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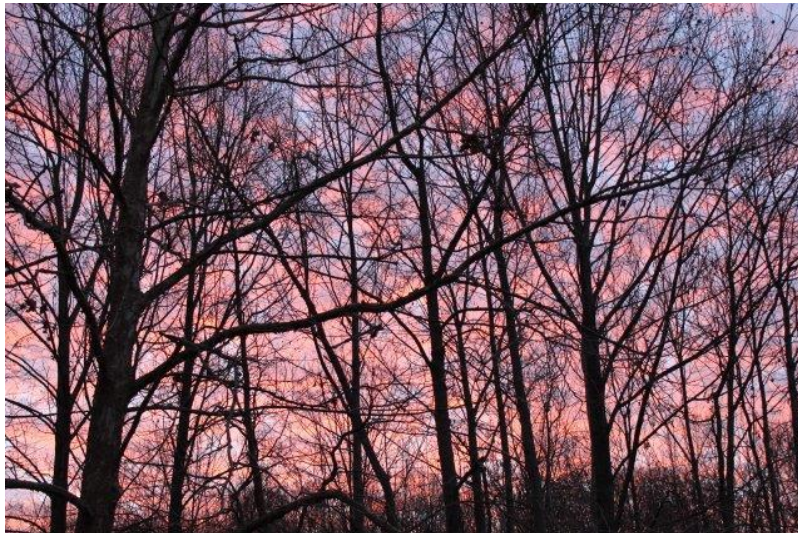
Is your Prologue getting clipped short in your email inbox? Follow the above link, or make sure you click "View entire message" at the bottom of your email, to read the whole newsletter.

December 7, 2021

The Prologue

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana

Congregation founded 1949 | LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation since 1995 | Green Sanctuary since 2007



Seeking the Spirit | Building Community | Changing the World

Join us for online services

Livestreamed on Sunday mornings at 10:15 am

[On our website](#) | [On Facebook](#)

In-person Attendance: [please register by clicking here.](#)



Hearing assistive devices are now available at the AV Tech booth in the rear of the sanctuary for use during Sunday worship services.



Sunday, December 12, 2021
10:15 a.m. Livestream and in-person
Sorrow is Not My Name
Reverend Mary Ann Macklin
Reverend Emily Manvel Leite

Sorrow is Not My Name. I love this title for a poem, words by award-winning and local poet Ross Gay. In our worship service we will explore the meaning of “joys and sorrows” in our life as we consider this poem along with our sub-theme for this month *Set the Bar Low for Joy*. Our Gift of Music is a premiere piece of this poem, Sorrow Is Not My Name by Ross Gay, set to music by local composer Abby Henkel. (Ross and Abby are pictured below.) *Of note, please pardon the technological glitches in recent weeks. Out of necessity (old equipment breakdown) we are in the process of having a major equipment replacement. Blessings upon your patience and our tech guys who are working overtime to remedy the multi-layered problems.)* Rock on, y'all.

If you would like to attend Sunday worship in person, please sign up via this link: uucb.churchcenter.com/registrations



There is room for you at in-person Sunday worship

If you would like to attend Sunday worship service in-person, please sign up via this link: uucb.churchcenter.com/registrations

When deciding whether or not to attend in-person services, please take into account your health risk factors and that we cannot ensure that all participants are vaccinated.

If you have any trouble registering, please email Carol Marks at admin@uubloomington.org anytime, but definitely before 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, and we will register you.



Congregational Meeting Sunday, December 12 on Zoom

All members are encouraged to attend our Fall Congregational Meeting on Zoom, on Sunday, December 12 at 4:00 p.m. [Please click here to join the meeting](#). For technical support about joining the meeting please contact **Drew Schrader**, drew.schrader (at) gmail.com.



Greeters Needed in December

Whether you have been a Greeter in the past, or are looking for a new volunteer opportunity, you are invited to sign up and greet on Sunday mornings. **We also need greeters in December for the Solstice Service on Dec 20 and on Christmas Eve.** [Sign up to greet today!](#) [Here are the duties of Greeters](#). Questions? email **connect (at) uubloomington.org**



Monday, December 20, 2021 6:15 p.m. Livestream and in-person Multigenerational Winter Solstice Celebration Reverend Emily Manvel Leite Reverend Mary Ann Macklin Reverend Bill Breeden Ray Fellman

All ages are invited to come share in this quiet, reflective service celebrating the returning sun. We will fully inhabit this place on our planet as we return to our annual practice of sharing a candlelit spiral procession to reconnect with the earth and its natural cycles. **Registration is required for this service.** Watch the Friday Updates for a link to register soon!



MAM Musings

As we approach the New Year, we often hear the phrase “out with the old and in with the new”. I have never cared for that phrase unless it refers to tech equipment that is no longer working, as in some of our worship tech equipment which suddenly bit the dust. So, please pardon any tech glitches over the last few weeks. We are in a significant turn-around and upgrade. This process does not simply involve the replacement of one piece with another; alas, we have done tons of rerouting in the past, so we are discovering, with new equipment, old rerouting measures that may not express right away and it becomes a multi-layered puzzle of discovery. Kind of like an Escher drawing.

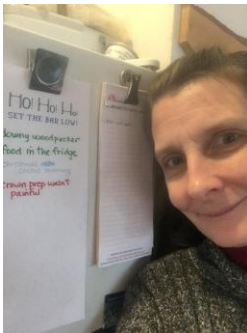
Meanwhile, some of our new equipment and overall theme of spaciousness was on display during the November 28th service, “2021: A Spaciousness Odyssey”; feedback I received included numerous iterations of “I didn’t know I needed this, but it is what I needed.” If you did not get a chance to experience this worship service, here is the link. It’s a little fun, a little spacious and has plenty of heart.

[Click here to view "2021: A Spaciousness Odyssey"](#)

Setting the bar low for joy,

Mary Ann

Reverend Mary Ann Macklin



Emily's Post

Dear Ones,

On Sunday, we started to reflect upon our December theme of Joy, remembering Sharon Wiseman's thoughtful dream advice to "Set the Bar Low for Joy," and I suggested that you collect up some of the small things that bring you joy through photos, in your notes app, or in a list on your fridge.

After saying that, I decided that this list is at least as important as my grocery list, and I used Mandy Skinner's wonderful graphic for the month to make a place for my list on our fridge. If you'd like to do the same, you can [print out her graphic here.](#) Happy collecting!

With love,

Emily

Reverend Emily Manvel Leite

Minister of Story and Ritual

p.s. I'll be at Bryan Park Woodlawn Shelter this Thursday from 5-6PM with tea and hot apple cider to share--Bring your own mug and stop by for a few minutes to say hello, play on the playground, step over our Bar Set Low for Joy, or hang out with your dog before heading home for dinner.



From Our Interim Religious Education Consultant--

A shout out for Shout Mouse Press

One of my favorite parts of religious education is the discovery of authors, books and lesser-known publishing houses. I find extra joy when the publishing house works for a higher cause. Hence my love of Shout Mouse Press <https://www.shoutmousepress.org/>! I hope you check this one out. This publishing house lifts teen and young adult authors from the Washington DC area who are writing about their experiences and the experiences in their community. Their children and teen collections are fabulous! In fact, I hope to lead at one or more discussion groups beginning January based on several of their books. These discussion groups can be made up of older elementary children, youth and adults and can be in person or online or both. This is social justice learning and everyone is invited to participate. During this transitional religious education period, I hope that you will join me in creative learning opportunities as well as an analysis of how religious education and racial justice intersect. This study is on an important topic. It also models a new way of gathering and learning that could benefit this congregation in its future lifespan religious education vision.

Family Worship on Christmas Eve 4:00 PM -- Let Us Know What You Think!

Since the pandemic continues to linger and families have readjusted to a new normal, we are seeking information from families on the desire for a 4:00 PM Family Worship on Christmas Eve this year. [Please take a few minutes to fill out this form \(it will take 2 minutes\).](#) Your input will help us know your desires. Thank you in advance.

Shout Mouse Press Book Group

Washington, DC, youth authors write stories we need to hear. Starting in January 2022, Michele Grove will host a series of online and in person book groups to discuss some of these books. Each month will focus on different books. You can order your own books or come to the church library and read them (we do not have enough for check out but find them manageable. [If you are interested, sign up here.](#) We will organize the meetings at a later time using the information gathered through the registration form. If you wish to look at the books or order books of your own, go to: <https://www.shoutmousepress.org/>

Dr. Michele Grove
Interim Religious Education Consultant

Covid Memorial: Story Project

As part of the Covid Memorial, we invite you to share your stories of your experience of the pandemic. Simply make a 2-3 minute video recording of yourself telling about your experience, and upload it to our folder. Complete instructions, along with prompts, can be found [here](#). If you prefer to have somebody else record you telling your story, please contact Stephanie Kimball to arrange an appointment at the church or at your residence. Stephanie

can be reached at [kimball\(at\)uubloomington.org](mailto:kimball(at)uubloomington.org).



Covid Memorial Installation Update

Thank you to Pat and Rich Slabach and to all those who have been co-creating our Covid Memorial. Everyone is invited to join in, and to invite your friends and neighbors to join in, too. To join in helping with this project, [sign up here](#) or contact Reverend Emily ([leite\(at\)uubloomington.org](mailto:leite(at)uubloomington.org)) to request 1 or more number rolls to record some of the numbers of people who have died of Covid in the US. We are creating a beautiful place of memory together. We are adding

names and photographs to the Covid Memorial in the Meeting Room of some of those who have died of Covid. If you have lost a loved one whom you would like us to remember together, please send their names or images to Rev. Emily, [leite\(at\)uubloomington.org](mailto:leite(at)uubloomington.org)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE



Coming in January -- New Sunday Morning RE Programming

We are planning new Sunday morning Religious Education programming beginning the second Sunday of January. Spirit Play will continue, along with a new program for children ages 7-13. Stay tuned for details, coming soon!

--Stephanie Kimball
Religious Education Coordinator

Building Community

HO! HO! HO!
SET THE BAR LOW!

Set the Bar Low for Joy Community Gatherings

Inspired by Sharon Wiseman's thoughtful dream advice to "Set the Bar Low for Joy," we are offering some short "pop up" events this month.

We'll gather outdoors with a minister, enjoy a warm beverage (bring your own mug!), and, if you choose, jump or step over our gold high jump bar set low for joy.

Our first gatherings are:

Thursday, December 9, 5-6pm, Bryan Park Woodlawn

Shelter and Playground--bring your dog if you'd like!
Tuesday, December 14, 5-6pm, home of Connie and Tom Nelson Laird
Friday, December 17, noon-1pm, Jane Goodman's house



Hike with us on December 15!

Join us on **Wednesday, December 15 at 9 AM** for a 4 mile hike. We will meet at the Blackwell Horse camp and hike a portion of the Grubb Ridge and Hayes Trails. Here's a map to the Blackwell Horse Camp: <https://goo.gl/maps/PmPxAhdGDBGaaGSD8> Please sign up so we know to expect you: <https://uucb.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1103792>



Interfaith Longest Night Service

Sunday, December 19th, 2021

6:00 p.m.

First United Church

Reverend Jessica Petersen Mutai

Reverend Kelley Jepson

Reverend Emily Manvel Leite

The holidays can be a time of great joy and expectation. And, for those who have experienced loss, the holidays can also be a particularly painful time. Our deep feelings of loss and grief can feel contrary to the merriment surrounding us. The Bloomington community is invited to join together, with masks and socially distancing, for a service of prayer, reflection, and remembrance planned and facilitated by folks from First United, **UU Church of Bloomington**, First Presbyterian Church, and Canterbury House (IU's Episcopal campus ministry). There will be music, silence, and meditative activities as we hold space for those who are grieving at this time of year. The service will also be available via Zoom Webinar--link is coming soon.



UU Online Holiday Bazaar Great Success!

The UU online bazaar was a great success. The total earnings were over \$10,000 to the church and the task forces. Many thanks to the bakers, crafters, donors of Quality Collectables, and the many volunteers who sorted and delivered bazaar goods. Thanks also to those who came to the courtyard sale of left over bazaar goods on Friday, December 3. Thanks to the core planning committee of Ann Kamman, Linda Pickle and Doris Wittenburg. While Rich LeDuc was missed in his role of computer consultant, thanks especially to Drew Schrader who stepped up to fill the gap, saving our collective sanity.

Personally, I would like to opine that the Bazaar, while a lot of work this year, was stimulating and collaborative. It gave me a chance to dwell in "the old times", however temporarily. --Ruellen Fessenbecker



Sing for Joy! Fall Festival Concert 2021

Led by UU Sandra Freund, the Sing for Joy Choir welcomes those experiencing dementia and their caregivers. **For information, click here.** Their recent Fall Festival Concert can be viewed at this link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Hlbn8QjmPdMNVyPiumkwY-fpXIBUX44t/view>

Changing the World



Green Sanctuary Task Force Supports CanopyBloomington

The GSTF at our last meeting decided to provide financial support to CanopyBloomington, and looks forward to working with them more closely. If you look around, you might think that Bloomington has plenty of trees, but the reality is that our tree canopy is in decline. Impending threats from climate change, age, development, storms, disease and pests are real, and require strategic planning and elevated care and planting procedures. The greatest lack of tree canopy is in our lowest income neighborhoods. To raise the tree canopy in these neighborhoods to the average level enjoyed by Bloomington as a whole would involve planting 50,000 trees, and we would still not be at our tree capacity! To learn more, please visit their website: canopybloomington.org. We hope you consider supporting this new organization that is working cooperatively with the City of Bloomington to improve tree cover for all. --Marcia Veldman



Fall 2021 Social Justice Grants Awarded

Each Fall, our Social Justice Funds Committee seeks applications for grants that further the mission of our congregation. Funds are available from interest on the Lundin SJ Endowment Fund, managed by the Special Purposes Fund Committee.

The UU Social Justice Funds Committee is happy to announce the following awards that are consistent with our UU mission:

Racial Justice Task Force: \$750 to purchase a Platinum Sponsorship at the Monroe County Branch NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet.

Habitat Task Force: \$1000 to purchase a small storage shed that Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County would install and use at the site of its new Osage Place neighborhood.

Homelessness Task Force: \$1000 to purchase bowls, plates and mugs for Shalom Community Center for serving breakfasts to guests..

Team First Book Monroe County: \$750 to award grants to schools and programs with low income children to purchase books for children to own and take home.

Racial Justice Task Force: Ruth Aydt, aydt (at) icloud.com

Habitat Task Force: BarabBerggoetz, barbbg (at) bluemarble.net

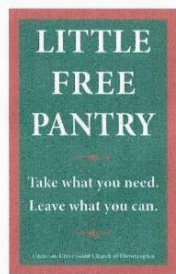
Homelessness Task Force: Alan Backler, abackler (at) aol.com

Team First Book: Carolyn Emmert, kedge206 (at) gmail.com



Team First Book Monroe County Sends Thanks

Team First Book-Monroe County is happy to report that the UU Social Justice Grant we received in Fall 2020 provided 171 new high quality books to pre-school children served by Thriving Connections, and 57 books each to Monroe County United Ministries' Early Start Program and to Templeton, a Title 1 school. This grant helped us fulfill our mission during a year that was challenging to both donors and recipients. Children in poverty who were forced to stay home from school due to Covid restrictions have limited resources, and, we are told, the books were very, very welcome. For this, we thank you.



NOVEMBER & DECEMBER FOOD COLLECTIONS

... will continue for our LITTLE FREE PANTRY which is located south of Needmore Coffee just off Pete Ellis Drive. Please use the drop off bins on the north side of the church. Here's what we need:

- peanut butter *
- canned meat (tuna/chicken) *
- Canned protein meals
- hygiene items *
- protein bars
- canned fruits *
- canned vegetables
- pasta & pasta sauce
- small juice boxes
- mac & cheese *

*MOST NEEDED

Stop by and have a look. It's very cute!

THANK YOU FROM THE UU HUNGER TASK FORCE

Seeking the Spirit

UU Choir Rehearses Thursdays

The UU Choir continues to rehearse at the church, indoors and distanced, with singing masks on, on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. and sometimes other times. To join the choir, please contact Dr. Susan Swaney, our Music Director: [music\(at\)uubloomington.org](mailto:music(at)uubloomington.org). photo credit: Sandra Freund



Monthly Life Stories Writing Group Welcomes New Members -- Next Meeting Thursday, December 9

Thinking about writing a story from your life? We invite you to join the monthly life writers, a supportive group that meets on the second Thursday of every month from 3 to 5, on Zoom. Attendees usually read short excerpts from work in progress. If you are new, it's fine to just listen and ask a few questions. To get your Zoom invitation for December 9, email John Woodcock at [woodcock\(at\)indiana.edu](mailto:woodcock(at)indiana.edu).



UU Humanist Forum Meets Sunday, December 12, 12:45 pm

Every other Sunday at 12:45 pm, our UU Humanists meet together online on Zoom for discussion. Rich Janda will lead a discussion on "Ballads or Bullets?" Email [Harold Ogren](mailto:Harold.Ogren@uubloomington.org) or [Ann Watzel](mailto:Ann.Watzel@uubloomington.org) if you would like to join the discussion.



UU Freethinkers Meet Sunday, December 19, 12:45 pm

The UU Freethinkers bi-weekly meeting creates the opportunity for participants to raise questions and engage in open and non-structured discussion of issues of social, political, and theological/religious concern. Every other Sunday via Zoom at 12:45 pm. To join, contact [Harold Ogren](mailto:Harold.Ogren@uubloomington.org) or [Ann Watzel](mailto:Ann.Watzel@uubloomington.org).



Shambhala Meditation Online on Mondays

Every Monday at noon online, or anytime it's easy, since there are saved sessions, you can join Sarah Flint in this 2500-year-old practice of cultivating peace and inner wisdom. Contact [Sarah Flint](mailto:Sarah.Flint@uubloomington.org) to join the group in real time. On Facebook at [UU Bloomington Meditation](https://www.facebook.com/UUBloomingtonMeditation).



Open Mind Zen at Friends Meeting House

Open Mind Zen with UU member Sensei Frank Seisho Diaz meets weekly at the Bloomington Friends Meeting House. If you'd like to participate, visit openmindzenbloomington.org and click on the "Welcome" tab for more information.

Community Connections



WhaleCoast Alaska 2022

Have you ever wanted to visit Alaska? If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2022 is for you! Four Alaska UU congregations invite you to experience our unique environmental and spiritual tour program next summer. See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs, with friendly homestays and awe-inspiring tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, sea lions, etc. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. WhaleCoast Alaska is an inspirational way to visit our beautiful state. Complete info at: www.WhaleCoastAK.org. Proof of Covid-19 vaccinations required. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience you won't want to miss!



COVID-19 Vaccination News Vaccines for Ages 5 and Older!

- **People age 5 and older in Indiana** are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. For information, call 211 or visit this website: vaccine.coronavirus.in.gov
- **Indiana Department of Health** info: coronavirus.in.gov/vaccine



Change of Address Back to 2120 N. Fee Lane

Now that our staff is in the church building more often, we can once again receive all church mail at 2120 N. Fee Lane, Bloomington, IN 47408. Mail sent to the PO Box in Nashville will be forwarded back to our address on Fee Lane for the next 18 months, so no worries if you forget and send your pledge checks to Nashville for a while.



Your Church Office Staff is Available by Phone and Email

Here is how to be in touch with the church administrative staff during their office hours as they continue to work from home.

Church Administrator Carol Marks, M-F, 10-4, 812-287-9615,
admin@uubloomington.org

Office Assistant Monica Overman, T, Th, 10-1, Friday 12:30-3:30, 812-

322-5546, office@uubloomington.org

Office Assistant Mandy Skinner, M, W, F, 10:30-1:30, 812-340-9981, office@uubloomington.org

The land line at the church 812-332-3695 is checked for messages twice weekly.

Church office will be closed December 24-January 1 for winter holidays.

Some Details

Email SCAM Alert

Our ministers, staff, and board members or other members will never send you email asking you for any money besides your pledge payment!

How to Recognize an Email Phishing Scam:

Is the email impersonating Rev. Macklin or another of our staff or ministers? Are they asking you to purchase gift cards? **Wait! Don't do it!** We will never send you emails like that. To double check, look at the email address of the sender. Is it from an address at uubloomington.org? If not, that's the second good reason to delete it!

Office Hours, Calendar, Deadlines

Office hours: M-F, 10 am-4 pm. **Our building is on Limited Access right now, so staff is mostly working from home and for a few hours from time to time in the building. Most of us are in the building on Thursday afternoons for staff meeting.**

The Church Office can be reached via text or voicemail during office hours at 812-287-9615. Email: admin (at) uubloomington.org or office (at) uubloomington.org

Calendar: For our full calendar of events, visit uucb.churchcenter.com/calendar.

The Prologue is published on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month. Next issue is December 21. Deadline is 10 am on date of publication, admin (at) uubloomington.org

Details on Membership & Offering

Membership: 574 certified members as of 2/1/2021;
566 current members.

Non-Pledge Offering:

October 31 \$432

November 7 \$382

November 14 \$143

November 21 \$61

November 28 \$244

To make a contribution for the Non-Pledge Offering (Sunday Plate), or to make a payment towards your pledge, click on this link to get to our new Giving page: uucb.churchcenter.com/giving

Total to be donated (25%) to The Nest childcare center at New Hope Family Shelter: **\$315.16**

Grocery Card Sales: (Bloomingfoods or Fresh Thyme) \$400; Total income to UUCB: \$20

Free Money from Kroger! Fresh Thyme and Bloomingfoods Grocery Cards Available by Mail

- Did you know that Kroger sends us over \$1,600 each year? This is made possible by those of you who participate in Kroger's Community Rewards program. Register your Kroger Plus card [online at this link](#).
- We are also still selling grocery cards for Bloomingfoods and Fresh Thyme by mail. [Click here to see what kind of cards and how many are available](#). Send your check to the church (UU Church, 2120 N. Fee Lane, Bloomington, IN 47408) with a note to let us know the type and

Church Mailing Address is once again
2120 N. Fee Lane, Bloomington, IN 47408.

value of card(s) you want, and we
will mail them to you. You do not
need to send an envelope.

Our Ministers & Staff

Reverend Mary Ann Macklin, our Senior Minister

- Email macklin (at) uubloomington.org, 812-322-0205.

Reverend Emily Manvel Leite, our Minister of Story and Ritual

- Email leite (at) uubloomington.org, 812-333-9822.

Reverend Barbara Carlson, our Minister Emerita

- Email barbaracarlson5 (at) gmail.com or call 812-822-0243.

Reverend Bill Breeden, our Minister Emeritus and Support Minister

- Email breeden1949 (at) gmail.com or call 812-360-1779.

Carol Marks, Church Administrator: admin (at) uubloomington.org, mobile 812-287-9615

Ann LeDuc, Connections Coordinator: connect (at) uubloomington.org, mobile 812-720-3688

Monica Overman and **Mandy Skinner**, Office Assistants: office (at) uubloomington.org

Michele Grove, Interim Religious Education Consultant: grove (at) uubloomington.org

Stephanie Kimball, Religious Education Coordinator: kimball (at) uubloomington.org

Susan Swaney, Music Director: music (at) uubloomington.org.

Andy Beargie and **Hans Kelson**, Multimedia Managers: media (at) uubloomington.org

Masthead photo by John Woodcock.