

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF QUINCY

January 2022 Edition

UPCOMING SERVICES

January 2nd Service

Speaker: Mary Ann Freeman

"Renewal/Reconnecting: An Interactive Congregational Gathering"

Thoreau said: "Renew thyself completely each day." The Pandemic has left us feeling bruised and exhausted. Co-chair of the Worship Committee, Mary Ann Freeman, will talk about the Slow-Living Movement and how it can help renew our spirits. She extends a special invitation to members of the congregation who attend on Zoom to participate.

January 9th Service

Speaker: Richard Garey

"Renewal"

In life, we often get worn down and worn out. But, we also get opportunities to change, adjust, and renew. *Donate-a-Plate will go to Family Planning.*

January 16th Service

Speaker: Sharon Buzzard

"Our Strange New World"

A technique called defamiliarization or ostranenie allows artists to show common things in an unfamiliar or strange way. By "making strange," they could gain new perspectives and show the world through a new set of eyes. Understanding their methods of renewal allows us to see things again but for the first time.

January 23rd Service - TBD

January 30th Service

Speaker: Alice Gander

"Mid-Winter's Promise"

As we enter the week of Imbolc, Saint Brigid's Day, Groundhog Day, the mid-winter cross-quarter day, Alice will speak of the renewal ahead of us. Humans have marked this cross-quarter day for millennia in different ways. It is a time to look ahead to the coming spring and a new period of growth, both in nature and in ourselves.

MLK Day Celebration

Dear Congregants and Friends –

This year, the NAACP (Quincy Chapter) is setting up the Dr. King Celebration on the third Monday of January – his usual Birthday Celebration Day – at Bethel AME Church here in Quincy. **(JANUARY 17, 2022)**

The Quincy Unitarian Church will be placing an ad in the Program Booklet highlighting the Church's commitment to Dr. King's legacy and voicing our celebration and recognition of Dr. King as an American treasure.

We are hoping that all who are able would attend the service which starts at 10 am on that Monday.

The service is usually under two hours long. Persons will be masked and seated properly in keeping with COVID restrictions.

In this present age, with all the misinformation about teaching African-American history, with the need to be aware of our common background with our Brothers and Sisters, and in fighting the insidious rise of racial bigotry, your attendance means a lot. Come if you can.

Sincerely,
The QUC Board



JANUARY FIRST FRIDAY

The Flanagans have been planning to host First Friday in January for many months. It seemed it would be the perfect time for us to host because our daughter, Laura would be home to enjoy seeing everyone. It is so very disappointing and frustrating that once again we are experiencing this Covid surge. We would be terribly upset if we happened to host a super spreader! So please know that we will be hosting a First Friday the very next time it feels safe to be close together. We anxiously look forward to celebrating a decline in the risk of Covid and our beloved Quincy Unitarian tradition.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

For greeters/offering. Each Sunday in January. Please use the sign-up sheet available at the doors.

RE second adult: I will do January 9 unless a) I am ill or b) the weather is bad and the roads are treacherous. We need someone for January 23.

Thank you,
Mary Ann Freeman

A THANK YOU!!

The generosity of our congregation is amazing! The St. John Anglican Church requested donations for the homeless in our community. Thank you for all your contributions for filling the backpacks for the homeless.

Get in Touch

e-mail to the Church: Contact@UUQuincy.org

e-mail to the Editor: taylorwooduua@gmail.com

We prefer receiving e-mail messages to telephone messages.

Church Answering Machine:

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Follow us on Facebook @ UU Quincy
or
Check Out Our Website at uuquincy.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Happy New Year to everyone! The start of each new year is a time to reflect on the year just past and make plans for the future. There's a promise for new opportunities and the possibility to change our lives for the better. This is also true with church life and what 2022 can look to be in the coming months.

We made steady progress last year and were able to offer in-person services, with the opportunity to attend virtually for many. While it's true that the outside grounds look bare and torn up, it's for the very good reason that the basement water problem is being addressed and we are making headway! There are other projects that are items of focus and these will be spoken of at our semi-annual meeting on Jan. 16th. It will be after church service and also in the hybrid form.

At our annual meeting in May, the members identified three specific areas that they wanted the church to address. These were painting the interior of the Garden Room, a sound system for hybrid services, and the church's painted glass restored. The semi-annual meeting is the perfect time for any input from the members, whether it concerns the work being done now and in the future, a particular area of church service, or the needs of the congregation, be it a question for the board or a committee. Please bring your questions and opinions after service on the 16th.

Be safe, well, and warm!

Mary Beth Gapinski

Board President

NEW PHONE NUMBER

I promise I'll stop sending reminders soon, but for now I want to make sure everyone sees this: the church phone number has changed! It is now 217-919-6116. This change allows our bill to be cut down significantly, and I can answer the church phone from my mobile phone, which allows me to respond much faster! It has been amazing having a functional church "cell phone."

Taylor Wood

PFLAG

PFLAG Hannibal-Quincy will meet Thursday, January 13 at 7 pm. PFLAG provides support and education to members of the LGBTQ community and to their friends and family members.

PFLAG's "Straight For Equality" outreach provides education for businesses, healthcare organizations, and religious organizations to foster critical discussions and broaden education among the straight community.

For more information on PFLAG Hannibal-Quincy, call Ruth at 217-653-8001, or email pflaghannibalquincy@gmail.com

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Fellowship Committee was a bit busier in the month of December (who isn't!?) and while they continued to host the Sunday Coffee Hours, also hosted the December Hanging of the Greens on December 5th and provided a tasty soup luncheon afterward.

Covid concerns led to a Christmas Eve service that unfortunately didn't allow the Fellowship to host a food and drink social hour afterward, though all attending understood and recognized that it's our fellowship and concern for one another that is our priority.

Mary Beth Gapinski.

BELOVED CONVERSATIONS - VIRTUAL

About 6 years ago, our congregation participated in the Beloved Conversations program through the Fahs Collaborative at Meadville Lombard Theological School. It was well attended, and it was eye-opening for all of us who attended the program.

Now this program is available virtually. I have been taking this program for the last several weeks. This program has been a wonderful way to listen to others and learn from them about how they are embodying racial justice as a spiritual practice. A new offering will begin in Spring 2022.

From the Meadville Lombard Theological School:

Beloved Conversations—the signature offering of The Fahs Collaborative at Meadville Lombard Theological School—is a program for Unitarian Universalists seeking to embody racial justice as a spiritual practice. In Beloved Conversations, we are here to heal the impact of racism on our lives, in order to get free together.

We are proud that our traditional, in-person version of Beloved Conversations has been offered in more than 250 congregations across the continent over the past decade and are grateful that so many communities have made our program a part of their faith formation and social justice work. We have always hoped to expand our program out further and to create an online version, for increased accessibility, and to include folks for whom our in-person program was not a good fit. In that spirit...

The Fahs Collaborative is thrilled to bring you the newest version of our curriculum: Beloved Conversations Virtual!

Designed and intended for Unitarian Universalists, with many updated and improved new features, this curriculum offers:

- A digital format that increases accessibility for many users
- An opportunity to engage in lots of different styles of learning and processing
- A developmental approach, that works to meet learners where they are and move forward together from there
- An explicit commitment to centering the spiritual needs of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC+), including explicit resources developed to meet the intellectual, historical, and spiritual needs of Unitarian Universalists of Color living in a world (and a religious community) that privileges white cultural norms
- A framework that acknowledges and honors the spiritual nature of this work and an understanding that it is essential to our personal and religious development

BELOVED CONVERSATIONS - VIRTUAL (Cont.)

Beloved Conversations Virtual is a program in four parts:

- **WITHIN** (launched Fall 2020, for individuals; open to all): Our program's first phase, focused on the individual, personal work we each need to do, and run in two sections: one for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and one for white people
- **AMONG** (launching Fall 2021, for congregations whose members have participated in Within): Our program's second phase, focused on the institutional, systemic change needed in our congregations
- **BEYOND** (launching Fall 2022, for congregations who have participated in Among): Our program's third phase, focused on the work outside our congregations, with our local communities
- **WITHIN+**: Exploration Stations (launching Fall 2021, for individuals who have completed at least one term of Within): Additional learning and play spaces, for Within alums who are ready to go deeper

More than 2,000 people participated in the Within Phase in our first year of Beloved Conversations Virtual! The Gathering Our Selves programs brought together more than 250 BIPOC UUs to build community and focus on their spiritual needs! In Un/Learning for Liberation, more than 1800 white UUs learned spiritual skills for eradicating white supremacy in themselves and their culture! Collectively, we were from 8 Canadian provinces, 41 US states + DC, and 4 countries! And who KNOWS how many time zones, cause time zones are wacky.

We are looking forward to a new year of programming, learning, and community building towards collective liberation!

Check it out online: <https://www.meadville.edu/faahs-collaborative/beloved-conversations/>.