

e-mail to the Church: Contact@UUQuincy.org
e-mail to our Minister: queminister@gmail.com
e-mail to the Webmaster: Web-ster@UUQuincy.org

We prefer receiving e-mail messages to telephone messages.
Church Answering Machine: (217) 222-5468
Rev. Charley Earp (773) 454-1739

Follow us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/UUQuincy
Or join our Members Group:
www.facebook.com/groups/5045352585
The Church Calendar and More Info Can Be
Found on our Website at
<https://uuquincy.org/>

Unitarian Church

1479 Hampshire Street

Quincy, Illinois 62301

Charley Earp, Minister
Jennifer Harvey, Board President

*E-mail messages to the church are preferred over messages being left on our telephone answering machine.
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 - January 2021

Our **Sunday Zoom Services** begin at 10:30 a.m.
Ask to join our Zoom Services: Contact@UUQuincy.org

Sunday, January 3:

10:30 am, *New Year, New Me...Really?* Speaker: Steve Wiegenstein. The coming of a new year traditionally brings with it the idea of resolutions and change, throwing off the old self and creating a new one. We seek to leave behind the desolations of the past and look toward the consolations of our new future. Certainly the turning of this year is filled with that longing. Goodbye 2020! But can we really leave our old selves behind? And should we? Perhaps the shucking of one's self in search of another is more complicated than we think.

Sunday, January 10:

10:30 am, *The Crisis of Progressive Religion Today.* Speaker: Minister Charley Earp. Since the middle of the 20th century liberal or progressive religious denominations have undergone persistent decline in membership and congregations. This includes the UUA which peaked in 1968 with 1,135 congregations and 177,431 adult members. In 2020, we have 1027 congregations and 152,921 adult members. Since 1970, the U.S. population has grown by nearly 29,000,000. What is driving this record of stasis and decline, and how can a local congregation buck this trend?

Sunday, January 17:

10:30 am, *Hope Is A Thing With Feathers.* Speaker: Carol Nichols. We feel deepest the need for hope when we have known despair. In fact, either is defined by the pairing tendency or experience of the other. Such understanding gives us clarity of choice.

Sunday, January 24:

10:30 am, *Then and Now.* Speaker: Richard Garey. "When I graduated high school in 1964, I was certain of many things: politics, education, sports, and God. Then life happened. Now, I am no longer certain of certainties; but I do understand the value of faith. It is of great value for us to remember the then and now of our lives; and the clash of certainty and faith."



Sunday, January 31:

10:30 am, *If Rome Must Fall, We Are Innocent: Lessons of Loss and Hope from the Civil War.* Speaker: Dr. Scott Giltner, CSC Professor of History. "My remarks will provide some reflections on how people who lived through the destruction of the Civil War, both nationally and locally, struggled to put the suffering and loss of the war in perspective, move on with their lives as best they could, and look ahead to a country finally at peace."

Kenna Armstrong will be reading the Wisdom Story on January 10th and 24th. The theme is Consolation and Desolation.

From Your Minister

Happy New Year to all friends and members of UCQ! The arrival of the new year is traditionally a time to reflect on goals, plans, and resolutions for the upcoming year.

What goals, plans, and resolutions should we be making together? I'd suggest we reflect on where we are as a congregation. What have we learned during the pandemic about how to hold one another together during hard times? How can we strengthen that community?

As we look forward to the next months, we expect to transition appropriately as the vaccine begins to reach into our local community. This will be a longer process than we might have hoped, but our church leadership will seek to take the most responsible path forward.

Many of us weren't able to be physically present with our friends and families in this holiday season. My experience is that I have come to realize that I'd taken for granted the ease of getting together. This pandemic has helped me value my loved ones all the more.

May all of us grow in valuing our relationships and community throughout 2021.

Respectfully,

Charley Earp

Evanston IL

<https://www.uuministry.com/charleyearp/>

President's Message

Dearest Congregation,

As I type the year-**2021**, it feels wonderful and hopeful. And I smile.

Every year's new beginning comes with hope, but never before like now. We are on the precipice of a year of hope—hope in a new vaccine, hope in new national leadership, and hope in a new normal. The new normal will be a deeper appreciation of the people in our lives, the deeper savoring of the simple daily routines, and a deeper recognition of all the little things we once so easily took for granted. And we look forward to the hope of coming together again, in person. I have missed our more personal interactions the most.

We will wade through the muck of huge challenges in the first few months, as the next Covid-19 surge hits and the numbers spike. Mask wearing, handwashing, and social distancing will continue for quite awhile. However, we can catch a glimpse of the flicker of light at the end of the dark tunnel of 2020. And we will see that played out symbolically with the exciting inauguration ceremony.

May we all take a collective deep sigh of relief as we say a loud “Goodbye Felicia!” to 2020. And then may we all whisper a prayer of gratitude and ask for strength as we slowly, cautiously, open the door to 2021.

Stay safe, be hopeful, and Happy New Year!

Jennifer Harvey,
Board President

Quincy Area Partnership for Unmet Needs (Pandemic Updates)

<https://www.unitedwayadamsco.org/unmet-needs>

Quincy Area Partnership for Unmet Needs is an organization of churches and agencies which assists families and individuals whose needs cannot be met through other community resources. The church's Social Action Committee pledges funds from our church budget to help those in need. Confidentiality concerns limit what information can be shared, but please know that our contributions do make a difference.

During this pandemic, the extent of need in our community is astronomically greater. We now meet weekly rather than biweekly. When we met biweekly, we looked at three to four applications and we now have about a dozen applications at each weekly meeting.

In addition to our Unmet Needs Committee Funds, we are allowed to use funds granted to us by state and county agencies. It was eye opening to hear that many of the clients are in desperate need, rarely because they have been infected with Covid-19, instead they have had to quarantine due to contact with the virus. Quarantines may go as long as 14 to 21 days and effect an entire family. Therefore, the family may have missed several paychecks, and as we all know, the bills keep coming in.

The need is greater than the funds will hold out. If you care to donate to this very deserving cause, please send a check to:

Quincy Area Partnership for Unmet Needs
United Way of Adams County
936 Broadway, Suite F.
Quincy, IL 62301.

For more information, please contact Leann Flanagan.

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

Send an email to contact@uuquincy.org to get links to any upcoming events!

Sunday, January 3:

10:30 am, *New Year, New Me...Really?* Speaker: Steve Wiegenstein. The coming of a new year traditionally brings with it the idea of resolutions and change, throwing off the old self and creating a new one. We seek to leave behind the desolations of the past and look toward the consolations of our new future. Certainly the turning of this year is filled with that longing. Goodbye 2020! But can we really leave our old selves behind? And should we? Perhaps the shucking of one's self in search of another is more complicated than we think.

Tuesday, January 5:

7:30 pm, *Check-In With the Minister* Join Lisa and Charley for their weekly check-in with the congregation!

Thursday, January 7:

7:30 pm, *Source-A-Palooza* 6th Source of UUs - Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Sunday, January 10:

10:30 am, *The Crisis of Progressive Religion Today*. Speaker: Minister Charley Earp. Since the middle of the 20th century liberal or progressive religious denominations have undergone persistent decline in membership and congregations. This includes the UUA which peaked in 1968 with 1,135 congregations and 177,431 adult members. In 2020, we have 1027 congregations and 152,921 adult members. Since 1970, the U.S. population has grown by nearly 29,000,000. What is driving this record of stasis and decline, and how can a local congregation buck this trend?

Tuesday, January 12:

7:30 pm, *Check-In With the Minister* Join Lisa and Charley for their weekly check-in with the congregation!

Thursday, January 14:

7:30 pm, *Source-A-Palooza* The Future of Our Sources of Faith: Wrap-Up and Reflections

Sunday, January 17:

10:30 am, *Hope Is A Thing With Feathers*, Speaker: Carol Nichols. We feel deepest the need for hope when we have known despair. In fact, either is defined by the pairing tendency or experience of the other. Such understanding gives us clarity of choice.

Tuesday, January 19:

7:30 pm, *Check-In With the Minister* Join Lisa and Charley for their weekly check-in with the congregation!

Thursday, January 21:

NO GATHERING!

Sunday, January 24:

10:30 am, *Then and Now*: Speaker: Richard Garey. "When I graduated high school in 1964, I was certain of many things: politics, education, sports, and God. Then life happened. Now, I am no longer certain of certainties; but I do understand the value of faith. It is of great value for us to remember the then and now of our lives; and the clash of certainty and faith."

Tuesday, January 26:

7:30 pm, *Check-In With the Minister* Join Lisa and Charley for their weekly check-in with the congregation!

Thursday, January 28:

7:30 pm, *Thursday Discussion Group*: Topic to be determined!

Sunday, January 31:

10:30 am, *If Rome Must Fall, We Are Innocent: Lessons of Loss and Hope from the Civil War*, Speaker: Dr. Scott Giltner, CSC Professor of History. "My remarks will provide some reflections on how people who lived through the destruction of the Civil War, both nationally and locally, struggled to put the suffering and loss of the war in perspective, move on with their lives as best they could, and look ahead to a country finally at peace."