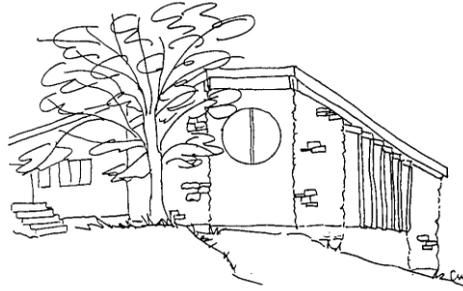


**The Prologue**  
 Unitarian Universalist Church of  
 Bloomington  
 2120 N. Fee Lane  
 Bloomington, IN 47408-1646

812-332-3695  
 www.uubloomington.org  
 The Rev. Mary Ann Macklin, Minister  
 The Rev. Bill Breeden, Minister

December 7, 2009  
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# The Prologue

Monday, December 7, 2009

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana

Congregation founded 1949  
 GLBTQ Welcoming Congregation since 1995  
 Green Sanctuary since 2007



**Seeking the Spirit Building Community Changing the World**

**Sunday, December 13, 2009 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.**

**Holy Breath: A 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

**Unitarian Universalist Church Choir directed by Susan Swaney**

**Reverend Mary Ann Macklin, Reverend Bill Breeden, and Reverend Barbara Carlson**

In this service we will culminate our celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our congregation with a very special gift of music, *Holy Breath* (music, Cary Boyce and words, Reverend Clarke Dewey Wells). We also welcome back Reverend Bill Breeden from his sabbatical which began August 1, as he rejoins Reverend Mary Ann Macklin in their co-ministry to our congregation. We are delighted that our Minister Emerita Reverend Barbara Carlson will join us for this service. A special 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary reception will be held between services.

**Saturday, December 19, 2009 7:30 p.m.**

**Yule with Earth Kin**

Join Earth Kin in a Yuletide celebration of earth-centered spirituality. In Fellowship Hall.

**Sunday, December 20, 2009 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.**

**The Gifts We Bring**

**Reverend Emily Manvel Leite, Reverend Mary Ann Macklin, and Reverend Bill Breeden**

In this multigenerational service, we celebrate our ability to give in ways both big and small. Our celebration will include stories and songs and will culminate in our annual Procession of Giving, where we will all join in a joyful parade of gifts for people in need. Please plan to bring a gift of mittens, hats, warm socks, non-perishable food, or the gift you selected from the Giving Tree. Everyone will be invited to contribute a "golden gift" of money, in amounts large or small, to benefit the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and support their work around the world.

**\*\*This is the official Sunday to return Guest at Your Table Boxes!\*\***

**Monday, December 21, 2009 6:30 p.m.**

**Solstice Celebration for All Ages**

**Reverend Emily Manvel Leite, Reverend Mary Ann Macklin, Reverend Bill Breeden with members of Earth Kin**

Come share in a quiet, reflective service celebrating the returning sun. We will enjoy music provided by the Children's Choir (directed by Jill Courtney) and by Sally Todd, and will join together in a candlelit spiral procession as we reconnect with the earth and its natural cycles.

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12/9/2009	10:00 AM	UU Wednesday Walkers	12/13/2009	6:00 PM	YRUU
12/9/2009	1:00 PM	Friends of Prisoners TF	12/14/2009	5:30 PM	Stewardship Cmte
12/9/2009	6:30 PM	Denominational Affairs Cmte	12/14/2009	6:30 PM	Chalice Circle Facilitators - Monday grp
12/10/2009	5:30 PM	Chalice Circle Executive Cmte	12/14/2009	6:30 PM	Dances of Universal Peace
12/10/2009	6:30 PM	CG Jung Discussion	12/14/2009	7:30 PM	Voces Novae Chamber Choir
12/10/2009	7:00 PM	UU Choir	12/15/2009	2:00 PM	Chalice Circle - Backler
12/11/2009	8:00 AM	Center Stone Breakfast Series	12/15/2009	6:30 PM	Chalice Circle Facilitators - Tues grp
12/11/2009	10:30 AM	Life Stories	12/16/2009	10:00 AM	UU Wednesday Walkers
12/11/2009	12:00 PM	UU Staff	12/16/2009	6:00 PM	Nominating Cmte
12/11/2009	3:00 PM	UU Choir Instrument Transfer	12/16/2009	6:30 PM	RE Teacher Orientation
12/11/2009	6:30 PM	Women's Drumming Circle	12/16/2009	7:00 PM	Chalice Circle - Crane
12/12/2009	8:30 AM	UU Choir Rehearsal for Holy Breath	12/16/2009	7:00 PM	UU Board of Directors
12/12/2009	10:30 AM	BCS Board Meeting	12/17/2009	7:00 PM	Chalice Circle - Wagner/Parsons
12/12/2009	12:00 PM	IU Men's Basketball Home Game, vs. KY	12/17/2009	7:00 PM	UU Choir
12/13/2009	10:00 AM	Intl Outreach Snack Sale	12/17/2009	8:30 PM	String Band
12/13/2009	10:15 AM	UU Children's Choir	12/18/2009	10:30 AM	Life Stories
12/13/2009	12:15 PM	Parent Talk	12/18/2009	12:00 PM	UU Staff
12/13/2009	1:00 PM	Chal Circle - Knowlton	12/18/2009	7:00 PM	Blue Sky Back Concert (\$)
12/13/2009	4:00 PM	Congregational Meeting	12/19/2009	7:30 PM	Yule Celebration
12/13/2009	4:00 PM	Younger Adult Meeting	12/19/2009	8:30 PM	IU Men's Basketball Home Game, vs. NCC

For more, go to [www.uubloomington.org](http://www.uubloomington.org); click on Full Calendar.

## MAM's Musings

December 1<sup>st</sup>, World AIDS Day, has come and gone. Unless I missed it, there was not an abundance of events that happened locally in terms of this World AIDS Day recognition. As a liberal religious leader and someone who has lost a family member to AIDS, this absence of activity haunts me. World AIDS Day is not only a time to recognize the loss of those who have died due to complications of AIDS, but also a time to recognize that this virus still wreaks havoc in our world. In New York City on December 1st United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon said "We are here tonight to denounce the discrimination they (people living with HIV/AIDS) face -- the fear and stigma, the shame and rejection, the threat of losing their jobs.... for too long and in too many places, too many people have been pushed beyond the reach of prevention and treatment, care and support. We must respond by shining the full light of human rights on the challenge. I call on all countries to dismantle legal frameworks that institutionalize discrimination against people living with HIV and people who are at most risk of infection."

As liberal religious seekers, I believe we can lend a strong voice of hope and remembrance regarding many of the world's injustices. Former UUA President William Sinkford once said, "World AIDS Day gives us an opportunity to educate ourselves about how we can fight the HIV/AIDS pandemic. A problem so large and so devastating compels us to work together for political and scientific solutions, but it also calls on us to offer a spiritual response, a response that goes beyond sectarian doctrines and embraces our shared humanity. All of the world's great religions exhort us to love our neighbors. What we

religious people now must ask ourselves is, "Who is my neighbor?" The global AIDS epidemic has taught us that we are all connected—black, white, and brown; young and old; male and female; gay and straight. Our neighbors live in tiny African villages, in Russian brothels, and in forgotten places all over the world where hope grows dim."

Who is our neighbor? As the holidays approach, from Hanukkah and Solstice to Yule and Christmas, I hope this question can be present with each of us. It is a question that invites transformation. I believe it is the type of question that 19<sup>th</sup> century author Charles Dickens had before him when he wrote his famous novel *A Christmas Carol*. The story of Ebenezer Scrooge, written shortly after Dickens joined a Unitarian Church, speaks of personal transformation; may its message remind us that a change of heart is always a possibility. Is there an area in your life that calls for a change of heart? Is there a message of love, hope or justice that you would like to offer another?

In this month of December may we embrace our shared humanity in laughter, tears, hope and love. May we remember that which has been forgotten. And may that which is sacred in each of our hearts be known and...bless us everyone!  
Love, MAM Reverend Mary Ann Macklin

## Our Folks. . .

Our thoughts and sympathy are with David Keppel and his family and friends, upon the passing of his mother, Grace Keppel, on Saturday, December 5.

**Congregational Meeting, Sunday,  
December 13, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in the  
Meeting Room.  
All Members encouraged to attend.**

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## Community Connections Our faith in action in the community

### Messiah Sing-Along Events December 13

Bloomington Chamber Singers will present two offerings of its 21st Annual Messiah Sing-Along on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The 3:00 p.m. event will be at the new First United Methodist Church, 3150 E. Myra Lane, Martinsville (State Road 37, three miles north of the city). The 7:00 p.m. performance will be at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 100 N State Road 46 (Bypass) in Bloomington. Both events are free and open to the public.

### Ministers' Availability

Rev. Macklin's regular day off is Tuesday.

On call M, W, F afternoons, and Thursdays  
[macklin@uubloomington.org](mailto:macklin@uubloomington.org), 812-322-0205  
Rev. Breeden is on sabbatical, Aug-Dec 2009.



### Membership Coordinator Availability

Membership Coordinator Judy Bennett will be available at church in the meditation room (207b) on Thursdays 9am-11am. If you have questions please come by. Her email is [memcoord@uubloomington.org](mailto:memcoord@uubloomington.org)

### Team Ministry

Our congregation is served by a ministry team: Rev. Mary Ann Macklin and Rev. Bill Breeden. Each minister serves the entire congregation; each has specific areas of focus. Rev. Breeden is on sabbatical through mid-December.

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## Holiday Art Fair & Bazaar Kudos and Thanks to All!

The 51st annual UU Holiday Art Fair and Bazaar is now a sweet memory. It was a financial success, (around \$13,400 gross, a bit higher than Bazaar 2008) but much more than that, it was a testament to our spirit of community. The Bazaar Committee would like everybody to know that well over 100 people signed up for and worked one or more volunteer shifts during the two-day bazaar, and dozens and dozens more baked cookies, bread, and cakes, pickled green tomatoes, made gallons of soups and tons of pies, donated books, knitted hats and scarves, dug up wonderful White Elephant treasures, shifted chairs, pushed brooms, scrubbed pots, put up flyers, and helped in so many other small and large ways. We wish we could thank you all personally. And we wish we could tell you how many visitors we had, but everyone agrees it was certainly many hundreds, and for many of them it was a happy discovery of UU hospitality. So warmest thanks to all who worked, played, purchased, or just hung out – And greetings of the season from your grateful Bazaar Committee.  
—Julie Lawson and Joanne Henriot,  
Bazaar Co-chairs

### Attendance

Sun, Nov 29, 9:15:	89;	11:15:	139;	RE:	100
					<b>Total: 328</b>
Sun, Dec 6, 9:15:	89;	11:15:	171;	RE:	119
					<b>Total: 379</b>

Sun, Nov 29 non-pledge offering:	\$ 840
Sun, Dec 6 non-pledge offering:	\$ 597
Total to Crestmont Boys & Girls Club	<b>\$ 359</b>

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## UUs Changing the World



### Feed Our Hungry Neighbors Next Bounty-Full Sunday is Jan 3

Current needs at Monroe County United Ministries: carrots, greens, mixed veggies and potatoes, desserts such as pudding and jello mixes, canned meat such as chili, chicken or beef. Many thanks for your generous donations. We collected 96 pounds of food during the December 6 Bounty-full Sunday MCUM collection.



### Green Sanctuary Task Force

#### Holiday Benefit Concert Dec. 18

Blue Sky Back (including UU member Daniel Reed) with special guests the Creek Dawgs (including UU friend Matt Zink and UU member Dan Lodge-Rigal) will perform in the UU Meeting Room on Friday, December 18, at 7pm in a Green Holiday Concert to benefit the Green Sanctuary Task Force. Tickets are available at the GSTF coffee table between services and at all three Bloomingfoods locations for \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door, children under 12 are free. Doors open at 6 pm. Refreshments and green holiday gifts available. For more information contact Marcia at [marciaveldman@gmail.com](mailto:marciaveldman@gmail.com).



### Transition Town Forum Dec. 20

What will we do when energy is no longer cheaply produced and when global demand exceeds supply? How will we address climate change at the same time? While

some people look to meetings in Copenhagen to solve the problem, others are taking the matter in hand, one town at a time. The Transition Town movement has sprung up around the globe, and seeks to help communities become or maintain resiliency in the face of these challenges. On December 20 from 10:15 - 11:10 a.m., in the Fuchs Library at church, Rhonda Baird of the Permaculture Guild and Lucille Bertuccio of the Center for Sustainable Living will introduce you to Transition Town Bloomington, talk about what is being done right here, and show you how you can participate in this exciting and powerful process. For more information, contact Rhonda at [k.baird@yahoo.com](mailto:k.baird@yahoo.com).

### Chalice Circles Invites New

**Members** Chalice Circles, our program of small group ministry, welcomes new members. Groups of up to ten people, including a facilitator, meet once or twice a month with a focus on deep listening and sharing personal experiences. Prepared session plans are used to guide each session, on topics such as forgiveness, gratitude, or saying goodbye. Groups also do service projects for the church and for the community. Participants find that they get to know themselves, and others, more deeply in these small groups. For more information, please contact Alan Backler at 812-340-1323 or [abackler@aol.com](mailto:abackler@aol.com)

### UU Services December 24:

**4 pm Away in A Manger Service**

**7 pm Candlelight Service**

**9 pm Meditative Service**

### Exciting Times Coming...

We are anticipating several special events for our children in the next month! We will enjoy intergenerational worship together on December 20 and 21 (see Page 1), then share our Christmas Eve celebrations, including a special family service at 4PM (see next column), and will then be preparing for our January intersession, where our kindergarteners through seventh graders will choose an activity for the month as we explore stories from the Bible.

All children, kindergarten through seventh grade, should fill in an intersession registration form either at church or over email. If you have not received a form, please contact us, and we will make sure you receive one. This year, children who have been unable to get into the cooking class in the past will receive priority for that group. Please sign up soon. If one of the activities sounds fun to you adults, we are also still seeking adult cooks, crafters, outdoors-lovers, writers, and actors—no teaching experience is required! Call Emily for further information, 333-9822.

Happy Holidays to you all!  
Cindy Port, Director of Religious Education, [dre@uubloomington.org](mailto:dre@uubloomington.org)  
Rev. Emily Manvel Leite, Minister of Religious Education, [mre@uubloomington.org](mailto:mre@uubloomington.org)

### Giving Tree

Help our neighbors in need! We are working with Shalom Center and Stepping Stones, Inc. for our Giving Tree this year. The tree will be available in Fellowship Hall on December 13 with gift tags in many price ranges. Please pick up a gift tag to help homeless teens or local needy children and bring joy this holiday season. Thank you!

### Away in A Manger

Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm in Fellowship Hall, there will be a special family worship service entitled "Away in A Manger," led by Reverend Macklin. This worship is an interactive Christmas Pageant targeted to families with young children and to those young at heart. There will be a few chairs set up but we invite folks to sit on the floor to create a more relaxed and informal atmosphere.

### What to bring:

- a stuffed animal or doll to put in the manger and share with the babies and other children
- soft blankets, pillows or floor chairs
- a plate of cookies to share

We suggest that certain age groups come dressed to participate:

**1 - 3 year olds - Angels** - Wear halos (tin foil twisted till it fits around your head will do) and whatever else you feel makes you angelic.

**4 - 5 year olds - Shepherds** -Wear shepherd hats (towel on head tied with some type of rope or tie) and whatever else would keep you warm if you were a shepherd.

**6 - 8 year olds - Wise Ones** -Wear crowns and other wise-one-like garb. During the pageant, the shepherds will share dried fruit as a small snack. We need innkeepers to pass out programs and help serve cider and cookies. Please let me know if an older child, youth or adult in your family can help as an innkeeper.

Cindy Port, Director of Religious Education, [dre@uubloomington.org](mailto:dre@uubloomington.org)

## Here's a Holiday Gift Idea!

We have a holiday gift suggestion for family and friends which is convenient, moderate in price, and helpful to the UU Church's operating budget! Drop by the grocery card table in the commons between Sunday services on December 13 and December 20 and pick up grocery gift cards for Kroger, Bloomingfoods, or Marsh/O'Malia's. You may choose denominations of \$15, \$25, \$50 or \$100 and feel good that 5% of the card value for Marsh/O'Malia's and Bloomingfoods comes to the church, as does 3% of the Kroger card value (Kroger cards may be reloaded at the store). Hope to see you on Sunday! --Sheri Benham and Harriet Pfister, Co-coordinators for UU Grocery Card Fundraiser

## Ideas for Green & Simple Gifts

\* **A gift of your time** - to take a walk, cook dinner or watch a movie with someone you wish you saw more often.

\* **Holiday Alternative Giving!** An alternative gift – International Outreach, Green Sanctuary and Habitat for Humanity Task Forces have tables between services December 13 and December 20, with ways to give donations as gifts in someone's name.

\* **A ticket for a special event** - hey, how about the Dec. 18th Holiday Concert with Blue Sky Back and The Creek Dawgs, right here at the UU Church?! Tickets available at the Green Sanctuary table between services.

\* **Write someone a poem** or a song and read/perform it for them. Or write a **heart-felt letter** telling someone what you love and appreciate about him or her.

\* **Frame a child's artwork** for a relative.

\* **Suggest a "white elephant" exchange**, if your family exchanges gifts,

where everyone brings a used item or regift --it can turn into a fun game and it's cheaper and greener than buying new gifts!  
--Mary Beth O'Brien,  
Green Sanctuary Task Force

## Would you like to have visitors from the church?

The Elder Focus Task Force received a wonderful response from members of the congregation who are interested in visiting with members of the congregation who are in a nursing home or who have a hard time getting out of their homes. We're contacting people who might like to have visitors. We don't want to miss anyone, though, so please call or write to Barb Backler if you would like visits ([bbackler@indiana.edu](mailto:bbackler@indiana.edu) or 340-0354). You can stipulate when and how often. Please let us know by Dec. 16th, so we can start contacting our wonderful and eager visitors.

## Women's Alliance Meets Thursday, January 7

Our speaker, Nancy Richman, will speak about domestic violence. The meeting begins with a brown bag luncheon at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. This month's hosts, Julie Lawson and Sandy Taylor, will provide beverages and desserts. Guests are always welcome. Join us.

## Parent Talk – Parents of Adults Sunday, Dec. 13, from 12:30 – 2:30, Rm 207B

Bring a brown bag lunch/beverage and join the discussion. We meet to share joys & concerns and ideas about staying connected with our adult children. Questions – contact Dorothy Sowell 334-0169, [d.j.sowell@comcast.net](mailto:d.j.sowell@comcast.net)

## FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK DINNERS

January through April we will have monthly gatherings. You don't necessarily have to participate every month.

Who takes part? Anyone, whether a member, friend, or newcomer. The potlucks are an opportunity to meet others, or renew or deepen friendships, in a casual setting; to allow for prolonged conversations. At the same time you visit the interesting homes of other UUs and enjoy a shared meal.

Gourmet cook? Not necessary. Goodwill and what you can manage is all that's needed. The assigned hosts negotiate a date and guide the menus to which all guests contribute. It need not be a dinner, but can be a lunch, brunch, breakfast or even a picnic!

For answers to other frequently asked questions and registration form, look for our brochure in the church literature racks. Or you may send an e-mail to me, Dixie Welch, at [deejaywelch@gmail.com](mailto:deejaywelch@gmail.com) and I'll send the brochure via a reply message.

**REGISTER SOON & JOIN US  
WE LOVE NEWCOMERS!!**

## Ready to become a member of UU Bloomington?

If you would like to become a member of UU Bloomington, the next membership ceremony is Sunday, December 20 between the services at 10:30 am in room 210. (Please note: We recommend participation in our "Exploring UU" class prior to signing the book.)

To make arrangements for signing the Membership Book, please contact Stephanie Wilson at 812-339-1247 or [stephw3@yahoo.com](mailto:stephw3@yahoo.com) no later than Wednesday, December 16.

## From the Ralph and Annetta

**Fuchs Library** From time to time we like to let you know of the books available to you from our library. We have recently acquired "Sailing the Wine-Dark Sea: Why the Greeks Matter", by Thomas Cahill. This book explores the legacy, good and bad, of the ancient Greeks. We owe them the foundation and framework of our intellectual lives, our vocabulary, our logic, the problem solving tools we use in philosophy, mathematics, medicine, and physics. They are largely responsible for the shape that the Christian religion took. But, they also created Western militarism, the glorification of the warrior and the elevation of the male in political life. All this makes this treatise a remarkable intellectual adventure. Come visit and browse.

## Women's Drum Circle December 11, 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a spiritual evening of drumming and fellowship! Dorothy Sowell, Chris Clothier, Jeanette Miller, and Nancy Richman will host a drumming circle for women on Friday, December 11, 2009 in Fellowship Hall at the church from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. All levels of drumming experience and non-experience are welcome. We encourage you to bring drums and other percussion instruments (instruments will not be provided).

**BULLETIN BOARD -----**  
POTTERY OPEN HOUSE: Barb Lund, w/ artist Bonnie Gordon-Lucas. 25% off pots made before 2007. Dec 11, 3-7p, Dec 12, 9:30-5:30; Behind 520 W. 6th St on Jackson St. 339-8476, [barbtlund@gmail.com](mailto:barbtlund@gmail.com).  
WANTED: USED NETBOOK OR NOTEBOOK CPTR, inexpensive. Can Buy or Barter cptr, audio, appliance repair. Don Halford, 334-3427, [dhalford@acm.org](mailto:dhalford@acm.org)