

# Unitarian Church of Quincy

## February 2024 Newsletter



### February 2024 Services

**Date: February 4**

**Speaker: Susan Deege**

**Title: George Washington Carver: The Man Who Talked with the Flowers.**

February's UU theme is Hope. Susan Deege will reflect upon the life and work of a personal hero whose life exemplifies hope and service. Carver's work continues to serve millions of individuals to this day. His accomplishments were realized because of his deep commitment to his God and fellow human beings.

**Date: February 11**

**Speaker: Rev. Orville Jones**

**Title: TBD**

**Donate-a-Plate for January will go to Pathway Health Clinic**

**Date: February 18**

**Speaker: Father Joe Zimmerman**

**Title: TBD**

**Date: February 25**

**Speaker: Steve Wiegenstein**

**Title: The Art of Losing**

In February four years ago, the first Americans died of COVID-19. Since that time, we have lost an estimated 1.1 million lives. We have also lost some intangible but important things: a sense of social cohesion, trust in our neighbors, and a spirit of national optimism. Steve reflects on the passages we have been through in this time, and on what might lie ahead at the end of this passage

**President's Message**

So, as I write this, we are looking at temperatures in the 50's this week! I will enjoy it, but I have lived in this area too long to think that winter will continue to weaken. Nevertheless, it is a very welcome change from the bitter cold storm that forced a cancellation of our services and our semi-annual meeting earlier this month. I think the methods of communicating the cancellation worked well in that first trial run since the discontinuing of the phone tree process. We are looking to add mass text messages for these occasions in the future.

Speaking of the meeting, I want to thank our entire congregation for making it successful. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend after switching the schedule. Thank you to the committee member for your continued work for our church and the committee chairs for preparing/presenting the reports. Thank you to the board members for acting as liaisons to the committee. Teamwork makes the dream work, as they say.

We have much to look forward to as the calendar moves along, including our big Candlelight Dinner on March 8 and our annual Spring plant, book, and bake sale in April. Lots of opportunities for volunteers to chip in! I look forward to working with everyone to make those and other events a big success. As we do, please keep in your thoughts those in our congregation who are going through medical or personal struggles right now. Kind words and shows of concern can mean so much and strengthen our bonds as a congregation. Thank you all for your continued support of our church.

Aaron Arnold, Board President

**February First Friday**

It's time for February's First Friday. We look forward to leaving unkind January behind. February offers a lot to celebrate and contemplate: Valentine's Day, Mardi Gras, President's Day, Black History Month featuring African Americans and the Arts, and the Super Bowl!

First Friday will be hosted by Bobbi Thompson Harris, Susan Deege & Mary Beth Gapinski. It will be held at the church in the Garden Room at 6:30pm on February 2nd. Please bring something savory or sweet to share with everyone and whatever you'd like to drink.

**Ministers' Message**

It has been a pleasure seeing everyone the last couple of weekends, first the Semi-Annual Meeting and then for Sharon's talk. It was especially good to see some of our ailing folks back, and hope to see more people back soon who have been out sick. We appreciate hearing from people if there is illness or any other reason for us to make special contact, so please keep that in mind.

We are currently planning Part Two of our workshop on reconciliation, probably for April. We would especially like to hear from people who participated in the first workshop to tell us more about what you would like to see developed further in the next one. Contact us by text message or by e-mail: [sharon\\_buzzard@yahoo.com](mailto:sharon_buzzard@yahoo.com) or [swiegenstein@yahoo.com](mailto:swiegenstein@yahoo.com).

A special welcome to the new faces we have seen in recent weeks. We're glad to have you! Welcome!

**Candlelight Dinner & Concert – Volunteer Opportunities**

Volunteers are still needed for our March 8th, Candlelight Dinner & Concert: serving punch & helping with cocktail time; table bussers; runners for coffee, water and desserts; basement kitchen dishwashing and end of night clean up; and laundering of tablecloths and napkins afterward. Some who are cooking a large amount of a menu item might also appreciate some help. These are only a few of the jobs that no one has signed up for—please ask Mary Beth or Leann how you might be of assistance, as I'm sure we can find a place for you!

Following Sunday's service, Ryan Christ volunteered to assist Mike Flanagan with the reservations and advertising for this Candlelight Dinner & Concert. Kathy Kircher has completed the design of our posters, and we will be printing them during the week prior to our First Friday in February.

If you have never attended or volunteered for a Candlelight Dinner, you are missing out! Yes, it is a lot of work, but the camaraderie is worth it! It is amazing what we can all do together. The Candlelight Dinner is very popular in our community, the reservations go quickly!

Please, make your reservations before March 1st by contacting Mike Flanagan with a telephone call at: (217) 257-1413 or by e-mail at: [ml@flan3.net](mailto:ml@flan3.net). We are charging \$60 per person this year for each dinner reservation.

Mike & Leann

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## Accessibility Options & General Reminders

Hey Gang! 2024 is already flying past and I'm officially working on my first project of the year. I announced it at service on Sunday, but I am looking into options for assistive listening devices in the church. For those of you who may need to take advantage of this, please complete this survey <https://forms.gle/dvRPvwpci96nAnoD9> by no later than **February 12, 2024**. I'm normally flexible on deadlines, but I'm going to give a tight two weeks for anyone interested to complete this and get it submit. It's only a few questions long and the questions I have included are to help me determine the best path moving forward here. If you have any questions, please shoot me an email.

That leads into my second item, my email. PLEASE do not send anything of any importance to my old email. My current and only reliable email is church@taylorwood.me. I can also be reached at contact@uuquincy.org, but I check it less often. If it's an emergency, please text me at 660-299-0292. There is a forwarding rule set up from my old email, but I moved away from gmail due to reliability issues, and I am no longer digging through my junk mail to make sure I'm getting everything.

I hope to see you all throughout February!

Taylor Wood, Tech Assistant

# Unitarian Church 1479 Hampshire St. Quincy, IL 62301

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.

News must be submitted by the Monday before the first event in the new month's calendar in order to be included in the newsletter.

Our newsletter is available two ways: via "snail mail" and by email. Your choice and your requests as well as all changes of address, subscription requests, and newsletter article submissions may be made:

by email request to the Technical Assistant at [contact@uuquincy.org](mailto:contact@uuquincy.org)  
by leaving a message on the church's answering machine at (217) 919-6116  
or by mailing a note to the church:

Newsletter  
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