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We prefer receiving e-mail messages to telephone messages.  
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The Church Website & Public Calendar:  
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Unitarian Church  
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Jennifer Harvey, Board President

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Our Church office is staffed irregularly. We appreciate your patience when you send us e-mail and especially when you leave us telephone messages.*

## Sunday Services - September 2020

Our **Sunday Church Services** begin at 10:30 a.m.  
All services will be on-line via Zoom for the foreseeable future

### Sunday, September 6:

There will be **NO SERVICE** on Sunday, Sept. 6.

### Sunday, September 13:

10:30 a.m. - Sunday Zoom Service: **"Sheltered Apart, Growing Together"**, Speakers: The Board Members of the Church. With this New Church Year, how do we as a Board keep our focus on Each Person of Worth: where they are, what they need and how to enhance how they are valued as part of a Whole and Covenanted Community. Board members will each present a reading followed by a short reflection. (Five readings, five reflections). September's Donate-a-Plate collection will benefit [Quincy's YWCA](#).

### Sunday, September 20:

10:30 a.m. - Sunday Zoom Service: **"Religious Humanism"**, Speaker: Dr. Andrew D. Walsh, Professor of Religion and Philosophy, Culver-Stockton College. The message will explore how religious humanism evolved in the axial age (8th to 3rd century BCE) that shaped Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, and Greek philosophy. If some ancient religions advocated earning divine favor through sacrifices to the gods, most of today's living religions were transformed by the idea that the divine cares at least as much about how humans treat each other as they care about how humans relate to the divine.

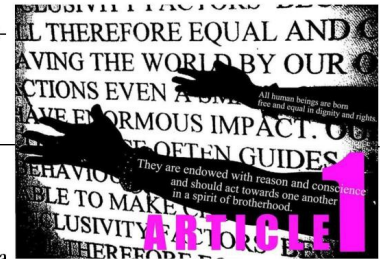
### Sunday, September 27:

10:30 a.m. - Sunday Zoom Service: **"Living in a Pandemic...more than COVID"**, Speaker: Dr. James M. Daniels. This pandemic is affecting us in more ways than becoming infected with a virus. Daniels will go over two simple exercises that he teaches for self treatment of anxiety and depression and briefly inform us about the latest virus information. Watch this 2 minute video ~ "Heal"  
<https://youtu.be/s5Hpm-6Inxc>

## Touchstones Theme: Worth & Dignity

Dignity /'dignitē/ noun. / The moment you stop comparing yourself to others because it undermines your worth, education and your parent's wisdom. / ... The moment you live your dreams, not because of what it will prove or get you, but because that is all you want to do. People's opinions don't matter. / The moment you realize that no one is your enemy, except yourself. / The moment you realize that you can have everything you want in life. However, it takes timing, the right heart, the right actions, the right passion, and a willingness to risk it all. ... / ... The moment you believe that love is not about losing or winning. It is just a few moments in time, followed by an eternity of situations to grow from. / The moment you realize that you were always the right person. Only ignorant people walk away from greatness. *Shannon Alder*

... Why think the concept of human dignity is tenuous? In the first place, it is very young. The term is not in any existing copy of the Magna Carta (1215). It does show up much later in the English Bill of Rights (1689), but not with a moralized meaning. People were not yelling 'Liberté, égalité, dignité!' during the French Revolution. And for all its fiery rhetoric about equality and "inalienable" rights, the US Declaration of Independence does not speak of human dignity. Nor does the US Constitution. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights used dignity to justify itself: a conceptual watershed. You won't find any moralized talk of human dignity in any of the old slave narratives. And it isn't in the passionate abolitionist speeches, pamphlets and newspaper editorials of the 19th century. Ditto for suffrage. ... We have not been talking about human dignity for long. *Remy Debes*



## Join us in exploring Worth & Dignity

Photo Credits (top to bottom)

♦ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 1 by Val Kerry, May 23, 2008. (CC BY 2.0). <https://www.flickr.com/photos/artmakemesmile/2516476754>

## President's Message

Hello Dear Congregation,

It is with mixed emotions that I say goodbye to another summer and welcome my favorite month. Summer is typically a season of vacations, family trips, lazier and longer days, and even simple, yet purposefully chosen, relaxing stay-cations. Wonderful summer memories, with accompanying happy photographs, usually help carry us into a new school and church year so we feel energized and excited as we approach the month of September.

To state the obvious, this year's summer was far from typical. Nevertheless, hopefully fond memories were still made and there was some time for fun, reflection, and relaxation in the midst of the pandemic. Because, ready or not, we have arrived to officially begin a new church year.

Does anyone else feel like the March Candlelight Dinner was a decade ago? I sure do! During the past six months, so much has happened, yet we also feel we are at a sort of standstill, a limbo. These can be confusing, scary, anxious times, but working together we can each make this year meaningful, powerful, and enjoyable. Let's each vow to embrace the year, however it unfolds. It will become what we each decide to make it.

Join us on Sunday, September 13th, as the Board will begin the church year with a service- "Sheltered Apart, Growing Together". Please note that our new service time will be 10:00am. Using the UUA theme for September - "Dignity and Worth of Each Person", we will focus on each of us: where we are, what we need, and how to enhance how we are valued as part of a whole and covenanted community.

"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things." -Mother Teresa

Stay safe, think of what you can offer this year, and please stay connected.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Harvey  
Quincy Unitarian Church Board President

## Worship Committee

Iris, Deborah and I welcome Mary Ann Freeman to the Worship Committee! Now a force of four!

Because church services cannot be in person for the next few months at least, the worship committee is stepping outside its comfort zone to create virtual services. Now we're asking you to please stretch outside your comfort zone, and join us on Zoom! The new tech person Taylor and I are happy to help all of us learn. Call me and we'll "walk" through it together, on the telephone, of course:)

Here's our "Zoom" story -- none of us had ever heard of Zoom before April..... then we were told to download the free program. Now, with a click click click . . . voila, we're with church friends, or family, have access to a yoga instructor or a distant church service. We see each other on our computers or smartphones, or turn the camera off, and just listen. We can Zoom on a not-smart phone and even on good old fashioned phones with coiled cords, remember those? It's like the good-old days, just in a new way!

Lisa and Iris  
WC co-chairs

## Communications Coordination

Church members and friends have stayed in touch virtually this summer, joining in poetry/prose gatherings on Tuesday nights and open topic conversations Thursday afternoons. We've shared our poems, songs, haiku and memorable writings by others We've discussed topics of concern and learned more about one another. We listened and learned and enjoyed our times together.

In addition to Sunday services starting September 13, members and friends will have one other weekly opportunity to virtually gather. The Thursday 12:30 -1:30 "Hot Topic" gatherings will continue through September. See you on the 13th, our official beginning of the church year when the board will speak.

Coordinator,  
Lisa

## Church Tee Shirts

The Social Action Committee ordered church t-shirts this summer and for those who ordered, the shirts are ready! Pick up your shirts at the church during Cleanupalooza on Saturday, September 12th from 9-11am. After that date, the shirts will remain at the church and labeled for you to pick up at your convenience.

## Donate-a-Plate

The Social Action Committee wants to announce this church year's monthly Donate a Plate recipients. The donations are collected on the second Sunday of each month during the church year:

Sept-YWCA

Oct-Cornerstone

Nov-Teen Reach

Dec-Salvation Army Kettle Drive

Jan-Family Planning

Feb-Poverty Project

March-Quanada

April-Advocacy Network for Children

May-Back To School Fair

As services will most likely be on Zoom for a while longer, donations during this time can be made online at the Church's [Giving Page](#), or by mailing a check to the church, or in the Treasurer's mailbox in the Resource Room.

## Building & Grounds

Due to the torrential rains we experienced in June, quite a bit of water came into the basement but this time through the south chimney, as far as could be determined. If you ever drive past the church, look up and admire the stainless steel cap the chimney was outfitted with. Many thanks to Miller Chimney Sweep just around the corner from us on Vermont!  
B&G Committee.

## Cleanupalooza

The Unitarian Church will host the fall Cleanupalooza on Sept. 12th from 9am-noon.

Although we still do not meet in person for services, the church and all we hold dear and those within are never far from our thoughts. While we have been taking care of ourselves, the building also needs care and everyone who would like to participate is invited to assist.

All materials will be supplied. Masks will be provided if you forget to bring your own and although we are hoping to have students who need to fulfill some service hours, we also realize we may not have any depending on parental and school restrictions. We will do as much work as we can, depending on willing hands and the three hours allotted to the Cleanupalooza. Please wear your comfortable older clothes that you don't mind getting a little dirty as there is much outside work to be done.

The Fellowship Committee will provide a light lunch following from noon-1pm which will be held outside to ensure we continue to follow social distancing guidelines. Hope to see you there!

Mary Beth Gapinski...Building & Grounds Chair

## Cleanupalooza part 2

There is a very real need in Quincy to ensure that those who face economic insecurity are able to access food items. There are several small standing food pantries around town.

If anyone is unable to physically assist with the Cleanupalooza but still want to contribute, please think about dropping off canned goods, individually packaged items, including feminine hygiene products, toilet paper and towels, laundry soap, and cat/dog food. The children and teens really enjoy the cups of jello and pudding and seniors are appreciative of cans that have the pull-off tabs to make it easier to open.

You can bring any items to the church on the 12th between 9am-noon, using the side entrance drive-through and someone will take your offerings so you need not even get out of your vehicle. Carol Nichols has offered to sort the items and distribute them around town to the pantries. Any food and personal items are very much welcomed.

## A Note of Gratitude

Thanks to all at the UU Church for your kind thoughts during my recent surgery. I appreciated all the text, phone calls, handwritten notes, and food offering to keep me slowed down so I can continue healing. I put you all in a class with my hero Muhammad Ali and I bless you and your families. My blessings to all. Thanks!

Butch Gapinski

## 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 September 3:

12:30 p.m. -1:30 p.m. – "Hot Topic" gathering via Zoom.

### **Sunday, September 6:**

There will be **NO SERVICE** on Sunday, Sept. 6.

Thursday September 10:

12:30 p.m. -1:30 p.m. – "Hot Topic" gathering via Zoom.

Saturday, September 12:

9:00 a.m. to 12:noon – Fall Cleanupalooza. Come and play in the dirt!

### **Sunday, September 13:**

10:30 a.m. - Sunday Zoom Service: **"Sheltered Apart, Growing Together"**, Speakers: The Board Members of the Church. With this New Church Year, how do we as a Board keep our focus on Each Person of Worth: where they are, what they need and how to enhance how they are valued as part of a Whole and Covenanted Community. Board members will each present a reading followed by a short reflection. (Five readings, five reflections).  
September's Donate-a-Plate collection will benefit [Quincy's YWCA](#).

Thursday September 17:

12:30 p.m. -1:30 p.m. – "Hot Topic" gathering via Zoom.

### **Sunday, September 20:**

10:30 a.m. - Sunday Zoom Service: **"Religious Humanism"**, Speaker: Dr. Andrew D. Walsh, Professor of Religion and Philosophy, Culver-Stockton College. The message will explore how religious humanism evolved in the axial age (8th to 3rd century BCE) that shaped Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, and Greek philosophy. If some ancient religions advocated earning divine favor through sacrifices to the gods, most of today's living religions were transformed by the idea that the divine cares at least as much about how humans treat each other as they care about how humans relate to the divine.

Thursday September 24:

12:30 p.m. -1:30 p.m. – "Hot Topic" gathering via Zoom.

### **Sunday, September 27:**

10:30 a.m. - Sunday Zoom Service: **"Living in a Pandemic...more than COVID"**, Speaker: Dr. James M. Daniels. This pandemic is affecting us in more ways than becoming infected with a virus. Daniels will go over two simple exercises that he teaches for self treatment of anxiety and depression and briefly inform us about the latest virus information. Watch this 2 minute video ~ "Heal" <https://youtu.be/s5Hpm-6Inxc>

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