

# 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/>



## July 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.firstuualton.org.](https://www.firstuualton.org/)

**THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL BE HELD AFTER THE SERVICE ON JULY 17. IT WILL BE “IN PERSON” AS WELL AS ACCESSIBLE VIRTUALLY.**

### 10 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICES for JULY

**July 3**

**Speaker: Robyn Berkley**  
**Title: “We Are Not a Theocracy”**

**July 10**

**Speaker: Rev. Dr. Claudia Hall**  
**Title: “When There Is No Justice”**  
What Jews and enslaved people can teach us about living under legal horror.

**July 17**

**Speaker: Rev. Krista Taves**  
**Title: “Claiming Sacred Ground”**

All of us have places that are tremendously special to us. We will honor our sacred grounds and how they have evolved over time.

**Worship Associate:**  
Robyn Berkley



Krista would like responses to the question **“How Does Sacred Ground Happen to You?”** Her question will be posted on UU Friends and you’re reading it here in the newsletter. Your answers will be incorporated into the sermon.

You may post your answers in the Facebook space, PM Krista, or email her at [ktaves@eliotchapel.org](mailto:ktaves@eliotchapel.org).

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**July 24**

**Speaker: Jerry Johnson**

**Title: TBA**

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**July 31**

**Speaker: TBA**

**Title: TBA**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Robyn Berkley**

Greetings to all and welcome to the 22-23 church year. While it spiritually begins in September, we have already launched the beginnings of our plans. Here are some things to report:

1) Rev Krista has begun working for us! She has been invited to join UU Friends on Facebook and her plan is to be available with office hours on the second and fourth weeks of each month. I know she would like to set up coffee meetings with members to get to know us better so look for messages from her in the near future.

2) We will be meeting with Rev Claudia soon about our RE needs for the fall. I am hoping with our pledge drive we'll be able to continue this part of our plan. We welcome feedback from all of you about what you would like to see as parents! Please email me ASAP with your ideas to [robynberkley@yahoo.com](mailto:robynberkley@yahoo.com).

3) Our pledge drive is coming to a close! Currently we have pledges around \$62k. THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!!!! If anyone has not yet pledged, even if it's \$25, please reach out via email to me so we can get your contribution recorded. We know this is a difficult time financially so anything and everything is greatly appreciated!

4) The Rotary Park has begun construction. As many of you know, they removed the sidewalk and we now no longer have a handicapped accessible entrance to our church while the construction is underway. I called the City Attorney this morning

about two things. First, they are getting a survey done at THEIR cost to ensure we have a clear understanding where the property line is and where we'd like a negotiated permanent easement. Second, I called her about the problem with the handicap accessibility and she is looking into it with the contractor to see what can be done to fix this problem.

5) Needless to say, the issues surrounding the Rotary Park continue to send a message to us about our role and place in the Alton community. Yes, we've been here 175 years but clearly that history is not valued, in my humble opinion. I am working hard to figure out a temporary solution until we make our stay or go decision. Please make plans to attend our meeting, either virtually or in-person on July 17th so we can make some decisions. A few people have said to me, "I'd like to know what our plans are if we choose to leave." To be honest, that is a difficult question to answer because the options are broad. We could move to a new location and we could rent, purchase, or building share with the right church partner. We are going to do our best to provide estimates on what those options could cost us. The first question has to be whether or not we want to continue to commit to our current location. The parking and accessibility issues are of utmost importance in my mind and ultimately will drive our decision. After that, then we have to decide location, and financial commitment to buy, rent, or share. It is too much to make all those decisions at once. I hope knowing what our options COULD be will help people feel comfortable with the decision to stay or go. Once we make that decision, we can make the commitment with the support of congregants to explore where will go next. There are a lot of moving parts to this decision, so I am working to ensure we are making decisions incrementally, so we don't get overwhelmed by the enormity of the decision.

I want to tell you all how much I appreciate everyone's voices both publicly and privately to me about our church community and our future plans. We are working hard to serve YOU! Because the building is secondary to the caring and commitment we make to all our members and guests to make our community accessible and safe for all. This is why we continue with a mask mandate, so we can be inclusive and ensure all people are protected.

**I look forward to seeing you all on 7/17 when Rev Krista is in the pulpit for her first sermon!**

Love and Light, Robyn (she/her)  
President, First Unitarian Church of Alton, IL

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**We extend our sympathy to Dr. Ronald Glossop, whose wife Audrey, died on June 30.**



**Glossop, Audrey Yvonne:**

Audrey Yvonne (Lutz) Glossop died June 30, 2022. She was born Audrey Yvonne Lutz on January 18, 1936, in St. Louis, Missouri to Oscar and Pearl Lutz. Audrey played the piano and was interested in sewing. She graduated from Southwest High School in 1953. She married Ronald J. Glossop in Carthage, Illinois on May 31, 1958, the day before she graduated from Carthage College, Carthage, Illinois with a major in home economics. She lived with her husband in Frontenac, Missouri from 1958 until 1960, where she taught home economics and English. In August 1960 they moved to Boise, Idaho for one year and then to Portland, Oregon for five years (1961-1965). She worked as a secretary in Boise and Portland. While in Portland, she gave birth to son Kent David Glossop. In September 1965 Audrey and Ronald with son Kent moved to Jennings, Missouri. She continued her interest in sewing while focusing her efforts on son Kent even after he graduated from high school and went to the University of Michigan. Kent lives in Nashua, New Hampshire with his wife Susan and son Ryan, while their older son Robert is training to be a naval aviator. In 2018 Ron and Audrey moved into the Village North Retirement Community in north St. Louis County. Her younger sister Adrian Ruth Spence died in 2001. **A memorial service for Audrey will be held at 10 a.m. July 18, 2022, in the chapel of the Village North Retirement Community, 11160 Village North, St. Louis MO 63136.**



**Anna Ds Lunch**  
**Thursday, July 7**  
**11:30 a.m.**

The *Anna D. Sparks Women's Alliance* meets on the first Thursday of each month area. The photo is of Anna Davenport Sparks (1830-1896) for whom the women's group is named.

On July 7 the group will meet at **The Orient Chinese Restaurant** in Edwardsville.

It is in the Montclair Shopping Center on IL 159 at 1518 Troy Road.

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

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**Men's Group Lunch**  
**Thursday, July 11**  
**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](#)

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The next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, July 13 at 6:15 on zoom. If you have something you wish the Board to discuss at that meeting please contact [Robyn Berkley](#).

# FY2023 Stewardship Drive Update & Last Call

Happy July 4th everyone!

Robyn has asked me to provide a final update and solicitation for our FY2023 Stewardship Drive. We have **extended the drive until Friday, 7/8/2022** to give everyone a bit of additional time to evaluate possible contribution opportunities. Our current pledges account for approximately 86% (\$60,420) of the \$70,000 goal, so we still have work to do.

Again, we express tremendous gratitude to everyone who has generously pledged, and to all of you who find ways to contribute to the church in a multitude of ways. The support is wonderful, but I still must caution everyone that there are difficult decisions ahead of us. As we look to revitalize First Unitarian, I **remain concerned that we won't be able to fully fund all the planned initiatives for the upcoming year.** We are analyzing the budget carefully to present to congregation on 7/17, and we still have a large gap to breach.

Katherine and I love this congregation and while we are not members with voting privileges, we are absolutely invested in the future of the church. Consequently, we are going to commit to the Stewardship Drive and demonstrate that we have skin in the game. If you still desire to pledge and be part of something special, please join us with a similar commitment as we collaborate to keep this remarkable institution alive.

I've again attached electronic versions of the **Board's Stewardship Letter** and the **Pledge Card** for your review. If you are inclined to make a pledge, please fill out the attached Pledge Card and you can return it to [me](#) via email over the next few days.

If the Pledge Card is an issue to fill out, just email me an annual amount and I will complete on your behalf. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Best Regards,

Buddy Stricker, Business Analyst

Katherine Valley, CPA

Link to [Fillable Pledge Form R1](#)

Link to [Stewardship Letter 6-5-2022](#)

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## 4th Saturday Distribution – July 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 in the distribution room. You may bring products to church or donate financially by putting a check (memo for 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday) in the Sunday collection or online through Givelify or PayPal.

## Board Meeting Notes June 15, 2022

The Board is looking for someone with web development skills to update the church website. If you are interested, or know someone who might be interested, contact [Robyn Berkley](#).

Two new furnaces were installed on May 31.

The next zoom Board meeting will be on Wednesday, July 13 at 6:15. The Annual Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday July 17 following the service, in person and on zoom.

## UU Women's Rights Facebook Group

If you are interested in joining a private UU Women's Rights Facebook Group that currently has over 360 members, contact the administrator, [Karen Nichols](#). The group is described as follows:

*We are a dynamic FB group of Unitarian Universalists gathered together to apply our UU principles in support of women and women's issues. We provide an opportunity for UU's to connect with other UU's nationwide who are actively supporting women's rights.*

*Please feel free to share your own or your congregation's actions both locally and nationally in support of Women's Rights -- especially photos of UUs in action! We encourage an open exchange of ideas and respectful dialogue. We strive to build community and covenant together. This group may also be used to post time-sensitive action alerts regarding bills/laws impacting women's rights requiring a rapid response.*

*Please keep your posts on target: women and women's issues. This could cover various issues, such as equality, reproductive justice, trans and intersex health and rights, empowerment, healthcare, and political activism.*

*Looking forward to having this shared space as we continue our journey in supporting Women and Women's Rights!*

<https://tapestryuu.org/get-involved-2/social-action/womens-rights-action-group/>

## 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: Nancee Magilson [nmagilson@hotmail.com](mailto:nmagilson@hotmail.com)

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)

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