are examining our principles and purposes, our UUA bylaws, the way we run meetings, hiring practices, and employee review processes.

It should surprise no one that the lens of introspection would land on how we credential our ministers. The Ministerial Fellowship Committee is going to examine everything they do, from the required reading list, the competencies they test, the writing assignments, the psychological evaluations, the grading system, even the scheduling system, with the question of how our credentialing privileges some ministers and disempowers others.

I have been a Unitarian Universalist for 20 years. The reason I became a Unitarian Universalist is that I experienced the communities we create as holy ground. There is something special about the intentional relationships we build within our religious communities that become a unique manifestation and revelation of the holy. We are a faith of the covenant and have been from the time our Puritan ancestors landed on North American soil. Whether we are gathering for Sunday services, joining a Covenant Group, participating in a team meeting, or sitting around a table for a meal, we are creating holy ground. I felt the same to be true when I stood before the Ministerial Fellowship Committee to be examined. Even though they were evaluating me and the power was with them, we were creating holy ground out of a shared love and commitment to Unitarian Universalism and our congregations. I also know that I was a white woman and that it is very possible that I experienced that space as holy ground because all my evaluators were white and we shared a racialized identity.

The reason that Unitarian Universalists constantly evaluate our institutions is because we affirm that through human relationships, the holy is created and recreated. I use the term "holy" in a quintessentially Unitarian Universalist way, that the holy is that place where beloved community can live and thrive.

Our institutions and the way we make decisions inside them are therefore always up for review. Religions of the book are constantly reinterpreting their scriptures to recover their power; we reinterpret our institutions and the way we run them. In both cases, the goal is to occupy holy ground, to create a path for beloved community to live and thrive.

Because we are a people committed to the realization of beloved community, we are of necessity a people who are constantly reforming. If it becomes clear that some people are disempowered in our faith, if we privilege some people more than others, we are preventing the manifestation of holy ground. The reform of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee is about making sure that the way we credential our ministers is truly multicultural and embracing of the fullest possible human experience.

What does holy ground look like in our congregation? How do we create a path for its regenerating power through us and among us? Are there ways that we privilege some more than others? Are we able to share power with new members? Do we value the experience of longer term members? How do we balance tradition with innovation? How generous are we towards those in our own congregations who offer a vision that stretches our comfort zones? These questions are vitally important because ultimately, our call is to occupy holy ground not only in our congregations, but also beyond them.

Yours in faith,  
Rev. Krista Taves.

## **Minister's Office Hours**

Monday, April 30 – 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Tuesday, May 1 – 10 a.m. – noon  
Wednesday, May 2 – 10 a.m. – noon  
Thursday, May 3 – 10 a.m. – noon

## **President's Message**

Look at all we have accomplished this past year! "We" is the powerful part that makes things happen, just as our banner in the sanctuary says. "We" have made it possible to retain Rev. Krista Taves at quarter time and adjust our church calendar, as needed. Annual committee and other reports will fill us in on Sunday, May 20th at the Annual Congregational Meeting. Plan to attend, and lunch will be served afterwards in the Garden Room.

My love of this church, its congregation, and minister has grown with my role as President. It has been my honor and privilege to serve the board and congregation these past three years. Thank you. Now, the title and responsibilities of president of the board of trustees are being passed on to Mary Ann Freeman. I have every faith in her ability and judgement.

Active mentorship of upcoming leadership is encouraged. If you are a Committee Chair, please take under your wing a few committee members to work with, step by step, starting with planning over the summer. Increasing new Membership is another area where all of us can contribute in various ways.

On May 13th, my husband and I are driving east for vacation. Vice President Mary Ann Freeman will be conducting the 2018 Annual Congregational Meeting after services on Sunday, May 20th. Enjoy your summer break, starting in mid-June.

Dona Reinertsen, outgoing 2017-2018 Board President

## **Pledge Drive**

We are wrapping up the pledge drive and are a little short of our goal. Thank-you to all who have turned in their cards. If you haven't yet but intend to, please turn in your pledge ASAP so the Finance Committee can develop our budget for next year. They need to have it ready for the board meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **Pathways to Unitarian Universalism**

Wednesday May 2, Pathways to Unitarian Universalism. Heritage Room. 5 p.m.–8 p.m. Rev. Krista Taves. If you are new to Unitarian Universalism or this congregation, this is the class for you. This participatory class provides an introduction to Unitarian Universalist history, theology, membership, and how to connect to the congregation. Childcare is provided upon request.

## **First Friday:**

Jonathan and Ashli Hoover are hosting First Friday on May 4<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 PM. Please bring a snack and/or beverage to share. There will also be a box for donations to Teen Reach. If you need more information, please contact [Contact@UUQuincy.org](mailto:Contact@UUQuincy.org)

## **Walk with PFLAG**

Walk with the Hannibal/Quincy chapter of PFLAG in the Dogwood parade on May 5! All who support the mission of PFLAG are invited to join in. We'll meet in the parade lineup - look for #50, on Maine Street between 24th and 30th - at 8 am.

Our local PFLAG has worked over the past year to bring education and awareness to students and staff at John Wood Community College, Quincy High School, Blessing Hospital, and to the general public. They provide peer support for parents and friends of gays and lesbians through regularly scheduled meetings, held at Quincy Unitarian Church on the second Thursday of each month at 7 pm. Friends and allies are welcome to attend meetings. For more information, [Contact@UUQuincy.org](mailto:Contact@UUQuincy.org) and direct the message to Ruth.

## **Chalice Singers Choir Rehearsal**

The Chalice Singers is an intergenerational choir for all experience levels that sings one Sunday a month. We rehearse two simple pieces for the Sunday service, with a brief rehearsal on Sunday May 6 at 10:15 a.m. to warm up. Please contact Rev. Krista Taves to be added to the mailing list.

## **First Sunday Carry-In Coffee Hour**

Please note that our monthly Carry-In Coffee Hour will be Sunday, May 6, rather than Sunday, May 13, to coincide with the change in schedule of May's Board meeting. Everyone is welcome to bring a snack to share with coffee and conversation in the Garden Room.

## **Annual Meeting Luncheon on Sunday, May 20**

On Sunday, May 20, the Fellowship committee will provide a luncheon immediately after the Annual meeting. We will serve sandwiches, salads, cookies, & beverages. Plan to stay and continue conversation over lunch.

## **Women's Alliance**

The Women's Alliance does not meet the month of May but will resume with a short meeting on June 6th to plan the 2018-2019 year programs and the election of officers.

## **Social Action Committee**

The Social Action Committee will meet on Sunday, May 27th at 10:15 to discuss the Back to School Fair. The Back to School Fair benefits students that otherwise would be starting the year without supplies, haircuts, clothing and medical check-ups. Leann has been in contact with the organizers and has information to share.

We need people to commit to helping so that it is a shared activity. There are lots of ways you can help - donate money, shop, organize supplies, fill backpacks, pass out backpacks. You can do it all or you can do a little. You do not need to be a member of the committee to participate. All help is welcome! Please contact [Contact@UUQuincy.org](mailto:Contact@UUQuincy.org) if you are interested.

In addition, there is still a need for a Chair for this committee for the 2018-2019 church year. The role is mainly sending emails, helping organize leaders for activities, writing blurbs for the newsletter and participating in activities when possible.

## **Members Lisa, Angel, Mary Beth, and Justin will attend UUA events**

We have three members who will be representing us at MidWest General Assembly, from June 20 to 24, 2018. Lisa Wigoda and Angel Smith are voting delegates. Mary Beth Gapinski is an attendee. In past years, we sent two members to General Assembly and two to Regional Assembly. Regional Assembly will be every other year from now on. Instead of the church supporting four people to these events, we are sending three to one event. Our congregation covers the cost of registration and lodging. So, congratulations to Lisa, Mary Beth, and Angel!

In addition, new member Justin Crouch has accepted representing us at UUA Adult MidWest Leadership School (MWLS), starting July 15th. This week-long summer program focuses on development of leadership skills to bring back to the congregation. Congratulations, Justin!

## **Plant, Book, and Bake Sale**

It was a wonderful day for the sale and patrons showed up in droves to full their minds, yards, and tummies. We had an overall increase in sales of 30% from last year's sale. Thank-you to everyone who helped with cleanapalooza, preparations for the sale, help on the sale day, and cleanup. It was great to see some new faces helping out and some friends we don't see enough of on a regular basis. Mark your calendar for next year's sale on April 27, 2019!

## **Thank You UU Bakers!**

The bake sale was our best ever; up 50% over last year! Thanks to each and every one who gave their time, talent, and ingredients to help produce the tempting variety of bakery items. We received more contributions than we could display on four large tables in the Heritage Room. The bounty was used to replenish our tables as the brisk sales continued. Thank you all for a very successful bake sale.

## ***In Later Years: Finding Meaning and Spirit in Aging***

Aging is the topic of a new book by Bruce Marshall, who grew up in the Unitarian Church of Quincy. Bruce has served as minister to UU congregations in Michigan, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, and Maryland. His book, *"In Later Years, Finding Meaning and Spirit in Aging,"* draws from Bruce's work as a chaplain in a large retirement community and addresses challenges and opportunities that present themselves as we grow older. The print version can be purchased through the publisher, Skinner House Books: [www.skinnerhouse.org](http://www.skinnerhouse.org). Kindle version available through [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com).

## **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

Wednesday, May 2:

5:00 to 8:00 p.m. – Rev. Krista Taves. Pathways to Unitarian Universalism class. Heritage Room. Refreshments are provided.

Friday, May 4:

6:00 p.m. until ?? – First Friday Celebration at Jonathan and Ashli Hoover’s home at 1253 Park Place. Please bring a snack and/or beverage to share. There will also be a box for donations to Teen Reach.

**Sunday, May 6:**

10:45 a.m. - Sunday Service: **“21<sup>st</sup> Century Beloved Community.”** Speaker: Rev. Krista Taves.

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Following the Service - Our Annual Congregational Meeting

Following the Meeting - A Luncheon with the Fellowship Committee, in the Garden Room

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