

APRIL 2023

Unitarian Church of Quincy

NEWSLETTER

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

Upcoming Services

April 2nd Service

Speaker: Mary Ann Freeman

Title: Change is Hard : Principles, Purposes, and Intentions

A historical overview of the why and how of our Unitarian Universalist Principles. You'll see earlier versions to make comparisons. Bring an open mind and your inner child to learn the "Seven Principles Song."

April 9th Service

Speaker: Steve Wiegenstein

Title: What Is A Good Poem, Anyway?

April is National Poetry Month, and in honor of that month Steve Wiegenstein will talk about whether poetry is a dead art, and what poetry brings to our lives. Spoiler alert: No, it's not, and it brings a lot whether we notice it or not.

[Donate-a-plate is Advocacy Network for Children](#)

April 16th Service

Speaker: Martha Rapp

Title: TBD

April 23rd Service

Speaker: Rob Manning

Title: What Do We Mourn When We Mourn the Holocaust?

April is Holocaust Remembrance Month. In this talk we explore the question: "what do we mourn when we mourn the Holocaust?" This seems like a simple question until we open it up and start thinking about it. The question begins a difficult exploration that is deeply both intellectual and spiritual.

April 30th Service

Speaker: John Baird

Title: Probability and Evolution: Primary Pillars for our Universe

An exploration of how events and trends for humans along with the universe as a whole have been governed and molded by probability and evolution in both obvious and sometimes subtle ways.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ah, spring! Daffodils, tulips, the greening of the grass. I do not like to talk of the first cutting of grass because I like to let it grow longer to give the earth and the good bugs a better chance of becoming stronger (my lawn guy doesn't share my enthusiasm because he gets to bag and bag and bag that first cutting so I'm sure there's some muttering under his breath)

There will hopefully be an outside cleanup day on Saturday before Easter Sunday. While Sierra is our Grounds person, she is also our office assistant and keeps busy so let's give her some additional assistance outside. See you Saturday morning of the 8th at 9am!

I'm going to repetitively remind everyone that the annual meeting in June isn't that far away and we need members to step up and become Board members. Our by-laws state that we need seven people. Dona Reinertsen has committed to joining the Board so we will need two more. I've had many, many positive experiences sharing the work of the Board during my years as a member but it's time I stepped away and allow someone else a chance to grow. Please think hard about this opportunity. You'll find many people who will help you! That's what Unitarians do. We help each other.

Mary Beth Gapinski, President

"THE BIRDS BROUGHT SEED & FLOWERS & BITS OF BRIGHTLY COLORED STRING & PLACED THEM IN HER HAIR WHILE SHE SLEPT SO THAT SHE WOULD REMEMBER THE WILD JOY OF SPRING WHEN SHE FINALLY AWOKE."

BRIAN ANDREAS

MEMBERSHIP

We are very happy to announce that on March 26th, Susan Deege signed the Membership Book! Many warm welcomes to you Susan!

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

The Women's Alliance will meet in the Garden Room on Saturday, April 8th at noon. Please bring a lunch but dessert and coffee will be provided.

This is the time that we address and stamp the Plant, Book & Bake sale postcards that will be sent out. Guests are always welcome.

The Women's Alliance supports special events and church projects. The members provide friendship and a social association. The executive committee arranged for a guest speaker most months.

EASTER CARRY-IN LUNCHEON

Celebrating Easter with a Spring Carry-In after services on Sunday, April 9. Please bring something to share for an Easter luncheon such as casseroles, salads, side dishes, or desserts. Sharon & Steve will be with us that Sunday making it a great opportunity to enjoy more time with them.

MINISTERS' MESSAGE

Our time in Quincy will be a little different in April. Rather than to be there overnight, we'll be in town on two separate dates: Steve will be in the pulpit on Sunday, April 9. Sharon will officiate at a wedding on April 15. So we will not have an overnight visit this month. We're always happy to chat via phone, text or email.

Sharon 217-242-1409 sharon_buzzard@yahoo.com
Steve: 217-779-9762 swiegenstein@yahoo.com

Also, we continue to debate when the best time is for the next "Why are UU?" Workshop. While it is also the day of the Dogwood Parade, Saturday May 6, from 2-4 seems like the best date. Could you help by letting us know if you would like to attend and also whether that is a workable date for you? The other option would be sometime in the summer when the church is out of session. Those of us who participated in the earlier workshop found much enjoyment in the opportunity to share our thinking with each other. Your advice is welcome.

FIRST FRIDAY

The April First Friday will be held at Rob Manning's residence at 1450 Vermont st. (right around the corner from the church) Doors open at 6:30pm and the cover charge will be guests arriving with an offering of something savory or sweet to share and don't forget to bring your favorite beverage!

CLEANUPALOOZA

There is an outside cleanup planned for April 8th from 9am-noon. There is raking and pruning to do and we can throw some weeding in there also. Please wear clothing you probably will get dirty, I have tons of gloves and I'll look around for a couple more rakes, though you're welcome to bring your own. It will no doubt be needed. I will also supply the lawn & leaf bags.

This cleanup is also a good way to pledge to the church. Sometimes money may be in short supply but there are other ways to give so the volunteerism of helping the physical church is necessary and welcomed. You are needed on the 8th! Please come and spend an hour or more if you can.

In case of wet weather, please enjoy sleeping in. We can't have everything we want all the time!

Mary Beth Gapinski

Upcoming Event

**OPEN MIC POETRY NIGHT AT REDBUD YOGA
APRIL 14TH STARTING AT 7PM**

WAYSIDE PANTRIES

After having asked for support in bringing an item each Sunday for the Wayside Baskets, or donate \$3 or \$4 a month, the response is not for which Leann and I had hoped. Out of a membership of 60 (not including friends), a handful have been wonderfully generous. Otherwise, we are not getting significant results.

Again, I will explain the importance of maintaining these little pantries. As I understand, originally, these were placed in primarily low income neighborhoods and intended for school kids to grab snacks on their way to and from school. But with the advent of the growing homeless in Quincy (2 years ago, 70 were identified and were provided backpacks) and people without transportation, the pantries became a stopgap between having something to eat or not having something to eat for the day. It meant having sauce to put over the spaghetti for the family dinner. It meant finding a pop-top of Vienna sausage for someone whose streets were her home. Today, all of these situations and more are yet prevalent. Even those fortunate enough to get a Snap allowance for food can find essentials at these wayside pantries not covered at grocery stores or not readily available at the larger food pantries/soup kitchens--items we would not do without. These are things we so take for granted, we might make a special trip to the store for them. Consider not having toilet paper, shampoo, bath soap, toothbrush or toothpaste, tampons, menstrual pads, pet food, COFFEE! And much more.

I am not in the habit of nagging, and I don't like begging. But I will. Because it would be wrong of me not to. I have met many who frequent the pantries to supplement their needs- grandparents rearing their kid's kids, some who lost their jobs and hoped they only needed temporary help, children riding beat-up bikes happy to find snacks. So yes, I am nagging and begging for your help to keep Leann and me in business.

"WAKE NOW, MY SENSES"

"On Easter Sunday in 433, the local Irish king issued a decree in observation of a pagan Druid festival that prohibited anyone from lighting a flame or candle. Patrick, refusing to honor anyone but Christ, stood against the king. That morning, Patrick risked his life by climbing to the tallest hill in the area and lighting a huge fire. As the ancient Irish people woke up, they could all see Patrick's defiance of the king. He could not hide his light. Patrick wanted to show the world that God's light shines in darkness, and that only He deserves praise.

Years later, an unknown composer wrote a melody in honor of Patrick's heroism. Called, "Slane," the now-forgotten composer named it after the hill where Patrick shined his light: Slane Hill. People still recognize the tune today."

For more information, follow the link:

<https://www.bayviewbiblechurch.org/post/the-story-behind-be-thou-my-vision>

BAKE SALE INFORMATION

The Bake Sale portion of the Plant, Book, & Bake Sale is very important to the total success of the event. We have repeatedly brought in over \$1,000 for the bake sale alone. Please be thinking of what you can offer to the variety of our UU Bakery. Always popular are pies, cookies, yeast breads, coffee cakes, quick breads, and specialty items, such as gluten-free and sugar-free. If you have other ideas, please share them. Please bring bakery items to the church on Friday late afternoon prior to the sale on Saturday so that they may be priced and arranged on the tables. We appreciate items pre-packaged and labeled with ingredients. We will have paper plates, zip-loc bags, etc to help you as well. Please consider helping to make this our best bake sale ever! For more information, please contact Leann Flanagan.

***See Mike Drew's article on the Plant, Book, and Bake Sale for additional information*

PLANT, BAKE & BOOK SALE

The big day is Saturday, April 24th 9a-1p but we will need help before and after too. Please contact the department chairpersons with your availability before they contact you!

PLANT

MIKE DREW

BOOK

LEANNE FLANAGAN

BAKE

SUSAN KEMNER

Week of April 16-21

Plan your baking and dig up plants this week! Let Mike Drew know if you need any containers for plants. Ones with no holes work best for outdoor plants for a few days.

Thursday, April 20th

6pm: Set up the Garden Room (remove carpet and furniture and set up plant tables & holding area).

Friday, April 21st

4pm-7pm: Bring plants and bake goods to the church this day. Saturday morning is too late to price and place items. Please label each item you bring.

Plant information: Name, color, shade/sun, and how big it gets is very helpful for our shoppers.

Baked good information: Name and any special ingredients are helpful for people with allergy considerations. Gluten and sugar-free are also very popular.

We will need help setting up and pricing everything.

Saturday, April 22nd

- Please park at least a block away from the church to give patrons easier parking opportunities. Hopefully, they will be carrying a lot of good stuff back to their cars.
- Arrive between 8:00 and 8:30 to help with last-minute setup and instructions of what to do.
- If you would like to buy something we prefer you let the public have the first opportunity for the best selection; hold off until 10 if you can.
- Clean-up help is always needed. If you like to sleep in or have a conflict in the morning please come at 1:00 to help!

Mike Drew, Plant Sale chair