



UNITARIAN CHURCH OF QUINCY

APRIL 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 would like to receive this Newsletter by email, or be listed in our Directory of Members & Friends, or are considering becoming a member of our church, please email us at contact@uuquincy.org with your request.

UU Quincy Newsletter

If you would like to be included in the church directory, please email your request to contact@uuquincy.org

Date: April 5

Speaker: Nathalie Dincher

Title: Coming Back to Life

This talk reframes Easter as the tender return to aliveness after seasons of mere survival. With honesty about grief, doubt, and faith that goes quiet, Nathalie names the “tombs” we build to protect ourselves - and the courage it takes to roll the stone away.

Date: April 12

Speaker: Carol Nichols

Title: "Mitákuye Oyás'ín," Joseph Epes Brown, and the 7th Principle

In her talk, Carol explores how Unitarians resonate with one of the deepest understandings found in Indigenous belief.

Date: April 19

Speaker: Dr. Sharon Buzzard

Title: That Thing with Feathers

Faith is defined as complete trust, confidence, or belief in something, often without evidence, ranging from personal conviction to religious devotion. Given our leanings towards evidence and truth, how do UUs understand faith?

Date: April 26

Speaker: Rev. Brett Gosteli

Title: Curses, Blessings, and the Golden Rule: A World of Natural Consequence

Rev. Gosteli discusses Old Testament promises of curses and blessings, and how we might understand them in a modern context, the relationship between these and the commandment Jesus named as the greatest -- Love God, Love Neighbor -- and how all of this is interconnected in a universe where the principle of "cause and effect" is a reality, and human decision-making has a far broader effect than people often consider.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR COFFEE HOUR

We're so grateful for the kind members who have stepped up time and again to make Coffee Hour possible—your generosity truly sustains this tradition. As the church year winds down, we'd love to give those faithful volunteers a chance to simply relax and enjoy Coffee Hour, and welcome some new faces into helping make it happen.

To sign up, please visit: <https://bit.ly/4v1Tifx>

If something comes up, you can easily swap dates or remove your name through the site.

Set-up (10:00–10:30 am): Prepare coffee and set out plates, flatware, cups, and food.

Clean-up (after church to ~12:30–1:00 pm): Load and start the dishwasher (please rinse items), wash a few items by hand, wipe tables, and return the room to its original arrangement.

You'll receive confirmation and reminder emails through SignUpGenius.

Questions? Contact: quincyuusignup@gmail.com

Thank you for helping share the work and keep Coffee Hour welcoming for all!

APRIL FIRST FRIDAY

The April First Friday will be on the 3rd and once again in the church's Garden Room. We are hoping the weather is rain free so the meditation garden can be made available to anyone wishing to sit outside in a semi-secluded area on some of our beautifully repainted vintage chairs.

As always, the food and drinks will be set up in the Garden Room so please bring something sweet or savory to share and something you'd like to drink.

We realize it is Good Friday, which some in our congregation may want to mark with family or self as a more solemn observation, but if anyone care to join us, the festivities begin at 6:30!

SIGN UP FOR ELECTRONIC PLEDGE PAYMENTS

The Finance Committee would like to remind our members and friends of the automated payment option for church tithing and pledges. This method is preferred and beneficial for both the church and the donor for several reasons.

- You get easier recordkeeping and tracking of your tithing
- The church budgeting is helped with consistent giving across the year
- You never have to worry about forgetting your checkbook
- The church can be supported even while you are away
- You can time the payments to best fit your personal needs
- The church has less cash and check exposure
- You can start or stop payments at any time
- The church gets simplified reporting through our partner Vanco
- You get a safe, private, and secure method of payment

To start electronic automatic donations, please visit the church website uuquincy.org and go to the Giving tab. There are several Donate buttons under the Giving tab that will take you through a secure encrypted webform to set up your account. If you need assistance, please contact Treasurer Rich Cook in person, at rjcookqcy@gmail.com, or call 217.285.9424. Thanks.

BALE SALE INFORMATION

It's time to be planning for our upcoming Plant, Book, & BAKE Sale, Saturday, April. 25, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Our UU Bakery has a reputation for quality home baked goods and an ample variety of pies, cakes, cupcakes, quick breads, yeast breaks, cookies, brownies, coffee cakes, mustard, etc. We also like to be able to offer sugar-free and gluten-free options. Chris Wiewel will be baking her homemade cinnamon rolls so the aroma as the doors open will entice our customers to check out our yummy treats. Please indicate any special ingredients, especially nuts.

Please bring your baked goods to the church on Friday, April 24, afternoon or early evening. We will be pricing and setting up the bakery area so that we are ready for the doors to open on Saturday at 9:00 a.m.

Let's make this our best ever bake sale!

For more information or questions, please contact Leann Flanagan.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Such a pleasure it was to see everyone on the 22nd, and to enjoy the sumptuous lunch and equally sumptuous conversation. Our church is filled with interesting people!

We'll be back on the weekend of April 18 and 19 for service on Sunday and an adult RE workshop on Saturday afternoon. Sharon's Sunday talk will be on the subject of faith, and the Saturday workshop will follow that topic also. As the date draws nearer, watch your e-mail and the church Facebook page for more details on the workshop.

We are very happy to let everyone know that as the ministerial search committee gets its work underway this spring, we have agreed to stay on another year as ministers so that the committee won't feel rushed or pressured to complete its task. We're looking forward to sharing more meaningful and productive time with everyone next year, both in Sunday services and elsewhere.

Sharon and Steve

Sharon: sharon_buzzard@yahoo.com

Steve: swiegenstein@yahoo.com

SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

This is to let the congregation know that the Search Committee has indeed met and will be working on the ministerial search. In the future we will be reporting only to the board.

The Search Committee had its first meeting in March to organize and discuss preliminary procedures. The members are Rob Ahrens, Bill Burns, Kate Daniels, Mary Ann Dittmer, Sheryl Hart, and Iris Nelson. Co-chairs are Iris and Mary Ann. We reviewed the multiple-answer portion of the survey responses provided by the board. The committee will be meeting once a month or as necessary. Our first step will be to formulate the initial necessary documents and procedures to begin the search process.

Following is our Confidentiality Statement written to the congregation to better understand privacy concerns. Please read the following:

The search committee has entered into a confidentiality agreement with the board to not discuss the process of the ministerial search. Please respect that we are unable to keep the congregation abreast of our progress. It is not appropriate to approach individual search committee members as we investigate possibilities.

Search Committee Mission Statement:

The Mission of the search committee is to seek a minister(s), or a lay minister(s), who reflects the values held by the Quincy Unitarian Church. In confidentiality, the committee will research, screen resumes, conduct occasional congregational feedback through various means, and ultimately present possible candidates to the board and the congregation for approval.

Iris Nelson and Mary Ann Dittmer
Co-chairs, Search Committee

PLANT, BOOK, AND BAKE SALE

The big day is Saturday, April 25th 9a-1p. Here is where we need help with things to make this event a success:

Look for the sign-up sheet at the church for specific areas to help. We need help with set up, pricing, greeters, cashiers, carry out help, and clean up.

Week of April 20th

Plan your baking and dig up plants this week! Let Mike Drew know if you need any containers for plants. Ones with no holes work best for outdoor plants for a few days. Good sellers are perennials like iris, lily, hosta, forsythia, lily of the valley, ferns.

We also need shallow boxes (soda and canned good boxes work great). Please let Mike Drew know if you can help with this. Walking the aisles of stores like Aldi, Wall Mart, and Sams are good sources. We would want these brought to the church Thursday and Friday.

Thursday, April 23rd

- 6pm: Set up the Garden Room for plants (remove carpet and furniture, set up plant tables & holding area) and bake sale area.

Friday, April 24th

4pm-7pm: Bring plants and bake goods to the church this day. Saturday morning is too late to price and place items. Please label each item you bring:

- Plants: Name, color, shade/sun, and how big it gets is very helpful for our shoppers.
- For baked goods, name and any special ingredients are helpful for people with allergy considerations. Gluten and/or sugar free are also very popular.
- The florist will bring their plants at 5:00 so we can use a few people that are able to push the large carts into the garden room.
- We will especially need help sorting, pricing, and labeling plants from 5:00-7:00.

Saturday, April 25th

- Please park at least a block away from the church to give patrons easier parking opportunities. Hopefully they will be carrying a lot of good stuff back to their cars.
- Arrive between 8:00 and 8:30 to help with last minute set up and instructions of how to help.
- If you would like to buy something we prefer you let the public have the first opportunity for the best selection; hold off until 10 if you can.
- Clean up help is always needed. If you like to sleep in or have a conflict in the morning please come at 1:00 to help!

Mike Drew (217)257-1305 (call or text)
Plant Sale chair

Seeking Donations

Quincy Unitarian Church Annual Book Sale

Bring donations PRIOR to April 13, 2026

- Bestsellers & Book Club Books
- Contemporary Fiction
- Non-fiction
- Biographies
- Children's & Young Adult
- Activity Books
- Self-improvement & More
- Jigsaw Puzzles & Board Games

Please no periodicals, textbooks, manuals, workbooks, or outdated items.



In preparation for the Plant, Book, & Bake Sale, donations of good quality books, games, and puzzles are welcomed. The preferred deadline for donations is PRIOR to Monday, April 13. Bring donations on a Sunday, and there will be help to carry them in from your car and downstairs. Children's books, contemporary and classic fiction, poetry, biographies, and interesting nonfiction (history, art, theology, science, spirituality, etc.) are most popular. Please no textbooks or periodicals.

Seeking Help: Set-up volunteers are needed, and we are asking for folks to help on April 20 and/or April 21. See Susan Deege or Julie Bauer Cook with questions.