



UNITARIAN CHURCH OF QUINCY

DECEMBER 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: December 1

Speaker: Terrell Dempsey

Title: “Our Heritage is Resistance: The Origins of the Quincy Unitarian Church and the Quincy Underground Railroad.”

In the Antebellum years, like today, Quincy, Illinois was a conservative community. But it was also home to a small but important minority of religious progressives who were open to new ideas. The radical ideas of Unitarianism and immediate abolition of slavery among other equally progressive notions found a ready home here. William Ellery Channing, one of the founders of American Unitarianism called on people to do more than just read, pray, and weep over social injustice, but to actually act to “relieve the distressed.” Our Unitarian forebearers in the Quincy church reacted to the social injustices of their day by working together and covenanting to protect one another and help people suffering under unjust laws and oppression. Our church ancestors have left us a legacy that lights a way forward for us today.

Date: December 8

Speaker: Mary Ripper

Title: TBD

Date: December 15

Speaker: Andy Walsh

Title: TBD

Date: December 24

Speaker: Steve Wiegenstein

Title: The Work of Christmas

"The Work of Christmas" is one of our favorite readings for Christmas Eve. This evening's talk will be a meditation on the significance of Howard Thurman's wise words.

Date: December 31

Speaker: Members

Title: Poetry

Reminder! No service on December 22nd!

PARKING PROBLEM

The 16th street entrance is our busiest informal church entrance. The pull-through is handy for loading and unloading items for our various fundraisers, it's great for the contractors we use to service our A/C, heaters, alarm systems, etc. and a quick run in for something on any off day. But the primary function for the pull-through actually is designated as a function for any emergency vehicles should we need one on those times when largish groups of people gather such as Sundays, private groups or fundraisers.

To the north side of the double doors is a handicapped parking spot. To the south side (next to the Japanese Maple) is what looks like a parking spot but actually doesn't have enough pull ahead space so it is NOT a parking space. An emergency vehicle does not have enough space to completely pull through. Please do not park here.

The Building & Grounds Committee determined that there should be "no parking" signs posted on the ground as a temporary measure and this short explanation suffice for the congregation's understanding and compliance.

Thank you.

FIRST FRIDAY/HANGING OF THE GREENS

We Unitarians love many things: coffee, food, good friends and conversation, our church, the values we live by, and decorating the sanctuary in December!

Please join us on December 6th at 6:00pm at the church as we gather to festoon the church with fresh greenery generously provided again this year by Paul and Alice Miller. There will be plenty left over to take home if one would like. As usual, please bring something sweet or savory to pass and whatever you'd like to drink.

We will need assistance to bring the many boxes of Christmas decor from the basement upstairs but many hands make the sanctuary, hallway, and Garden Room festive and fragrant. Afterward, we will retire to the Garden Room to reward ourselves with food and drink (and no one will snitch or care if you sneak some wine or food while decorating!)

We'll have the lights on for you!

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY, DEC. 7, 11:00 AM.

The Women's annual Christmas Party Luncheon is coming! Don't miss out! Saturday, December 7th, at 11:00 am. Thyme Square restaurant, in the back meeting room. We have a reservation, but don't be surprised if you have to wait a few minutes to be seated (since their breakfast people will be leaving.)

A wrapped gift exchange game is involved. Just pick out something nice from home for your Christmas present. We order from the menu, and each person pays for their own food. Bring a friend or relative to join the fun! But, please let Mary Beth Gapinski know if you're coming so Thyme Square can properly set up our table.

MINISTERS' MESSAGE

Thanks to all who came out for our Transitions workshop in November. It was a big subject, and we barely scratched the surface of it. So it may be one of those topics that we need to return to more than once before everyone feels complete. More people will mean more transitions to discuss.

It was a treasure to see everyone at the church service as well that weekend and to catch up on all the happenings. Steve is at work on the service for Christmas Eve. It's a service that benefits especially from many contributions, so if you have a musical selection, a poem, a reading, or anything else you'd like to contribute, please let him know. And some of you can expect to be contacted!

We have thought of this good community of people many times this fall and feel grateful to be a part of it.

Sharon: sharon_buzzard@yahoo.com

Steve: swiegenstein@yahoo.com

RE SUPPORT TEAM

Greetings from the RE (aka Sunday School) Support Team! We are so grateful for how many people have given it a go supporting Sami and the kids in RE these past couple of months! If you haven't yet discovered this particular joy, please contact Liz (510-926-1213, lizwieking@gmail.com) to sign up for an opportunity. We currently need volunteers for December 15 onward. Liz will be away from December 15-January 4th, so it would be wonderful to get dates covered through January 5th and 12th to keep continuity for Sami and the children. Thank you!

Warmly, Liz