

August 2007



# A·L·U·U·C NEWS



Newsletter of the Abraham Lincoln  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation

**Office Hours:**

Monday & Wednesday  
11:00am - 2:30pm  
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday:  
11:00am - 4:30pm  
Available other times by appointment

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217-585-9550

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**September Newsletter Deadline:**  
August 24, 2007

## SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

Services are held Sunday morning at 10:30am. Guests are welcome. Religious education and child care are provided for children of all ages.

**August 5**

**Overpopulation and Religion**

What are the Earth's limits to support the human family on a sustained basis? And what ethical and religious implications are involved with this issue? Dave Christensen of the Carbondale, Illinois UU Church will share ideas from his new book, Earth Is Overpopulated Now.

**August 12**

**The State of Separation between Church and State**

Frank Kopecky, congregation member, retired UIS professor, former Chief Legal Counsel to the Dept. of Children and Family Services, and respected constitutional lawyer will present his Annual Progress Report on Religious Freedom in the United States.

**August 19**

**A Taste of Mindfulness: Experiencing the Gift of Presence**

Eva C. Muller, Ph.D. and Julie Slack, M.A. Eva and Julie will do a thoughtful and experiential presentation on the practice of mindfulness meditation. They will introduce us to what mindfulness is and how it can support our daily lives and spiritual journey.

**August 26**

**On Divine Metaphors by Rev. Martin Woulfe**

For countless generations, various cultures have subscribed to quite diverse notions of the Divine. What are some of the more important ones which endure to this day, and what are their relative strengths and weaknesses? What relational metaphor is emerging in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Come and find out.

**September 2**

**The Church of Theatre? (How my profession shaped my spirituality)**

Missy Thibodeaux-Thompson will share how she discovered theatre at a young age, and how her theatrical journey has informed her spiritual journey through life.

## *From the Minister. . .*

Not so long ago, many (perhaps most) UU churches were literally closed for the summer. The liturgical year effectively began after Labor Day and was complete by Father's Day. I've heard it suggested that this tradition stemmed from the close relationship enjoyed by many a liberal congregation and the major university invariably situated close by. Thus, when the academic year ended, faculty and students – these comprised the majority of parishioners and volunteers -- would disperse; few persons remained to attend or keep the organization running. Also, it is worth remembering that in the days before air conditioning, the reality of spending several hours sequestered inside a sweltering church building could dampen the ardor (not to mention clothes) of even the most devout soul. At some point during the latter half of the twentieth century, UU's experienced the equivalent of a paradigm shift with respect to summer services. Was it the proliferation of air conditioning? Did we discover that spirituality required more than the warmth of the sun and the spray of the sea? Or was it the realization that our religious neighbors somehow kept their houses of worship open throughout the year?

Regardless of the reason(s), it seems that most UU congregations made the decision to go to year round services in a relatively short span. This shift represented a substantial break with tradition and created quite a few logistical headaches, such as scheduling speakers and ushers and child care attendants and hospitality and greeters, etc.

What was soon evident is that something more than a mere logistical change had occurred – in fact, congregations were envisioning a new and expanded sense of their mission.

In retrospect, the one may seem to have been a natural even inevitable progression of the other. But of course, such paradigm shifts are never truly predetermined. It speaks volumes about the commitment of the members and their capacity that these changes were made.

What is next on our horizon? We have evolved into a fairly complex institution. Two hundred members is a significant milestone. But there are deeper changes than the mere addition of numbers. As more people have associated themselves with us, the number of tasks has multiplied, as have the number of groups. Space usage is likely to become an important topic for consideration. So too is the question of whether we should consider adding on to the present structure, or to move to two services. I anticipate that we will begin having those conversations in earnest in two years; it is not too early, therefore, to mention this.

During times of change, we do well to reflect upon our sense of mission and our vision. In recent years, members and friends of ALUUC have embraced a stronger and deeper commitment to one another and to the larger community. This is reassuring. I am impressed that during the past year, several motivated members have pressed our congregation to explore the issue of racism. This is especially relevant as we are but one year away from the centennial observance of the 1908 Springfield race riots. I believe that the next twelve months will be a significant opportunity for all citizens of Springfield to cultivate and perhaps even to model better relations with our neighbors. I hope that we all avail ourselves of this opportunity, as individuals and as a religious institution. And who knows? Perhaps there are even more paradigm shifts to be experienced.

~ *Martin*

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## *From the Board President. . .*

It has been a fun summer! This past June, Jan Droegkamp and Linda and I traveled to Portland, Oregon to attend the annual General Assembly. I proudly carried the ALUUC banner in the opening ceremony, and I was awestruck at seeing so many representatives from so many UU congregations and fellowships from all over the country gathered in one place. It was truly inspiring and uplifting, and one of the many things I took from my experience was a strong focus on growth.

Our own membership count has been hovering around the 200 mark lately, bouncing over it and below it as people come and go. I suppose a positive spin on this could be that it gives several new members the opportunity to be “The 200<sup>th</sup> Member of ALUUC”; however I can’t help but look forward to seeing us move past this point and continue our growth. This is truly an exciting time for our congregation.

So, one thing that I am hoping to see this year is the rebuilding of our Membership Committee. Due to career obligations and life changes for members past and present, this committee has basically dissolved. Therefore you may consider this a “recruitment plug” for some outstanding individual to step forward and take the lead in bringing our Membership Committee back to life!

Finally, I want to thank all of our new, returning, and outgoing Board Members and Committee Members for donating their valuable time and skills to keeping this congregation healthy and growing!

~ *Mike Haynes*

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## *From the Coordinator of Religious Education. . .*

A sun-summery-shining-hello! Yes, these later days of the season signal the beginning of something new. For UU’s, it’s the start of a new church year. As the dog days of summer draw to a close, we’re all busy gearing up to jump into a fantastic new Religious Education season. This year we will be presenting strand B of our A/B rotation. Strand A teaches our community about Unitarian Universalist Principles while Strand B explores World Religions, each at a developmentally appropriate level for individual age groups including adults!

A special aspect of our study this year allows the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to visit area places of worship, including a Catholic Mass, a Jewish Synagogue, and an Islamic Temple. High school students will choose an area of study together and share the responsibility of teaching one another. Young children are taught from a variety of UU curricula chosen by their teachers, tailored for specific ages to help them understand different beliefs around the world.

The next most important thing for our youth programming is **Registration, Registration, and Registration!** Did anyone say **Registration?** This year, for the first time, you may register your child(ren) online or at church. Members of the RE committee will be at a table in the foyer before and after church on Aug. 26, Sept. 2, & Sept. 9. The annual Rock & Water Ceremony kicks off the church year, as is tradition, in an intergenerational service on September 9<sup>th</sup> – this means the entire service is designed for families, so collect those samples to share together. Religious Education classes begin the following Sunday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>. Can’t wait to see you all!

**\*A special thank you goes out to Rachel Walker for an excellent job with summer programming!**

~ *Meg Schnake*

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# Group Meetings & Other Events. . .

## Book Discussion Group

[BookGroup@aluuc.org](mailto:BookGroup@aluuc.org)

Joins us on Tuesday, August 28 at 7:30pm to discuss "*The Namesake*" by *Jhumpa Lahiri*. Contact Barb Moore at to find the location of the meeting which was not decided at the time of the newsletter deadline. Future selections include: "*So Long, See You Tomorrow*", William Maxwell; "*Pale Horse, Pale Rider: Three Short Novels*"; Katherine Ann Porter; and "*Everyman*", Philip Roth.

## Bridge Group

This group meets at the ALUUC on the second Friday of every month at 7:00pm. All skill levels are welcome. For more information, contact Chris Romaine.

## Buddhist Meditation Groups

Simple Meditation is hosted every Thursday night from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. For more information, please contact Debby Hagan at [meditation@aluuc.org](mailto:meditation@aluuc.org).

The Sangamon Zen Meditation Group sits most Saturday mornings at the ALUUC from 9:00am to 11:30am. Please check the website calendar for dates.

## Build Your Own Theology Group

[BYOTG@aluuc.org](mailto:BYOTG@aluuc.org)

Join us on Monday, August 20 at 7:00pm at the ALUUC. If you enjoyed (or just heard about) Connie Barlow and her husband Michael Dowd's presentation of "Epic of Evolution" during the Sunday service on July 8th, come experience another presentation. Martha Bray will show an hour from their DVD, "Celebrating Evolution", and will lead a discussion afterward.

## Christian Interest Group

[ChristianInterestGroup@aluuc.org](mailto:ChristianInterestGroup@aluuc.org)

There will be no meeting in August, but they will resume on September 10 at 7:30pm at the ALUUC.

## Dream Group

[DreamGroup@aluuc.org](mailto:DreamGroup@aluuc.org)

This group meets at the ALUUC on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm. In a relaxed atmosphere, each person in the group will share a recent dream of his or her own choosing. Then two dreams will be selected for further discussion. It is an opportunity to exchange insights without engaging in group therapy as such. For more information, please contact John Glosser.

## Humanist Discussion Group

[HumanistGroup@aluuc.org](mailto:HumanistGroup@aluuc.org)

Join us on Monday, August 27 at 7:00pm at the ALUUC for the first meeting of the new Humanist Discussion Group. All are welcome. Clark Olson's presentation, "Evolution and Thinking About Our Lives" is based primarily on David Sloan Wilson's, [Evolution for Everyone: How Darwin's Theory Can Change the Way We Think About Our Lives](#). Discussion will follow. No advance reading required. If you have any questions about this group, please contact Carol Floyd.

## Labyrinth Walk

There will be no labyrinth walk for August. They will resume on September 21. Any questions can be directed to Rev. Martin Woulfe at 217-585-9550 or [Minister@aluuc.org](mailto:Minister@aluuc.org)

## Movie Night

Movie Night will resume in September. Film and date has not yet been determined. Contact Rev. Woulfe for more information.

## News Covenant Group

[NewsGroup@aluuc.org](mailto:NewsGroup@aluuc.org)

Join us on Thursday, August 2 at 7:30pm at Renata & Heiko Buchloh's home. Contact them if you have any questions.

## The Occasional Choir

Check the online calendar for practice dates. For more information about the choir, please contact Jim Redlich or Bonnie Ettinger.

## 2007-2008 Religious Education Student Registration

Don't forget to register your child or children for the fall RE program. This can be done either online or by completing the student registration form. Please see Meg Schnake (CRE) or Brenda Wade before or after a Sunday morning service to obtain this form, or if you have any detailed questions.

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### \* Fun in the Sun \*

Mark your calendars for August 26th! After the Sunday service we are going to Lincoln's New Salem! Join all your friends from ALUUC at this fascinating historic site as we picnic together and then enjoy a trip back in time to this 1830's village. If you would like more information on this fun and educational place here is a great website to read more about it: [http://www.petersburgil.com/p\\_newsalem.html](http://www.petersburgil.com/p_newsalem.html)

Sponsored by the Fellowship Committee  
Linda Haynes, Chairperson  
[Fellowship@aluuc.org](mailto:Fellowship@aluuc.org)



### *New to UU Class*

Now that you've found us, are you thinking about joining? Do you want to know more about Unitarian Universalism and what it means to become a member? If so, then this orientation is for you. Rev. Martin Woulfe will conduct a class that will present the fundamentals of liberal religion and the history of this congregation. The class will meet on 2 consecutive Wednesdays, August 15 & 22 from 7:00 to 9:00pm at ALUUC. Please let us know if you will need child care. You can sign-up by contacting Rev. Woulfe at 585-9550 or email [minister@aluu.org](mailto:minister@aluu.org). You can also sign-up by means of the ALUUC website by clicking on New to UU from the Guests webpage.

***LOVE THE ALUUC?  
LOVE TO PAINT?  
LOVE TO PARTY?***

If you can answer “yes” to any of these questions, we would love to have your help sprucing up our walls this summer.

**SAVE THESE DATES:  
Saturday, Aug. 11 and (if needed)  
Saturday, Aug. 25 from 1:00 to 6:00pm**

The Facilities and Aesthetics Committees invite you to come with paint supplies in one hand and something to eat or drink in the other. We are currently preparing the walls so that we can accomplish lots of work in a small amount of time—and still have energy left over to eat, drink and be merry at the end of the day. Please join us!

Kurt DeWeese, Facilities Chairperson  
Debby Hagan, Aesthetics Chairperson



## Humanist Discussion Group

A new Humanist Discussion Group has been formed that will regularly meet on the fourth Monday of the month. This responds to a high interest in Humanism shown at a June 18 discussion meeting at ALUUC

The group’s general coverage is both religious and secular humanism. The group focus will be: the common philosophical base for all that come together under the big UU umbrella. Humanism rejects the supernatural while stressing core values such as dignity of the individual, equality, and social justice. Some special topics may include evolution, separation of church and state, and ethical values

Join us on Monday, August 27 at 7:00pm at the ALUUC for our first meeting. All are welcome. Clark Olson’s presentation on “Evolution and Thinking About Our Lives” is based primarily on David Sloan Wilson’s , Evolution for Everyone: How Darwin’s Theory Can Change the Way We Think About Our Lives. Discussion will follow. No advance reading required. If you have questions about this group please contact, Carol Floyd at [HumanistGroup@aluuc.org](mailto:HumanistGroup@aluuc.org)

## ALUUC Delegates Give Report on GA

### From Linda Haynes:

My experience with going to the GA in Portland, Oregon, was mixed. I felt a little overwhelmed by the huge amount of people, but at the same time it was a wonderful feeling to know there are so many like-minded people. Just in the time we were at the Chicago airport, waiting for our flight to Portland, we began to meet many fellow UU's and everyone was so incredibly nice. Many shared their experiences of what they were hoping to be able to take back for their congregation and what challenges their congregations were facing. Each with particular goals, each with funny stories and each sharing what they loved about their church. When we finally got to the GA it was exciting and a little chaotic. There were over 5,500 people and, being more of an introvert, it was overwhelming to me. The things that I enjoyed the most were a story of how the congregation in Carbondale, IL grew their church, a wonderful workshop on Darfur presented by Frances Moore Lappe (author of /Diet For a Small Planet/ and /Hope's Edge/) and seeing Amy Goodman talk with the men who wrote /The Pentagon Papers. Overall it was a fun and educational experience, plus I have to say Portland is just beautiful.

### From Jan Droegkamp

I was honored to serve the congregation at my third General Assembly. Each attendee chooses from an amazing menu of events, speeches, worship services, sing-a-longs, business meetings, films and local service projects and rallies. I did a lot of singing, including a session with a member of Sweet Honey in the Rock. I attended all of the plenary sessions and voted on Acts of Immediate Witness which are actions UU's are encouraged to participate in 2007-2008. I also attended a session with Daniel Ellsberg and Bob West, of Beacon Press, about the release of the Pentagon Papers. I was energized by sessions on Small Group Ministry and Middle East policies; I met Ehren Watada, who has refused deployment to Iraq in a high profile case that the UU's are supporting and I reunited with friends that I worked with during my Hurricane Katrina Relief efforts in Mississippi. I met former ALUUC members John Collins, Pat McGovern and Amy Moses, along with former ministers Alex Holt and Mary Moore. I am certainly richer for the experience. Next Year? Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

## Conscientious Knitters

Our next meetings will be August 19 and September 30 at Jan Droegkamp's house from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. Newcomers welcome. If anyone has an accessibility needs, please let Jan know. If you are knitting caps for newborns I would like to send a bunch to Coastal Women for Change women's group in Biloxi, MS on Aug. 29th (the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina). Here is the pattern again. [http://warmupamerica.org/Jul06\\_kit.html](http://warmupamerica.org/Jul06_kit.html) Please contact Jan with questions or to get on the email list.

## New Aesthetics Committee formed

In response to complaints that our beautiful, prairie-style building and grounds are in need of sprucing-up and re-organization, the ALUUC Board of Directors approved the creation of an Aesthetics Committee at their June meeting. Debby Hagan was appointed chair of the committee. She named four additional members: Gwen Childs, Nancy Ray, Victoria Vincent and Anna Williams. The first meeting was held June 16, 2007. This committee does not replace the Facilities committee, but will work in conjunction with Facilities and all other committees to make those types of decisions relevant to our mission:

The Aesthetics Committee's mission is to ensure that the ALUUC buildings and grounds are aesthetically pleasing and maintain their functionality. Using principles of good design, the committee will work to protect and enhance the beauty of our facilities and grounds. The committee will strive to make the best use of the facilities within the space limitations. The goal of the committee is to satisfy the practical needs and the aesthetic sensibilities of all the groups who share our congregational home.

The issues to be brought to the committee include, but are not limited to, the following:

- \*approval and placement of art, posters, signs, bulletin boards and tables,
- \*approval and placement of banners,
- \*approval and placement of seasonal decorations,
- \*approval of methods for attaching items to the walls and doors,
- \*approval of furniture donations/purchases for placement in the facility,
- \*approval of storage options,
- \*approval of any structural change or attachment to the facility,
- \*approval of any interior or exterior finishes,
- \*approval of any landscaping or exterior improvements.

In practice, what this means is: if you would like to hang posters or donate furniture or plant trees, or put up a bulletin board, to name just a few areas, you need to run it by the committee first. Forms for requests will be kept in the office. The committee will meet monthly, at a minimum. If the committee denies a proposal, the person bringing it forward may appeal the decision to the board at the board's next monthly meeting.

If you have questions about the new committee and its work, please contact any member of the committee listed above.

# August 2007

\* Event not held at the ALUUC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Meditation 7:00pm *News Covenant Group 7:30pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Zen Meditation 9:30am
<b>5</b> Worship Service 10:30am	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Board Meeting 7:00pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Meditation 7:00pm	<b>10</b> Bridge Group 7:00pm	<b>11</b> Zen Meditation 9:30am
<b>12</b> Worship Service 10:30am	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Meditation 7:00pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Zen Meditation 9:30am
<b>19</b> Worship Service 10:30am	<b>20</b> Build Your Own Theology Group 7:00pm	<b>21</b> Committee Night 7:00pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Meditation 7:00pm	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Zen Meditation 9:30am
<b>26</b> Worship Service 10:30am	<b>27</b> Humanist Discussion Group 7:00pm	<b>28</b> *Book Discussion Group 7:30pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Meditation 7:00pm	<b>31</b>	

Dates & Times subject to change. Please check the website calendar for any changes/updates.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Clergy:

<i>Minister</i>	Rev. Martin Woulfe	minister@aluuc.org
<i>Minister-Emeritus</i>	Rev. Berkley Moore	minister-emeritus@aluuc.org

### Board of Directors:

<i>President</i>	Mike Haynes	president@aluuc.org
<i>Vice President</i>	Gwen Childs	vicepresident@aluuc.org
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jeff Bennett	treasurer@aluuc.org
<i>Secretary</i>	Carol Floyd	secretary@aluuc.org

<i>Board Members</i>	Carley Mattimore Bill McCall Delinda Chapman Henry Farrington Ceceilia Haasis Scott Wade
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### Committees:

<i>Committee on Ministry</i>	Frank Kopecky, Chair Michael Plog Perry Hines Rebecca Anderson Myra Epping TBD	CoM@aluuc.org
<i>Endowment Trust</i>	Dave Braddock Kurt DeWeese Frank Kopecky Nancy Standen Victoria Vincent	Endowment@aluuc.org
<i>Nominating</i>	Roger Powers, Chair John Malan Berkley Moore Debby Hagan	Nominating@aluuc.org
<i>Aesthetics</i>	Debby Hagan, Chair Victoria Vincent Gwen Childs Nancy Ray Anna Williams	Aesthetics@aluuc.org
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<i>Fellowship</i>	Linda Haynes	Fellowship@aluuc.org
<i>Finance</i>	Barbara Moore	Finance@aluuc.org
<i>Floral</i>	Vi Lanum	Floral@aluuc.org
<i>Membership &amp; Publicity</i>	VACANT	
<i>Pastoral Care</i>	Jodi Perko	
<i>Program</i>	Craig Bailey	Program@aluuc.org
<i>Religious Education (RE)</i>	Brenda Wade	RE@aluuc.org
<i>Social Action</i>	John Malan	SAC@aluuc.org

## FYI. . .

### NAMETAGS

If you need a replacement nametag, please either email your request to [nametags@aluuc.org](mailto:nametags@aluuc.org), or print your name on a piece of paper and place it in the nametag slot on the nametag rack. You can also request it through the ALUUC website.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Change of address notices and other subscription request can be done on the ALUUC website by clicking on the Members link. Or you can email the information to [ECC@aluuc.org](mailto:ECC@aluuc.org) or by mail to:

ALUUC Attn: ECC  
745 Woodside Road  
Springfield, IL 62711-7346

### ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMING EVENTS

Submission for Announcements and Coming Events should be submitted electronically to [office@aluuc.org](mailto:office@aluuc.org) by Thursday at 12:00 noon.

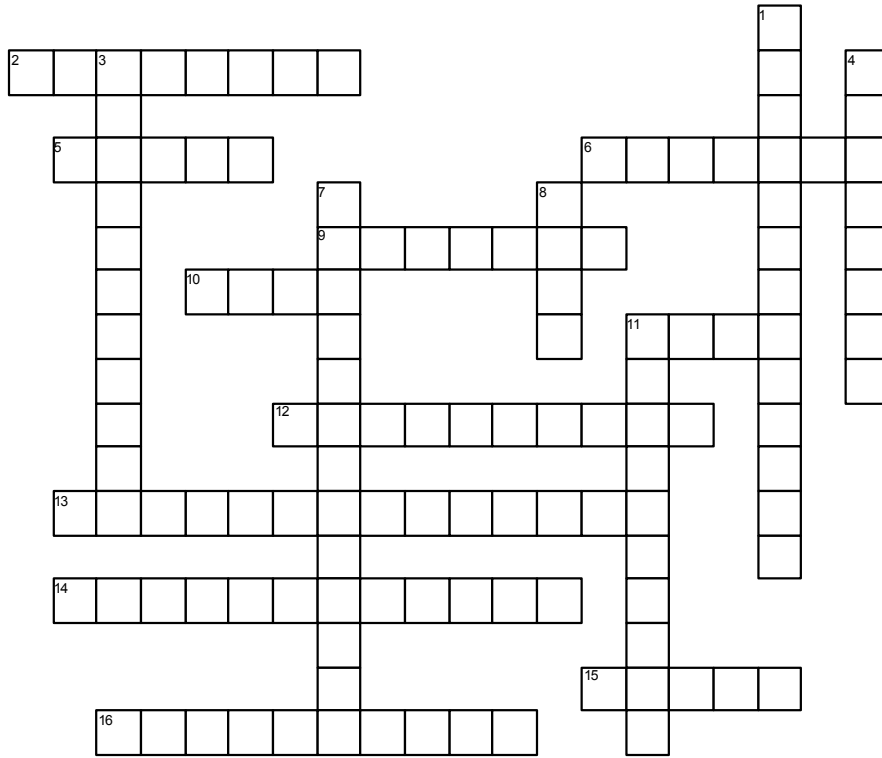
### Removal from Newsletter Mailing List:

If you would like to stop receiving this newsletter, please either contact the church office or send an email requesting to be removed from the newsletter mailing list to: [newsletter@aluuc.org](mailto:newsletter@aluuc.org)

### \*\*\* Reminder \*\*\*

Please remember when participating in meetings held in the RE classrooms to clean up afterwards. We want our youth and our volunteer teachers to know that we value their efforts by respecting their space. Thank you!

# Civil War Facts



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

**ACROSS**

**DOWN**

- 2 Confederate capital city
- 5 The North
- 6 Famous Union ironclad ship
- 9 Civil War Union President
- 10 Confederate uniform color
- 11 How many years did the Civil War last?
- 12 Turning point battle
- 13 Confederate President (2 w ds.)
- 14 This new state was created because only half of it wanted to secede
- 15 "Four score and \_\_\_ years ago"
- 16 Confederate army leader (3 w ds.)
- 1 First state to secede (2 w ds.)
- 3 The South
- 4 Famous Confederate ironclad ship
- 7 Union army leader (3 w ds.)
- 8 Union uniform color
- 11 First shots of the Civil War were fired at this location (2 w ds.)

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## August Birthdays

Eugena Austin, Kurt DeWeese, Mike Haynes, Kelley Holder, Karen Laird, Stacey Larson, Nicole Lisk, Berkley Moore, Amanda Mueller, Roger Powers, Ken Wade, Anna Williams, Martin Woulfe

