



# UNITARIAN CHURCH OF QUINCY

SEPTEMBER 2025  
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 Kevin Kuehl, Membership Chair, [catville24@gmail.com](mailto:catville24@gmail.com), with any questions you have, or speak to any board member.

## UU Quincy Newsletter

### A NEW WAY TO SHARE ANNOUNCEMENTS

To help our services flow smoothly and give everyone a chance to hear important news, the Worship Committee is trying a new system. If you have an announcement/joy/sorrow, please write it on the slips provided at the front and place it in the basket before the service begins. The Worship Leader will share all announcements from the pulpit at the start of the service. Thank you for helping us keep things welcoming and organized!

**Date: September 14**

**Speaker: Dr. Steve Wiegenstein**

**Title: The Shape of Water**

Our opening service of the church year begins with a water communion and continues with reflections on our sense of community. Why is water such a powerful symbol to us as Unitarians? Let's give it some thought.

#### Water Communion

Join us for this beloved tradition as we begin our new church year! Bring a small amount of water from a place meaningful to you—a trip, your home, or a favorite spot. We'll blend our waters at the beginning of our first church service as a symbol of unity and the many paths that bring us together.

**Date: September 21**

**Speaker: Dr. Rob Manning**

**Title: God's Vision and "God With Us": Unitarian Thoughts on the Gaza Catastrophe**

How do we think and talk about together the human catastrophe unfolding in Gaza ever since October 7 of 2023? What does it have to do with religion? With our principles as Unitarians? How much do we feel we know about what the Palestinians have been suffering? What enables us or prevents us from seeing this suffering?

**Date: September 28**

**Speaker: Padraic Rohan**

**Title: Evolution vs. Intelligent Design**

For most educated people, the debate between proponents of evolution and of intelligent design seems to be no debate at all. But in this talk, I argue that proponents of evolution must, if we are serious about a free and responsible search for truth and meaning, wrestle with some valid criticisms of evolution – in the nuts and bolts of the science of evolution itself, and in the larger implications for free will and meaning.

## SUMMER SUNDAY DISCUSSION SERIES

Sunday September 7 will be this summer's last Discussion. We have spent this summer exploring the 7 Principles of Unitarian/Universalism and the 6 Sources that Unitarian/Universalism draws its' wisdom from.

During our discussions, many of us have shared stories of the spiritual journeys that have brought us to our present understanding of how our own sense of Spiritually. During this final discussion of the summer, we hope that more of us will have the opportunity to share stories of how we have grown into the visions of spirituality that we now posses.

Come join us from 9:30 to 11:00.

## SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH COFFEE HOUR

The Fellowship Committee is seeking volunteers to help with both set-up and clean-up for our weekly coffee hour. To make things easier, we created a [simple coffee hour Sign-Up Genius](#) to allow everyone to choose the dates and times that work best for your schedules. And, if something comes up and you're unable to serve, the site will allow you to swap dates or remove your name.

Set-up involves serving from 10:00 to 10:30 am to prepare coffee and set out plates, flatware, cups, and food items. Clean-up runs from after church until 12:30-1:00 pm and involves loading/starting the dishwasher (all items should be rinsed), washing some dishes by hand, wiping tables, and ensuring the room is returned to its original arrangement.

On days when Sharon and Steven will join us for a carry-in meal, we are seeking an extra volunteer for the clean-up schedule.

Please volunteer for as many slots and dates as you'd like. The hope is by sharing the load that we can all lend a hand on some days and then sit back and enjoy fellowship on other days. To sign-up, please [click this link](#) or go to <http://bit.ly/4nkQ5TZ>

Please note that emails related to Sign-up Genius will come from the following address: [quincyuusignup@gmail.com](mailto:quincyuusignup@gmail.com). Thanks in advance for volunteering and helping to lighten the load!

## SUPPORT OUR FOOD PANTRY

Our food pantry helps nourish our neighbors! Non-perishable food items are always welcome—simply place them in the baskets by the side entrance. (Cans with pop-tops are extra helpful as not all have access to a can opener.) Prefer to give cash? Please place your donation in the Treasurer's box in the Resource Room or in the offering plate, and be sure to note "Food Pantry" on your gift. Thank you for helping us share abundance and care for our community! See Gerry Dincher with any questions. 910-745-2424

## MINISTERS MESSAGE

Hello to friends old and new. We are looking forward to the start of the church year with great anticipation. The beginning of the church year is always an exciting time, as we have the chance to reconnect after a summer away. Our opening service on September 14 will include a water communion. For those of you who are new to the church, a water communion is an event in which congregants are invited to bring a small container of water and add it to our communal bowl, and to say a few words. Your water could be some you've collected on summer travel, or it could just be plain old water from home. Tell us what you've been up to this summer, or tell us what's on your mind. The water communion is a way to re-introduce ourselves to ourselves and to start the church year with a reminder that whoever we are, whatever we've been doing, we're all in this journey together.

We are planning an adult RE workshop for the weekend of our visit in October. Our theme for this workshop will be "Spirituality." The date will be Saturday afternoon, October 18. So mark your calendars and start thinking about things you would like to share.

Steve and Sharon

Sharon: [sharon\\_buzzard@yahoo.com](mailto:sharon_buzzard@yahoo.com)

Steve: [swiegenstein@yahoo.com](mailto:swiegenstein@yahoo.com)

## THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR

Our donation of 50 Kindergarten Girl Book Bags and School Supplies helped to make the August 2, Back to School Fair a huge success. Heartfelt gratitude to everyone who volunteered their time to shop, fill the book bags, work at the fair, &/or donate money! This project brought many smiles and appreciation from many families in our community. In fact, the count was 870 people this year! This is a worthwhile and necessary event for our community.

Thank you,

**The Social Action Committee**

Leann Flanagan, Chair

## COFFEE HOUR

As we get ready to start our new church year, the Fellowship Committee is gearing up for Coffee Hour! We all want Coffee Hour to be a time of refreshment for everyone, including those who volunteer to serve. To help make that happen, we're simplifying things and embracing a more minimalistic approach. Coffee (of course!) and other beverages will be offered, along with one or two light snack options.

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

Carry-in items should only be brought when our ministers, Steve and Sharon, are visiting. If you do choose to bring a dish on a "regular" Sunday, please stay and help with clean-up. This helps all of us have time to chat and enjoy each other's company.

Steve and Sharon will be with us for the first service of the year on September 14th, so Coffee Hour is carry-in that Sunday. Please bring a sweet or savory dish you would like to share.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to a Fellowship Committee member: Mary Beth Gapinski, Leann Flanagan, Nathalie Dincher, Julie Bauer Cook, Sheryl Hart, Kate Daniels, Rena St. John, or Rod St. John. Thank you for helping us keep Coffee Hour relaxing, joyful, and welcoming for all!

## COSTUME DRIVE - MAKE HALLOWEEN MAGICAL!

This October, many local kids may miss out on the joy of dressing up—something every child deserves. We can change that! The Social Action Committee is collecting NEW costumes for children, sizes 6–14/16 and adult small/medium (for older kids and teens).

Instead of money, we ask for costumes—pirates, princesses, superheroes, animals, anything that sparks imagination! Your donations will go directly to Quincy Neighborhood Federation.

Drop off by October 21st. Time is short! Let's make this Halloween brighter for every child! See Nathalie Dincher with any questions, 910-978-3299.