

Unitarian Church of Quincy

March 2024 Newsletter



March 2024 Services

Date: March 3

Speaker: Mary Ann Freeman

Title: Where Did We Come From? Who Are We?

A brief overview of the 6 Sources of Unitarian Universalism.

Date: March 10

Speaker: Carol Nichols

Title: Transformation of the Self through the Body-Mind-Spirit Experience of Yoga.

Yoga is a unique discipline and effective journey meant to "examine the nature of being." It is a total integration of the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual awareness that does not dismiss the body as separate or corrupt. The integration of all the above aspects is seamless within its practice and yields a deep and lifelong transformative process. **Donate-A-Plate will go to Cornerstone.**

Date: March 17

Speaker: Heather Giltner

Title: Authoring the Self: Charting spiritual discoveries across academic journeys

Date: March 24

Speaker: Matthew J. Ward

Title: The Beginning of Freedom: Women and the Transformation of History

Women's place in American society reveals much about the social and political values of our nation and how those values have changed over time. As the place of women has changed, the nation and democracy itself has transformed. When we look at the struggles of women in America across several centuries, we too should be inspired to embody our own personal transformations. As we continue to move into a contentious 21st century, women's history has much to convey about how to remain courageous and engage the world around us.

Date: March 31

Speaker: Sharon Buzzard

Title: TBD

MINISTERS' REPORT

It was great to see everyone last Sunday and catch up on all the doings. Our church is such a great mix of people with different backgrounds and outlooks that there is always a new and interesting conversation to be had. If you're like us, sometimes you feel as though the multitude of things to say and people to say them to creates the feeling that we've had a lot of unfinished conversations. We don't mean to shortchange anyone and apologize if you have ever gotten that feeling from us!

We are planning our next workshop, which will be a return to the topic of "Reconciliation." It will take place on **Saturday, April 20, from 1:30 to 3:30 at the church**. At our last reconciliation workshop, two distinct streams of thought emerged. One was personal reconciliation, with family and friends, and the other was institutional reconciliation, with a focus on what the church means to us today, what it has meant to the community in the past, and how to reconcile its history with its present. This line of discussion may eventually lead to a Sunday service on this subject in the future. We'd love to have new participants in this workshop as well as returning attendees from the first one.

In the meantime, look for us in March, at the Candlelight Dinner and at church. And stay in touch through e-mail or other means!

Steve: swiegenstein@yahoo.com

Sharon: sharon_buzzard@yahoo.com

FIRST FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024

Rob Manning is hosting the March 1, 2024, First Friday at his home. The address is 1450 Vermont Street beginning at 6:30 p.m. Please bring a sweet or savory snack to share and beverage of your choice.

For more information, please contact Leann Flanagan or Mary Beth Gapinski, Fellowship Committee, Co-Chairs.

MARCH 16TH WOMEN'S ALLIANCE MEETING

Now that the worst of winter has passed, Women's Alliance is resuming our monthly meetings. At 12:00 pm, noon, on Saturday, March 16, Women's Alliance will meet at the Garden Room. Please bring your own lunch. Coffee and dessert will be provided by our hostess! This is a great opportunity to interact with Unitarians. Invite a woman from church, or bring a friend. See you soon! The next meeting will be held on April 13th.

NOTICE: PICK UP ANY DISHWARE!

Because of the wonderful First Fridays and Sunday carry-ins we have, we occasionally have dishes, platters and plasticware that people don't manage to take home. The Fellowship Committee has only so much room in a kitchen that seems to get ever smaller so please help us keep some needed space. After the Candlelight Dinner the extra mystery pieces will be on one of the tables during coffee hour so you can pick out yours to take home. Otherwise you next might find it on a table at the Ladies of Charity or Goodwill!

Thank you!

Mary Beth Gapinski

CANDLELIGHT DINNER—IMPORTANT VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

The Candlelight Dinner & Concert is fast approaching—Friday, March 8, 2024.

On Thursday, March 7, at 6:00 p.m. all waitstaff and bussers will attend a training session and preview the Garden Room layout for the dinner. PLEASE DO NOT MISS THIS MEETING.

The chefs may access the kitchen anytime convenient for them on Friday, March 8, to set up. The Chefs must have their warm entrees and sides in the kitchen no later than 6:00. At that time the food servers can arrange the plating arrangement for maximum efficiency.

Also, please do not clutter the kitchen with other “stuff”. It is reserved strictly for food and its prep. All personal belongings such as purses, coats, etc can be stored in the basement. We ask that everyone stay out of the kitchen unless you are a cook or plating the food.

On Friday, March 8, all volunteers are requested to arrive no later than 5:00 to do all the last minute jobs such as fill the water glasses, place the butter and rolls on the tables and plate the salads, etc.

The appetizer/cocktail and coffee area will begin preparations no later than 5:00. The dishwashers/basement staff are requested to arrive by 6:30.

ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST NOT PARK CLOSE TO THE CHURCH, LEAVING THE PRIME SPOTS FOR OUR GUESTS. Vermont Street is a good choice.

Please contact Mary Beth Gapinski or Leann Flanagan for clarification.

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“LOVE IS THE SPIRIT OF THIS CHURCH” – MARCH, 2024

.....With gratitude and consideration for those who contract their time and talents with our community.

We have several people in a formal contract arrangement with us. We do not employ them. They enter into a work agreement with us, and we are delighted to have them. They cover needs in Religious Instruction, Tech Support, needs for the Office and the Exterior Grounds, for our Music Ministry and for General Cleaning. Our Lay Ministers, as well.

Each of these individuals has a set number of responsibilities which they have agreed to provide. These are fixed and some involve pretty tight schedules (such as sound checking prior to services or clearing snow and ice a.s.a.p. for the safety of those who use the building). Most of our good people have full time day jobs, so their time with us is “above and beyond.” We are lucky to have such individuals on board.

To make their work go as smoothly as possible, we ask that members and friends relay any ideas, suggestions, or additional desired activities to the committee chairs who work with these persons.

- Tech Support (Taylor) – Iris Nelson or Mary Ann Freeman
- Grounds Care and Office Work (Sierra): Mary Beth Gapinski (Building and Grounds) or Carol Nichols (Office)
- RE (Kenya): Mary Beth or Jim Burns
- Music Ministry (Stephen Schlinkmann): Worship Committee (Iris Nelson or Mary Ann Freeman)
- Lay Ministers (Steve and Sharon): Worship Committee or Steve and Sharon themselves.

It is great to engage with our contracted people, letting them know that you appreciate them, but please direct anything regarding their work to the above Church committee members.

This includes ideas for tech support purchases and other improvements, or any and all building and ground changes and improvements, as we have a policy to have these go through committees (or if no committee is in charge, directly to the Board). This helps us to keep our budget accurate and spending within reason, and to make sure that we follow proper accounting (including documentation for donated materials). It also ensures the right source of funding is used (for example, from our checking account, savings, or from the Memorial Committee). Significant issues and purchases may involve the entire Church membership (such as repairing a roof or water mitigation). As a community, we act this way to ensure consensus and good stewardship. As with our contracted personnel, it is an extension of “Love as the Spirit of this Church.”

At any time, any Board member is always happy to share your thoughts in the way of ideas or input, making sure the full Board is brought into the dialogue as we communicate with each other.

Thank you!

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Happy March! I can't believe we're so far through the year already. There are so many things to be excited about in the coming year!

First, I am currently in the testing phase of a potential solution for assistive listening devices in the church. I really want to move away from radio-frequency based solutions and onto something else, but this is a learning process for me and I'd like to get as close to "right" as I can!

Our second big project is the basement, which I am so beyond excited about. In collaboration with Kenya Vaughn in RE and Sierra Williams from the office/grounds, we have a thorough plan for what we would like to see out of the basement. Keep your eyes peeled for a second email from me with items we are looking to get rid of, which should be coming later this week. We will be giving church members a chance to grab anything they would like from the basement before it is donated. If you're considering taking something, we would request that you consider a donation back to the renovation project. We are planning on working in the basement at least one night a week and would invite assistance from anyone who wants to provide it! Right now, we are looking at meeting on either **Tuesdays or Thursdays**. If you would like to volunteer and would prefer one of these days, please let me know! I can be reached at **church@taylorwood.me**.

Finally, I am working closely with PFLAG and the TriState Diversity Coalition on an upcoming event on April 14th at 2pm. The Executive Director of PFLAG National will be coming to Quincy to do a talk on the Quincy Chapter's 10 year anniversary. I would highly encourage anyone interested in joining us for this event. It's a great, free way to show support to LGBT individuals in our community while supporting a group that uses our building.

I brought it up at the end of service during announcements this past Sunday, but we are in a blessed place to belong to a congregation that is growing. I implore all of you to consider your individual role in providing a caring community to the congregation's members and friends, new and old. I appreciate all of you and what you do for our church community, and I cannot wait to see what the coming months have in store.

MID-CENTURY CANDLELIGHT DINNER & CONCERT -- FRIDAY, MARCH 8

For Reservations and more information, Please Contact Mike Flanagan
To Reserve Call: (217) 257-1413 –or email: ml@flan3.net. \$60 each for Dinner Reservations

When making your reservations, please choose between the Entrées:
Pork Tenderloin Medallions with Peach Sauce or
Vegetarian Stuffed Peppers with Basil Vinaigrette

MENU:

Appetizers

Mocktail: Shirley Temple Punch or BYOB

- Cocktail Shrimp
- Olive Nuggets
- Deviled Eggs

Starter

- Italian Tossed Salad

Entrees (Please choose one)

- Pork Tenderloin Medallions with Peach Sauce or
- Vegetarian Stuffed Peppers with Basil Vinaigrette

Sides

- Parmesan Potato Stacks
- Sliced Carrots in Orange Ginger Sauce
- French Bread

Desserts

- A Ghirardelli Double Chocolate Chip Cookie served with Triple Vanilla Ice Cream
- Individual Pineapple Upside-Down Cake
- Maria Lime Ice-Box Cake
- Rainbow Jello Parfait

Cocktail Attire, please!

Cocktails & Appetizers at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Concert at 8:00 p.m.

Our Concert features a live performance of the local band, Gypsy Tango Foxtrot. For those wishing to attend only the Concert, we ask for your Freewill Donation.

We still have places available at \$60 each for the Dinner. If such a "Dress-up," community get-together would interest you or any of your friends, please contact Mike Flanagan for reservations. **Call: (217) 257-1413 – or email: ml@flan3.net.**