

FIRST UNITARIAN FOCUS

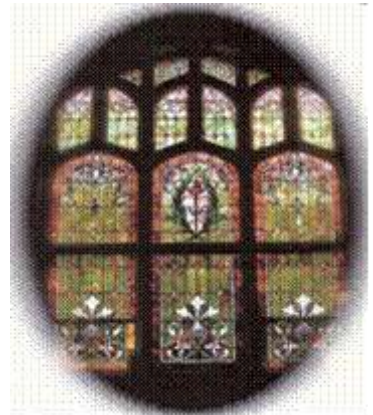


Photo by Rev. Sunshine Wolfe, 2015

Newsletter of the
**First
Unitarian
Church**

Alton, Illinois

www.firstuualton.org



Rev. Dawn Fortune

September 2016

Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 am

Theme for September is Action

September 4

Rev. Dawn Fortune

Worship Associate: Dee Evans

September 11

Dee Evans

Worship Associate: Yomi Kinder

September 18

Rev. Dawn Fortune

Worship Associate: Joy Hoeft

September 25

Ron Glossop

Worship Associate: Robin Crane

ADULT RELIGIOUS ENRICHMENT (ARE)

“The Seekers”

As we begin a new church year, with a new minister, our theme of the month for September is Action. Come join us for a chance to catch up with your church family and an on-going discussion of how we can best put our faith to work in the world.

Religious Education for Children and Youth

We are looking forward to an exciting year with our children and Youth. Children / Youth Religious Education will begin September 25. Please fill out and return registration forms as soon as possible so that we will have some idea of how many children and youth will be in classes.

We are also still looking for several more people to facilitate our Youth Group. I am asking that you volunteer one Sunday a month from September to December.

The curriculum that the Youth will be using is called Popcorn Theology. They will be watching segments of particular movies associated with various themes. Afterwards, there will be discussion and activity. We have a great group of Youth. Help keep them engaged in wanting to come to church.

At this age, if there isn't anything that they feel excited or drawn to, they will stop coming to church. Let's be the reason that they want to come to church.

If you have any questions or comments about RE, please contact Joy Hoeft, kjabhoeft@gmail.com.



**Nursery services are
available for children
under 4 years of age.**

Church Potluck Lunch Sept. 4, 11:00 am

Start fall out right! Celebrate the coming of cooler weather with your church family; bring food to share and enjoy time together. And always remember to do your share to wash, dry, and put away.



OUR HEARTS GO OUT to Dee Evans, who lost her husband, Richard, and to Layne Simpson, who lost her mother, Rosemary. Please keep these church family members in your thoughts and prayers.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

From the Editor Newsletter Deadline is on the 15 of each month. Send info. to Dorothy Wilson djccw@sbcglobal.net and to Becky Green at church church@firstuualton.org

Please remember to bring non-perishable foods to contribute to the Alton Crisis Food Pantry. It's important to our neighbors



Is It Your Turn?



If you've ever had a cup of coffee or tea, or a glass of water or lemonade, or had a snack during coffee hour, or enjoyed a potluck lunch at church, please take **YOUR** turn at doing coffee hour cleanup. It should not take more than 30 minutes to take care of the dishes following our policy of "wash, dry, and put away"

CHURCH LEADERSHIP 2016 - 2017

Board of Trustees

Board President - Dee Evans
President-Elect - Michael Schmidt
Past President - Debby Lovell
Treasurer - Lisa Strangeman
Secretary - Pat Moore
At-Large - Robin Crane
At-Large - Paul Hebert

Committee/Team Leads

Transitions Committee - TBA
Social Events - Vacant
Interfaith and U.U. - Vacant

Pastoral Associates

Marcia Custer
Sandra Shaner

Religious Education Council

Chair - Joy Hoeft

Stewardship Committee

Building - Kelly Crone-Willis
Grounds - Robyn Stranquist
Canvass 2017 - TBA
Endowment Fund - Kelly Crone-Willis
Finance - Matt Koch
Membership - Mary Weber
Sunday Support Ministries - TBA

Worship Associates

Tom Cochran
Robin Crane
Joy Hoeft
Yomi Kinder
Rebecca Walters
Kayci Combs-Lueker



The Worship Associates Team is happy to announce that Kayci Combs-Lueker has joined us to assist in leading worship. We are looking for one or two (or more) people to join the rotation, as we have lost a couple of people to very busy work schedules. Please contact Rev. Dawn Fortune at [314-399-1023](tel:314-399-1023) or revdawnfortune@gmail.com.

Since Dee Evans' two year term as a Worship Associate is up in December, she will be resigning from that as of September 1st although she will be at the meetings, at least through December. This leaves Dee free to attend to the duties of the Board. It also allows a new associates to apply and work with Reverend Dawn starting in October. Worship Associate is a wonderful way to serve our church. The next Worship Associate meeting will be September 17 at 3 pm.

Congregational Covenant

Approved May 17, 2015



To strengthen and nurture with love, compassion and respect, we covenant to:

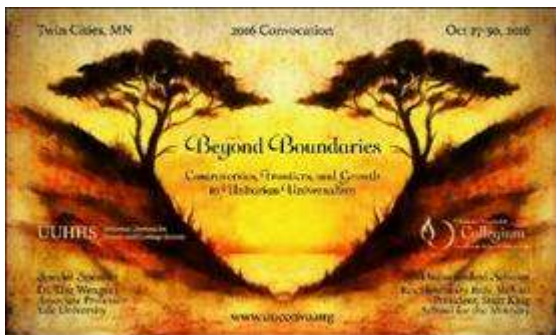
Honor and make space for our diversity, respect our volunteers, leaders and staff by supporting balance in their lives and in their personal and professional pursuits;

Encourage each member to develop a personal spiritual practice that cultivates honesty and acceptance;

Remembering our humanness we acknowledge our imperfection and extend forgiveness to ourselves and others;

Engage within our own and larger community with integrity, by taking responsibility for our actions, facilitating right relationships, and living into the Journey.

(The acronym for our Covenant is [HERE](#))



“Beyond Boundaries: Controversies, Frontiers, and Growth in Unitarian Universalism”

Thursday, Oct. 27 – Sunday, Oct. 30, 2016

At the Airport Hilton, Bloomington MN

Put on by the UU Collegium for Liberal Religious Studies and the Unitarian Universalist History & Heritage Society.

Papers, panels, posters, and workshops related to the study of Unitarian Universalism past, present, and future.

Registration: \$285

This fee includes meals from Thursday dinner through Sunday lunch (no breakfasts)

(Some financial aid up to \$150 is available for students or those with limited means.).

Housing: Airport Hilton: \$99 per night.

For further information go to www.uuconvo.org.

5th Annual Women’s

Autumn Weekend

at Bergfried

Friday-Sunday, September

23-25, 2016



The women of Eliot Chapel would like to invite the women of the First Church of Alton, IL to join us for a weekend at Bergfried, Eliot’s beautiful pastoral location about eight miles west of Hermann, Mo.

There is *unlimited* camping space available in the meadows at Bergfried. There are also limited indoor sleeping spaces available in a small cottage and two newly built bunkhouses next to the meadow. These spaces will be available upon registration, on a first come, first served basis.

There will be campfires in the fire pit under our comfortable open shelter on Friday and Saturday evenings. A number of activities (all optional) are planned for Saturday and there will be a service on Sunday morning. There will be lots of time for relaxation, reconnecting with old friends and making new friends. Women who would like to join us for this fun weekend should send an email to either of the emails on the registration cards, which are available in the Wuerker Room or to bergfriedwomen@eliotchapel.com. Registration information and a schedule of activities will be sent to registrants in the next two weeks. No email? No problem. Call Kathie at 314-962-9231

Sincerely,

Kathie Price and Cindy Haynes

Bergfried Women’s Autumn Weekend Committee

September 18th: Our Annual In-Gathering

**We’ll have a
dessert, fruit, and
cheese bar after
the service.**

**Please bring
either one of these
items to share.
Celebrate new
beginnings!**



INTEREST GROUPS:

Anna Ds – Women’s Alliance **September 1st, 11:30 am**



September meeting -- Mary Weber scouted out the Villa Maria Winery located off IL 159 in Maryville, IL, 6633 East Main Street, Maryville, IL 62062; telephone number 618-345-3100. It sounds like a great location for our September 1st meeting. Here's a link to their web site

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

You might want to carpool with a designated driver because Mary says *you can taste three wines for a dollar!* Please RSVPs to Mary by Monday, 8/29 so she can give them a better head count.



Men’s Monthly Lunch **September 8th, 11:30 am**

The men’s lunch bunch (Retired old Men Eating Out) meets on the second Thursday of each month. Join us at the

Best Buffet at 615 Wesley Dr. in Wood River. All men in our church are invited (retired or working, old, or not). For further information contact Paul Herbert pphebert@mail.com

Healing Energy Group

2nd & 4th Monday each month
6:30 pm at the church



Our first meeting was a success - we had a nice turnout, lots of laughter and some powerful meditation. Alas, our goal of bringing about a kinder, peaceful, healthy world and healed planet is not complete. Are you open to the idea that directed human intent can bring about changes we all would love to see? Then please join us for a new group, “Healing Energy”. Each member will be asked to take a turn leading the group (if they’d like to, it’s **not** a requirement). We are hoping to use meditation, drum-circles, chanting, earth-centered rituals, music, and humanist understanding, pretty much any practice to connect with our power. Come share with us.

Do you ever wonder

what it must be like to know your true self? Do you also wonder if a spiritual practice exists that can both give you glimpses of this true self and make you better equipped for life in general? Yeah, me too! :))



And that is why I am starting a group to go through the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises in a way that can make sense for UUs. It will be lots of fun, translating a spiritual tradition into another!!!!

Once a month, we will get together after service and discuss a spiritual exercise or two. Then for the next month, we will practice that exercise on our own and then reconvene to discuss, compare notes, read texts, and start a new exercise. I expect this monthly meeting to take an hour or so. Maybe two. We'll see.

There are no special requirements for this class. All the materials will be supplied. If you are keen, there are many places on the internet where you can download a copy of St. Ignatius' Exercises for free. The Exercises are from the catholic tradition, so keep that in mind if you venture out there. :)

The scope of this group is to explore a different spiritual existence in our UU community, even if it turns out we change the Exercises a little bit.

Interested? Email Sabrina at strupia@gmail.com.

We will gather for the first time on **September 4th after service** (say 11:15 or so). Bring your potluck dish and an open mind. :)

Free For All / 50+ Group

We are looking forward to starting our monthly get together again on October 1st. Plans are to choose a book for us to read on our own and discuss it with the group. Come join us – all are welcome to take part.

Joint Church Service & Potluck with Emerson

Sunday, October 2nd
Babler State Park
in Wildwood Missouri



Our congregation will be having a joint church service with Emerson on October 2nd. This will be an all day event (10am - ?) at Babler State Park in Wildwood Missouri. There will be a service followed by a potluck/cook-out. Emerson will be providing hotdogs to grill and we are encouraging people to bring dishes and items to grill. This event would be an excellent opportunity to meet our fellow congregation. For questions, please contact Michael Schmidt.



Bookkeeping Help

Please use the envelopes available in the pews for cash donations that are designated as pledges or for specific funds like for the Minister's Discretionary Fund, 4th Saturday Lunches, Sacred Grounds, etc. Write this information along with your name on the envelope. All other undesignated or unrestricted cash donations can be placed in the collection plates.

Donations of Personal Care Products Needed

The church needs more contributions of personal care products, particularly toilet paper, any size packages, for distribution to homeless and economically disadvantaged neighbors. You could leave your contributions under the coat racks in the front foyer off, the Wuerker Room and nursery. We are preparing a list of needed supplies and will find a way to make copies available to those who would enjoy shopping for products to help our homeless and under resourced neighbors. Remember, that the Food Stamp program, now called SNAP, provides benefits that are so limited they tend to run out before the end of the month, and it does NOT pay for paper products, personal hygiene products, diapers, or cleaning products.



Please be sure that the products are new, not beyond expiration dates, and also that they are properly sealed. We don't want anyone to be harmed or disappointed by expired or opened products, and that would also put the church at risk.



WHAT: Time for Something Better,

WHERE: First UU of Alton

WHEN: Saturday Nov 12 and Sunday Nov 13, 2016: Veteran's Day weekend

This is an all-gender church and community event

Saturday afternoon mini-retreat

Saturday evening catered dinner

Saturday night concert featuring
The Troubadours of Divine Bliss

Sunday Spoken Word service
featuring local writers and the Troubadours.

WHY: Because we all need a Weekend of WOW

Wellness,

Oh-My-Goodness Opportunities for Over-the-Top Fun,
Workshops, Words & Wonderful Music!

Here is a link to the Troubadours performing their song, as well as the lyrics:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCZdTbxwSxs>