

A scenic view of a lake surrounded by dense green trees under a clear blue sky. The word "PLAY" is overlaid in large, white, sans-serif capital letters.

PLAY

MIDWEST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SUMMER ASSEMBLY
JULY 3 - JULY 7, 2024

WELCOME

Welcome everyone! Gotta admit: I'm super excited!!!

Having visited our hosts in January with Treasurer John and Registrar Cheryl, I feel like my excitement has a solid base: longtime camper Steve Krahne welcomed us with a tour of the amazing Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington (where camp will be centralized with room to spare). Our meeting with representatives of Indiana University quickly showed they're a well-oiled machine for hosting large groups in their dorm system—our middle school through young adult) will have all the space they need to create the meaningful connections that are a signature for MUUSA. The rest of us will bunk at nearby hotels or our own set of low-cost dorms.

Rev. Misha will be with us again, this time for four services, joining together with our UUCB hosts for Sunday morning service. Having participated in Rev. Misha's services last year, I'm really looking forward to more this summer!

* We say "see you next week" instead of "see you next year" when camp ends.

To those new to camp:

Welcome Welcome Welcome!!

What's new to you may be new to all of us as we're in a temporary home this year. Although we are in a new location this year, we are able to maintain many, if not all, of our traditional camp activities, even as the search for a settled permanent home for MUUSA continues. We are so glad to have you with us, joining our growing community of MUUSAns, and we certainly hope you make the kinds of lasting connections we've been pleased to make with our fellow campers in years past.

Read on in this brochure to get an understanding of what all we've got planned. I know it's going to be a great time; it buoys me through the whole year, every year. I can't wait to see you next Week*!

Nate Warner
MUUSA President



SERVICES

THEME SPEAKER

We welcome back Rev. Misha Sanders for 2024. Rev. Misha Sanders (she/her/hers) is feeling very blessed to be the Senior Minister at Northwest Unitarian Universalist Congregation in beautiful Sandy Springs, Georgia. She is a fiery preacher of the good news of Unitarian Universalism, and believes that the whole world is built and rebuilt by the stories we tell ourselves and each other.



THURSDAY - SUNDAY

MORNING CELEBRATION

Celebrate being together each day at our morning worship service led by Rev. Misha Sanders, with music provided by the Awesome Choir. Children's Programming begins after the Story for All Ages concludes during the service.

MEMORIAL VESPERS

Join us in remembering and honoring the lives of campers who have passed away during the last year. Led by Ruellen Fessenbecker.



A WELCOME FROM OUR HOSTS



The **Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington** welcomes MUUSA this year! We are located at 2120 North Fee Lane in Bloomington, Indiana – just off the campus of Indiana University.

The history of UUCB dates back to 1948, when a half dozen Indiana University faculty families, students, and staff started to meet together in Bloomington. Meetings were lay-led and held in each other's homes about once a month. By 1958, they became a church with a minister and moved to North Fee Lane, its present location, in 1962, originally holding its services in the farmhouse then located on the property.

The present building was started in 1965 and has expanded since. The present meeting room or sanctuary where Sunday services are held was constructed as an addition and dedicated in 1999. This addition nearly doubled the size of the building. In 2011, the Green Spaces project encouraged the installation of more efficient windows, lighting, and solar panels that make us basically carbon neutral. We have over 500 members.

Photos from Steve Krahnke

A WELCOME FROM OUR HOSTS

Many recreational facilities are nearby and available to MUUSA campers (some for a fee), such as the IU outdoor swimming pool, tennis courts, and The Pfau Course with 18-hole golf. You can read about Bloomington's unique attractions at <https://www.visitbloomington.com>.

Bloomington and Monroe County have an abundance of walking/hiking trails. Overnight camping is available at nearby state parks. You may want to bring your bicycle as our Church is on the bike routes. For more information: <https://bloomington.in.gov/transportation/bike/map>.



The sanctuary of UUCB

Griffy Lake, a short drive from the church



Photos from Steve Krahne

FUN STUFF

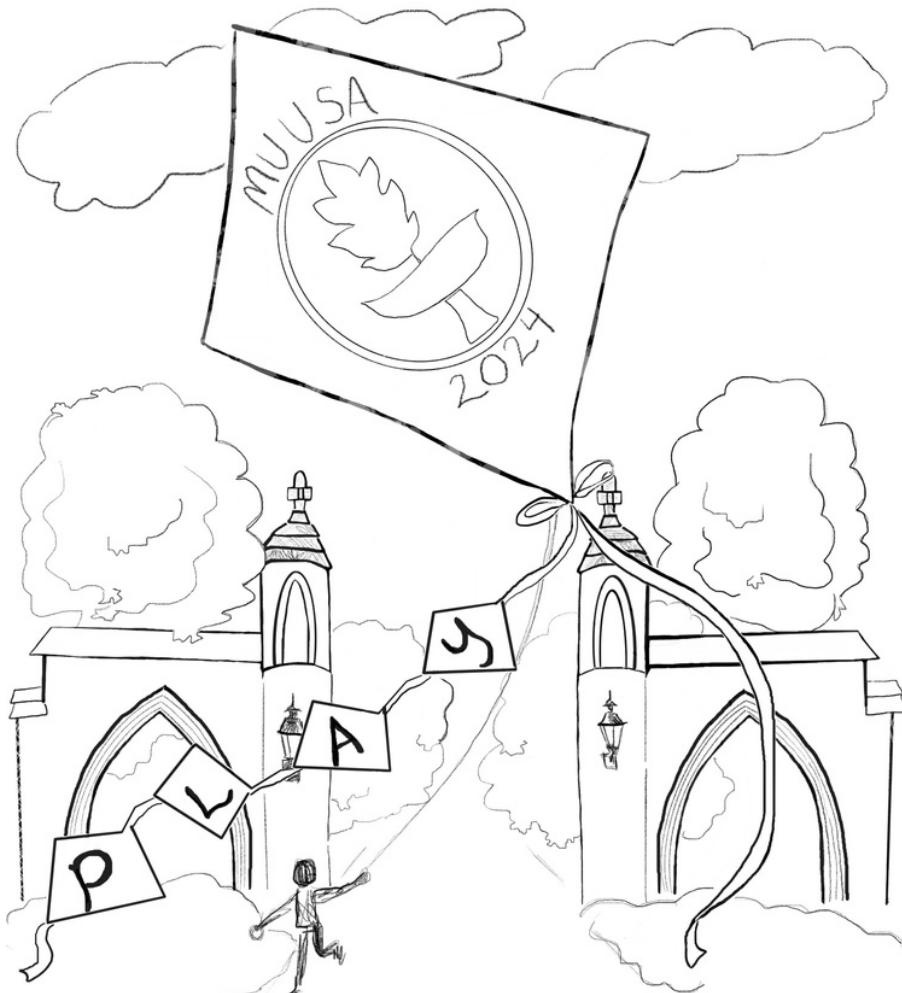
COFFEE HOUSE

Come share your talents with the rest of camp at our nightly open-mic! All manner of talents are welcome! If you have questions or would like to sign up, email Meredith Enersen at meremaren@gmail.com.

THEME ART

Thank you to Sarah Lensink for the awesome theme art!

Watch for your opportunity to purchase this artwork on MUUSA merch, coming soon!



YOUTH & YA PROGRAMS

CRATTY Children's Program Infant through elementary school aged youth entering grade 6 in the fall

Staff provide a safe and fun environment for our infants-entering 6th graders. We plan to enjoy arts and crafts and a wide range of indoor and outdoor fun activities. We look forward to exploring the surrounding nature areas and using the nearby swimming pool. Age groups will be based on the kids attending MUUSA this year. Lifelong camp experiences start and continue here! We look forward to seeing old and new campers this summer. For more information, contact Tabitha Rasmussen (theviolinmommy@aol.com).

MEYER Middle School aged youth entering grades 7-9 in the fall

During MUUSA-Con our "Meyer" campers will stay together at the McNutt Complex with their hardworking counselors who create a safe place for sharing, learning their own boundaries, and building a fantastic community. Our young teens will participate in activities designed to support emotional and spiritual growth and empower middle school youth. We are also sure to have plenty of fun! For more information, contact Ben Krueger (benjkrueger@gmail.com) and Trevor Smith (trevorsmith7224@gmail.com).



YOUTH & YA PROGRAMS

BURT High School aged youth entering grades 10-12 in the fall

In our Sr. High program, which we call "Burt," we create a community where we love and support everyone no matter what. Burt is a welcoming space where we become courageous and responsible, discover ourselves, make life-long friends, and have a ton of fun. Programming for "Burtoids" at MUUSA will include workshops, worship, games, arts and crafts, a talent show, music sharing, and other yearly traditions. We look forward to seeing old and new youth "campers" at MUUSA! For more information, contact Margaret Mitchell (coronamadonna@gmail.com)

YOUNG ADULTS Ages 18-35

The Young Adult program (YAs) offers attendees in the age range of 18-35 a unique and flexible sense of community. YAs have housing and communal spaces, worships, outdoor activities, and wacky traditions that are specific to our group. And, all YAs have the full freedom to take part in any of the adult workshops and programming offered to the camp at large, so you can really make your camp experience anything you want! If you like cheesesballs, puns, and a good round of super smash bros, come check us out! Questions, comments, suggestions and more can be sent to Meredith Enersen (meremaren@gmail.com) or Grant Lyon (grantlyonhasanemail@gmail.com)



WORKSHOPS

EARLY MORNING (BEFORE MORNING CELEBRATION)

- **5k run** (1-day, Thurs.). Details TBA.
- **Bird walk** (1-day: Fri.). Leader: Eve Cusack. Participants will walk about 2 miles looking for local breeding birds. We may visit more than one site depending on how many birds show up. No maximum on participants. Materials: bring binoculars if possible. No fee.

MORNING (AFTER MORNING CELEBRATION)

- **Beginning Poetry Workshop: Writing from Your Authentic Self** (1-day: Thurs., 2-hour slot) Leader: Lisa Dordal. The task of writers, according to poet Natalie Goldberg, is to say a “holy yes” to life and to live and write with the knowledge that our lives—which are both completely ordinary and wondrously mythical—matter. In this generative workshop, we will explore what it means to use our own unique stories and identities to inform our writing—what it means to shape the stories and details of our ordinary (and extraordinary!) lives into writing that has the potential to enrich and transform how we understand our own lives. Participants will have the opportunity to generate new material through a variety of writing exercises and will receive a list of practical tips for how to best cultivate and nurture their writing. This workshop is open to all levels—even those who’ve never written a poem before! Maximum participants: 15. Fee: none. Materials: bring pen/pencil and paper.
- **UU's are Funny People** (1-day: Thurs.) Leaders: Dan and Sharon Wiseman. A workshop on healthy humor and aspects of being a UU that make us unique and lovable. This will be an experiential session so be prepared to be creative and have more fun than a UU board meeting. No maximum on participants. Materials/fee: none.
- **Adventures in Native Plants** (1-day: Thurs.) Leaders: Chris Whittaker and Thane Thompson. Informational session on native plants, including identifying native plants and understanding their benefits to biodiversity, resilience, and how to incorporate them into your home landscape. The impact and management of invasive species will also be discussed. Includes Midwest native plants online resources and a list of nurseries to obtain native plants and seeds. Thane and Chris are Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists and have been slowly converting their suburban lawn into a native plant sanctuary. Maximum participants: 18. Materials/fee: none. Note this is separate from the Native Plant hiking excursion.

MORNING WORKSHOPS CONTINUED

- **Tarot Reading Demonstration** (1-day: Fri.) Leader: Chris Whittaker. Are you tarot-curious? Want to see what a tarot reading is like (and maybe even learn something about tarot along the way)? Do you have a burning question you would like to have answered with the cards? Chris will demonstrate tarot readings for volunteers in the session. All efforts will be made to keep the session light-hearted and fun. Please don't pose questions you wouldn't want discussed in front of a group or that have the potential to be embarrassing or painful! There will be time for 6-10 readings, depending on complexity. Maximum participants: 12. Materials/fee: none.
- **Awesome Choir!** (2-day: Fri., Sat., plus additional early morning rehearsals Sat. and Sun.) Leader: Pam Blevins Hinkle. All experience levels and voice types are welcome to join the inimitable Awesome Choir as we prepare music for the worship service. We look forward to co-creating sonic joy with you! No maximum on participants. Materials/fee: none.
- **How we Save our Earth** (1-day: Sat.) Leader: Diana Ensign Join Diana J. Ensign, author of FAITH, HOPE, ACTION: Ushering in a New Earth Era Together, for this enlightening conversation regarding care of our Earth home. Inspired by a deep love of nature and a concern for our environmental and climate change challenges, Diana embarked on a yearlong quest to learn what we need to do to save our Earth home. Along this journey, she spoke to scientists, farmers, Indigenous teachers, environmental justice advocates, student activists, and faith-based visionaries who are working for a sustainable planet. Find out what she learned during this workshop. No maximum on participants. Materials/fee: none.
- **Carving Limestone** (1-day: Sat.) Leaders: Richard Linnemeier and Frank Young. Try out carving limestone! Maximum participants: 12. Materials: a good attitude! (All other materials will be supplied. Must sign a waiver and wear safety glasses, which are provided.) Fee: none.
- **Tai chi** (3-day: Thurs., Fri., Sat.). Leader: Nan Fox. Huang style moving meditation set to music. Chi Gong warm-up. Reflective poetry and check-in for participants. Maximum participants: 20. Materials/fee: none.

EARLY AFTERNOON (AFTER LUNCH)

- **Class Aware: Class and Culture Power Walk** (1-day: Fri., 2-hour slot) Leader: Suzanne Zilber. Maximum participants: 16. Fee/equipment: none.
- **Writing as a Calling** (1-day: Sat.) Leader: Scott Russell Sanders. Sanders has won acclaim for his skill as a personal essayist. A contributing editor for Orion magazine, he has won the John Burroughs Natural History Essay Award, the Indiana Authors Award, and the Mark Twain Award, among other honors. In 2012 he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Sanders was a judge for the 2016 Permafrost Book Prize in Nonfiction for Permafrost: Literary Journal. Maximum participants: 10. Materials: Possible reading assignment, or participants may be asked to bring a sample of their own writing. Fee: none.

EARLY AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS CONTINUED

- **Artists Playda(te)s** (3-day: Th., Fri., Sat.) Leader: Stephanie Lewis Robertson. Participants will explore different techniques and materials, focusing on simple art making techniques such as printmaking, paste-papers and mono-printing. Final day will also include ways to incorporate the papers into other projects such as cards, wall pieces and small sculptural forms. Maximum participants: 20. Materials: Some simple supplies, or Stephanie can supply these for a fee. Fee: none except materials fee if participants do not bring their own materials.
- **Improv for Everyone** (3-day: Th., Fri., Sat.) Leader: Tom Robertson. A participatory workshop introducing the basics of improv and the “Yes, and” philosophy through improv warm-ups, exercises, and games. No prior performing experience is needed, and class content varies each year to make each year’s workshop new for past participants. Maximum participants: 16. Materials/fee: none.
- **Zen meditation** (3-day: Th., Fri., Sat.) Leaders: taiso Byran Bartow and Mitra Robyn Davis Bartow. Join us for Zen meditation practice. There will be instruction for any who need it, and the opportunity for private discussion outside of the practice period for those who would like this. Maximum participants: no limit. Materials: Those who have their own cushions or benches are encouraged to bring these if possible. No fee.

LATE AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS (BEFORE DINNER)

- **Camp-wide pool party** (1-day, Thursday, ~3:30-5:00). Swim time open to all MUUSA campers at IU pool. Fee: possible reduced fee, details TBA.
- **Taekwondo** (3-day: Th., Fri., Sat.) Leader: Eve Cusack. Participants will engage in vigorous activity learning and practicing a variety of low- or no-contact taekwondo hits, kicks and strikes. There will be an emphasis on protocol, which is very different from a normal workshop. We will be using formalities. There will not be side conversations or open dialogue. Eve has a third degree black belt and has been practicing for nine years. Class will be held barefoot. Maximum participants: 12. Materials: If you have martial arts bats, please bring them! Loose clothing or martial arts uniform. Fee: none.
- **Last Resort String Band** (3-day: Th., Fri., Sat.; 4:15-5:15 time slot) Leader: Ken Sharp. Continue our 43-year jam on acoustic instruments to prepare for a Coffee House gig. Maximum participants: 20. Materials/fee: none.

EARLY EVENING EVENTS

- **Improv Jam** (1-day: Fri.) Leader: Tom Robertson. Informal get-together for improvisers to play favorite and new improv games and exercises. The jam is not instructional, so some prior exposure to the basics of improv is preferred, though not required. Participants are encouraged to share and lead games and exercises with new participants. Maximum participants: 24. Materials/fee: none.
- **Author wine & book signing event** (1-day: Sat.) Leader: Diana Ensign. MUUSA authors with recent books will have tables for book signing opportunities.

EXCURSIONS & EVENTS

Bloomington and Indiana University offer unique opportunities for nature and other off-site excursions!

ADVENTURES WITH NATIVE PLANTS HIKE

Sat. morning workshop-lunchtime. Leaders: Chris Whittaker and Thane Thompson. Participants will meet at a local park to go on a guided hike featuring native plants of the Midwest. Easy to moderate hike. Leaders are Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists. Maximum participants: 12. Materials to bring: Sturdy hiking shoes, water bottles, and appropriate trail dress required. Sun screen, insect repellent, and a hat strongly recommended. Possible lunch fee TBA.

BIRD BANDING

Sat. 7/6 early morning – 12:00, drop-in for 90+ minutes. Leaders: Eve and Sam Cusack. Eve and Sam will host visitors at the bird banding site where they band birds every ten days throughout the summer months. They will be using mist nets to capture wild birds, put a band on their ankle and take data points and then release them. You will likely get to hold and/or release a wild bird. This is part of an international research project. No fee, no maximum on participants.

POTTERY HOUSE STUDIO

Friday 7/5 morning workshop time. Leaders: Natalia Schau, Susan Snyder. Paint pottery with Susan Snyder, a Maiolica pottery painter and teacher, who will guide you in using glazes to create beautiful and whimsical pieces of your choosing. Check out her work at www.potteryhousestudio.com. Fee depends on the piece you choose. Max. participants: 40. All ages may participate.

TOUR OF IU RECORDING STUDIO

Thursday 7/4 morning workshop time. Leader: Michael Stucker. Tour of the Georgina Joshi recording studio and Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music. There is also the possibility of a tour of the Musical Arts Center stage. Maximum participants: 20. Fee: none.

BREWERY TOUR/TASTING

Friday 4 PM-dinner. Leader: Steve Krahne. No maximum on participants. Fee: TBA, plus optional dinner for those who stay for dinner at the brewery.

HOUSING INFORMATION

Indiana University dorms: We have multiple floors of rooms in two of the dorms in the McNutt Quadrangle. The rooms are mostly doubles, with some singles. (View a tour of a double room in this complex here: <https://tinyurl.com/dormpreview24>.) The beds are mostly lofted (42in high) and take twin XL sheets but we will likely have a few rooms with at least one bed at 20in height. The dorm rooms have drawers and wardrobes. Bathrooms are in the hall, with public sinks and private toilets and showers. Each floor has a lounge. And yes, the dorms are air conditioned!

Young adults will be in the dorms; Burt (Sr High, grades 10-12) and Meyer (Jr high, grades 7-9) will stay in the dorms with their adult counselors. Dorm housing is also an option for anyone else age 10+ who wants this affordable option! Please note that no alcohol will be allowed in the dorms at all.

PLEASE NOTE: The University has a no-exceptions “10 years old” minimum age for staying in the dorms. All youth staying in the dorms will need to be in one of the MUUSA junior (Meyer) or senior (Burt) high programs, or 10+ years old and staying with a responsible adult.



We have a block of rooms available at Home2Suites, only 0.8 miles from UUCB. Its close proximity and their willingness to give us a good rate at a distance that is walkable for many of us made them a clear choice. In addition, they have a pool, a firepit, and free breakfast. Both king and double queen suites with a pull-out couch and a kitchenette are available. These rooms will be available until June 2024, after which they will be released to the general public.

The rate is \$109 per night for up to 6 people per room depending on your choice of sleeping arrangements. Lunch will be offered at UUCB, or you can opt for meals at the IU dining hall where our residential youth programs (junior high through young adult) will be. (We will ask you to choose at registration so everyone can plan with good numbers.) Ample parking should be available at each location, and carpooling is encouraged. Click [here](#) to reserve your room: [Midwest UU Summer Assembly](#).

Bloomington has a variety of other hotels within 1 mile of the church and various VRBO's if this hotel does not fit your needs. Note that activities for adults and children 6th grade and younger will be centered at UUCB, which is at the corner of IN-SR45/46 and North Fee Lane, so you might want to find a hotel near here.

DINING INFORMATION

Dining:

Youth (Burt and Meyer) meals will be in the McNutt dining hall, which has many different dining stations, including one with foods free from the nine most common allergens

(<https://www.dining.indiana.edu/locations/dininghalls/mcnutt.html>). Other stations include pasta, soup and salads, grill and BBQ, pan-Asian, pizza, burgers, and more – including a dessert station with PIE! Anyone opting to stay in the dorms will need to commit to a meal plan with at least two meals at the McNutt dining hall. Adults can also request a meal plan (with breakfast and dinner at McNutt and lunch at Church OR all meals at McNutt) regardless of where they are staying.



Pictures courtesy of Indiana University Dining

REGISTRATION INFO. & POLICIES

Register online! You will need to register online - we will send out reminders by email and Facebook! We don't need to worry about running out of room this year!

When you register, we will ask about roommates for any junior or senior high kids as well as young adults and anyone else staying in the dorms. Please note that in the dorms, we will need to have single-gender floors with the exception of family housing. Youth can stay on the floor of their identified gender, but roommates must be of the same biological gender (we have to honor the policies of the University). We will have at least some singles available on each floor. There will still be inclusive common spaces for each Meyer and Burt! The Registrar will be making room assignments working with the University ahead of our time at camp. Contact the Registrar (Registrar@muusa.org) with any questions or concerns.

Cancellations: Cancellations on or after June 1 – campers will be charged 50% of their camp fee. The Executive Committee may use its discretion to waive cancellation charges in cases of serious illness or unavoidable circumstances. Notify the Registrar immediately as soon as the cancellation is known (cancelregistrar@muusa.org).

Commuters: Commuters are welcome at camp this year, regardless if you are

commuting from home or a nearby hotel. Be sure to register as a commuter and indicate your meal preference!

Early arrivals and late departures: You are welcome to arrive early to Bloomington ahead of camp, or to stay longer. MUUSA activities and food at UUCB will not begin until Wednesday night and will wrap up Sunday midday. Children under the age of 18 must be under the care of an adult any time camp is not in session. We can likely arrange rooms and meals in the IU dorms ahead of and/or after camp – contact the Registrar ASAP to coordinate this if you want to make use of the IU options.

Day passes and drop-in visitors: Visitors staying longer than 2 hours must register. Fees may be assessed depending on age and meal plan. A \$20 late fee will be assessed for in-camp registration. Contact the Registrar at registrar@muusa.org for details ahead of camp. Visitors and day passes may attend workshops with the leader's permission.

Partial-week campers: Pro-rated rates may be available for overnight or partial stays at the discretion of the Registrar.

Payment will be requested at registration. Payment will be accepted by mail or by website. You can help MUUSA save money by paying with a check.

Questions? Contact the camp Registrar, Cheryl Heinz, at registrar@muusa.org

REGISTRATION RATES

Dorm Housing with full meals at Dorm	Adult	\$500
Dorm Housing with full meals at Dorm	Burt, Meyer, Cratty, YA	\$360
Dorm Housing with partial meals at Dorm (breakfast, dinner)*	Adults	\$500
Dorm Housing with partial meals at Dorm (breakfast, dinner)*	YA or Cratty	\$360
Commuter with breakfast, dinner at Dorm*	Adult	\$300
Commuter with breakfast, dinner at Dorm*	YA or Cratty	\$215
Commuter with dinner at Dorm*	Adult	\$250
Commuter with dinner at Dorm*	Ya or Cratty	\$175
Commuter with no meals at Dorm*	Adult	\$210
Commuter with no meals at Dorm*	YA or Cratty	\$150
Children under 6 with breakfast, dinner at Dorm*		\$100
Children under 6 with dinner at Dorm*		\$50
Children under 6 with no meals at Dorm*		Free

*Lunches for adults and Cratty youth will be at the church unless full meals at Dorm is selected at registration.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR OMSBUDDY

Hello MUUSA!

So excited for another week to begin together. Camp is, of course, happening in a new location. We will gather at the beautiful Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington. This year, the primary housing accommodations are located at Indiana University Bloomington. The dorms we will use for MUUSA are approximately 0.6 miles from the church. For those looking for more traditional lodging, the nearest hotel is 0.8 miles away. Bring a day bag to reduce your back-and-forths!

As your Omsbuddy, I have 4 major roles:

- I strive to maintain a harmonious space, helping everyone have a positive experience.
- I create a space to talk about an issue or concern you may have.
- I explore creative options to help foster positive resolutions.
- I bring systemic concerns to the attention of MUUSA for resolution.

As usual, I will be available to campers throughout our time together. If you have issues or concerns during MUUSA, please contact me. I am available through Telegram, WhatsApp, and text message at 720-982-9006. This will be the best way to reach me. I can't wait to see everyone!

Duncan Metcalfe
MUUSA Omsbuddy

HISTORY OF MUUSA

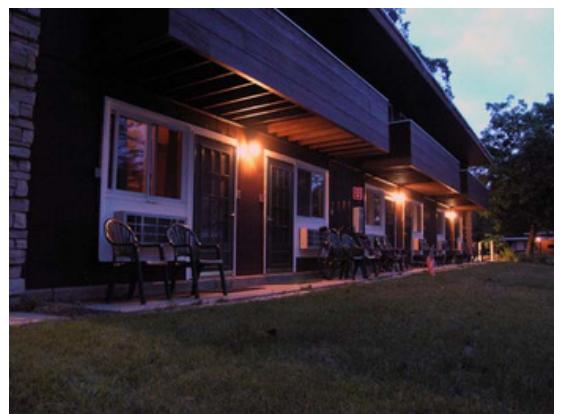
Camp has been around since 1944. First settled in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin and called Lake Geneva Summer Assembly (LGSA), it was there from 1944-2006. Then, following a couple of transitional years, camp settled in Potosi, MO, with the new name of Midwest UU Summer Assembly (MUUSA). Camp life continued in Missouri from 2008-2022.

Now in a transitional period again, campers assembled in Naperville, IL, in 2023 and in 2024 MUUSA will be in Bloomington, IN. Of the 400-600 campers we've had in past years, a large part of the population has come from DUUC in Naperville and UUCB in Bloomington.

This year we are grateful to the UUCB for welcoming and hosting camp and to the BLUUSA committee for assisting with many aspects of this year's camp. We couldn't have done it without you!



Trout Lodge



From Lake Geneva

