

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF QUINCY

MAY 2024
NEWSLETTER



May 2024 Services

Date: May 5

Speaker: Doug Muder

Title: Hope, Denial, and a Healthy Relationship with the News

In an era that raises so many horrifying possibilities, how can we stay engaged without making ourselves vulnerable to paralyzing fear or annihilating rage?

Date: May 12

Speaker: Patrick Hotle

Title: Slavery and Freedom Seekers Across the River and in the City.

What can history teach us about the nature of racism, slavery and resistance on the Missouri-Illinois border before the Civil War? How does this history challenge modern perceptions and identities? **Donate-A-Plate to the Back to School Fair.**

Date: May 19

Speaker: Susan Morrison Hebble

Title: Being Good(ish)

Susan will examine the ideas and limitations associated with seeing ourselves as “good” people. With reference to the work of social psychologist Dolly Chugh, Susan will propose ways we might avoid the implicit duality of labeling ourselves—and one another--as “good” and “bad,” and, therefore, allow room for growth to embrace a realistic spectrum of potential in how we operate in and view the world.

Date: May 26

Speaker: Emily Mayne

Title: TBD

A REMINDER TO EVERYONE:

It is our tradition during the service to set aside a time for questions and comments.

Please follow these guidelines:

1. Say your name (first, last) clearly before you speak and keep the mic close to your face
2. Please keep your comments RELEVANT to the talk and BRIEF to make time for others.
3. Expect to speak only once

On another note: Please refrain from using the Internet during the service. This takes bandwidth away from Taylor's efforts to keep Zoom running smoothly.

Thank you for your attention.

MAY FIRST FRIDAYS

There are two First Fridays in May! Please be ready to have a very good time at John and Andrea Baird's home on Friday, May 3rd at their home at 1323 Eastate Drive. You'll take State Street east out past 54th Street roughly a mile and look for a small Eastate sign on the left side of the road. The turn will be on the right and their house is the last on the left. John and Andrea promise a roaring firepit during the evening hours and plenty of games for the children. Please bring a savory or sweet dish to share and something to drink.

The second First Friday will be on May 31st. Steve and Sharon will be here for a wedding on June 1st, the annual meeting on June 2nd, and asked if a First Friday could be held on May 31st so they could join us. With the end of the church year picnic on June 9th, the Fellowship Committee decided to cancel the normal FF of June 7th. The May 31st gathering will occur at Johnson Park on 18th and Harrison. There is a large playground area and a shelter that the Fellowship Committee has reserved for the evening. Please bring a dish to pass and whatever you'd like to drink.

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

May 11, 2024, is the last meeting date for this church year. Susan D. is our Hostess. Natalie K. and Susan will provide the program. Bring your own lunch, please. Guests are welcome to join us; we meet at noon in the Garden Room.

June 5th, 10 AM, is our Planning Meeting. No lunch! Monthly meeting attendance has been low. Members, prior to this meeting, consider how you envision the future of our group. Speak with, text, or email the officers with your opinions, and this subject will be discussed. Thank you for your input. Results will be posted in the July Newsletter.

SUMMER FOOD DRIVE

Our church will be conducting a Summer Vacation Food Drive for the economically disadvantaged youth of Quincy and Adams County. Please bring in kid/teen friendly items and place them near the Garden Room. Ideas include granola bars, fruit snacks, microwaveable items like ravioli and macaroni and cheese, bottled water, juice boxes, chips, pretzels, peanut butter, jelly, and packaged fruits like pears and peaches. They will also appreciate toiletries like deodorant and feminine products.

If you have any questions please let me know at the.dincher.family@gmail.com or text 910-745-2424. I will also appreciate more knowledge on the location of various roadside pantries. I know of locations near Tangerine Bowl, 18th and Harrison, Blessed Sacrament, and the Lutheran Church by the Junior High.

Thank you,
Gerry Dincher and Leo, Violet Pearl, and Bobby.

MINISTERS' REPORT

It was great to see everyone during our April weekend at the church. Particularly heartening was the mixture of longtime members and recent visitors, all engaged with each other, finding common things to talk about and share. That set of common goals and principles is what our church is all about.

Our Saturday workshop on reconciliation was well attended and produced a lot of thoughtful observations. There were about an equal number of folks who had attended the previous one and folks who had not. One takeaway from our discussion was that there are a lot of elements in our church history and regional history that most of us probably need to learn more about! We will be taking the summer to consider next steps. We'd appreciate hearing from you if you have thoughts in this direction, so we can gauge interest as we plan for fall.

We'll be back on the weekend of May 31/June 2 for a wedding rehearsal, wedding, and church talk. Hope to see you then!

Steve: swiegenstein@yahoo.com

Sharon: sharon_buzzard@yahoo.com

ARTICLE II STUDY COMMISSION

Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Bylaws, Principles and Purposes, is the foundation for all of the work of our UUA and its member congregations and covenanted communities. It is the covenant to which all of our congregations and covenanted communities pledge themselves when they become members of our UUA.

Our current Principles and Purposes were last revised in 1987. At General Assembly (GA) 2017, there was discussion of amending the Principles to add an 8th Principle, addressing racism, and an amended 1st Principle, addressing non-human life. The 5th Principle was the subject of a report in 2009, which dealt with the ways in which GA and other Unitarian Universalist (UU) gatherings do and don't embody an inclusive democratic process. The 7th Principle has also been the subject of discussions about possible amendments.

There have been many projects, resolutions, task forces and other strategies that have come from the Board, Commission on Appraisal and grassroots groups which encourage us to take a look at our principles, purposes, bylaws and rules. It is time for us to do a review and make changes so that we are living into the Unitarian Universalism of the future, a Unitarian Universalism that holds us in times of great need and ethical, moral and spiritual crises. We are in one of those times now.

In response to those discussions, the UUA Board committed to establishing this Article II Study Commission to complete this study and offer a revised Article II.

Please go to <https://www.uucy.org/jetpig.html> for further information.

BAKE SALE TALLY & THANKS

The Unitarian Church Bake Sale was the best ever with a total of \$1,475!! It's hard to imagine that baked goods can bring in that amount of money, but our variety and quality proves it is possible. THANK YOU to everyone who brought in their delicious pies, cookies, breads, coffee cakes, cupcakes, gluten-free, and many more varieties. A special thanks to Chris Wiewel for her freshly baked cinnamon rolls—always a favorite fragrance luring folks to our tables. Her homemade mustard brings back repeat customers, too! Many THANKS to all those who helped price, arrange the tables, carry fresh rolls up from the basement & assist customers. The bake sale team of volunteers and bakers are the reason for our huge success. THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!!!

Leann Flanagan, Bake Sale Chair