

FIRST UNITARIAN FOCUS



Congregation established 1836

*Newsletter of the
First
Unitarian
Church
Alton, Illinois
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PO Box 494 62002 (mail)*

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



June 2022

Welcome to church!! We hope to see you in person this month.

For the time being we ask that you still wear a mask and continue to practice social distancing while at church. For those at home, the worship service will be streamed at 10 a.m. on YouTube (or Click “Virtual Services”) on the church’s homepage <https://www.firstualton.org>.

The Zoom Coffee Hour follows at 11 a.m. at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88505584363?fbclid=IwAR0hRmxfn2ZSIo-U98VWOyq9-uXvxlkhIPC7nTK7YqfGa_u6v6ilbcknr5g
Passcode: 641343

10 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICES For JUNE

June 5

Speaker: Sabrina Trupia

Title: “Healing Salieri”

What do Salieri, Jesus, and Thich Nhat Hahn have in common? They are all in this week's sermon. Find out why by coming to church or tuning in!"

Worship Associate: Mary Johnson

June 12

Speaker: Robyn Berkley

Title: TBA

June 19

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Claudia Hall

Title: “Father's Day 2022: reclaiming fatherhood from patriarchy.”

For many of us the term "father" is a topic with many layers, not all good. Can we see father in a positive way, without the baggage of patriarchy that has tainted it for so many?

Come join in a service that seeks to find and affirm the positives in fathering, as sourced from our UU values and principles.

Worship Associate: TBA

June 26

Today's service will be the Worship Service from the UUA General Assembly held this year in Portland, Oregon. The Service will be live streamed at this link <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2022/sunday-worship>. at 11:30 a.m. central time.

Or you are invited to come to church to gather as a congregation before 11:30 to watch the service in our sanctuary. All safety precautions will be in place.

The worship service leader at this year's UUA General Assembly will be the Rev. Gretchen Haley, Senior Minister of the Foothills Unitarian Universalist Church in Fort Collins, Colorado.

To learn more about the UUA annual General Assembly go to <https://www.uua.org/ga>

MEET OUR NEW MINISTER



THE REV. KRISTA TAVES

“Rev. Krista Taves joined Eliot Chapel as their Minister of Congregational Life in 2020. Since her ordination in 2004, she has served the First Unitarian Universalist Church of New Orleans LA, Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel (now in St. Charles MO), the Unitarian Church of Quincy IL,

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of La Crosse WI, and Eliot Unitarian Chapel in Kirkwood MO. As a student minister she served the Unitarian Fellowship of Northwest Toronto and the Unitarian Congregation of Guelph, ON Canada. She became a Unitarian Universalist in 1997 at the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto ON.

She grew up on a farm in Southwest Ontario, Canada and moved to the United States to begin a life with her partner, Laurie Mecham, in 2004. She and Laurie are gradually transforming their small property in West St. Louis County into a native plant sanctuary. Krista is particularly pleased that serving Alton will allow for regular visits to the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

Rev. Taves earned her Honors Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the University of Waterloo ON Canada, with a focus on Canadian political and social history. She earned her Master of Arts in History at York University ON Canada, specializing in social history with a focus on Canadian Russian Mennonite identity narratives. She completed her Master of Divinity at the University of Toronto School of Theology, specializing in pastoral care. “

Krista's 50%-time contract for the 2022-2023 church year begins in July. Her first sermon in Alton will be given on July 17. She will be at Alton at least one Sunday each month, and on alternate months she will be in our pulpit two Sundays.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Robyn Berkley

Greetings all...as we wind up the 2021-2022 church year I want to thank all of you for your continued support and continued patience as we navigate what church means for all of us through this pandemic. There are a few things I want to address...

1) We will continue to wear masks for the foreseeable future. Rev Claudia is immunocompromised...without masking we would not be able to utilize her services. As well, while the pandemic is sort of toned down, it is still prevalent.

I know...it struck my house a few weeks ago and many friends of mine who have been very careful are catching it as well. Yes, we were vaxed and boosted and we were fortunate, but I know I would not be happy if I were not wearing a mask and I caused a person with vulnerable health to catch Covid. Our principles argue we respect the interdependent web of life. Part of that means we manage the minor inconvenience of wearing a mask at church so all who want to be there in person can do so. While we have asked for KN95 masks up to this point, we now welcome surgical masks as well. No cloth masks...they really don't protect as well as the surgical/kn95 masks do.

2) Thank you to all who participated in the Right Relationships Covenant Workshop. We'll be working with Claudia to distribute the existing draft to all members and friends, and we welcome your feedback to enrich this and embrace this. Once we collect feedback from everyone, the draft will be re-distributed and ultimately we'll vote on it at our annual meeting on July 17th.

3) We are excited to begin the process of planning for our Religious Education program for the Fall. We look forward to hearing from parents with RE age children about what you would like to see in the program. We are also looking for volunteers to teach RE on a regular basis at church. I plan to step in to support our youth group...I hope more of you are willing to come help teach our youth about what it means to live as a Unitarian Universalist.

4) Stewardship time is about to begin! We are looking to secure donations of around \$70,000. Look for an email from the church regarding your donations...give what you can for you are a generous people! We need your time, talent, and treasure to help this church prosper and grow!

Thank you again for your participation, love, and support!

Love and Light...Robyn



CONGRATULATIONS SABRINA TRUPIA

On October 9, 2011, Sabrina Trupia signed our church membership book as a new Unitarian Universalist. On May 20, 2022, Sabrina graduated from Eden Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree. During this last year in seminary Sabrina was awarded the Honor Graduate Fellowship, which is awarded each year to Masters students judged by the Faculty to have great promise for further theological study. In the fall, Sabrina will be the intern minister at the UU Congregation of Montclair, in Montclair, NJ.



Thank You Nancee!

After the church being without an official treasurer for some months, Nancee Magilson has accepted the appointment as Church Treasurer. Nancee also does office support tasks – checking for phone messages, picking up the mail at the post office, making bank deposits, etc.

Children's Activities

Please have children dress in play clothes on June 5 and June 12. Weather permitting, Carol McGrew and the children will be doing outside chalk art on the concrete.

Welcome to Marcella Horwath, our new nursery childcare provider. She will be in the nursery weekly.



**Anna Ds
Lunch
Thursday, June 2
11:30 a.m.**

The *Anna D. Sparks Women's Alliance* meets on the first Thursday of each month at a restaurant usually in the Alton/Edwardsville area. On June 2, the group will meet at **Santino's Steak and Pasta** on the parking lot of Alton Square Mall (behind Red Lobster).

Here's a link to their web site.

<https://santinos-restaurant.com/welcomealton>

If you haven't already let [Sandy Shaner](#) know that you're coming, please do so now by emailing her.

Finally, a gentle reminder – we expect all those attending to be vaccinated and, best case, boosted.



**Men's Group Lunch
Thursday, June 9
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](#).



**Gay Pride
Month**

In June, our "celebration tree" in the sanctuary will be festooned

with colorful paper chains that the children (and adults) are making.

In addition, Carol McGrew's sister, Rhonda, will be selling LGBTQ earrings and bracelets on June 5 and June 12. These were handmade by Carol and Rhonda while Rhonda received her chemotherapy treatments. Rhonda is currently in remission, but still needs to buy medical marijuana, which is not covered by health insurance, plus a yearly \$50 medical ID card. Purchasing of the handmade products will help her offset her medical costs.

Links to Supporting Unitarian Universalist efforts with Ukrainian Refugees

<https://www.intlwomensconvo.org/>
(International Convocation of Unitarian Universalist Women)

<https://www.uua.org/international/blog/support-ukrainian-refugees>

<https://www.uusc.org/ukraine/>

<https://www.faithify.org/campaign/67/support-those-fleeing-war-in-ukraine>



**4th Saturday
Distribution –
June 25, 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 in the distribution room. You may bring products to church, or donate financially by putting a check (memo for 4th Saturday) in the Sunday collection or online through Givelify or PayPal.

Board Meeting Notes May 17, 2022

As per our bylaws, the motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously that Nancee Magilson be appointed treasurer for the 2022-2023 church year.

Pledge letters will be sent out soon to church members and friends. In this current church year \$53,703 has been received to date in pledges. Total income received so far this year totals \$82,287.

The two new furnaces will be installed on May 31. The cost, including installation, will be \$5,200.

The Board is looking for someone with web experience to update the church's webpage.

As per our Child Safety policy, we will have security checks done for all individuals working directly with the children in our congregation.

The next Zoom Board meeting is at 6:15 p.m. on Wednesday Tuesday, June 14. If you have something to bring up to the Board, please contact Robyn Berkley.

CHURCH CONTACTS 2022

Board Members

President: Robyn Berkley robynberkley@yahoo.com

Secretary: Mary Johnson
mejohanson@mindspring.com

Treasurer: Nancee Magilson nmagilson@hotmail.com

President Elect: Open

Member at Large: Aiden Crist arexboi@gmail.com

Member at Large: Alex Hoeft alex.j.hoeft@gmail.com

Member at Large: Jennifer Lewis
jenniferkaylewis@gmail.com

Member at Large: Carol McGrew
carol_mcgrew@yahoo.com

Member at Large: Pat Moore
patjimmoore@charter.net

Office Support: Nancee Magilson
nmagilson@hotmail.com

Building and Grounds: Michael Tarabulski
madtparty@uwalummi.com

Custodial: Hedda Kirk hthrkirk@gmail.com

AV Tech Team: Alex Hoeft & Ken Hoeft
alex.j.hoeft@gmail.com / kfhoeft@gmail.com

Music: Joy Hoeft kjabhoeft@gmail.com

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