

MARCH 2023

Unitarian Church of Quincy NEWSLETTER

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

Upcoming Services

March 5th Service

Speaker: Dr. J. Matthew Ward

Title: Lifting As We Climb

From the colonial era to the 21st century, women in America have labored to support themselves and their households while living within a society that frequently denied them equal consideration, political representation, and social respect. Over the course of several hundred years, American women challenged the status quo and elevated their status in society often by harnessing the very gendered stereotypes that constrained them. During this Women's History Month, Dr. Ward of Quincy University invites us to consider the ways in which our modern society is indebted to ideas of women's social uplift, like Republican Motherhood or the Maternal Commonwealth.

March 12th Service

Speaker: Sharon Buzzard

Title: Thoughts and Prayers

A reflection on the place of prayer in a Unitarian's life.

Donate-A-Plate this Sunday will go to the Cornerstone.

March 19th Service

Speaker: Heather Keller-Giltner

**Title: Courtesies, Compliments, and Casual Conversations:
Responding to a Call for Engagement**

In an world that can feel siloed, the deepening separation between unknown neighbors and ourselves forecasts a lonely, isolated future. This message will explore both the need to extend bids for connection with persons unknown and the accessible ways we can increase our positive participation within a shared human experience.

March 26th Service

Speaker: Doug Muder

Title: You Must Have Learned Something in 20 Years

On April 3, 2003, I went to a John Kerry rally in Peterborough, NH, with the idea that I was going to write up an account of the event for friends who weren't fortunate enough to live in an early-primary state. That turned out to be the start of something. By 2005 I had an irregular blog, and I've been writing The Weekly Sift almost every Monday since 2008. During the last 20 years, American politics has changed, news coverage has changed, blogs have spawned social media, and I've probably changed a bit myself.

FROM THE RIPPERS:

Dear Friends,

Michelle, Jordan, and I would like to thank you for your generous gift. Your financial gift has been put to good use by helping us resupply all of the minor comfort "things" that one does not begin to think about during a tragedy.

We have been surprised to learn how all of the little "things" that make our lives just a bit nicer are needed comfort after an unexpected tragedy and the financial crush they create.

Silly "things" that we white Americans take for granted like, toilet paper, spices, grooming needs, soaps, cleaners, kitchenware, towels, washcloths, etc, are quite expensive to restock from scratch as we have learned. Setting up a new temporary household with the minimum of these conveniences while insurance companies argue about their responsibilities to the insured homeless homeowners is frustrating and cash-dependent. Your monies donated are greatly appreciated!!

The outpouring of love demonstrated is much more comforting than the monies.

To know that you are thinking of us is the greatest gift.

Love is the spirit of this Church, and we are honored to call you all our friends and humbly accept your love.

David

Considering Membership?

In the Unitarian Universalist tradition, membership is open to all who choose to walk with us in the spirit of love and fellowship.

If you are considering membership in the Quincy Unitarian Church, please send a message to Dienna Drew, Membership chair – dienna2900@att.net – or phone, 217-223-4144, with any questions you have, or speak to any board member.

RE ANNOUNCEMENT

There have been some questions about the “second adult” volunteer who accompanies the children to the Garden Room (and soon, the basement stage) after the Wisdom Story. Our insurance requires that we have a second adult who is a church member, but not an employee of the church as part of the Child Safety Requirement. Please consider volunteering at least once during the year. It would be preferable if you volunteer before the service begins. Please tell Mary Beth, Jim Burns, or Alan DeYoung. Thank you.

CARRY-IN COFFEE HOUR—SUNDAY, MARCH 12

Please bring a sweet or savory food item to share for a Carry-In Coffee Hour on Sunday, March 12, after services with Steve and Sharon. The coffee pot will be brewing and conversation will be flowing. Plan to join us!

MINISTERS' REPORT

We have been heartened to see the emergence of small groups within the church and are excited about their possibilities. If you have an interest that you'd like to organize a group around, we encourage you to consider testing out the idea of putting a group together!

This increased interest in get-togethers seems to signal a renewed feeling of engagement within our fellowship. It's wonderful to see so many activities, meetings, and interest areas developing. An active church is a happy church, regardless of size.

We will be in Quincy on the weekend of March 11-12, so if anyone would like to meet up during that time, just let us know at sharon_buzzard@yahoo.com or swiegenstein@yahoo.com.

Steve and Sharon

FIRST FRIDAY

First Friday will be held by Chaunie Lynch at her home, located at 2424 Spruce St, a black asphalt private drive across from Greek To Me and before the Kia Dealership.. Per Chaunie, don't trust your GPS! It may try to bring you to a factory (she has assured us she does not live in a factory).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

March brings many happy things: Daylight Savings Time kicks in on the 12th so remember to spring forward on your clocks. iPhones and computers are the easiest as they do it for you. We'll have the first day of spring on the 20th and my tulips and daffodils are already up to welcome the new season. St. Patrick's Day is on the 17th and Ramadan begins on the 22nd. ALSO of great import and happiness for the month is the "unveiling" of our Founder's Window, which stands above the pulpit area and has been covered with a sheet of plywood for several months. The new rebuilt framework is completed, and artist John Bale is gathering the scaffolding needed, along with a crew of men. I can't tell you the exact day this happy occasion happens because of the weather but I have been assured that it will be in March. The Founder's Window is the linchpin of our sanctuary and I thank everyone for their patience while this window work has taken place.

April will bring our biggest fundraiser....the Plant, Book & Bake Sale. Sheryl Collins Hart, Michael Drew, Susan Deege, and I spent a few hours at Holtschlag's Florist on Saturday and planted tomato, peppers, and herb seeds. Then it's a steady march toward June 4th and the church's annual meeting. I would like congregational members to keep in mind that three Board members are stepping down after fulfilling their 3-year term. Leaving are Jim Burns, Alan DeYoung, and Mary Beth Gapinski. Please give careful thought to who you might want to see join the Board and bring those nominations to the annual meeting. Please keep yourself in mind also. I've been on the Board off and on for 6 years now, working with a variety of members and I can say with all confidence that every one of them brought something positive with them.

Mary Beth Gapinski