

# UNITARIAN CHURCH OF QUINCY

*January 2023 Edition*

**Services are in person and on Zoom at 10:30am  
Central Time.**

## Upcoming Services

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/92938165235>

### **January 1st Service**

***Speaker: Worship Committee***

#### **"Poetry and Prose Sunday"**

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! The New Year has begun,  
Come and join us for some fun!

Original, favorite, seasonal poetry or prose,  
Join in as the old year has come to a close!

### **January 8th Service**

***Speaker: Richard Garey***

#### **"It All Started In Winter"**

If we look behind the myth captured on a Christmas card depicted as three wise men on camels, we find one of the greatest stories of all history. Myth and reality can meet in the clarity of winter.

### **January 15th Service**

***Speaker: Scott Giltner***

#### **"Reflections on Long Winters Past and Present"**

### **January 22nd Service**

***Speaker: Sharon Buzzard***

#### **"Story-time for Unitarians"**

The prospect of 'creating the narrative' is one that allows control of the way the story gets told. I'll examine the ways that story-telling has influenced our understanding of religion.

### **January 29th Service**

***Speaker: Michael Keller***

**TBD**

## NYE Party

Deborah & Jim will host a 1st Friday like New Year's Eve party at 3729 N 36th Street, Quincy. 6pm through midnight. Potluck, games & music. Please bring each, if you wish.

## First Friday

The Garden Room will be open on January 6th at 6:30. Bring something to share food-wise and what you'd like to drink.

## WHY ARE UU? A WORKSHOP FOR RENEWAL

Please mark your calendar for workshop on Jan 21, Saturday, 1:00-3:00. During this time, new members as well as long-timers are invited to review, renew and discuss the principles of Unitarian Universalism. Steve and Sharon will conduct this workshop as an opportunity to provide connection between members as we learn more about UU history and each other. Further details will be forthcoming as January gets closer.

## Get in Touch

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e-mail to the Editor: [taylorwooduua@gmail.com](mailto:taylorwooduua@gmail.com)

*We prefer receiving e-mail messages to telephone messages.*

Church Answering Machine:

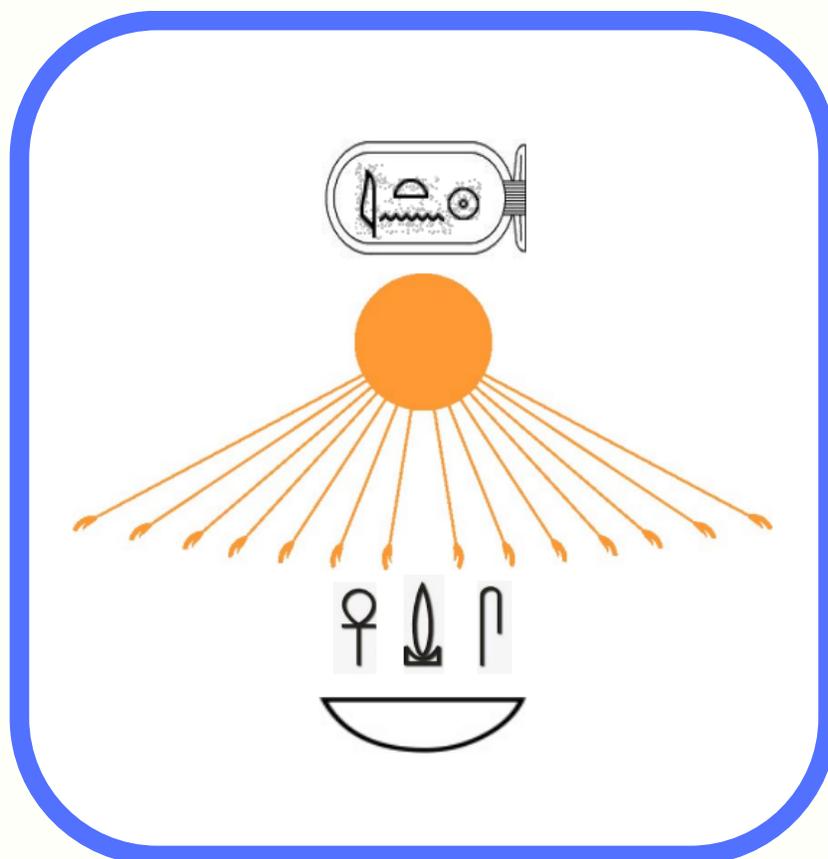
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or  
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# In case you missed it... "Aten Symbol Explanation"

From Gerard Wagner's December 11th talk...

In the 14th century BCE, more than 3500 years ago, there was a pharaoh in ancient Egypt who said that there was only one god and that god was called the Aten, the sun disk. That's what the hieroglyph at the top spells: A, the feather, T the loaf of bread or mound of earth, N, the water, followed by the symbol for the sun that says "this is the name of the sun". The sun is shown with 7 pairs of rays ending in hands extended which means the sun is spreading its rays over the whole world. 7 is a number that even today we may use to mean everything, 7 seas, 7 continents, 7 wonders etc. The three symbols at the bottom, ankh - probably a sandal, wedja - probably a lamp, and seneb - folded linen, mean Life, Wholeness, and Health. These three were a standard saying in ancient Egypt, traditionally appended to the end of a letter, much as we use "sincerely", or "best wishes". Sometimes they were added in conversation when mentioning someone's name so that life, wholeness, and health would find them. The reed basket symbol at the bottom means that these three things are being offered to the world as gifts. So essentially it says that we are all given these three gifts from the sun, which, when you think about it, is very true. There would be no life on this planet without the sun. And so I like to think that when I meet someone and shake hands and offer a greeting, we are sharing in the gifts of life, wholeness, and health from the sun.



# President's Message

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Here we are at the beginning of a new year and some of us may look at the beginning of 2023 as a time of resolutions or perhaps we may decide to be more present in our daily lives....to friends, family, community, to the beauty and care of this planet and to find the goodness in the human heart. Some of us may lean into a practice of mindfulness. Some people may need to step down and just focus on breathing and being in the moment and some of us will see a need and step up. However you begin 2023, I hope you will all see the beauty and wonders all around.

The church will start off with the semi-annual meeting after service on Sunday, January 15th. The Board will be asking all committees to send in their respective 6-month reports to secretary Marie Erikson, no later than Jan. 9th so she has time to compile them. These reports, along with the June annual meeting minutes and the semi-annual meeting agenda, will be sent out to all members via e-mail so all have the opportunity to acquaint themselves before the actual meeting.

When the Board met for their December meeting, it was unanimously agreed that the church will once again hold an April Plant, Book, and Bake Sale. At this time we don't know exactly what this is going to look like and who would want to chair or co-chair the event but I'm certain this will be another successful fundraiser event!

The work continues for our February Candlelight Dinner, the first we've had since the pandemic shut us down after the March 2020 dinner. There is room for anyone who would like to involve themselves and there are spots open for wait/worker staff. Please contact Mary Beth Gapinski if this is something that would interest you.

I'm looking forward to sharing the new year at church service with you on January 1st!

Mary Beth Gapinski.