

Unitarian Church of Quincy

NEWSLETTER

Church services are held in-person and on Zoom at 10:30am CT.

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Upcoming Services

February 5th Service

Speaker: Deborah Lee

Title: Exploring Resilience

We will examine ways to train our attention on positive aspects and meaningful experiences, along with ways to decrease negative thoughts.

February 12th Service

Speaker: Padraic Rohan

Title: Lincoln for Our Time.

Small but vocal groups at both ends of our political spectrum malign our greatest president, and we must work harder to recover his legacy and to teach our children why he continues to matter.

Donate-A-Plate this Sunday will go to the Tristate Diversity Coalition.

February 19th Service

Speaker: Reg Ankrom

Title: Father Tolton: From Slave to Priest

Spirited from slavery in Missouri to Illinois, Augustus Tolton found freedom but continued to suffer the stings of race, even as he sought to give himself to his church.

February 26th Service

Speaker: Steve Wiegenstein

Title: That Eighth Principle

UUs have cherished their Seven Principles for a long time. The Principles in their current form were adopted in 1987. Recently, however, there have been calls for revision of the Principles, and a proposal to add an eighth principle and to revise some of the other Principles will receive consideration at this year's General Assembly. (Cont. on pg 2)

Cont from pg 1: Debate and discussion within the church is a healthy thing, and this talk will look at the discussion leading up to this proposal. Are there essential elements of our beliefs missing from the Seven Principles? This talk will take neither a pro- nor an anti-Eighth Principle position, but instead try to open a window into the way we use the UU Principles in our lives and beliefs.

CANDLELIGHT DINNER & CONCERT

It's been nearly three years since we hosted our last Candlelight Dinner & Concert. On Friday, February 10, we're going to do it once again. At 6:00 p.m. we will be serving appetizers in our Heritage Room. At 6:30 we'll ask our guests to take their seats at the tables in our Garden Room where we will serve them the Ukrainian dinner we've prepared. There is a choice of entrees; Beef Stroganoff or Cauliflower Feta Torte surrounded by soup, salad, sides and desserts reminding us of the people of Ukraine. We will also provide a basket to collect free-will donations to the World Central Kitchen who are providing meals for the people of Ukraine.

By 8:00 p.m. folks should be finished with their meal. We will usher them back into the Church Sanctuary for our presentation of an "Old-Time Radio-Hour." We have original radio scripts from 1946 and 1950 of "Suspense" and "Our Miss Brooks." In our re-creation of the studio experience, our Church Organ, "Gertrude" and our organist, Stephen Schlinkmann, will be taking the part of CBS Radio Studio Orchestras for both shows. And radio historian John Schneider will provide authentic antique radio equipment and his special sound-effects. Then there are the actors; local actors from our own church, from QCT, and from local radio/TV stations; names many of us know like Mary Griffith and Rich Cain.

Once the performance is finished, all of our volunteer workers, from the cooks, servers and greeters to the dish-washers and the radio show performers will meet in the Garden Room for our own sit-down meal. Our cooks will have prepared plenty for us all. Then – there will be clean-up that we'll have to do. We might wait until Saturday to finish up the remaining details.

At this point, we have received inquiries for all of the 64 available seats at the dinner, AND MORE! We still have to work out how we will deal with the excesses. For those who haven't secured reservations for the dinner, but still want to see the program – first, you could volunteer to help with the evening, there's LOTS to do – or second, you could just come at 8:00 for the program only. We are asking for a free-will donation from those who attend only the program.

This experience of coming together to perform a service for our community is symbolically a part of our covenant; "Love is the spirit of this church and service is its law." Our fund-raisers are opportunities for us to learn more about each other and about our community, ". . . And to help one another."

MINISTERS' REPORT

At the annual meeting a few weeks ago, we described a workshop provided by the UUA that was intended for lay ministers like ourselves. Over 150 were enrolled from congregations all over the country, so we learned that many are trying to do what we are, to make our congregations thrive when ministers or money are short. We participated in two break-out sessions that provided useful information.

From the session on "Pastoral Care" we learned that a good number of the congregations have care committees/circles that help meet the needs of members who may need some sort of help. Of particular interest to us were protocols on privacy and on boundaries. After the annual meeting, Leann and Georgia and others provided information on the ways these committees have functioned at our church in the past and during the Covid-years when the church was not open. Our Worship Committee (Iris, Mary Ann, Lisa, Deborah) are working now on some initial protocols that might work for our church. Once the circle has been formed, the members can provide further input and fine-tune the ideas. Watch for further information from them and for invitations to join the circle.

The other session was on "Small Group Ministry," which is to say just about any interest group that would like to form on any subject. Those who want to discuss a book, those who want to discuss topics of the day, those who want to meet for coffee or lunch, those who want to craft, those who want to meditate.....the list is endless. It takes only you and one more to make a group. Small Group Ministry offers a way to build further informal connections between our members, or even those outside the church. So far we've heard from those who do want to start a book discussion, those who want to begin meditation, and those who want start a choir. You could use the Facebook page or the newsletter to let people know your group is forming, and then decide when, where, and so forth.

Please be thinking of how you might like to contribute to either Pastoral Care or Small Group ministry as ways to build our church community. We look forward to seeing everyone in February.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE – NEIGHBORHOOD PANTRY REPORT

The Social Action Committee sincerely thanks the congregation and friends for their generous donations. The baskets are filling up each week with many wonderful food and personal care items. Monetary donations make it possible to purchase canned meats, coffee, and other items not often found in the pantries. We were able to fill 11 pantries last week many of which were empty when we arrived. We are hopeful that our donations are making a difference in the lives of those who struggle. Thank you—Thank you—Thank you all!

FIRST FRIDAY

There will be NO February First Friday. The Radio Show rehearsal for the Candlelight Dinner the following Friday, February 10, is scheduled for that evening at the church. We are requesting hosts for First Friday gatherings. If you would like to host in your home, please ask Mary Beth or Leann for more information.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings everyone! On the milder winter days we have, I daydream about my tulips coming up from their resting bed and feel that spring is not that far away. I am already deciding what garden plants of mine I will divide and offer up at our annual Plant, Book, & Bake Sale. During the basement cleanup, a group of dedicated members dusted every book and also the shelves and put them back to rights. There were a few small boxes of donated books added to the small library inventory.

Our Candlelight Dinner arrangements are moving along quickly now, with a dinner date of February 10th. A detailed article is in the newsletter from Mike Flanagan. Check it out! We could use a couple more basement dishwashers but we promise you'll not be left down there as you will come up for the program part of the dinner and the staff's feasting after all the guests have gone home. Please contact me if you like kitchen work!

Speaking of kitchens, Chris Wiewel and Carol Nichols have put in time daily with painting, a ceramic backsplash, and more painting in the basement kitchen and bathrooms. Both will be fully functional by the Candlelight Dinner. There have been many people integral to this project but Chris and Carol have been the most dedicated and hands-on members. Please thank them when the "new" basement is unveiled.

Mary Beth Gapinski, President

WAYSIDE PANTRIES

In January, Leann and I were able to stock several items each into 10 wayside pantries. We were able to do this because some of you brought food and other essentials for the collection baskets, and because we received another generous monetary donation from a church member. Leann, being a clever and frugal shopper, found bags of coffee at an unheard-of reduced price along with tuna and other ready-to-eat canned meats. I placed 12 one-gal. bags of cat kibble, 8 of dog kibble and 12 5oz. of wet cat food into the pantries where I know the need exists.

Some donations have been out of the ordinary and very good to receive. I had to put the devil behind me so not to keep for myself the fresh stollen pastry! But my conscience trumped temptation, plus stollen is loaded with calories.

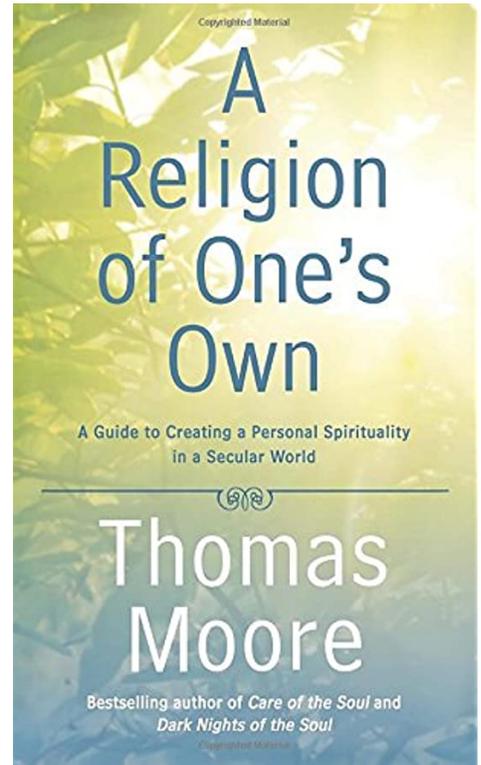
Food, of course, is the main reason for the pantries existence. But non-food things such as feminine hygiene products, toilet paper, face tissues, toothbrushes and toothpaste, hand soap, shampoo, etc. are especially welcome. I like to haunt the dollar-type stores, where many toiletries are substantially below grocery store prices. Also, these places typically have marked-down baskets of food and sundries useful for the pantries. Of course, Aldi's is always a good store to shop for bargains.

Please keep the baskets brimming, as the need continues to grow. I hear the thank-yous from people I meet at the pantries, so I'm passing them on to you.

Georgia House

BOOK STUDY CLUB

Still wondering at this late date, (or maybe just exploring at any time in your life) what YOU mean by your own spirituality or sense of awe? Or, are you still struggling with what remains of beliefs you used to have, have set aside, and yet still have not come to terms with them? Maybe confusion and baggage are also part of the picture. Maybe, fond affection. Join the club! From your own life's journey through the myriad of religions and beliefs, our selected author weaves a unique path for each of us. A book study club is offered for your leisure and exploration, either as you personally absorb or share what you are thinking in a one-hour-per-week Zoom discussion – starting in February.



We are using an excellent book by Thomas Moore (not King Henry's Moore, but Thomas Moore who published just 9 years ago). Look to an upcoming Facebook Post on the day of the week and time we hope to meet. We are leaning toward weekly, possibly 8 to 9 pm on Wednesdays, starting after the Candlelight Dinner. The book has about 280 pages and is a gentle read. Hope to see you once our time and day are posted.

Jim Burns and Carol Nichols

PLANT, BOOK, AND BAKE SALE

The annual Plant, Bake, & Book sale will take place April 22nd. It's time to start preparing! It's never too early to start thinking about what house plants and perennials from your yard that can be split up and donated. We will start some seedlings at our partner greenhouse at Holtschlag Florist in the near future. Watch for opportunities to get your hands dirty!