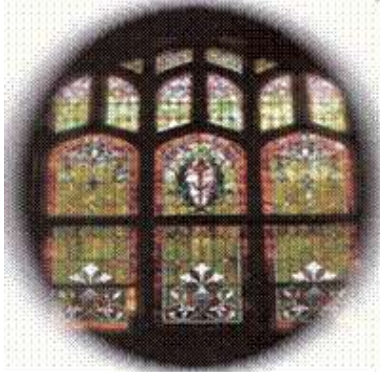


FIRST UNITARIAN FOCUS



Newsletter of
**First Unitarian Church
Alton, Illinois**

Rev. Amy Brooks, Pastor
www.firstuulton.org



Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:00 am
July 2019 Theme: “Wonder”

Worship Schedule

Sunday, July 7th -Monthly Potluck Luncheon
Sermon: Pastor Amy Brooks
Worship Associate: Robert Kokenyesi

Sunday, July 14th
Sermon: Pastor Amy Brooks
Worship Associate: Joy Hoeft

Sunday, July 21st - UUSC Justice Sunday
Sermon: Pat Moore
Worship Associate: Mary Johnson

Sunday, July 28th
Sermon: Robyn Berkley
Worship Associate: Michael Tarabulski

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IN MEMORIAM

Joan Kay Hashimi 1932-2019

Joan Kay Hashimi, 86, of Edwardsville, IL, passed away on Thursday, May 2, 2019, at 10:58 A.M. at Anderson Hospital in Maryville, IL. Joan was born July 6, 1932, in Racine, WI to Berthel and Laura (Green) Olsen. She married Rasool Mohammed Hussein Hashimi on February 14, 1954; he preceded her in death on February 20, 2007. She was also preceded in death by her parents; sister, Carole Olsen; and brother-in-law, William Gatz. Joan is survived by her three children, Jamil (Deanna Bradshaw) Hashimi of Hermosa Beach, CA, Suzanne Kay Hashimi of Atlanta, GA, and Ali Abu Radhi (Jen Thompson) Hashimi of [Naperville](#), IL; granddaughter, Maya Ming Hashimi; grandsons, Maxwell Frederick, Luke Thomas and Ross Martin; one sister, Audrey Gatz of East Troy, WI; and her many nieces, nephews and cousins. Joan was a 1950 graduate of Racine High School in Wisconsin. She served in the [U.S. Navy](#) as a cryptographer. She attended the University of Wisconsin earning her Bachelor's degree at [Michigan State University](#). She went on to earn her Masters Degree at the University of Missouri in Columbia and then obtained her PhD in Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Joan joined the faculty of the University of Missouri in St. Louis in 1975 as a founding faculty member of the UMSL social work

program where she was instrumental in launching the BSW and MSW programs. She also served as chair of the School of Social Work with a specialty in geriatric social work before she retired in 2001. Joan took to heart social causes that were dear to her. In the words of one of her professional associates, Joan was a tremendous colleague and loved by those of us who had the privilege of working with her. She attended the First Unitarian Church in Alton, Illinois. Memorial services for Joan were held at First Unitarian Church of Alton on Saturday June 8, 2019. Memorial donations may be made to the Norman Flax and the Joan Hashimi Master's Scholarship in Social Work at <https://giving.umsl.edu/hashimi>. Additional condolences may be sent to the family at www.herfuneral.com.



Social Justice Sunday Sunday July 21st

Our Sunday service led by our current UUSC congregation rep Pat Moore) will be devoted to learning about our UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee). Topics to be explored include:

- History of the UUSC
- Areas of Work of the Committee
- Focus on Current Issues
- Membership and Benefits
- Recognition levels for our church



**“From the Bottom Up”
Cleanup
Day(s)**

August the 8th and
the 9th (if needed)

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (come for an hour or
for the day)

Do you like to see order come out of
chaos? Do you have clothes you don't
mind getting a bit dirty? Do you have
work gloves? Do you enjoy the
comradery of working with others at
church?

Well then, we have a project for you!

Plans are in the works to **clean out and
straighten up the furnace room, the
hall next to it, and one of the nearby
classrooms.** These areas have

become dumping grounds for things
that no one knows what else to do with
– old cans of paint, worn out Christmas
decoration, a live-animal trap, a
power washer, yard tools, and other
miscellaneous items. We want to do
this clean up in part to encourage
additional 'ghost tours' to come
through as fund raisers, and while the
area needs to be a bit spooky, it also
needs to be safe.

So, more reminders will be
forthcoming, but we'd like you to
mark your calendars now and
consider how you can help. If you
have questions ask Peg, Mary J.,
Char or Lee.

Would you like a “free” way



to support the Church?

From Sandy Shaner

Following Mary Johnson's successful
efforts to obtain a federal 501(c)(3)
designation for the Church, Phillip
Harris (our Office Administrator)
successfully registered the Church as
an Amazon Smile charity. This means
that anyone who designates the
Church as their preferred charity will
generate 0.5% of the purchase price
from their eligible AmazonSmile
purchases.

Here are some excerpts from the
Amazon Smile web site about this
program.

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and
automatic way for you to support your
favorite charitable organization every
time you shop, at no cost to you.
When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
you'll find the exact same low prices,
vast selection and convenient
shopping experience as Amazon.com,
with the added bonus that Amazon will
donate a portion of the purchase price
to your favorite charitable
organization. You can choose from
over one million organizations to
support.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile smile.amazon.com, you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

Here's how to find and select the Church. If you walk through the last paragraph of information, you can search for the Church as First Unitarian Church of Alton. When it pops up, just select it. (For now, under the Church portion of their database, we had to pick a type so we're shown as "Christian". Knowing that many of us as well as others who might be interested in us find that adjective too restrictive, Phillip will be checking to see if there's an "other" category available.)

I may be unusual in my use of Amazon (dating back to the time when shopping was extremely difficult before both knees were replaced), but Amazon says that as of May 22, 2019 they've contributed \$66.40 to my charity (primarily a different one before I switched to the Church option).



Starting Monday July 1st, the church office will be closed on Mondays.

Due to the Independence Day holiday, the church office will be closed on Thursday, July 4th



A big THANK YOU to Phil Embree, Char McAllister, Lee Suarez, and Lee's nephew, for all the repair work (new toilet, new flooring, etc.) done in the boy's restroom downstairs. It's usable once again!



After a two-year hiatus, Mary Johnson will resume the position of Newsletter Editor with the September 2019 issue. The deadline for getting newsletter items to Mary will be the 20th of each month, starting in August (for the September issue). Please send news and articles to Mary at mejohanson@mindspring.com with a cc to the church office church@firstuualton.org. Formatting articles as Word documents (Times New Roman 11) is preferred, but plain text is ok too.

August Newsletter Submissions due Friday, July 26th



We count on each other to be thoughtful and fair in all our interactions – that also includes seeing to it that our church home is kept clean and dishes washed up and put away. If you enjoy a cup of coffee, a plate of snacks, or a full meal, please take your turn to help with cleaning-up.



The Extension Groups will **not** be meeting during the summer months. When they resume in the fall, ...

The Glen Carbon/Edwardsville Extension Group will meet at A Holistic Approach located at 88 South Main Street in Glen Carbon.

The North County Extension Group will meet in the chapel of Village North Retirement Center. The center is a little bit west of Christian Hospital at 11160 Village North Drive, off Dunn Road.

Watch the “**Church This Week**” e-mail for any notifications or updates.



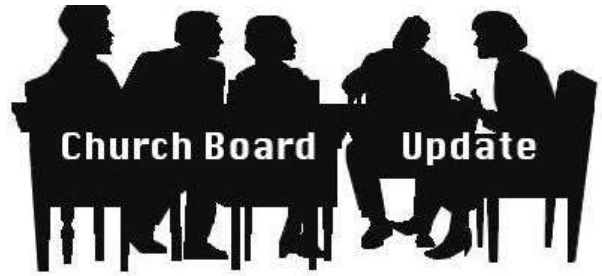
4th Saturday Personal Care Distribution

Saturday July 27th at 10:00 am

Please Help the 4th Saturday Personal Care Distribution Program

We need your regular and ongoing financial support and product donations to continue serving those in our community who are struggling. If giving cash, please use the envelopes at church and indicate that the donation is for the 4th Saturday Program and include your name. This will ensure that it is recorded as a contribution from you and will be included in your giving record for taxes. If you are making a contribution by check, make sure you write 4th Saturday Program on the check. You may also set up your 4th Saturday Program contributions online through Givelify. More information about this new method of giving will be coming out soon.

If donating products, please bring them to church as early in the month as possible so we can do a shelf inventory the week before the 4th Saturday and only purchase the items still needed after your product donations have been counted.



Since the June 13 Board meeting followed right on the heels of the June 9 Congregational Meeting, much of our discussion centered on following up on both action and discussion topics, especially the approved Budget.

Our first action was to approve the Minutes of the Congregational Meeting. (Our process is for the Board to review/approve annual and semi-annual Congregational Meeting minutes immediately after the meetings. In this way we can focus on follow-up items and provide copies to any members who want to follow the Board's activities in detail.) In keeping with our pledge of transparency, we will post the Congregational Minutes along with regular Board meeting Minutes on one of the bulletin boards in the Wuerker Room. Anyone who would like their own copy can contact me and I can provide what they desire.

We also noted Congregational conversations and the need to review/amend several policies at future Board meetings, and those discussions will be reflected in future Minutes.

We rejoiced in some volunteer changes. Phil Embree, who has one year remaining on his current Board term, agreed to move to the Treasurer position for FY19-20. In keeping with Article VI of our Bylaws ("Vacancies that occur between congregational meetings shall be filled by the Board of Trustees until the next congregational meeting.") we approved the change formally by a motion and vote. And, at the meeting, Lee announced that Tom Cochran and

Michael Tarabulski have agreed to take up Phil's most recent tasks as Building Co-Chairs.

Lee also reported on a pleasant and productive meeting with Michael Slaughter, Principal of Marquette High School, which centered on ways in which both organizations can be good neighbors. We have had some discussions about the need to focus on security and even stage "intruder drills" and were thrilled that Mr. Slaughter offered his staff resources to help us improve our security provisions. Since Marquette has a strong safety program, we look forward to learning from them. He also noted that he had directed his staff not to park on the Easton Street at all on Sunday mornings so that we can use all the available parking for Church members.

We discussed some topics for the Board's Summer Retreat agenda which is scheduled for July 27. As we breathed a sigh of relief at the successful conclusion of the Congregational Meeting, it was quickly followed by a deep breath as we begin the work of the FY19-20 fiscal year. More later.....

Sandy Shaner,
Board Secretary



**Church Board Meeting
will be Thursday,
July 11th at 7pm.**

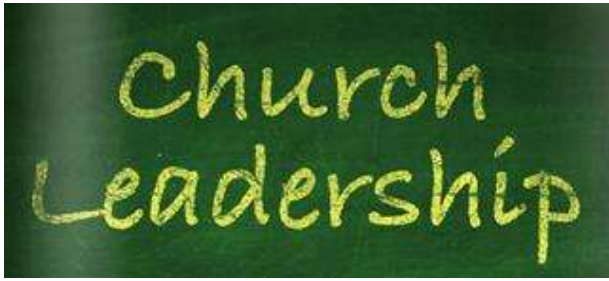


Anna Ds
Due to the July 4th Holiday,
this month's meeting will be
scheduled for
Thursday, July 11th
at 11:00am
Fazzis Restaurant
<http://www.fazzis.com>
1813 Vandalia Street
Collinsville, IL 62234
Phone 618-344-5440



Thursday, July 11th
@11:30am

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 Hebert at pphebert@mail.com.



Board of Trustees

President

Lee Suarez

Co-Presidents Elect

Char McAllister

Past President

Chris Strangeman

Treasurer

Phil Embree

Secretary

Sandy Shaner

Members at Large

Phil Embree and Tracy Howe-Koch

Committee/Team Leads

Transitions Committee

Vacant

Social Events

Vacant

Interfaith and UU

Vacant

Social Justice

Dee Evans

Fundraising

Dee Evans and Peg Flach

Pastoral Associates

Sandy Shaner

Mary Weber

Ruth Maskow

Religious Education Council Chairperson

Joy Hoeff

Stewardship Committee

Building and Grounds

Tom Cochran

Michael Tarabulski

Canvass 2019

Vacant

Endowment Fund

Jerry Johnson, Ron Glossop,
and Tracy Howe-Koch

Finance

Matt Koch

Membership

Mary Weber

Sunday Support Ministries

Vacant

Worship Associates

Joy Hoeff

Robert Kokenyesi

Michael Tarabulski

Ruth Maskow

Peg Flach

John Herndon

Robyn Berkley