

# FIRST UNITARIAN FOCUS

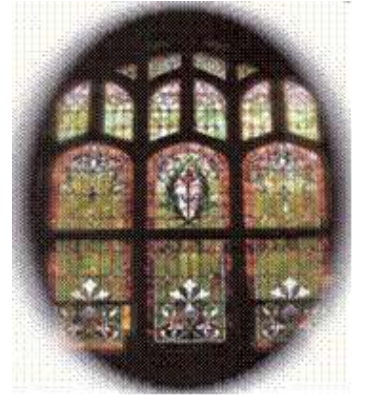


Photo by Rev. Sunshine Wolfe, 2015

*Newsletter of the  
First  
Unitarian  
Church*

*Alton, Illinois*

[www.firstuualton.org](http://www.firstuualton.org)



Rev. Dawn Fortune

## Sunday Worship 10:00 A.M. The Theme for June is Resilience

**June 4<sup>th</sup> 10:00 A.M.**

**Rev. Dawn Fortune**

Worship Associate: Kayci Combs-Lueker

**Baby and Child Dedication Service**

First Sunday Potluck and Annual Meeting, following service.

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**June 11<sup>th</sup> 10:00 A.M.**

Tracey Howe-Koch

Worship Associate: Robin Crane

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**June 18<sup>th</sup> 10:00 A.M.**

Father's Day

**Irene Gulovsen**

Worship Associate: Mary Johnson

**"Looking Back, Looking Around, and Looking Forward."**

We will "ponder" some of the seminal work of Harvard sociologist, Robert D. Putnam, as it relates to a variety of shifts in American culture, perspective, and self-understanding over the last 70 years.

**June 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 A.M.**

**Kayci Combs-Lueker**

Worship Associate: Robert Kokenyesy

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**Baby and Child Dedication - June 4<sup>th</sup>**



As part of the Sunday service on June 4, Rev. Dawn will be dedicating babies and children. If you have a child you would like to have dedicated on that day, please contact Rev. Dawn at 314-399-1023 or [revdawnfortune@gmail.com](mailto:revdawnfortune@gmail.com).

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**Reverend Dawn**

*A warm good-bye.*

*Wishes for a bright future.*

*Gratitude for all your many kindnesses  
and wisdom shared.*

*You will be missed!*



## FROM THE PREZ



This will be my last column as your president. I thank you for giving me this wonderful experience. It has given me deep and abiding respect for and gratitude for all our past presidents.

It is a fun, frustrating, challenging, and a surprising job. I have been in various positions on church boards before -- including the Unitarian Church in Shreveport, Louisiana. But I was never president. Of a church board that is. Being a Toastmaster's club president is just not the same thing. Maybe that is why until now, I have never lain awake at night worrying about church finances or about how I could have communicated so poorly with a valued member of our church. The job has stretched my skills and shone brightly on my good points and my weaknesses. It has humbled me. It has also given me future direction. Through it all, I have fallen in love with our congregation.

I am so grateful to the board that mentored me as president elect and helped me through this year as president. What a group of dedicated people! I am grateful to every single person who gives to our church in money and in time. You make this the place we can come to grow spiritually and develop close bonds with others who strive to live by the same principles. I am grateful for Pastor Sunshine who played "All will be Well" for me when I had severe doubts as president elect that I could fulfill the president's role. I am grateful for Pastor Dawn who used stories, humor, and sometimes very direct communication to help me do the best job that I was capable of doing.

Where to now? Past President role. Maybe Social Justice or doing something in fund raising. Or alternating doing projects in both? Don't know. I know whatever I do, I will enjoy doing it in our church with you.

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## Ministerial Search Committee Update



Stay Tuned! Nothing to report just yet – keep an eye for updates via "Church This Week" e-mails.

## The Seekers

**Sunday, June 11 and June 18 at 11:15 in the Emerson Room.**

We'll engage in a more in-depth discussion of that day's sermon and the monthly topic. Everyone is welcome to join in. It's a great way to get to know your fellow congregants and to get a deeper understanding of the lessons we are learning.



Be sure to mark your calendar for Sunday, June 4, when we say goodbye to Rev. Fortune, as Dawn preaches the last sermon for us. Also that will be the day

of our Annual Meeting following the service, when members can catch up on what is happening at church and vote on the proposed budget for next year. We should also get an update from the ministerial search team at that time. This will be an important day, so plan on being there.

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## Religious Education for Children and Youth News

While the official Religious Education year has ended, plans are in the works for the youth group to get together occasionally - watch for notices in the "church this week", e-mail bulletin, the July and August newsletters and Facebook Friends page for more information. Happy Summer!

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





## Sacred Grounds Clean Up Day

Twelve people came to the May 20 Sacred Grounds Clean Up Day at church. This was both an indoor and outdoor work day. Many tasks were completed but there's always more work to be done. If you have some free time available during the week and are interested in helping in the yard and gardens talk to Robyn Stranquist. A lot of indoor cleaning and organizing of cabinets and closets was done, but there are still repair tasks on the building and painting that needs doing. There will be another Clean Up Day in August (date still to be determined).

**CHURCH  
WORKDAY**



## PrideFest

**The theme for 2017 is "Community Proud"**

Pridefest 2017 will be held from June 23rd-25th, 2017 at Soldiers Memorial Park in Downtown St. Louis, MO.

Hours of operation are as follows:

Friday, June 23rd: 4:30 PM to 10:30 PM

Saturday, June 24th: 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM

Sunday, June 25th: 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM

*A Special Service will be held at 10:00 am @  
First Unitarian Church of St. Louis  
Please arrive by 9:30am*

11:00 We will be taking metro link to the Parade

The parade will take place on Sunday, June 25th, 2017 at 12:00 PM noon. The festival grounds open one hour earlier at 11:00 AM.

I'm working with Lynn Murphy ( Elliott Chapel ) George Grimm-Howell ( 1st U of StL ) and Colleen Patterson (Emerson)

I will keep everyone informed of the arrangements.  
Carol McGrew (carol\_mcgrew@yahoo.com)

## 4th Saturday Personal Care Item Distribution Saturday, June 25th 11 A.M



Please remember our neighbors who struggle in today's economy – your donations of toilet paper, detergent, baby wipes, shaving cream, African American hair products, liquid dish soap, laundry detergent, deodorant, shampoo, diapers, etc. – some of the necessities of life which are not covered by SNAP – make a real difference in their lives. We always provide some food and drinks for everyone as well. A big “thank you” to all who donated and to those who did the work.

There is a bin at the bottom of the stairs for you to put your donations or find someone to carry them down for you. The Dollar Tree stores are a great place to purchase items needed for this community service activity of the church.

**Items Needed for June event will be announced at a later date**

## First Sunday Pot Luck Luncheon

**Sunday, June 4th 11:15**  
Come, enjoy good food and fellowship with your UU church community!



**All are welcome!**



## Wash, Dry and Put Away!

Enjoy some coffee and cookies with your conversation after church? Thank you for being sure our dishes are taken care of and trash removed. Keeping our church home clean and comfortable is everyone's job.

## Is It Your Turn?

## 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)



**Non-perishable foods items are always needed to contribute to the Alton Crisis Food Pantry. It's important to help our neighbors get the food they need.**

## 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

Mary Johnson

Kayci Combs-Lueker

Robin Crane

Joy Hoeft

Robert Kokenyesi

Dorothy Wilson

Mike Tarabulski

Ruth Maskow

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Newsletter Deadline is on the 15 of each month. Send info. to Dorothy Wilson

to [djjccw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:djjccw@sbcglobal.net) and to Becky Green at church

[church@firstualton.org](mailto:church@firstualton.org)



## INTEREST GROUPS:

**Anna Ds – Women’s Alliance, June 1<sup>st</sup> 11:30 a.m.**



We're in luck! **Elijah P's Burgers & Brews** has the back room available so we won't have to compete with any other customers to hear/talk, just with ourselves.

The address is 401 Piasa St, Alton, IL 62002. Phone is (618) 433-8445 And here is a link to their menu if you want to browse in advance.

<http://www.elijahps.com/index.cfm?page=4733#menuanchor>

I'd appreciate an RSVP by Monday, 5/29 but will send out a late reminder if you forget or change your mind.

Sandy at [wrgma2@gmail.com](mailto:wrgma2@gmail.com)



### **First UU of Alton Pagans**

Our next event will be Summer Solstice! It will be held on June 17th at 4:00 pm at Mary Lu McManus' home. Her address is in the directory. Please let Paula know if you will be

attending through email: [paulafond721@gmail.com](mailto:paulafond721@gmail.com), or through Facebook messenger. Updates and event dates will continue to also be posted on the regular UU Friends Facebook page.

Our events consist of a ritual relating to the specific sabbat, food and drink (potluck) and fun! More details in the next couple of weeks.



### **Men’s Monthly Lunch June 11<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 a.m.**

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](mailto:pphebert@mail.com)

## **Alton Area Cluster Book Group**

The Alton Area Cluster Book Group continues it’s reading of “*Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*” by Debby Irving. The Group meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month from 3 to 5 p.m. at the church. You do not need to have read the book or have your own copy of the book as we read the book aloud, passing copies around, and stopping often to discuss a point or topic. The next gathering will be on June 15<sup>th</sup>.



If you are interested in attending, or getting on the group email list, contact Mary Johnson at [mejohanson@mindspring.com](mailto:mejohanson@mindspring.com)

## **Healing Energy Meditation**

*Please note change of day,  
from the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday  
now to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday of each month!*

**Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> and  
June 28<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m. by the  
Fireplace**



Fellowship and a couple hours of peaceful presence – sound good? Join us in our journey to the center of ourselves.

Would you like to learn how to meditate? Or just curious? We are still hoping to have a meditation class, but it’s not finalized just yet, more to come! “Church This Week” will have all the details once the event has been finalized.