



**Announcements for Sunday, April 3, 2016
Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation**



Next Sunday's service is "After Spong" by Rev. Martin Woulfe.

Happening Today

Change for Change: Today's Change for Change collection will benefit the Illinois Innocence Project. Founded in 2001 as the Downstate Innocence Project, IIP is dedicated to releasing innocent men and women imprisoned in Illinois for crimes they did not commit. This program supports attorneys, paralegals and law students who research cases of prisoners who were wrongly convicted. Eight Illinois prisoners have been exonerated as a result of this work. Background work leading to freedom requires expensive research and legwork.

Pledge Drive 2016-2017: This is Pledge Drive Sunday! The Pledge Drive began last night with the kickoff at Gwen & Kent Childs' home. Pledging enables the development of the annual budget for the next year, beginning July 1, 2016. All members and friends of ALUUC are encouraged to make a monetary pledge to be paid weekly, monthly, quarterly or in a lump sum to share in the operating costs of our religious community. Blue pledge cards will be distributed with a special Pledge Brochure. The blue pledge card should be filled out and returned to Delinda Chapman or a volunteer canvasser or placed in the special Pledge Box located in the church foyer, or mailed to ALUUC, 745 Woodside Rd, Springfield 62711, ATTN: Delinda Chapman. All pledges should be submitted by April 24, 2016. For more information, contact Delinda Chapman.

Long Range Planning Update

Our cottage group sessions are complete, and the committee thanks everyone who participated. All data has been input into spreadsheets and distributed to the committee. The committee will soon be creating provocative propositions (strategic plans) from the cottage group input. The congregation will then be invited to provide feedback on the propositions and suggest specific goals to implement them.

Nursery care is available for babies and children ages two and younger. The RE committee asks that children ages three and older please remain in the company of their parents until time to attend RE classes. This allows us to ensure the safety of everyone at ALUUC and to promote healthy inter-generational bonds between all members and friends. Thank you.

Coming Soon

The Greater Springfield Interfaith Association (GSIA) will meet here at ALUUC on Tuesday, April 5, 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Dr. Donald Ross, President of the Springfield Chapter of Frontiers International will talk about the group and its contributions to Springfield, including the annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Prayer Breakfast. Please bring your own lunch.

The News Covenant Group meets on the first Thursday of each month. Join us on April 7 at 7:00 p.m. at Renata and Heiko Buchloh's, 7901 Hunt Road. Call Renata or Heiko at 585-1944 if you have any questions. Everyone is welcome.

April 9th Open Mic Night. 6 to 9 pm: Do you have poetry, music, or a skit you would like to show case, but you need an audience? Come to Open Mic Night and share your talents. Just sign in when you get here and you will get a turn on the Mic. Bring your own refreshments. Children are welcome.

A group photo of all members and friends will be taken on Sunday, April 10, following the service. Please attend if at all possible. If the weather is pleasant on Sunday, April 10, the photographer's strong preference is to take the group photo outside, with the congregation gathered on the circular driveway in front of the main entrance. This will necessitate keeping the handicapped parking spaces clear - that being the case, we will provide "valet parking" that particular morning.

Sections of Woodside Road around the railroad tracks will be closed during the week of April 11th. You'll need to use I-55 or South Second Street to access the ALUUC on Woodside Road. From the State Journal-Register: Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-April at Woodside Road between Springfield and Chatham on the first of a series of Union Pacific crossing upgrades required as part of the Illinois high-speed rail program between St. Louis and Chicago. The crossing will remain closed during the work, according to a motorist advisories posted on Woodside Road and Illinois 4. A second Woodside Road project should begin later this summer that will expand the road from two to four lanes from Chatham Road to just west of Illinois 4. Sangamon County highway engineer Tim Zahn said construction will begin after the rail-crossing upgrade is completed. "Since we're getting started later in the summer, it'll take two construction seasons. We should be completed next year." The work includes added turn lanes at Chatham Road and Illinois 4 intended to ease morning and evening traffic backups on the popular commuter route between Chatham and Springfield. As part of the high-speed rail project, long-term plans include construction of a major new intersection — including a railroad underpass — at Woodside and Iron Bridge roads. The plan also calls for extension of MacArthur Boulevard from I-72 to Woodside Road. Zahn said work continues toward funding the project.

This Week at a Glance

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Room</u>
Sunday, April 3	Choir Rehearsal	9:20 AM	Sanctuary
	Sunday Service	10:30 AM	Sanctuary
	Change for Change collection	10:30 AM	
Tuesday, April 5	GSIA Lunch & Meeting	11:45 AM	Commons
Thurs., April 7	Meditation Group	7:00 PM	Sanctuary
Friday, April 8	Carpet Cleaning		Sanctuary
	Game Night	6:00 PM	Commons
Sat., April 9	Bishop Spong Lecture	10:00 AM	Sanctuary
	Open Mic Night	6:00 PM	Sanctuary
Sunday, April 10	Choir Rehearsal	9:20 AM	Sanctuary
	Sunday Service	10:30 AM	Sanctuary

Happening Elsewhere

Saturday, April 30 from 9 AM to 1 PM in the Commodities Pavilion at the Illinois State Fairgrounds, the **Illinois Native Plant Society is holding its annual sale** of native herbaceous plants, trees and shrubs. Native plants have many advantageous--including being the sources of nectar and pollen for native insects. Go to Illinois Native Plant Society--Central Chapter for more information or speak with Becky Croteau or Virginia Forrer.