



Unitarian Universalist Church of Urbana-Champaign

309 W Green St. Urbana IL 61801



Photo Credit: Erich Adickes

Dear UUCUC:

I know a year ago you were in the stage of hopeful dreaming for the possibilities that a new settled minister would bring. I, too, had hopeful dreams a year ago, and those dreams are coming to fruition in our work together! I'm so lucky that we were in search at the same time, and we are so blessed for the possibilities we can make real together!

In just my first 6 months as your lead minister, I have witnessed your creativity, your resilience, your commitment to living your mission. You shine and reflect your light on each other and this broader community in more ways than you know. In the past 6 months these are a few of your shining achievements:

- Launched successful REE programs under the guidance of Kelly Skinner and the REE Council: Sage Café, Popcorn Theology, UU and Me, Many Paths: Exploring World Religions, Sunday REE program for our kids, OWL classes and so much more!
- Supported and made possible the many projects of the Social Action Council: reparations workshops, the Pride parade and multiple programs with Uniting Pride, connecting with the Refugee Center, maintaining our Little Free Pantry, sharing our offering, and again so much more!
- Addressed accessibility by launching the Ramp Up Project, which will provide a ramp to an accessible and safe entry into the first level of our building and make possible air conditioning (for safety and comfort) in the Sanctuary!
- Welcomed more than 20 new members and so many visitors! Rev. Sally and our lay leaders have held two well-attended Pathways to Membership classes and each Sunday we greet new faces as people seek to find a spiritual home here!
- Created inspiring services together! Multiple lay leaders have contributed their gifts to creating deeply moving experiences for all of us. The Pagan group's Yule vesper service drew 75 attendees and the two Worship Committee services in the fall were thoughtfully and collaboratively planned. Music is always a highlight, with our accomplished pianists, talented choir, and gifted musicians in the band, the crUUners, and all who play at the Coffee Houses. And we continue to offer livestream services, a crucial need in this "post" pandemic life, and to improve the quality of our technical capabilities.

I am excited for all the ways our lights will shine brighter and farther in the months to come. Talent and opportunities abound here, and we can build on the momentum of the work we are doing and let the possibilities pull us forward into an even more abundant, thriving future. I invite you to embrace those possibilities and whether it's your first month with us or your 600th month, I invite you to pledge joyfully and generously during our 2024 Prism of Possibilities campaign. Now is the time to shine your light and know that when you share it here in this community it will reflect, refract, and shine even brighter.

Thank you for all the ways you shine, UUCUC!

With gratitude and love,

Rev. Beth

Rev. Beth Monhollen