



UNITARIAN CHURCH OF QUINCY

MAY 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: May 3

Speaker: Rev. Dee Evans

Title: How to Deal With Uncertainty

We live with daily uncertainty. What was once predictable in our country is no longer predictable. All this uncertainty unbalances us. We will explore how we restore balance and continue to work for the beloved world community we all hope for.

Date: May 10

Title: Sing for Joy Service

Please join us for a celebration of the 7 Unitarian Universalist Principles in word and song.

Date: May 17

Speaker: Dr. Steve Wiegenstein

Title: How Can I Help?

"How can I help?" is the classic question whenever a friend or loved one is in difficulty. But it's also a natural instinct anytime. Mister Rogers, you'll remember, asks us to look for the helpers. Steve takes a brief look at the history of this church and imagines the future as we ask ourselves the question, "How can I help?"

Date: May 24

Speaker: Dr. Rob Manning

Title: Dreams of Independence for America and For Iran

As we approach our 250th Anniversary of our independence from British imperial power, what forms of independence should we strive for for our own country now? And should we strive for independence for Iran and what form would that take and is it possible? This service is structured to give the congregation a chance to discuss together the current American/Israeli war against Iran.

Date: May 31

Speaker: Doug Muder

Title: Quickly, What Is Unitarian Universalism About?

A standard exercise in Coming of Age classes is to write an "elevator speech": If someone on an elevator asked you about UUism, what could you tell them before one of you had to get off? There are good speeches and bad ones, but Doug has different ones depending on who he's talking to. (This might be a good Sunday to bring a UU-curious friend!)

FLOWER COMMUNION - MAY 10

Everyone brings a flower to the service—from a garden, the woods, the roadside, wherever. We place them in vases. After the service everyone leaves with a flower different from the one they brought.

Norbert and Maja Čapek founded the Unitarian church in Prague, Czechoslovakia. Rev. Norbert Čapek is credited with creating the ritual in 1923. Čapek was a visionary minister with a church ahead of its time, a BOLD church, a church thinking beyond its doors, beyond what it thought possible. It was a church that was willing to take risks; to make tough decisions; to bear disappointment; and to build a new way...first by building a church, and that church could build up the world.

Rev. Maja Čapek brought Flower Communion to the United States.

Norbert Čapek died in the Dachau concentration camp during World War II. Even in starvation and torture, he held a flower ceremony with his fellow prisoners, finding whatever flowers they could among the weeds of the camp. They testified to a beauty larger than themselves, and a love that would outlive them.

This flower ceremony, lovely though it is, isn't a diversion from ugly reality, but a gentle fierceness which proclaims that in the midst of sinister days there is always the light of beauty.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please make plans to join us for the Annual Congregational Meeting following our final service of the church year on June 7! Committee Chairs, please prepare and send your reports to your board liaison and to Aaron at filow84@hotmail.com by May 17. A meeting packet containing the annual committee reports and meeting agenda will be sent to everyone's email address.

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Come join us at our annual picnic for food, fun, and fellowship on Sunday June 14 as we close out our church year! The picnic will be at Wavering Park (same shelter as last year, closest to Columbus Road) Arrival and set up will be at 10:30a with plans to eat at noon. Various meats will be supplied and grilled by the men of the church. Please bring a covered dish to share and your own drinks and table service. ****Also, please bring an item to donate to our local food pantries.** Hope to see everyone there!

ADULT LOSS GROUP

New Adult Loss group starting on May 14th (Second Thursday each month). Open Meetings from 10 to 11:30 in private room, back of Quincy Public Library
Facilitator: Judith Taylor Please call for a spot 217-228-0088

MAY FIRST FRIDAY

Rod & Rena St. John will be the First Friday hosts for May 1st at their house at 1012 Ridgewood Dr. in Quincy. You can hike up the driveway or you can use the gentler sloped side paved entrance.

Please come at 6pm to begin the festivities and bring something sweet or savory to pass and whatever you want to drink. It's a good beginning to the Dogwood weekend!

YARNIES GROUP

The Yarnies Group will meet May 31st from 12:30 to 2:30 pm. During the summer we would like to meet twice a month at 11:30 am. Tentative dates for summer are June 14th and 28th, July 12th and 26th, and August 9th and 23rd.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Fellowship Committee is holding one last meeting before the end of the church year to discuss agenda items for the new church year beginning in September. This is open to all members and those interested in joining the Fellowship Committee.

- A) Sign up Genius set up/clean up
- B) Cabinet Labeling
- C) Green Sanctuary/recycling/pantry items
- D) kitchen efficiency
- E) Do we need a FF overhaul?
- F) Annual Picnic
- G) general discussion

We will meet in the Garden Room on May 5th at 7pm. We hope to see many of you then!

Mary Beth Gapinski, Fellowship co-chair

MINISTERS' MESSAGE

We had a wonderful weekend on the 18th and 19th visiting with members and friends of the church. Our workshop on Saturday had eleven attendees, engaging in a "spirited" discussion about faith. Our congregation has a rich diversity of approaches to faith, and it was a joy to participate in the exchange of thoughts on that subject. The worship service on Sunday was as always a welcome respite from the turmoils of daily life, with a good reminder that "the thing with feathers" is always perched on our souls, and as always a delicious meal and continued conversation afterward.

The congregational survey reveals some interest in more adult spiritual development (adult RE), so we introduced that question at the workshop. One idea that attracted some support was reviving the practice from past years of having a discussion group before church. Old-timers will remember that an adult discussion group used to gather at 9:30 before the service. They would engage in a "topic of the week" discussion, sometimes with a predetermined topic and sometimes free-form. The leadership of the group was an informal rotation of interested people. We'll be checking to see if there is continued interest in this idea, with an eye toward trying out a pilot version of this discussion group in the fall. This would largely be a congregation-led discussion, not a minister-led one, although we would plan to lead or participate in it on the weekends when we're in town.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on the 17th!

Steve and Sharon