

Welcome New & Rejoining Members!



Ali Newbold Ali is a recently widowed former health educator. In early adulthood, she interrupted her graduate studies to marry what she calls “a bright Limey”. She then lived in England for several years where she and her bright Limey had two children. Her husband endured a long illness which kept her away from Champaign-Urbana for 13 years, but she has now returned and is learning to Ballroom dance, manage a chronic health condition, and meet the challenges of new home construction. Ali hopes to make many new connections in her new church community.



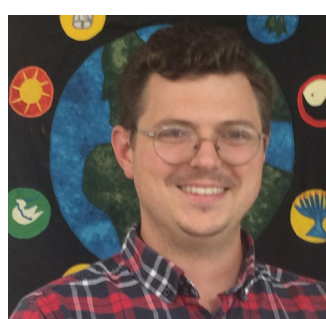
Ann Reeser Ann is a native of central Illinois. She moved from Monticello to Champaign in April of this year. Anne is divorced and has 2 grown children, 4 grandchildren and 3 great grands. She taught elementary school for 35 years. She spent two delightful summers on Star Island (UU and congregationalist conference center off the coast of New Hampshire) where she managed the book store. Anne enjoys Olli classes, movies and reading.



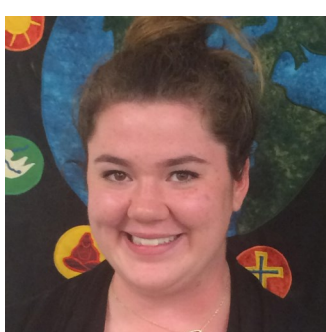
Bob Illyes Bob recently retired from the Illinois Natural History Survey where he worked since 1984. He is an electrical engineer by training and a computer programmer by trade. Bob met his wife Sarah at this church in 1975. They were married at the North Short UU church in 1985. Sarah passed on May 5h and Bob rejoined our church community in May.



Chandan Setty Chandan was born, raised, and did his early schooling in India. He came to the United States in 2009 to pursue graduate school at Purdue. After his graduation, he moved to Champaign-Urbana for his postdoctoral work at the University of Illinois. During his free time, Chandan likes to explore new places and understand their different cultures/histories, enjoys sports and sailing, and plays for the local Parkland concert band.



Christopher Dunn-Rankin Christopher moved to Champaign with his wife, Anna, in 2016 to take a position as a music and performing arts teacher at Next Generation School. He has been a lifelong Unitarian Universalist, growing up in the Laguna Beach and Orange Coast congregations in Southern California, and he served as the director of music for Third Unitarian Church in Chicago from 2011 to 2014 - where he met his spouse! He’s very happy to join another UU community and is excited to get involved.



Emily Miller Emily is from Champaign-Urbana, graduated from Urbana High School in 2012, and then became a registered nurse. Emily is the dog mommy of two rescues - an Australian Shepherd and a Black Lab mix. She loves traveling and has been to 15 cities in 4 years. And she notes that her heart belongs to Montréal. She has 11 tattoos in total, for those who may have noticed a few and wondered if there are more! Emily also promises that you’ll soon see her in our church choir!"



Godfrey Bukenya (who likes to be called “Bukenya” BTW) is a political asylum seeker from Uganda. He arrived in the US on a transit visa but was stranded when violence erupted in his country and he was unable to return. He has lived in Urbana since January and has been attending UUCUC since April. Bukenya looks forward to finalizing his asylum petition so that he can begin studying for his license to become a driver of large trucks – the profession he enjoyed in his native Uganda.



Heidi Richter Heidi is a medical illustrator for Human Kinetics. She is originally from Minot, North Dakota, went to graduate school in Toronto, Ontario, and has lived in Champaign for the last ten years. She enjoys writing science fiction and has self-published one novel called Redfeather. She also volunteers at the Orpheum teaching a Lego Club. She thinks she is on Hospitality Team F.



Jonathan (Jonny) Beckett Jonny is a professional musician and saxophone is his instrument of choice. Jonny also teaches. And he plays as a member of 4 bands locally on a consistent basis. His passion is jazz, but he is a lifelong student of all music. He is a part time faculty member at Parkland College, where he teaches general education music courses, directs the Wind Ensemble and teaches saxophone lessons. He’s happy to have found a wonderful positive environment with people who are of like-mind and whom he admires for being so gracious and accepting of all others.

Penné Beckett . Penné is a mother of one, grandmother of two and great grandmother of four. She (along with their Mom) home-schooled three of her four great granddaughters. The fourth granddaughter is almost one – so her time will no doubt come as well. Penné is an artist who enjoys watercolors and acrylics and is trying her best to learn oils. She also likes to make cards. Penné has lived in Urbana for 10 years where she’s enjoyed making friends with people who think and act like her.



Mary Joncich

Mary’s bio is coming soon!



Scott Godlew lives in an 1894 Queen Anne home in Tolono. He works with computers at State Farm in Bloomington. He is single/dating and has a Champion Greyhound named Toni. He enjoys travel, entertaining, music, concerts, movies, boating, motorcycles, technology, volunteering, meditation, getting out on the town, and meeting with friends and new people. UUCUC has become an important part of his life.



Sherry Gilles is an RN, a Death Midwife and a Death Café facilitator. She is experienced in grief work through extensive life experiences and work as a healer. She is a mom with grown daughters. She is involved in social justice issues and increasing accessibility for blind and mobility-challenged people. She is herself blind. She joined our church community as the values of the UU Church are closely aligned with her own.