

# FIRST UNITARIAN FOCUS



Congregation established 1836.

*Newsletter of the  
First  
Unitarian Church  
Alton, Illinois  
110 East 3<sup>rd</sup> St. (location)  
PO Box 494 62002 (mail)*

Office phone: 618-462-2462  
<https://www.firstuualton.org/>

**April 2022**



**“In-Person” worship services have started again, and you are invited to attend services at the church. Masks will be required, and social distancing practices put into place. Services will also stream at 10 a.m. on YouTube (or Click “Virtual Services”) on the church’s homepage <https://www.firstuualton.org>**

**The Zoom Coffee Hour follows at 11 a.m. at  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88505584363?fbclid=IwAR0hRmxfn2ZSIo-U98VWOyq9-uXvxlkhIPC7nTK7YqfGa\\_u6v6ilbcknr5g](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88505584363?fbclid=IwAR0hRmxfn2ZSIo-U98VWOyq9-uXvxlkhIPC7nTK7YqfGa_u6v6ilbcknr5g)  
Passcode: 641343**

**10 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICES  
For APRIL**

**April 3**

**Speaker: Mary Johnson**

**Title: “Living As If ...”**

A Faith Rocket service written by the Rev. Nell Newton, minister of the Amarillo Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

**April 10**

**Speaker: Rev. Dr. Claudia Hall**

**Title: “UU Values of Passover”**

**Worship Associate: TBA**



**April 17**

**Speaker: Robyn Berkley**

**Title: TBA**



**April 24**

**Speaker: Wayne Politsch**

**Title: TBA**

**Worship Associate: TBA**



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Greetings all,

Can you believe it is April already? Hard to imagine where the time has gone! I'm excited we are consistently back in the sanctuary and are slowly rebuilding our worship practice. We are attracting new visitors and coffee hour is back! We would love to see people return as they feel safe to do so. We will always have services available virtually but there is nothing better than sitting in the pews with our friends and families! Please come join us...we plan to have a special Easter celebration...come please be a part!!!

We've been busy...here's a quick list of things we've been working on:

\*Ministerial search...we've been interviewing and are doing the reference checks. We hope to have some news soon.

\*Furnace replacement...we need to replace one of our furnaces. We are collecting bids and will take care of that shortly

\*Bathroom leak is fixed...we had some problems with some leaks so that has been repaired and new shut off valves have been replaced

\*We got a great report from our grant writer and will be discussing possibilities and plans to write grants and see if that can help us with making the building and area more accessible.

\*Fourth Saturday Distribution is still going strong...each month we see more people showing up for the support they need to make ends meet! We always need volunteers...please contact Paula Moore if you want to help.

\*Valuing the building...we are working with a realtor to value our building and figure out what it worth if we decide to sell it. We are also looking at potential costs to move to a new location...just data gathering right now but we need good data to make a good decision

\*We had difficult conversation training with Claudia in March. Next stop is our Right Relationships Covenant. We'll distribute our video and training materials to the congregation in case

you wanted to attend but couldn't. I realize a few people tried to get in, but we logged in a bit late to Zoom...my apologies for the inconvenience for those who waited online. We'll do better on that I promise!

Thank you to everyone who continue to support the church both financially and with their time and talent! We appreciate each and every one of you! Stewardship time will be coming soon...please consider helping with the campaign and consider how you can continue to support our community through your time, talent, and treasure!

Love and Light...Robyn

**Anna Ds  
Thursday,  
April 7, 2022  
11:30 a.m.**

**The Anna D. Sparks  
Women's Alliance will  
meet at Sugo's  
Spaghetteria**



243 Harvard Dr, Edwardsville, IL 62025  
Located at Edwardsville Crossing.

Menu: <http://sugospaghetteria.com/?b:menu>

We are asking that anyone attending our group luncheons be fully vaccinated or have had a negative COVID test no more than 3 days prior to the meeting. Masks of course are required to enter the restaurant and while moving around inside.

RSVP to [Sandy Shaner](#) (by email or by phone) by Monday, April 4.



**Men's Group Lunch  
Thursday, April 14  
11:30 a.m.**

The men's group will be meeting somewhere for lunch. Information as to where will be sent out to

the group's email list.

If you're not already on the group's email list, contact [Paul Hebert](#).

## Board Meeting Notes March 15, 2022

To date \$46,527 has been received in pledges. It is expected that our budgeted goal will be reached. Total income to date is \$70,134.36 with expenses at \$41,211.20

\$1,330.35 was spent to make repairs in the men's restroom. A new furnace will be needed by next fall.

We will be signing up to participate in at least two Pride events in the coming months.

RE curricula for children and for teenagers need to be developed and in place by fall.

The next Zoom Board meeting is at 6:15 p.m. on Wednesday April 13. If you have something to bring up to the Board, please contact [Robyn Berkley](#).



### 4th Saturday Distribution – April 23, 2022

Please help with this monthly community outreach program by volunteering your time in the distribution room or by donating money or products. Contact [Paula Moore](#) if you can help in the distribution room on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Each person gets to choose 5 items, plus they always are given rolls of toilet paper. Below is the listing of products we provide.

baby diapers, baby wipes, bathroom cleaner, bleach, body wash, condoms, conditioner (hair), counter wipes, deodorant, dish washing detergent, foot powder, glass cleaner, hair cream oil, hand wipes, incontinence products, Kleenex, kotex, laundry detergent (free and clear) spray cleaner lotion (hand/body), paper towels, razors, shampoo, shaving cream, socks (man – woman – child), soap (liquid or bar, toilet bowl cleaner, toilet paper, toothbrush, toothpaste, trash bags, wash cloths.



Our church has been invited to participate in an upcoming Unity Fest event.

Edwardsville Unity is a group of individuals and organizations working towards increased unity in our communities. Since 2017, the mission of Edwardsville Unity has been to encourage togetherness and solidarity through education, collaboration and community building activities. This family friendly event will likely be held in a public park in Edwardsville in the fall.

Peg Flach is acting as a liaison with the group and will be overseeing our participation. More details coming as they develop.

## Financial Donations to the Church

You can now make a financial donation to the church through PayPal. The blue logo icon is in the upper right-hand corner of the church's homepage <http://www.firstuualton.org/>.



You may also donate using Givelify. Click on the large green square on the church's homepage. Or mail your check to the church at PO 494 Alton, IL 62002.



## Volunteers Needed to Paint Doors



The exterior double doors by the Wuerker Room entrance and the double doors by the Alby Street entrance are terribly in need of scraping, sanding, and repainting. If painting is "your thing" or even if it isn't 😊 we need volunteers to take on this project. The paint and painting equipment will be provided.

If you want to work on this project let [Mary Johnson](#) know at or talk to her at church.

**CHURCH CONTACTS  
2022**

**Board Members**

President: Robyn Berkley [robynberkley@yahoo.com](mailto:robynberkley@yahoo.com)  
Secretary: Mary Johnson [mejohanson@mindspring.com](mailto:mejohanson@mindspring.com)  
Treasurer: Open  
President Elect: Open  
Member at Large: Aiden Crist [arexboi@gmail.com](mailto:arexboi@gmail.com)  
Member at Large: Alex Hoeft [alex.j.hoeft@gmail.com](mailto:alex.j.hoeft@gmail.com)  
Member at Large: Jennifer Lewis  
[jenniferkaylewis@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferkaylewis@gmail.com)

Member at Large: Carol McGrew  
[carol\\_mcgrew@yahoo.com](mailto:carol_mcgrew@yahoo.com)  
Member at Large: Pat Moore [patjimmoore@charter.net](mailto:patjimmoore@charter.net)  
**Office Support:** Nancee Magilson  
[nmagilson@hotmail.com](mailto:nmagilson@hotmail.com)  
**Building and Grounds:** Michael Tarabulski  
[madtparty@uwalumni.com](mailto:madtparty@uwalumni.com)  
**Custodial:** Hedda Kirk [hthrkirk@gmail.com](mailto:hthrkirk@gmail.com)  
**AV Tech Team:** Alex Hoeft & Ken Hoeft  
[alex.j.hoeft@gmail.com](mailto:alex.j.hoeft@gmail.com) / [kfhoeft@gmail.com](mailto:kfhoeft@gmail.com)  
**Music:** Joy Hoeft [kjabhoeft@gmail.com](mailto:kjabhoeft@gmail.com)

[Return to First Unitarian Church of Alton - Newsletter Archive Page](#)