UNITARIAN CHURCH OF QUINCY

NOVEMBER 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.

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

Date: November 1
Title: Still Spinning
Join us for our All Souls' Service as we gather to remember those who have died and to consider what it means to keep living in their absence. A brief reflection and a simple ritual invite us into the mystery of grief, memory, and the ways love continues to shape the lives we carry forward. (You are invited to bring a photo or small memento of someone you wish to remember. These personal treasures will be displayed as we honor the lives and loves that remain with us.)

Date: November 8
Speaker: Susan Hebble
Title: "Forces of Good Will": Courage and the Fight for Voting Rights
We will look at the long and significant history of Unitarians, Universalists, and Unitarian Universalists who fought tenaciously for equal rights, specifically the right for all Americans, regardless of race or gender, to vote. Their stories, some of which are heartbreaking, embody UU values and inspire us all.

Date: November 15
Speaker: Dr. Sharon Buzzard
Title: The Cost of Staying: Reflections on Atonement Unitarian-Style
Many of the religious traditions have a notion of atonement. Some of them place it in the ability of individuals to recognize and repair conflicts—not always an easy task. Sharon offers some reflections on being human and being forgiving.

Date: November 22
Speaker: Doug Muder
Title: Compromise?
As the country and the leaders of the new Congress digest the results of the election, pressure will build to compromise in order to keep the government open and get things done. How should people of principle think about such issues? What is a bargain and what is a betrayal?

Date: November 29
Speaker: Rev. Kelly Johnson
Title: Advent: The Long Work of Hope
What happens when we have prayed and hoped for so long that we can no longer imagine anything changing? In the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Advent invites us to consider covenant, the stubborn persistence of hope, and the possibility that something new is still unfolding, even when we struggle to believe it. Perhaps covenant is not simply a promise made long ago, but a relationship that sustains us through seasons of uncertainty. Their story invites us to consider what we owe one another, how we hold on to hope, and what it means to remain open to possibility.

SPRUCE UP FOR THE HOLIDAYS CLEANUPALOOZA

Mark your calendars! On Saturday, November 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the Building & Grounds (B&G) Committee will host a Cleanupalooza to help get our church looking its best for the holiday season!

B&G will meet in early November to put together a list of projects and tasks that need attention. The more hands we have, the lighter the work—and the more we can accomplish together! It's a wonderful opportunity to pitch in, care for our shared space, and enjoy some fellowship along the way.

Do you have a project or an area you think could use a little TLC? We'd love to hear your suggestions! Please email B&G at organicfarmerkate@gmail.com.

We may not get to everything on the list, but we'll give it our best effort. Come join the fun, lend a hand, and help us get our church ready for the holidays!

VOLUNTARY PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

It has been pointed out that church by-laws currently require a pledge campaign. In the interest of meeting people where they are today, the Finance Committee previously indicated a preference and reasoning for no longer doing pledge letters. The congregation and friends of the church can simply donate as they feel comfortable (a non-public pledge) and we track the income against a budgeted churchwide goal, with the goal being based on a slight increase to collections from the prior fiscal year and any additional needs the board foresees for the coming fiscal year.

The best way to show commitment to a monthly pledged amount or even submit an annual pledge remains the electronic payment option through the church website. We promote this option because it gives the church an easy way to track funds by name, a consistent amount for planning purposes, and less paperwork. It gives the church member or friend of the church a failsafe execution of their pledge, total control over timing, and an automatic record of the donation.

If particular members still wish to use the traditional pledge process to have a commitment tracked individually, they are welcome to drop a note with their fiscal year pledge in the suggestion box or treasurer's box and we will manually track their progress, sending a reminder toward the end of the fiscal year if the pledge has not been met.

FIRST FRIDAY

Deborah Lee has once again graciously stepped up to offer Four Winds Farm for our Nov. 6th First Friday! The fun will commence in her teaching center and begins at 6pm and end at 10pm so bring a sweet or savory dish to share and whatever you personally want to drink.

Four Winds Farm is located at 3729 N. 36th st. Hope to see everyone there!

HELP SHAPE OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP!

Our Worship Committee needs you! We are currently looking for new members, and we could really use some helping hands. With our committee numbers dwindling, it has become increasingly important that we bring new voices, ideas, and perspectives to the table.

You don't need previous experience, special expertise, or a background in worship planning. You simply need an interest in helping create meaningful, engaging, and welcoming Sunday services for our congregation.

Worship is at the heart of our shared life together, and it takes a community to shape it. Whether you have ideas for music, readings, themes, special services, or simply want to lend a hand, there is a place for you!

Our upcoming meetings:

- November 1 at 9:00 a.m.
- December 6 at 9:00 a.m.

Won't you consider joining us? Come to a meeting, see what we're about, and discover how you can help make our Sunday mornings meaningful for everyone. Get in touch with Carol Nichols, info.letterata@gmail.com, or Nathalie Dincher, nathalie.dincher@gmail.com, with questions or for more info.

A CELEBRATION FOR DOUG & DAWN

Doug Muder and Dawn La France-Linden were united in marriage on September 26th, in Bedford, Massachusetts. Join us to celebrate Doug & Dawn with a gathering on Saturday, November 21, in the Garden Room at 6:00pm. Please bring a sweet or savory dish to share and beverage of your choice. No gifts are requested.
For more information contact Leann Flanagan or Mary Beth Gapinski.

HOLIDAY MINI FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Thank you from the Social Action Committee for the plentiful and varied food pantry donations. We had so many items that two “Pantrymobiles” were making the rounds. Thanksgiving & Christmas are fast approaching and the need will be even greater, Holiday food items such as canned meats, stuffing mixes, instant potatoes, gravy, canned cranberries, & ready to eat desserts. Fresh apples, potatoes, sweet potatoes will keep in the pantries this time of year as an added treat. Of course, all staple food items are always in need as well as paper products & hygiene products. Think about easy meals & ready to eat items especially for the homeless.

Our last delivery day before Thanksgiving will be Friday, November 20, due to holiday travels.There are lists of mini pantry locations on the donation table and at any time a member or friend can directly take food to one of those locations.

Your generosity is appreciated by those in our community that depend on food pantry donations.

Thank you all!

NOVEMBER YARNIES MEETING

The Yarnies group will meet the 3rd Sunday of every month. Our next meeting is November 15th at 12:30 pm in the garden room.

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

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR

Join us Thursday, November 19, from 7–8 PM for a relaxed hour of conversation and connection! Pour your favorite beverage, settle in from the comfort of home, and enjoy catching up with your church community. No agenda, no pressure — just good conversation and time together.

We’ll send out an email with the Zoom link as the date gets closer. We look forward to seeing you and sharing a little time together! Everyone is welcome!

MINISTERS' MESSAGE

At last, we are feeling a chill in the air and seeing color in the trees! We're fond of this time of year and hope you are getting to engage in your favorite fall activities.

Sharon will be giving the talk on the 15th on the subject of "atonement." This is a common concept in a lot of religious traditions, and she will be exploring the Unitarian twist on that challenging idea. We welcome you to join us in person or on Zoom. Before the Sunday service, we will be having another Adult RE session in the Garden Room at 9 o'clock. We're offering the discussion prompt, "What brought you to the Unitarian Church?" Last month, we shared the paths we traveled before we came to UU, so this month's conversation may be something of a continuation. But if you missed last month's session, you won't be out of the loop! Mostly, it's a chance for us to get to know each other on a more personal, and hopefully deeper, level. The Adult RE gatherings have proved very rewarding for participants, and we hope they continue that way.

Our December trip to Quincy will be for the Christmas Eve service, which Steve will be leading. One of the joys of that service is the congregational participation, so if you have a favorite reading you'd like to recite or a piece of music you'd like to perform, please let Steve know! He will be reaching out to some of you for participation, and more is always merrier.

Sharon: sharon_buzzard@yahoo.com
Steve: swiegenstein@yahoo.com

OCTOBER SEARCH REPORT

The committee has compiled their interview questions and is ready for the interviewing process. Members of the committee looked through the items and questions on the congregational profile for the UUA and gathered information to complete that.