



UNITARIAN CHURCH OF QUINCY

SEPTEMBER 2024
NEWSLETTER

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.

UU Quincy Newsletter

Date: September 8

Speaker: Sharon Buzzard

Title: Generation UU

When do we see ourselves as participants in history? In dreams begin responsibilities.

Date: September 15

Speaker: Carol Nichols

Title: Recognizing Decency

Decency, grace, honor, morality, respectability, greatness, worth, virtue: the inherent Dignity in all and the task of finding it.

Date: September 22

Speaker: Aaron Arnold

Title: Worth and Dignity: Our Role

The Unitarian principle of the inherent worth and dignity of each individual is the bedrock of a successful and just society and is something that must be constantly worked toward and maintained. But, what exactly does this principle mean? Why is it important? What is our role, as Unitarians, in promoting this principle in our church and our communities?

Date: September 29

Speaker: Jan Barrett

Title: Winnie the Pooh and Worthiness

What is the source of your value as a human being? Does your worthiness come from within yourself, & if so, how did it get there? Are there actions you must take in order to bolster or shore up your worthiness?

To what degree is your value determined by external forces/systems over which you have no control?

Perhaps through the eyes of Winnie the Pooh, Jan will address how to harvest the honey of worthiness.

CANDLELIGHT DINNER

Every late winter, our church holds The Candlelight Dinner, a major fundraiser, which is a two-part dinner and musical program. We sell limited tickets to 64 lucky people.

We begin an initial planning at the end of September, and I would like to invite all interested people to attend the meeting on September 26th (Thursday) at 6pm in the Garden room to discuss the 2025 Dinner. In the past, the planning has been limited to the same group of planners but several of us have decided that we need and would welcome an injection of new ideas and enthusiasm. We already have enough Boomers in the group and we are very interested in fresh perspectives from younger people!

Please join us later this month, bring some ideas, interest, and energy! Snacks are provided as this is a UU meeting and we love snacks (and wine!)

I will send out reminders via the church FB page and Sunday service announcements closer to the date. I hope to see many faces, new and old!

Mary Beth Gapinski

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

11:30 am is the new time for Quincy Unitarian affiliated people to meet on Tuesday, September 17th, at Sprouts Restaurant, North 12th St. Originally, 11:00 am was posted. However, a few of us have earlier appointments that day, so please change your Calendar to 11:30 am. We will be ordering off the menu and paying our individual bills.

There's room for everyone! The luncheon is casual, inclusive, and open. Leann, Mary Beth, and Dona are the contact people. Later, we will take a head count for the Sprouts table(s) reservation.

BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR WRAP-UP & THANKS

Many thanks to all who shopped, volunteered, & donated money to the Back to School Fair. It was a huge success! The attendees were thrilled with all the backpack & supply choices to start their school year. Please know that this project is so much appreciated by our community!

FIRST FRIDAY

Our September First Friday is a highly anticipated event at Jim and Kate Daniel's home on the 6th of the month at 6426 Church Hills Rd. Quincy 62305. Kate and Jim suggest an earlier 5:30 to begin the fun so please bring a dish to pass and whatever you'd like to drink. Kate will be offering a roulade and a baked salmon.

Looking ahead, the weather is going to be clear and warm but not hot so it will be perfect for the spacious seating area that is available around the pool and the deck area.

See you on September 6th!

More information and a map is on the church's Facebook page.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy September, Quincy Unitarians!

This month, our church returns from its summer respite and kicks off the weekly services and church activities of a new church year. But I have to say, it's not as though our church went into hibernation these last few months. After our wonderful annual meeting and picnic in June, there were the weekly Sunday discussion groups, weddings, social action and outreach events, successful fundraisers, weddings, First Fridays, not to mention the personal occasions or milestones that we experienced as individuals. And did you see the new wayside pulpit! Of course, with joys also comes the sorrows. In addition to our personal hardships, the burdens and losses of members, friends, and loved ones weigh heavy on our hearts. The common thread between these emotional extremes is their ability to show the power of our church community. Sharing these moments with one another makes the highs higher and the lows more manageable. So, as we embark on another church year, I sincerely look forward to all of us navigating the ups and downs in our lives, our church, and our world, together. See everyone soon!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The RE committee is happy to announce the addition of new instructor Samantha (Sami) Newbanks to the RE children's program! Sami is a Western Wildcat 4th grade teacher at the Barry Elementary School in Barry, IL. for the second year and previously worked as a substitute teacher in the Quincy Public Schools. Sami is looking forward to meeting all the children!

Please welcome Sami if you meet her on the Sept. 6th First Friday or at the Sept. 8th church service!

Mary Beth Gapinski, RE chairperson

OUR FIRST SERVICE COFFEE HOUR

The Fellowship Committee looks forward to gathering for coffee hour after our first service with Steve & Sharon. Coming together after our summer hiatus will create good conversations with coffee and snacks. Please feel free to bring a little something sweet or savory to share. See you Sunday, September 8.

THE WAYSIDE PULPIT

If you have driven past the church recently, you've surely noticed that we have a new Wayside Pulpit! The new sign was installed earlier in the month of August.

There are many rules that the city of Quincy has for lighted signs in Residential Zones. We have to turn it off at 9:00 every evening and we can't turn it back on until 7:00 a.m. the following morning. We can't show movies or quickly change what we are presenting. The city makes us keep a static image up for at least a minute before we can change it to another image. No blinking lights, no distracting movements.

And there are further restrictions imposed by the constitution of the United States: We cannot show anything Political! Church and State must remain separate. We'll have no trouble abiding with that restriction, either.

We have transcribed all of the old sayings on paper that we used to put up on the old cork board with pins. We will keep rotating them as an important part of our program. We will also use the Wayside Pulpit to "advertise" our Sunday speakers and their topics during our church year. Special events at the church will also be "advertised," too. Emphasis on "At the Church." We'll not use our Wayside Pulpit to talk about events that are not directly related to activities at the church. Our Board of Trustees will always be the final arbiter for disputes about the appropriateness of any questioned presentation.

Our new Wayside Pulpit looks wonderful. Drive by just to check it out. Welcome to the 21st century.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September 2 Ruth Cuthbertson

September 7 Nayer Attai

September 7 Sharon Buzzard

September 8 Landyn Vaughn

September 15 Alexis

Engelbrecht/Villafane

September 19 Cindy Ahrens

September 20 Kevin Kuehl

September 22 Jim Olsen

September 23 Addie Seabarkrob

September 29 Judith Crocker