

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

Saturday, February 22

Beyond the Congregation
with UUA's Tandi Rogers

Fourth Friday Fellowship February 28

Potluck supper and Hymn Sing

Sunday, March 2

UU Board Town Meeting
12:30 p.m. Meeting Room

Sunday, April 6

Commitment Sunday
Invest in our fUtUre!

Saturday, April 12

MidAmerica UU Regional Mtg

Monday, April 14

UU Passover Seder

Sunday, February 23

9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

A Matter of Connection

Reverend Tandi Rogers

Unitarian Universalist Association Growth Specialist

We welcome Reverend Tandi Rogers into our pulpit.

Tandi is visiting us this weekend from the Unitarian Universalist Association, where she is a consultant. In her sermon she will provide insights and observations regarding our congregational life and vision: *Seeking the Spirit. Building Community. Changing the World.*

Sunday, March 2

9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

A Spirit of Generosity

Reverend Mary Ann Macklin

Our theme for March is Generosity. Winston Churchill once remarked, "You make all kinds of mistakes, but as long as you are generous and true and also fierce, you cannot hurt the world or even seriously distress her." In this worship service we will explore what it means to be generous, true and fierce.

What does an interim minister do?

As the Interim Minister Selection Committee prepares for the interim selection process and the congregation collectively prepares for our upcoming time of transition, it is useful to keep in mind just what it is that an interim minister does.

In broad strokes, the interim supports the entire congregation, staff, and ministers in taking advantage of the opportunities that transitions reveal. The interim can help us answer the question, "What happens next?" after Rev Breedon retires. This is an exciting time to pause and reflect on what is important to us as a community. Looking forward, the interim will assist the formation of our ministerial search committee, helping us insure that when take on the process of calling our next settled minister, we do that work well. Given our history of shared ministry, the interim will also play a very positive role in providing Rev. Macklin with opportunities to analyze and reshape her own role as she goes through this transition along with us.

We also know that change often brings feelings of loss, uncertainty, and anxiety, and an interim is trained to support congregations through these experiences.

Interim Minister Selection Committee - Abby Gitlitz,
Drew Schrader, Reverend Mary Ann Macklin, and Von Welch

The North Window

I am tempted to sit at my desk and watch the snow melt, but there are things to be done, and the snow will melt without my attention. I shared some thoughts a few weeks ago at the workshop about saying good-bye which was intended to help us think about creative ways of letting go and accepting changing relationships, i.e. the changing of ministry here at UUCB. I can't find the notes which were scribbled on the agenda I received that morning, but perhaps I can recapture some of what I said.

First, and foremost, I live with a great sense of thanksgiving for the years I have spent as a minister of this congregation, and for the wonderful gift of serving with the Reverend Barbara Carlson, and of course, our Executive Minister, Mary Ann Macklin. My decision to retire from this ministry did not arise out of any negative concerns. I love this congregation and believe it to be the finest expression of community I have ever witnessed. I will be a part of it for as long as I live, and after a "ministry of absence," necessary for both me and the congregation to adjust to the change in relationship, I will return and support the ministers of this congregation, hopefully with as much grace and wisdom as Barbara Carlson has shown over the past ten years or so.

Secondly, I want to affirm my belief that this congregation will continue to exert a profound influence on the larger community, and a voice for peace and justice for generations to come. I believe that we are on the crest of an awakening, and that the UU Church of Bloomington will be a catalyst for new ideas. I have complete confidence in the leadership and in the membership and in their ability to make wise decisions in the days ahead. We are a community, not a cult of personality. The significance of my ministry should be considered in the light of the next decade. I ask each of you to renew your commitment to the ideas of Universalism, the affirmation of the worth and dignity of all people, and the belief that peace is possible.

Finally, thank you for all the love you have shown to me and my family. I was surprised by the creation of those "Bill sent me" buttons. I hadn't read the Prologue yet when they arrived, and was deeply touched when they were delivered. I am honored that so many of you have worn them in your work in the community. But I must say that I think they might should read, "UU sent Bill," because I have gone places and been blessed to serve people in ways I never could have done had not UU sent me. I trust you will honor our ministry together by your continued support of this congregation. We will celebrate over the coming months, but we will celebrate even more in the years ahead as we continue to "Seek the Spirit, Build Community and Change the World." Let us not be bound to the past, let us move into the future.

Peace—bill

Reverend Bill Breeden



Photo by Mara Flynn



Same Love on February 16

Hearts were warm and the future felt filled with hope this morning at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington as the 6th-10th graders performed Macklemore's "Same Love." Here's a few snapshots. Thanks so much to Aleisha Kropf and Daniel Reed, who created the space for the kids to create such magic.



Soul Food Dinner and Gumboot February 8—

Many thanks to Renee Reed for preparing another amazing Soul Food Dinner, Ellyn Barham who introduced our rhythmic congregation to Gumboot, our Children's Choir led by Jill Courtney and to everyone who came and joined us!

EVERYONE is invited to Come Sing A Song With Us... February 28

Friday, February 28th-6-8pm in Fellowship Hall

Jill Courtney will accompany us on the piano for a Hymn Sing after a potluck supper. Bring a dish to share and make new connections. Newcomers and visitors are always welcome! Contact Adrienne Summerlot

dre@uubloomington.org for more info, and Find the Event on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/uubloomington/events>

Save the Date! Congregational Retreat in May

Our Earth Celebrational, All Congregational, Intergenerational UU Retreat is coming this spring--May 9-10 at Waycross Camp. Mark it on your calendar now, and look for further information soon!



Adult Religious Education: Upcoming classes

Family to Family Class on Mental Illness Offered February through May

The National Association on Mental Illness (NAMI) Family to Family Class is offered through our Adult Religious Education program beginning Wednesday, February 26, 7:00-9:30 p.m. This 12-week program is for families of individuals with serious and

persistent mental illness. Pre-register before February 24:

Contact Janet James 812-345 3294 jjames@indiana.edu

or Lee Strickholm 812-339-5440 leestrick@aol.com.

NEW DATE! Registration is Still Open for Theatre Class on March 1

The Spiritual Foundations of Western Theatre in Ancient Greece

Saturday, March 1, 10:00-12:00 noon, Library

Instructor: Paul E. Lane, yoricklane@gmail.com

No one really knows how or when the Western theatre began, but there are many theories about its inception in ancient Greece. The theory most widely known and accepted today is based on a direct relationship between theatric activity and religious ritual, connecting with that antiquity might give us some insights into our modernity. To register, email office@uubloomington.org or call 812-332-3695, ext. 204.

Spirit Play for Grown-Ups March 3

March 3, 6:30-8:30PM, Fellowship Hall (and continuing on first Mondays)

Instructors: Eve Cusack & Reverend Emily Manvel Leite

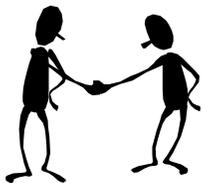
Do you find that you never find time to do something just for yourself? This group is for older teens and adults in need of some spiritual playtime. We'll be exploring the March theme of Generosity through a Buddhist story this month.

To sign up for any of these classes, please contact the church office at 332-3695, ext. 204, or office@uubloomington.org. Child care can usually be made available if requested well in advance.



Are you a Friendly Presence at Coffee Hour?

If you are willing to assist with UU hospitality, please use one of the black and yellow mugs with the welcome logo for your beverage at fellowship hour. Guests and newcomers are invited to look for friendly folks using the Welcome mugs. They would like to talk to you.



Greeter Orientation Feb 23

We need your help to make this congregation a friendlier place. Learn to be a greeter or newcomer welcomer. The jobs are important and fun, they take only a little time and you get to choose the time and date of the one service every month or so that you will serve. Join us at the Spring orientation on Sunday, Feb 23, 12:45 in the Meeting Room.



UU Humanist Discussion Group Meets on Alternating Sundays

Our Humanist Discussion group meets on alternating Sundays at 12:45 p.m. in Room 210. This group is an opportunity for regular, open, wide-ranging discussions of issues relating to morality and ethics, human development, and the nature of the universe. Their next meeting is on Sunday, February 23 and the topic is "One or Two BIG Questions" with David Keppel.



Young Adult Gatherings

The next young adult lunch is Sunday, February 23. We'll meet outside the sanctuary after the second service, at around 12:15, pick a place to eat that fits group tastes and budgets, and coordinate transportation as needed. -- Evan Boggs, etboggs@gmail.com [and here's a blog about UU young adult activities beyond our congregation: <http://blueboat.blogs.uua.org/> -Ed.]



Thursday, February 20, 5:30-7:00 p.m.



A Contrarian View on Grocery Cards

Reasons NOT to buy grocery cards:

1. You don't eat or drink.
 2. You don't want to give \$3-5 to the church for every \$100 spent at Kroger, Marsh or Bloomingfoods, and you would rather the grocery stores keeps that money.
 3. You are entirely self-sufficient and grow all of your own food.
- If these statements **don't** apply to you, then bring your checkbook on Sunday and stock up on UU grocery cards! (In the Commons between services EVERY Sunday!)

UUA General Assembly in Providence in June

MEMBERS AND FORMER DELEGATES:

You can represent our UU Congregation at the annual UUA conference in Providence RI this June 25-29. Please join us for a brief MEETING this Sunday, February 23 at 10:15 to 11 15 am in Room 208. We are a representative organization and your vote is most important. Deadlines are coming up soon. You may also be interested in being a delegate to the MidAmerica UU Regional Annual Meeting, which will be held here in our building on April 12. --Iris Kiesling 332-5224 or ifkiesing@aol.com



That's My Church!

"Victory for Now" -- Reverend Macklin celebrates at the Statehouse on Thurs, Feb 13, after HJR-3 was voted down.

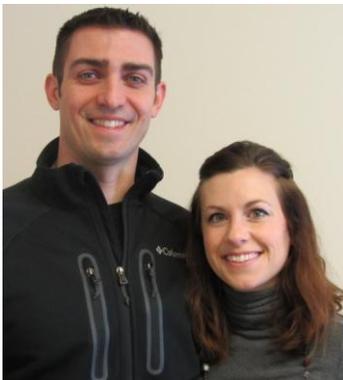
A Warm Welcome to Our Newest Members

We welcome new members Matt Stonecipher and Rebecca and Ryan Timmons to our congregation. They all signed our Membership Book on Sunday, February 16. We are glad they are with us!



Matt Stonecipher

I am a Bloomington native. After High School I served 10 years as an Operations Specialist in the US Navy. I returned to Bloomington to raise my three kids and now I am seeing the youngest go off to college this fall. I have worked at RadioTV Services on the IU Campus for the past 13 years and I am in the General Studies program to finish my own undergrad degree.



Rebecca and Ryan Timmons

--A boomerang couple, Ryan and Rebecca Timmons, have returned to Bloomington where they fell in love some 14 years ago. The two spent the past 11 years living in Texas, teaching in public school and bringing three high-spirited children into the world. Ryan enjoys all things aquatic, including scuba-diving and Rebecca is enlivened by coffee, chocolate and writing. Their children are Barrett, age 5, Emerson, age 3 and Remi, age 1.--

The UUCB Book Discussion, Sunday March 16 at the Carlsons at 3PM.

For March we will read non-fiction, with Doris Kearns Goodwin's "The Bully Pulpit". It is the history of the American Gilded Age in the administrations of Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft, an era of elective wars, American imperialism, American exceptionalism, unregulated capitalism, income inequality, political scandals, and stagnant progress on social issues. Sound familiar? At Elof and Nedra Carlsons' on March 16 at 3:00 p.m.

UU Seder Planning Committee Meets March 9

The UU Passover Seder will be held in Fellowship Hall on Monday, April 14 in the evening. A planning committee is being formed to decide the menu and plan the celebration. If you have a tradition you would like to share or would like to help plan this event, please join us for a short planning meeting on March 9 at 12:30 in Room 208. -- Ruellen Fessenbecker

Attendance

Our certified membership as of 2/1/2014 was 492. Current membership = 495

Sunday, February 9 9:15: 117; 11:15: 116; RE: 106 Total: 389
 Sunday, February 16 9:15: 100; 11:15 157; RE: 129 Total: 386

Online Livestreaming

Sunday, February 16 9:15: 60 11:15: 84 Total: 144

Non-Pledge Offering

2/9 - \$1,119; 2/16 - \$7340:

Total to be donated to Circles Initiative - \$463.35

Grocery Card Sales Feb 9 \$1,450, income to UUCB \$68.50 Feb 16 \$1,425, income to UUCB \$67.25



Habitat Task Force Plans for Spring

The Habitat Task Force is planning several activities in the next few months for which we could use some help. We are scheduled to provide about 12 workers for an upcoming build on Saturday, March 29. Anyone can participate in this build (without any cost) from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Training is provided for any tasks that are involved and Habitat

supplies all necessary tools, lunch and drinks. Please contact Barb Berggoetz, barbberg@bluemarble.net, if you would like to build that day.

We are looking for 35 women to participate in the annual Women Build, a nine-day building blitz when teams of women from all over the city build two houses. In order to participate, you need to fund-raise or donate a minimum of \$250 by April 22. Habitat has a fund-raising template online to send to friends and family members. We hope to fill the team by the end of February. Please contact Barb if you'd like to participate.

The Habitat Task Force is also planning a fundraising breakfast on Easter Sunday, April 20 between services, so put that on your calendar. We're raising funds to send a group of Unitarian Universalists to El Salvador to participate in a Habitat build there in late May for nine days. If you're interested in learning more about that opportunity, please contact Connie Nelson-Laird at cnelsonlaird@gmail.com. We are also looking for volunteers to donate baked goods and fruit for the breakfast and to help prepare and serve on April 20. Contact Ann Leduc, a_educ@msn.com, if you're interested in learning more about how to help on April 20.



Update on our Community Conservation Challenge grant

In the first eight months since our solar panels were installed, we produced 53% of the electricity we used. And we used 25% less electricity and 16% less gas than in 2010, the year before our capital campaign allowed us to make improvements to our building. Recently, we have begun replacing the rest of our incandescent lights with CFLs or LEDs, including in our sanctuary where we just replaced sixty-two 250 Watt lamps with 36 Watt LEDs. These recent improvements should save another 15% to 20% off our annual electricity use.

Over 1/3 of our member households have now met their pledges to reduce energy use. (THANK YOU!) Let's go for 1/2!! Follow this link [SURVEY](#) and email your %, given on the last screen of the survey, to [Stephanie Kimball](mailto:Stephanie.Kimball).)

So the remaining challenge is to cut our use of natural gas. Last July we installed new HVAC units for our sanctuary and offices, using funds we had set aside from our capital campaign to purchase systems that are 27% more efficient. We have also implemented deeper thermostat setbacks when spaces are not in use (both at night and during the day). And we recently started replacing worn weather stripping on doors, and caulking gaps around recessed lights. Hopefully, these changes will help us achieve a 25% reduction in our use of natural gas. –Green Sanctuary Task Force

Community Connections

Our Faith in Action in the Community

Buy Spaghetti or Macaroni for Shalom Center

Donation basket is in the Commons. Thanks for helping!



Goods and Services Auction Sunday, May 4 *Save the Date!*

Join us for lunch (for a modest cost) after 2nd service on May 4th and stay for the auction; registration begins at 1:30 and bidding starts at 2:00! Don't miss this entertaining congregational fundraiser! Childcare provided during the auction. Contact Wendy Bethel or Michelle Cook for more info.

UU History for You

Hannah Adams: The First American Woman to Earn Her Living as a Writer



Hannah Adams (1755-1831) was born in Massachusetts. Her father was a teacher, farmer, and book seller and she was home schooled. Her mother died when she was 11. She took an interest in Unitarian history and began reading works by Socinian authors who were writing before the English non-conformists called themselves Unitarians. She learned Greek and Latin. She then invited ministers to describe their own faith beliefs and began corresponding with divines in other countries. She realized from her readings on the world's religions that various Christian authors would describe other religions as heretical and flawed. She felt that a scholar should find and present what other religions believed so readers could form their own judgments. She is considered the founder of the field of comparative religion. Her book appeared in 1784. It sold well but her publisher kept all the profits. She lobbied Congress and in 1790 got a copyright law enacted. She then got another publisher to issue a revised version which went through several editions and sold well in the US and in Europe. She became the first female author to make a living as a full time writer. She wrote a History of New England, a History of the Jews, and several other works on comparative religion. She never married because her father's businesses failed, and she supported him and her younger sister. She was a distant cousin of President John Adams and enjoyed visiting him. –Elof Carlson, Congregational Historian

Our Congregational Themes for 2014



January: Inquiry
February: Connection
March: Generosity
April: Honesty
May: Beauty
June: Love

July: Hospitality
August: Creativity
September: Deep Listening
October: Inheritance
November: Possibility
December: Hope

How do you use CONNECTION and GENEROSITY to Seek the Spirit,

Build Community, and Change the World?

(photo by John Woodcock)

Viewing Sunday Services Online:

Livestream the Sunday Service at <http://www.techwerks.tv/264PlayerLIVE.php?type=live&clientID=933>

Archived Sunday Services are at <http://www.techwerks.tv/myVideo.php?clientID=933&name=yes>

Next Issue of this newsletter: Monday, March 3; deadline for articles **10:00 a.m.** Articles received after 10:00 a.m. on the date of publication will appear in the next issue. Please send articles regarding congregational events and projects to admin@uubloomington.org. The Prologue is published on the first and third Mondays of each month, with exceptions, and is edited by Carol Marks, Church Administrator. Dates of the next few issues: Mar 3, Mar 17, Apr 7, Apr 21, May 5, May 19.

Calendar of all our congregational events can be found at www.uubloomington.org Click on "Full Calendar" and then on the date you are interested in. You can also search for a specific event!

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, Executive Minister

The Rev. Bill Breeden, Co-Minister