



UNITARIAN CHURCH OF QUINCY

OCTOBER 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: October 4

Speaker: Rev. Daniel Grainger

Title: Unclean Things

Beginning with a story from the book of Acts, we'll ponder doubt, deconstruction, and what it means to hold conviction and openness together.

Date: October 11

Speaker: Dr. Steve Wiegenstein

Title: Watching My Language

It's a truism that the language available to us shapes the way we think. Today, Steve looks at how that happens in the spiritual/religious realm, particularly in the United States. In America, the dominant language of religion is the language of Christianity. How does that language influence us, perhaps both for better and for worse?

Date: October 18

Speaker: H.K. Giltner

Title: The Sacred Work of Everyday Kindness: A Retrospective on Sarah Adams' "Be Cool to the Pizza Dude"

What do our smallest interactions reveal about our beliefs of other people? Drawing on Sarah Adams' 2005 essay, "Be Cool to the Pizza Dude," Giltner considers the humanistic significance of ordinary exchanges with strangers, neighbors, and those whose lives briefly intersect with our own. Set against social, political, and economic tensions that have not only persisted but, in many ways, deepened, Adams' essay remains a timely invitation to examine whom we notice, whom we dismiss, and what our everyday encounters reveal about how we assign worth to others.

Date: October 25

Speaker: Natasha Walker

Title: A New Era of Action in Illinois

What happens when 30+ congregations speak with one moral voice? We are delighted to welcome Natasha Walker, our new leader at the UU Advocacy Network of Illinois (UUANI), to the pulpit. This morning, she shares her vision for UUANI's three-pronged strategy of advocacy, activism, and resistance. Come hear why our daily actions are "inextricably braided into everything else" and how your engagement can help shape the future of our state.

OCTOBER CARRY-IN REMINDER

Steve & Sharon will be with us on October 11, which will also be our monthly Carry-In Luncheon. Please bring a dish to share if you are willing and able.

Thank you,
Fellowship Committee

FOSTERING HOPE FUNDRAISER DUFFEL BAGS & PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

The Social Action Committee is partnering with Shelby Rose (Ms. Quincy) to provide new or gently used duffel bags & personal care items for children in the foster care system through DCFS & Chaddock. Many times when foster children are moved from one location to another, their belongings are put into a garbage bag. Having their own duffel bag could ease an already stressful situation. The program is especially in need of hair care products for the African-American children. We would like to present our donations to Shelby Rose by the end of October. Anyone interested in participating in this fundraiser may place their donations under the food pantry table in the back foyer.

For more information you may contact Leann Flanagan or Bill Burns.

Leann Flanagan
Social. Action Committee, Chair

MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2026

In late August we visited the Eliot Unitarian Chapel in Kirkwood, Missouri. We had lunch with our former minister who currently serves at Eliot, Reverend Krista Taves, and learned a great deal from her. We learned that Rev Taves is part of a group/policy paper for small churches to share part-time ministers. This is still in its early stages and we think it would be worthwhile to keep it in mind. For coffee hour Eliot Chapel has a designated quiet space for those who want deeper conversation. It was mentioned as a way to interact with new people who may be reticent and have questions about our church.

In preparation for our candidate interviews, we each are reviewing/researching a separate subject to create a base for the interview process.

We had a Zoom meeting with a UUA MidAmerica Small Congregations representative September 14 so our meeting on September 13 was primarily to discuss the questions we had for her. She acquainted us with other UUA resources at our disposal.

Mary Ann Dittmer and Iris Nelson, co-chairs of Search committee

YARNIES GROUP MEETING

The Yarnies group will meet the 3rd Sunday of every month. Our next meeting is October 18th at 1 pm in the garden room.

Whether you knit, crochet, spin, weave, or simply want to hang out and talk, you are all welcome.

STORY FOR ALL AGES

We're looking for a few folks who might be willing to offer a Story for All Ages during our October services. Whether children are in attendance or not, we'd like to continue making space for this part of our worship. A Story for All Ages can be a favorite children's book, a poem, a personal experience, or another brief reflection that offers a moment of wonder, connection, or meaning for people of all ages.

It doesn't need to be elaborate. If you're interested, we'd be happy to help you and talk through the timing and format beforehand.

If you'd like to participate, please reach out to Nathalie Dincher by October 6th. Thank you for helping us keep this part of our Order of Service going. 910-978-3299 uuquincy.worship@gmail.com



Join your Neighbors

***A Community grows in Strength
through Love and Respect.***

***Please join us Sunday October 18th
– 3:30 to 5 pm
at the Quincy Unitarian Church
1469 Hampshire Street
for Coffee, Tea and Desserts***

***We come together
to share time with our Neighbors and
to show our Honor and Respect for
the Islamic Community
which is a Blessed Part of
the Greater Quincy Family.***

CONTEMPLATIVE COFFEE HOUR RETURNS OCTOBER 15TH

There are some things about Sunday morning that can be hard to replicate when you can't be at church in person. One of them is Coffee Hour — the time after worship when we linger, catch up, share a laugh, hear what's happening in one another's lives, and simply enjoy being together.

That's the spirit behind Contemplative Coffee Hour, our Zoom gathering especially for homebound members and anyone else who'd like that connection.

Our next gathering will be Thursday, October 15th, 7:00 - 8:00 P.M. Bring your favorite drink, settle into a comfy spot, and join us for a little time together.

There's no agenda and no preparation required. We'll simply make space for conversation, connection, and the kind of unhurried presence that can be difficult to find in our busy lives.

We hope you'll join us on October 15th! An email with Zoom details will be coming soon, so keep an eye out for it! Contact Nathalie Dincher with any questions: 910-978-3299 or nathalie.dincher@gmail.com.

MINISTERS' MESSAGE

It's delightful to experience the cooler temperatures, and we're looking forward to more of them!

Our September weekend with the church was another delight. It was so good to see church members and friends again, and to participate in First Friday and other informal get-togethers. We were also very happy to see such a good turnout for our first Adult RE session before the service. This has inspired others to take up the mantle of more Adult RE sessions, as you will see elsewhere in the newsletter.

We have joined with other members of the Quincy Area Ministerial Association in writing a letter to the Quincy Human Rights Commission about recent anti-Muslim sentiments expressed by a local elected official. You may see this letter in the form of a "letter to the editor" in local media as well. Although the other participants in the ministerial association express themselves in explicitly Christian terms, we thought it was more effective for ministers to speak with one voice rather than to risk diluting the message with separate communications.

Our next visit to Quincy will be October 10 and 11. Steve's talk is entitled "Watching My Language." He will be exploring how Christian terminology shapes our thinking, even among those who consider themselves non-Christian or ex-Christian. (Or "Christian lite.") For our Adult RE session before church on the 11th, come with your thoughts about what religious terminology from your upbringing you still find useful, and what language you have left behind. The session will start at 9 a.m.

We'll be in Quincy overnight on Saturday, the 10th. Who's up for dinner?

WORSHIP BELONGS TO ALL OF US

Worship is one of the central ways we experience our congregation together. It's where we gather, reflect, sing, listen, wrestle with big questions, celebrate, grieve, and remind each other why we come together in the first place.

And right now, the Worship Committee needs a few more people around the table. Several members of the committee have recently stepped away, which means we have an opportunity to welcome some new voices and perspectives into the work of shaping our worship life. This isn't about filling empty seats just for the sake of having a bigger committee. It's about making sure worship continues to reflect the ideas, needs, and spirit of the whole congregation.

You don't need to be an experienced worship leader. You don't need to have a collection of big ideas tucked away in a drawer. And you certainly don't need to know exactly what you're doing before you join us!

What we do need are people who are willing to ask questions, share ideas, listen to others, and help imagine what our worship can be.

There are lots of ways to contribute. Maybe you're someone who loves music. Maybe you have ideas for readings, rituals, or special services. Maybe you care about making worship more welcoming to families, newcomers, longtime members, or people who haven't always felt at home in a church. Or maybe you just have a sense that worship matters and you'd like to help make it meaningful.

The Worship Committee is not about having all the answers. It's about creating the space where we can ask the right questions together. If you've ever thought, "I wish we did more of __," or "It would be wonderful if we tried __," this is your invitation to bring that idea to the table.

We're looking for a few new committee members. If you're curious — even if you're not sure whether it's "your thing" — please come talk with us. Our next meeting is Oct. 11th at 9:00 a.m. We'll have a seat for you! Feel free to contact Nathalie Dincher with any questions: 910-978-3299 or [**nathalie.dincher@gmail.com**](mailto:nathalie.dincher@gmail.com).