

FIRST UNITARIAN FOCUS



Congregation established 1836

Newsletter of the First Unitarian Church

Alton, Illinois
110 East 3rd St. (location)
PO Box 494 62002 (mail)

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

August 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>.

10 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICES For August

August 7

Speaker: Mary Johnson

Title: “*Reflections in Seaglass*”: a sermon from the Rev. David Pyle. “You can stumble across the small pieces of beauty, wisdom and truth that surround us all the time, but to find them in earnest takes training and intentionality.” Rev. David Pyle is the Regional lead and a Congregational Life Consultant with the MidAmerica UUA Regional Staff.

August 14

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Claudia Hall

Title: “*Bees and Salvation.*”

How do bees make honey? Why are bees important for humans, and humans for bees? How can lawn care express our faith?

August 21

Speaker: Rev. Krista Taves

Title: “*The Emperor really does have no clothes!*”

We are in a time when distortions of truth have become weapons in the pursuit of power. In this era of sound bites, click bait and 24-hour news cycles, can the truth still set us free?

(Worship Services continued on next page)

August 28

Speaker: Rev. Krista Taves

Title: *“Our Commitment Legacies”*

Every one of us grew up surrounded by the commitments made by those who raised us, and those who raised us were in turn shaped by their elders who were shaped by their elders. We are surrounded by a cloud of commitment legacies. It is like a patchwork quilt that rests on our shoulders.



To get better acquainted with our new minister, **Rev. Krista Taves**, please join her at a “hangout,” either in person or on zoom. RSVP for the in-person gatherings to be held on the 16th and 23rd by signing up at the link below or join via zoom on the 18th or 25th.

IN PERSON at The Post Commons in Alton, across Alby St. from the church

**Tuesday, August 16, 1-2 p.m. or
Tuesday, August 16, 2-3 p.m.**

**Tuesday, August 23, 1-2 p.m. or
Tuesday, August 23, 2-3 p.m.**

Sign up here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TITG_sACTmpHwoFgdzyK-h9ntFXonzVuJSIdlQ1FoMY/edit?usp=sharing

ON ZOOM

Thursday August 18, 6-7 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89166186868?pwd=ZIV2d2RUankzOXIOL2psdWhmSmhMQT09>

Meeting ID: 891 6618 6868

Passcode: 121571

Dial in: 1 312 626 6799

Thursday August 25, 6-7 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86050238269?pwd=QU NNQUZDTCTNbWkwTWwRiVjg0VnZJQT09>

Meeting ID: 860 5023 8269

Passcode: 793586

Dial in: 1 312 626 6799

Religious Education Program



**Rev. Dr.
Claudia Hall**

Hello everyone! Most of you have known me for the past couple of years as the consulting minister working with the board. Now that this wonderful community has a great leadership team in Rev. Krista and the board, I've been asked to change roles and help revitalize religious education.

If you have a child in RE you have hopefully already gotten some contact from me by email, but in the next few weeks I'll be writing letters and calling folks as well, as we work to put together a sustainable RE program that will engage your children throughout the year and that will steadily grow with our congregation without overwhelming our volunteers.

After service on August 14, I'm hoping you will stay for coffee hour and visit with me and get energized for the work we will be doing together across the age spectrum. You don't need to be a parent or a volunteer in RE to join in the discussion, I'm hoping to get ideas from everyone since RE is for everyone!

If you would like to reach me before August 14, feel free to email me at dr.claudia.hall@gmail.com or text me at 636.219.6580 (just be sure to tell me who you are since I don't have everyone's numbers saved in my phone yet!) I can also be reached on zoom or phone by appointment if that's the best way for you to chat.

Looking forward to working with you!

Peace, Claudia

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Greetings all...it has been an eventful month. We welcomed our new minister, ended a successful stewardship campaign, concluded the first phase of our stay or go discussion by voting to move our congregation to a new location, and we are in the beginning stages of developing our RE program.

It's a lot...take a deep breath! You did this...you made all of this possible. I thank all of you for stepping up and showing your faith in the church community. The love and support we have felt over the last few years are strong and I have no words to express my gratitude for your continued faith in your church leadership.

The stay or go decision was hard. I'm still feeling strong emotions from that decision. I love the building...I love its history...and I also love our members and know that the building has become a hardship for us physically and financially. There are a lot of mixed emotions and I honor all of those feelings.

I'm going to keep this message short...we are all sitting with this decision, and we also know the hard work is still ahead of us. Think about what matters to you about our church community and the building itself. When we reconvene in the fall after Ingathering, we'll focus on the next steps in the process. We'll need volunteers to help with all stages of preparation and planning. Thank you in advance for your support and belief in this community!

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

Would You Like to Learn More About Unitarian Universalism?



ADULT EDUCATION OFFERING

Starting Point with Rev. Krista Taves and Jennifer Lewis

This 4-part series offers those considering Unitarian Universalism and the First Unitarian Church of Alton the opportunity to experience UUism in action. You will learn about our faith tradition, explore your own spiritual journey, and connect with others who are also seeking a spiritual home or faith. We will meet on Zoom for the first three sessions; the fourth session will be in person at the church. Longtime members and friends seeking a small group experience are also welcome. We will have winter and spring sessions as well.

Session 1, Sunday, September 11, 2-3:45 pm on Zoom: Your Journey – Sharing Our Stories and Spiritual Roadmaps

Session 2, Monday, September 19, 6- 7:45 pm on Zoom: The Unitarian Universalist Journey and the Journey of Our Congregation

Session 3, Monday, October 17, 6 - 7:45 pm on Zoom: Our Journey Together – The Three Paths of Unitarian Universalism Part 1

Session 4, Sunday, October 23, noon - 1:45 in person: The Three Paths Part 2 and Finding Your Journey Group

Please register by emailing
revkristataves@gmail.com with "Starting Point
Registration" in the subject line.

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Rev. Krista Taves (she/her)
First Unitarian Church of Alton IL



**Adiaŭ & Bonajn
Dezirojn
to Dr. Ronald
Glossop**

Following the recent passing of his wife, Audrey, Ron Glossop is moving to Nashua NH to live with his son Kent and family. Ron joined the Alton congregation in June 1994. He is a Professor Emeritus of Philosophical Studies at SIUE. He is known world-wide in the Esperanto community and among World Federalists. He also has preached many sermons here in Alton during his 28 years as a member. His presence will be missed. Ron will be flying off on August 30 to begin a new phase of his life.

**Anna Ds Lunch
Thursday, August 4
11:30 a.m.**

The *Anna D. Sparks Women's Alliance* meets on the first Thursday of each month generally in the Alton-Edwardsville-Florissant area.

On August 4, the group will meet at McAllister's Deli.



312 Great Place Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025

This is on Highway 157 (N. Bluff Road) about 2.8 miles from the I-270 exit. If you're coming from the north on 157 and pass Pasta House you've gone too far. If coming south and get to the cemeteries, you've gone too far.

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

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



The men's group will be meeting somewhere for lunch. Information will be sent out to the group's email list.

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



**4th Saturday
Distribution
August 27
10:45 – 12:15**

Besides the usual household and personal care products we hope to be able to distribution school supplies. [Carol McGrew](#) will have a signup list at church and school items will be posted in the *Church This Week* flyers. Needed household and personal care products will also be posted.

In July (July 23 – temperature 100 degrees) 27 individuals came to the distribution. Of 27 individuals, many were from single households, but others had family members, so our distribution helped 44 individuals from the 27 households.

Thanks to Carol, Marcella, Jessie, Scott, and Mary for helping this month.

[Paula Moore](#) is the Distribution coordinator and can be contacted if you have questions about this program or want to volunteer to help on distribution day.

The Happy Hebert Family



Congratulations to Mona, Paul, and Ramona.

On July 20, 2022, at the St. Louis County courthouse, Ramona's adoption was finalized.



THREE UPCOMING FESTIVALS WHERE THE CHURCH WILL HAVE A PRESENCE

(1) Alton Pride Festival

September 10, noon to 10 p.m.

Belle Street, Alton

(2) Tower Grove Pride Fest

September 24 – 25, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tower Grove Park, St. Louis MO

(3) EdwardsvilleUNITY Fest

First UU of Alton will be reaching out into the community this fall to participate in UnityFest. Specifically, this free event will take place from noon until 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 1st at LeClaire Park in Edwardsville.

Our church will be hosting a conversation booth with free beverages to facilitate both UU and the UnityFest common goals to "... bring together as many of the different faces and voices of our community as possible."

The newly formed nonprofit *EdwardsvilleUnity* group strives to "... encourage togetherness and solidarity through education, collaboration and community building activities." ... a perfect fit for UU thinking with our own little lighthearted twist.

Sound like fun to you? Contact [Peg Flach](#) to volunteer for a shift at the booth.

Volunteers will also be needed to staff our Table at both the Alton Pride and the Tower Grove Pride festivals. Contact Robyn Berkley to volunteer for either of these locales.

Building and Grounds



The sidewalk from Easton St. to the church is now open, but due to the heavy rain, some of the walkway is covered with mud, but the mud can be walked around.

Also, there has been 3 times in the past few weeks that the basement level in the RE wing has been flooded, either from interior overflow or clogged exterior drains or ??? The Board has asked Jim Seubert from Pride Cleaning and Restoration to come on Friday 7/29 to look at our situation.



[Mark Hinrichs](#) joined the church on July 17, 2022.

WELCOME Mark!



Becoming a Member of this Church

If you've been attending services at First Unitarian of Alton for a while and have gotten to know

some of the people here and believe that this church offers the kind of religious home and support for the spiritual journey that you are seeking, we invite you to consider membership in the church.

Signing the membership book in the presence of two Board members, is the first step, and then adding your spirit and presence by participating in the life of the church follows.

On page 3 of this newsletter is information about a series of informational classes, starting on September 11 that we hope all who are interested in membership in this church will take.

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@uwalumni.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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