

# FIRST UNITARIAN FOCUS



Congregation founded 1836;  
Current sanctuary built 1904

## *Newsletter of the First Unitarian Church*

*Alton, Illinois*  
[www.firstuualton.org](http://www.firstuualton.org)



Interior window and chandelier;  
Photo by Nancy Conniff

**July 2014**

### Summer Worship Services are at 10 am

**July 6, 2014**

*“You + Me = We”*

**Paul Fischer**

**Liturgist: Sabrina Trupia**

**July 13, 2014**

*“The Hepatic Theory of Moral Insight”*

**Jeremy Colton**

Jeremy offers a tool to help us resolve moral conundrums.

**Liturgist: Paul Fischer**

**July 20, 2014**

*“If at first you don't succeed...”*

**Sabrina Trupia**

What's so great about perseverance? Why is it good to tough it out, keep at it and not walk away from difficult, boring, mundane or unwanted situations?

**Liturgist: Mary Johnson**

**July 27, 2014**

**Title to be Announced**

**Michelle Bryant Barbeau**

**Liturgist: To be Announced**

### Interim Minister

The Church Board has selected The Rev. Sunshine Wolfe as our interim minister. Rev. Wolfe is just finishing an interim ministry in Montgomery, AL, and will be joining our congregation in August. If you would like to learn more about our new minister during the summer transition time, you can check out Rev. Wolfe's website:

<http://www.sunshinejeremiahwolfe.com/>.

Members of the Transition Team working with Rev. Wolfe are Sayer Johnson, Marcia Custer, and Sarah Lazarz.

**11:15 am ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
(ARE)  
Nursery childcare available**

There will be no 9:30 ARE during the summer.

The 11:15 ARE program will be coordinated by Dee Evans. The discussion topics for the summer sessions are chosen each week by the participants.

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**SUMMER SPEAKER SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST  
10 am**

**August 3 - Sayer Johnson  
August 10 - Ron Glossop  
August 17 - TBA  
August 24 - TBA  
August 31 - TBA**

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**Summer Contacts**

**Board President, Sabrina Trupia  
[strupia@gmail.com](mailto:strupia@gmail.com)**

**Board Secretary, Sandy Shaner  
[wrgma2@gmail.com](mailto:wrgma2@gmail.com)**

**Church Office: 618-462-2462  
[church@firstuualton.org](mailto:church@firstuualton.org)**

**Church Administrator, Becky Green: 618-304-6555**

**Directory Update**

A new church directory was sent out via email on June 9. If there are changes to be made in your contact information, please let Becky Green know [church@firstuualton.org](mailto:church@firstuualton.org) or 618-462-2462.

**New Address:**  
Chris & Lisa Strangeman  
Edwardsville, IL 62025

Dear Friends,

*This is an open letter to All our wonderful loving church family. Char & I want to let you all know how special the Alton UU Church and its congregation has been to our lives.*

*From the first moment (Sunday) we walked into the church, Char and I were accepted as partners with no hesitation. We have NEVER experienced that before in our 32 years together. You have allowed us to find a spiritual home which we never had before. This church (you) has allowed us to transform into the couple we always wanted to be. We are loving caring people and found the same here.*

*In the past 7 months so much has changed for us: (1.) We got married on June 2, which we never thought would happen in our lifetimes. (2.) Another change in our lives, we are relocating to Southwest Florida where we just spent the winter.*

*Our home in Jerseyville sold within 26 hours after putting it on the market. We made new friends this past winter in Florida and they are opening their home to us until we find our own home. We will be moving July 17.*

*Words can really not express how much this church has meant to us and your unconditional love. When we have an address we will send it along. Please feel free to come and visit us.*

*The Welcome Sign is out, as it was for us*

*Lee Suarez &  
Char McAllister*





**Report from  
the Board  
Sandy Shaner,  
Secretary**

We hope that the weekly updates at services and in the “church this week” e-mail are keeping you updated on our progress in securing, first, an interim minister and, eventually, a settled minister. In addition to all the business behind the selection of Rev. Sunshine Wolfe, we’ve continued regular business.

After the May Board meeting we held an electronic conversation and approved the selection of Bob Larson to complete the unexpired term created by Lee Suarez’s resignation. Immediately prior to the June Board meeting, we met with Lisa Presley, one of the Congregational Life Consultants for the Mid-America Region, to document our experiences with Khleber during his ministry. She will document the interview for us to review for accuracy (which we did subsequently) and which she will then share with both Khleber and Sunshine before the Interim Ministry begins.

At the June meeting we updated our policy on bank signatories to reflect the FY14-15 officers, discussed our policy and charges for use of the building for weddings, and selected three members to ask to serve on the Transition Team. The UUA defines this group members who are widely known and respected and well acquainted with the congregation’s history. Their role is to provide the Interim Minister with insight, organizational and facilitative talent, and willing hands as the ministry proceeds. We will report soon on the members who will serve the Congregation in this way. As always, please let us know if you have any questions, especially during this transition period.

**Your Church Board  
July 2014 – June 2015**

<b>President</b>	<b>Sabrina Trupia</b>
<b>President Elect</b>	<b>Debby Lovell</b>
<b>Past President</b>	<b>Kelly Crone-Willis</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Sandy Shaner</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Michelle Bryant-Barbeau</b>
<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Bob Larson</b>
<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Paul Fischer</b>
<b>Youth Rep.</b>	<b>Vacant</b>



**Church PotluckLunch  
July 6, 2014  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each Month**

We hold our potluck lunches on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month. Bring a dish to share on July 6<sup>st</sup> and stay after the service to join with friends and newcomers in an enjoyable tradition. **Volunteers are needed to help set the tables and help clean up, so please enjoy both the food and the sharing of the tasks.**

**Worship Associates Team  
Monday, July 7  
7 to 8:30 pm**



Have you wanted to share in bringing new perspectives to Sunday morning worship? Would you would enjoy a deeper study of what happens (emotionally, spiritually, intellectually) during worship, and how to make those experiences more meaningful to yourself and the congregation? If so, please plan to attend the Worship Associate Team meeting.

**LIVING SIMPLY  
UNITY CIRCLE**



The Unity Circle, facilitated by Sharon Johnson, will meet on **Sunday, July 20** from 11:15 to 1:00 pm.

Everyone is welcome. Participants should join if they are able to commit to joining us monthly for 6-12 months, as this Unity Circle is intended for relationship building.

This Unity Circle is intended for deep listening, and not feedback or advice.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Send Newsletter items by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month to the newsletter editor, Mary Johnson – [mejohanson@mindspring.com](mailto:mejohanson@mindspring.com) and also to Becky Green in the church office [church@firstuualton.org](mailto:church@firstuualton.org)  
Church phone: 618-462-2462  
Mail: PO Box 494, AltonIL62002



### Donations to the Alton Crisis Food Center

People need food year round. Please continue to bring your donations of non-perishable food for The Crisis Food Center. The Center is in need of canned green beans, corn and other vegetables; tuna; canned meat; peanut butter; boxes of mac 'n cheese; and basic food staples. The food collection box is in the RE foyer.

Personal care items should be put on the shelves in Emerson Place.

## Interest Groups

### ANNA DS – WOMEN’S ALLIANCE



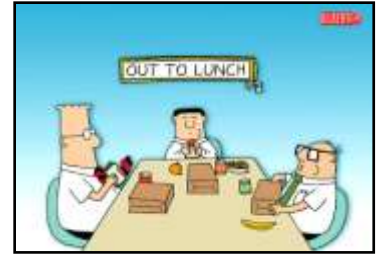
Our next Anna D’s meeting will be held on **Thursday, July 3** at 11:30 am at Bella Milano in Edwardsville – 1063 State 157. The restaurant is visible from the road. RSVP to our hostess Joan Hashimi [jhashimi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jhashimi@sbcglobal.net) by Tuesday, July 1.

**Fifty-Plus (50+) Forum**  
**First SATURDAY of every month**  
**July 5, 2014**  
**10:30 am to noon at church**



We invite anyone who is over 50 or even getting near that milestone to join us. We have a lot in common: long work lives, preparation for or entry into retirement, a vast array of interests ... and we love sharing all of it.

### Men’s Monthly Lunch July 10 @ 11:30 am



The Men’s lunch bunch meets the second Thursday of each month. Join us on **Thursday, July 10** at 11:30 am at the **Best Buffet** at 615 Wesley, Drive in Wood River, IL. All men in our church are invited.

### RENEGADE WOMEN - TOPICAL DISCUSSIONS

**1 pm to 3 pm every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday.**

**JULY 19, 2014**

The Renegade Women will continue meeting throughout the summer. For information, contact Dee Evans.

The theme for this church year is “Women in Organizations.”



### Fourth Saturday Lunch & Personal Care Items for those in need July 26 11:30 am

Information about what is needed for May’s lunch will be available at church, via email from the Church Office, on UU Friends, and on the First Unitarian Church of Alton’s Facebook page. Questions – contact Robyn Berkley [robynberkley@yahoo.com](mailto:robynberkley@yahoo.com)

Our distribution of personal care items has become very popular – as many of these needed items cannot be purchased through the government’s “Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program” (SNAP - formerly known as food stamps). If you can contribute any of the following items, your donation would be very welcome. Toilet paper – feminine hygiene products – shampoo – laundry detergent – bleach – baby wipes – diapers/pull-ups – Afro-American hair products – cleaning supplies – toothpaste - soap. Questions – contact Sabrina Trupia [strupia@gmail.com](mailto:strupia@gmail.com)



## July Birthdays

Most people enjoy getting a card, email, or phone call on their birthday. Below is the list we have of church members and friends celebrating birthdays this month. If you do not think the church office has your birthday on file, please contact Becky Green at [church@firstuualton.org](mailto:church@firstuualton.org) and give her that information.

7/06 Joan Hashimi  
7/09 Jonah Koch, (13)  
7/09 Sabrina Trupia  
7/18 Staci Bratten  
7/19 Heather Kirk  
7/20 Kevin McCarthy  
7/21 Paula Moore  
7/23 Dan Conniff  
7/23 Catherine Oldt, (18)  
7/23 Ronnie Schoenborn  
7/24 Midge Hallett  
7/25 Josephine Costarella  
7/25 Jean Kirts  
7/26 Lyric Johnson (7)  
7/26 Cheryle Tucker  
7/28 Michael Andrews (10)  
7/28 Erkin Baker  
7/29 Grace Madison  
7/30 Alex Hoeft



**Save the Date!** The Garden Ministry is hosting a **100 Mile Dinner Party** on **August 23** to support the UUSC 100 Garden Project. This project sponsors gardens in Haiti to help in their reconstruction efforts after the devastating earthquake in 2010. This fun, family friendly get together will highlight the best food within 100 miles of our congregation. More information will be forthcoming, so stay tuned! Questions? Contact Tracey Howe-Koch.

# Lay Caring Ministry

Below is the list of members of the **Caring Ministries Team**.

**Marcia Custer** is the Coordinator. You may always contact a Team member in time of illness, loss, crisis, or other need. Keep this list of contact people available in case you or your family is in need of pastoral support.

**Kathryn Chapman**  
[paintedgeoatfarm@yahoo.com](mailto:paintedgeoatfarm@yahoo.com)

**Marcia Custer**  
[mcuster@siue.edu](mailto:mcuster@siue.edu)

**Claudia Harju**  
[dachsandcats@gmail.com](mailto:dachsandcats@gmail.com)

**Kathleen McKeever**  
[mckeeverjim@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mckeeverjim@sbcglobal.net)

**Ethel Potts**  
[ethel.h.potts@gmail.com](mailto:ethel.h.potts@gmail.com)

**Donna Young**  
[donnae47@gmail.com](mailto:donnae47@gmail.com)

The Caring Ministries Committee is ready to welcome several more members! If you are interested in engaging in conversations with other church friends and getting to know them on a deeper level, please consider joining our group! Please contact Marcia Custer at [mcuster@siue.edu](mailto:mcuster@siue.edu) for more information.