



# UNITARIAN CHURCH OF QUINCY

FEBRUARY 2026  
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

If you would like to be included in the church directory, please email your request to Sheryl Hart at [sheyfey@gmail.com](mailto:sheyfey@gmail.com)

**Date: February 1**

**Speaker: Dr. Deborah Currier**

**Title: When Things Fall Apart: The Gift of Uncertainty**

"I don't know." In our modern world, saying these three words has become an act of courage. It seems as if we are expected to present ourselves like a social media post every day: The expert, curated, well-lit, healthy, wealthy and wise image ... So, what happens when it all falls spectacularly apart? Join Deb as she invites us to explore the gifts of grace and gratitude that can come from the wreckage of loss - and the acceptance of "I don't know."

**Date: February 8**

**Speaker: Dr. Andrew Walsh**

**Title: Resistance in the Abrahamic Traditions**

Dr. Walsh makes a case that these traditions have been used to justify everything from imperial conquest to resistance against systems of domination. He highlights the radical nature of the Sabbatical laws and the story of Exodus, Jesus' resistance to the Roman Empire, and of the Quran's claim that God stands with the oppressed.

**Date: February 15**

**Speaker: Nathalie Dincher**

**Title: The Sacred No**

Sometimes saying no is the most faithful act. Nathalie talks about conscience and the Fifth Principle, showing how refusal serves authentic faith and community.

**Date: February 22**

**Speaker: Dr. Sharon Buzzard**

**Title: The Hate We Feel**

Hate is a powerful but genuine emotion that we'd prefer not to feel. But at times is it warranted? How can we tolerate those whose behaviors and words violate all that we believe?

## **MINISTERS' MESSAGE**

Greetings, friends. We're writing this message today in the aftermath of the horrific shooting in Minneapolis, the second fatal shooting by ICE officers in Minneapolis this year, and the third since the beginning of the current administration. The loss of a human life in such a callous manner is immensely disturbing. But almost as disturbing is the disregard for truth shown by our elected leaders and their agency heads, who rushed to their microphones within minutes to blame Alex Pretti for his own death, just as they had done a few days earlier with Renee Good, and in September with Silverio Villegas Gonzales. In all three cases, government officials made claims that were, in the best case, terribly premature before any investigation had taken place, and in the worst case, visibly false to even the most trusting observer.

We cannot bring these people back. We can only make our thoughts known and work to restrain this violent behavior in whatever ways fit our capabilities. And we can insist on speaking only with empathy for our fellow human beings and insistence that our leaders speak the truth.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on February 22, the date of our next visit to Quincy.

## **KNITTING & CROCHETING GATHERING**

Carol Clay Mann and Sheryl Collins Hart will be hosting a knitting and crochet gathering from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m., following coffee hour, on February 22.

All are welcome—whether you're a wannabe, beginner, moderate, or experienced yarnie!

## **FIRST FRIDAY**

Our First Friday for February will be on the 6th and hosted by Rob and Dana Manning at 1450 Vermont st. There is plenty of parking on both sides of the street.

Their doors will open at 6:30pm and please bring something sweet or savory to share and whatever you'd like to drink. We'll see you at the Manning Mansion on the 6th!

## PLANT SALE 2026

We will hold our annual Plant, Bake, & Book sale on April 25th this year. This is our biggest annual fundraiser for the church and another great opportunity for the public to walk inside our doors and see our wonderful church community come together for a great event.

Some newer people may wonder what a Plant, Bake, & Book sale is. We ask for donations of plantings from church members and friends' yards and we grow some plants (mostly tomatoes, peppers, & herbs) from seed. We also partner with Holtschlag Florist who provides annual flowers for flower beds, hanging baskets, among other things.

Things to do right now for the plant sale:

- Mark it on your calendar (Set up is Thursday & Friday and the sale is Saturday 9-1)
- Save containers to put plants in; think cottage cheese and large yogurt container size
- Save flat boxes (soda flats) to use the day of the sale
- Help plant seeds-keep reading.

We will be planting seeds for the plant sale on Saturday, February 28th at 9:00(am). Bring gloves if you don't want dirt under your fingernails; but who doesn't like a little dirt under their fingernails!?! We will meet at Holtschlag Florist, 1135 South 12th ST (12th & Adams). Check with Mike Drew if you have questions. 217-257-1305

More to come....

## IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### Congregational Survey

We want to hear from you! Our church is all about community and the free exchange of ideas. In that spirit, the Board of Trustees has developed this first of its kind Congregational Survey. The survey is open to anyone connected to our church and is designed to gather perspectives on all aspects of our church, how it currently operates, what we wish it to become, and what strategies will get us there. The information gathered will help determine how we invest both our time and treasure to the goals and priorities that we as Unitarians hold most dear. The survey will be administered through Survey Monkey, a commonly used survey tool, and is guaranteed to be ANONYMOUS - responses will go to a separate mailbox and will be tallied by software. The survey is live and will be available through the month of February. For anyone who would like technical assistance accessing and submitting the survey, Bill Burns has offered help at Calftown Cafe anytime during operating hours - thanks, Bill! Please take the time to thoughtfully read and respond at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/M8YFXCH>