

First Unitarian Focus

Newsletter of the First Unitarian Church of Alton, Illinois



Congregation established 1836

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<https://www.firstuualton.org/>

October 2023

Welcome to church! We hope to see you in person this month. For the time being we ask that you still wear a mask during the worship service and continue to practice social distancing while elsewhere in the church building. 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>.



Metro East Unitarian Universalist Congregation is the new name for our congregation, as approved by Congregational vote on Sunday, September 24, 2023.

10 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICES
October 2023

October 1

Speaker: Dee Evans

Title: “How Cultivating Friendships Is a Spiritual Practice”

Summary: If spirituality is finding meaning in a messy world (Rev. Sunshine Wolfe), then cultivating friendship can be a spiritual practice and help us find meaning in a world that has become more uncertain.

In line with our current principles, it is a way of finding oneness in the interdependent web, developing compassion, and respecting the dignity of others.

October 2023

Reminder: This is a “clean” Sunday – no food or drink, and masks are to be worn throughout the building.

RE Class meets

October 8

Speaker: John Herndon

Title: “All who wander are not lost”

Summary: Life sometimes brings many alterations, job changes, change of a city, changing where you live. But change and the need to wonder can bring a fresh approach and new adventure. I will meditate on how changing our church location will be a wonderful new experience.

October 15

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Claudia Hall

Title: *"Harvest and Home"*

Summary: As UUs one of our sources are the earthbased traditions, which honor seasonal change. Join us to celebrate Fall and the warmth of harvest and home.

RE Class meets

October 22

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Claudia Hall

Title: *"Parting the veil. UU Afterlives"*

Join us to learn about the variety of beliefs UUs have about the afterlife."

October 29

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Claudia Hall

Title: *"Farewell service for the Alton building"*

Summary: Join us for the last service in the Alton building. We will say goodbye to the building and share memories of how this place shaped us.

If you haven't been here for a while, you're invited to come this Sunday for the farewell service.



Rev. Claudia's Column

Welcome autumn!

So many things are happening as the season changes, both in nature and around our church.

As I write this, we are waiting to hear from the congregation what our new name will be, we have almost finalized the lease, and we are busy sorting and packing what will stay and what will go.

Many of these things are bittersweet, both in nature and in this move. Be gentle to yourself in this season of change as we work together to say goodbye to the current building and make our new location home.

I want to say a special thank you to the Board and all the volunteers who have taken the time to help

sort, pack, prep and find ways to create a new home for us. All your hard work is seen and greatly appreciated!

Life can't be all work though, and this month we have some fun things planned as well. First off, there is an all UU Trunk or Treat on October 21st at First UU St Louis. This is a great opportunity to bring your own kids and also invite neighbors and friends to a fun experience.

Also in October on the 28th we celebrate the ordination of our member and friend Dee Evans, so join us online or in person at the Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation as we all say "Congrats Rev. Dee!"

Finally, we say goodbye to the building in Alton on Oct 29, in a two-part service where we will formally thank the space for being our home for so very long and free it up to become a place of inspiration for a new purpose.

May you feel love and hope surround you this day and every day. In faith and hope,

In Faith and Hope,
Claudia

President's Column

Hello all...yup...it's a busy time. I love our new name "Metro East Unitarian Universalist Congregation"!

No matter where we wander (and we won't be lost) this name serves us very well!

We have a lot on our plates these days and I don't have much to say here that I am not already sharing with you all. Just know you are all loved and we are doing our best to keep everything moving forward!

Lastly, and most importantly, love each other...be kind to each other...that's all that matters at the end of the day!

Love and Light,
Robyn



ROMEOS Lunch Group
(Retired Old Men Eating out)
 – Thursday, October 12,
 at 11:30.

Location to be announced via email.

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



Unity Fest in Edwardsville
 Saturday, September 30
 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 LeClaire Park
 900 Hale Ave

****This is our opportunity to get the word out about our move to Edwardsville.**

Anna Ds Lunch Gathering
Thursday,
October 5

@ 11:30 a.m.



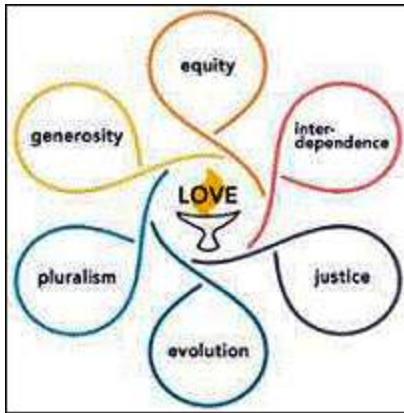
McAlister's Deli
 (across from the Ginger Creek business park).
 (618) 372-9599
 312 Great Place Drive
 Edwardsville, IL 62025
https://locations.mcalistersdeli.com/il/edwardsville/312-great-placedrive?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=locations_partner

All women invited. Please respond to [Sandy](#) and let her know whether you plan to come ... or not ... or will arrive late.



Saturday, October 7 – Our church will be one the churches featured on the annual **Landmarks Historic Building Tour**. The church will be open from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. for visitors to come through. If you would like to volunteer to help during the tour, please contact [Nancee Magilson](#).

https://www.advantagenews.com/news/local/different-look-for-historic-building-tour/article_bc09cd8a-5182-11ee-a63f-0bc276c4c1fb.html



RE Updates

Our children’s religious education classes are off to a great start for the church year!

The school-aged children have studied our Unitarian and Universalist roots; made

personal chalices; discussed the importance of sharing in our faith; and learned about our traditions of water, bread, and flower communions. Our Pre-K class learned about our UU principles and chalices; practiced listening to their inner voice; learned about the Buddha; and made personal mala or prayer beads.

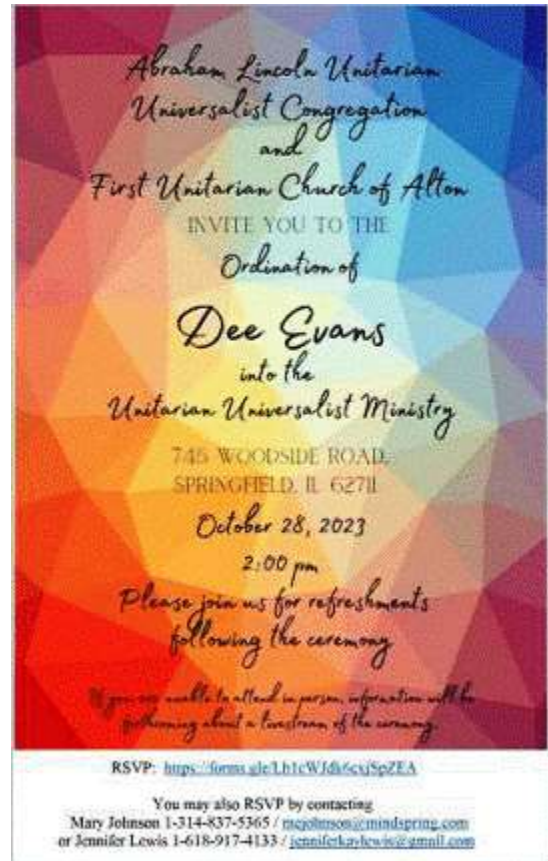
This year’s curriculum for Pre-K is focused on world religions, teaching our youngest members about all the sources we draw on for wisdom in our own faith. The Pre-K class enjoys stories, crafts, songs, dances, and lots of free play! For the schoolaged kids, the curriculum is based on the changes proposed to the covenants in the UUA Bylaws,

centering on Love and exploring the values of interdependence, equity, transformation, pluralism, generosity, and justice (see image). The school-aged class spends its time in story, discussion, and crafts. This month, in addition to our regular RE classes, we plan to have a costume party for school-aged RE on October 29, so feel free to come to church in costume that day and join the parade!

We are off to a great start in our RE program, and we are excited to watch the program grow as we relocate to our new space! If you are interested in helping with either the Pre-K or the School-aged RE classes, please contact Jennifer Lewis. Thanks for supporting our kids!

Thanks for supporting our kids!
 RE Committee
 Michelle Bassett
 Nathan Brown
 Marcella Dominick
 Jennifer Lewis

**Mark Your Calendars for
 Dee Evans’ Ordination
 at the UU congregation in Springfield**



The invitation was designed by our own Jennifer Lewis!

RSVP:
<https://forms.gle/Lh1cWJdk6cxjSpZEA>

***** Alton is coordinating the dessert table.**

Decorated sheet cakes will be purchased but we are asking for cookies, or other desserts and fruit to be contributed. Contact [Mary Johnson](#) by Oct. 21 if you plan to bring something for the dessert table.



"Wherever a beautiful soul has been, there is a trail of beautiful memories."



Jane McCoy Broadbooks
(December 18, 1928 – September 2, 2023)

Most of you may not have known Jane Broadbooks but those of us who did, remember her fondly. Jane and her husband Harold joined our church here in Alton on January 8, 1961.

They were long-time members, moving away only after retirement. Jane served for many years as our church organist/pianist, and Music Director.

The Broadbooks had 6 children who went through our church's RE program. Her daughter, Wendy Pickett, mentioned that she (Wendy) was active in the Unitarian LRY group (Liberal Religious Youth) at the church.



Jane was a graduate of the University of Michigan and earned a Master's degree in Mathematics from Washington University. She taught math on both the high school and college levels.

Jane and Harold along with their six children traveled extensively throughout the United States and then took many trips overseas after they both retired. She is survived by her six children, seven grandchildren and

Starting Point

An Introduction to the Unitarian Universalist Journey
All sessions are Monday evenings at 6:30 pm Central time on Zoom.



Oct 16: Your Journey - Sharing Our Stories and Spiritual Roadmaps

Oct 23: The Unitarian Universalist Journey & The Journey of Our Church

Also continuing on Nov. 6 & 13.

For Zoom Link contact Pastor Claudia at dr.claudia.hall@gmail.com,

UU TRUNK OR TREAT AT FIRST UNITARIAN IN ST. LOUIS



An Exploration of the Proposed UUA Article II

Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Bylaws, Principles and Purposes, is the foundation for all the work of our UUA and its member congregations and covenanted communities. Most remember Article II as our 7 Principles and 6 Sources, which articulate our denominational agreements and name our spiritual and religious foundations. UUA Bylaws require that we revise Article II on a regular schedule. The 2023 proposed revision of Article II is a radical re-visioning that invites us into dialogue with one another about the values of our shared faith community

We are in a one-year discernment period, after which delegates to General Assembly 2024 will vote to accept or reject the proposed Article II revision. Want to learn more? Interested in being a 2024 GA delegate? Wrestling with how this will shape the future

of our faith communities? Join Rev. Kim Mason for a four-session small group exploration of the proposed Article II.

This four-session program engages you in the Purposes, Values and Covenant, Inspiration, Inclusion and Freedom of belief of the proposed Article II which will be voted on at General Assembly 2024.

Sessions are 90-minutes, every other Thursday, at 6:30 pm, September 28, October 12 & 26, November 9, **online AND in-person**. This is a covenant-based program that requires participants attend all four sessions. In-person class will be held at the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis. **The Zoom link for the sessions will be emailed the week before Session 1.**

RSVP Here: <https://forms.gle/cvU3mWt3jbEYy69p7>

Rev. Kim Mason

First Unitarian Church of St. Louis

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2023-2024 church year

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