As you all know by now, a strange stillness has settled over ALUUC – meetings, concerts, classes, rentals, and worship are all currently canceled. How long will this last? Weeks, certainly – perhaps even longer. Time, plus the CDC, will tell.

I know that students and teachers have been transitioning to on-line platforms. Perhaps the learning curve is easier for them than others. We knew that we were living in an age of unrivalled access to information ... but many had not fully appreciated the range of technologies available to us to get the message out. Some of you know that I used to be a telemarketer, and the phone continues to be a favorite tool. I had been delighted with the prospects of social media, and in rapid succession moved from Friendster, MySpace to Facebook. But of course, I was also obliged to learn about Instant Messaging, texting, and Messenger. Barely had I acquired a working knowledge of these when I first started joining, then scheduling, Zoom chats. After I had an iPhone, I learned how to use Facetime. Just a few months ago, I acquired WhatsApp, Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat accounts ... but I must confess I rarely use these.

At times, I realize just how much my mindset is a remnant of the 20th century – not only do I still hand out business cards, but my livelihood depends upon my ability to write and of course, speak in public.

I assumed as a child that my career path would require public speaking. Over the decades, I’ve pushed myself to become comfortable with that – no easy path for an introvert and someone who often spoke in choppy sentences. What did I do? I volunteered to read aloud from the Old Testament during mass, in front of hundreds, often stumbling over unfamiliar, multisyllabic names. Along with my classmates in grade school and in high school, I memorized poems and speeches. I auditioned for a high school play, but the less said about that, the better. On the other hand, I found my niche in debate – my partner, Brian Jesse Posey and I did pretty well as a team. After college, I learned how to deliver a sales pitch, which can be quite grueling. During my late twenties, I began entering poetry slams in Chicago, standing on stage at venues like the Green Mill, learning to instantly gauge the crowd’s reaction and adapting my style. With practice comes confidence, they say. For me, that was true, although the process took decades in my case. Still, preaching from a pulpit is such a very different matter. I learned very early on at seminary that crafting a sermon, and then delivering it, would not only draw on my basic

Continued on page 2

The Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation is a religious community of individuals coming together for spiritual growth and fellowship. We respect the diverse faiths and ethical traditions of every person and honor their cultural traditions, ages, abilities, economic status, race, sexual orientation and gender.
speaking skills but much more. In other venues, most people would listen out of courtesy or curiosity, but a sermon has the power to truly make an impact on a person. I came to appreciate that this was not something to be taken lightly.

For the past nineteen years, I’ve preached an average of 32 Sundays each year. In Park Forest, I often preached twice each Sunday morning – which is often exhausting, by the way. I learned to write out my thoughts carefully and to underline key words, to double space, and to slide rather than turn pages. On occasion, a guest presenter at UUCC-PF delivered a riveting discourse about J.R.R. Tolkien, speaking effortlessly for perhaps 40 minutes. At the conclusion, he pointed out that he had used only one simple note card with a few sentences written upon it as a prompt. Still, it was not uncommon for me to deliver a blessing or charge, using notes. But at one point, encouraged by Angela, I began to liberate myself from reading a manuscript.

I have known many splendid preachers and public speakers of both schools – one of the more remarkable was the Rev. John Shelby Spong, who secluded himself before his presentations, writing out in longhand, the gist of what he wanted to express.

As for myself, I’ve estimated that I’ve delivered approximately 625 sermons and homilies. You’d think that would prepare me for anything – and that I would never be nervous. But of course, as I have related to many over the years, there is still a flutter of nervousness until the moment I can stand at the pulpit, facing the members and guests gathered together. One sip of water usually helps me gather enough courage to begin.

I have frequently envisioned ministry as a hands-on affair, an opportunity to connect in person with others individually or in groups. My paradigm has shifted in the past two weeks, as no doubt it has for all of us. I am amazed at how many tasks can be accomplished from afar, and how we can continue to stay connected, albeit as we all maintain a safe distance.

It’s quite a change to preach from the pulpit in a nearly empty sanctuary – a novel experience. It has helped immensely that Bonnie, Kurt and Marissa have been present (practicing appropriate social distancing, naturally). But of course, I long for the time when we will be able to re-connect in person and resume the rituals that have connected us thus far. Until we can do that, we must rely on being deliberate in reaching out to one another. No doubt we will be integrating newer methods of communications – this too may seem peculiar at first, not unlike preaching to an empty room. I have no doubt that our comfort level will increase with practice. And so, during this time of enforced apart-ment, may all of us find much to keep us creative and kind, happy and healthy, connected and content.

¡Salud!, Rev. Martin Woulfe, minister@aluuc.org

Pastoral Care

During this time of relative isolation, it is more important than ever to stay connected. Do you know someone who would benefit from a friendly call or visit? Someone undergoing surgery or hospitalization, or recovering from either? Someone who would appreciate a meal?

Please notify one of the co-chairs of the Pastoral Care Committee, Delinda Chapman or Jodi Perko, or Rev. Woulfe. If you would like to join the Pastoral Care Team please let us know!

One of the basic things which we are doing is setting up telephone trees so that we can check in on those who are staying close to home – would you care to join this?
If you would like to join the Pastoral Care Team, let us know!
pastoralcare@aluuc.org
During the current COVID-19 pandemic, weekly sermons are being recorded, with chalice lighting and music by Bonnie Ettinger. (Thank you, Kurt and Marissa!) These are posted on our website, www.aluuc.org. Please view them from the comfort and safety of your own home. If you have a personal chalice, feel free to light it during this “virtual service.”

April 5, 2020
**Women & Spirituality: St. Teresa of Avila** - Rev. Martin Woulfe
On this Sunday, we will consider the life and works of one of the great Spanish mystics, who has been considered by some to be a feminist in terms of her spirituality.

April 12, 2020
**The Creed of Jesus: Sermon on the Mount** - Rev. Martin Woulfe
The heart of Jesus’ teachings may be found in the Parables but most especially in the Sermon on the Mount. In this service, let us consider the several versions of his message, and how what he himself publicly taught – and what is not included – might inform our appreciation of the Christian movement.

April 19, 2020
**Earth Day Service**, ALUUC Green Sanctuary Committee

April 26, 2020
**Finding the Sublime in the Everyday** - Rev. Martin Woulfe
Mystics and teachers from across the millennia tell us that the holy may be experienced in the ordinary. How do we learn to grasp this radical expression of religiosity, and what might this approach reveal about the universe … and ourselves?

May 3, 2020
**God* is a Liberal * - Rev. Martin Woulfe**
The UU minister Rev. F. Forrester Church published a collection of provocative essays in a book entitled “God and Other Famous Liberals.” His essays influenced my understanding of the sacredness rooted in the cosmos. At the same time, that sense was also enriched by Cosmologists Carl Sagan and Neil DeGrasse-Tysson. What does it mean when a non-theist speaks of God, and that it is a liberal?

%ALUUC Staying Connected%
Sunday worship services and other in-person gatherings, including concerts, are POSTPONED through April 7th. There are several ways to stay connected below.

**Sunday Sermons by video are on ALUUC YouTube channel**
https://www.youtube.com/user/ALUUCVideo

**ALUUC Private* Facebook Group**
facebook.com/groups/aluuc/
*You must request an invitation to join.

**ALUUC Public Facebook Group**
facebook.com/AbrahamLincolnUUCongregation/
Legend has it that JFK gave a speech in Cape Town back in June 1966, in which he said. “There is a Chinese curse which says ‘May you live in interesting times.’” I’ve since learned that there is NO evidence that the saying came from China, though the phrase probably originated in England in the 19th century. Evidence is rather important these days, as we are decidedly living in “interesting times.” Stay informed, by all means, but be sure you are choosing good sources of information, so you can be a good source for your children, family, and friends.

Undoubtedly, your youngsters will have questions about COVID-19, and it can be challenging to figure out how to address those questions. One of our noted Religious Educators, Michelle Richards, has put together a wonderful resource for parents/guardians having those conversations. You can access it at https://drive.google.com/file/d/17gUGBWYjTTvOP9ck5HlgUhz5czKumVaN/view?usp=sharing, being sure to let me know if you have any difficulties connecting to it at all.

I also wanted to be sure I lifted up our 3rd-9th graders and volunteers who helped make the first of what we hope will be an annual Mini-Con a tremendous success. We had 24 youth from four congregations come together at ALUUC to share workshops on self-expression (led by our poetess extraordinaire Shatriya); voting (led by our intern Dee); the Forever Feline Ranch (led by the indomitable Talia); and environmental awareness (led by Joshua). Huge thanks to them for helping make our foray into the Mini-Con so memorable. We began the day with a “get to know you” human scavenger hunt, held two workshops before our Circle Worship, then concluded with the last two workshops, punctuated by snacks and fellowship. Rumor has it we may start circulating this type of one day Mini-Con between and amongst the Central Illinois congregations, so we can encourage more exchange, interaction, and fellowship.

As you are no doubt aware, ALUUC is sensibly closed for the near future, which means we aren’t having Religious Education during this time. That does NOT mean you have no resources for your youth. You can go to this link https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gZTK7XmqSO1MutNYW8wrI8wwXcuONEHG/view?usp=sharing to get the resources for Resilience lessons from Soul Matters to use at home. Also, if you’d like something a little more structured, don’t forget the UUA has a very diverse set of faith exploration lessons at https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry. All you need to do is select the age, the general topic area, and a resource you might like to use. There is enough to keep folks busy for quite a long while on the site!

The box creation for our Spirit Play classroom is clearly on hold until the coronavirus sorts itself out. For now, thank you to all the very kind volunteers who offered their time and talents to create boxes for the class. We’ll be reaching out to you once we can gather again so we can get those resources ready for Christina, her fellow teachers, and our youth.
Looking ahead, this summer’s Registration for **Youth Midwest Leadership School 2020** is now OPEN. The links below have more information about registration. The second link is where youth can officially register. **Note that you DO NOT have to make your payment when you register.** Final payments are not due until June 1. The organizers hope this will help ease people’s minds about making a commitment this far in advance given the ongoing concerns about COVID-19.

https://www.mwls.org/youth/youth-fees


I will be wrapping up my study of Trans-Inclusiveness with the Transforming Hearts Collective this spring. They have shared such amazing resources with us that I will be delighted to make available to the congregation once the course is completed. Also, I am participating in an online UU History for Musicians pilot module. Sessions are Tuesdays 3/31, 4/7, 4/14, 4/21, 4/28, 5/5, and 5/12 from 4-6 pm Eastern, and I will share that with our music personnel and any interested congregants as well.

So grateful that we have electronic capacity in this time of stress. Don’t forget you can contact me at dre@aluuc.org or call/text. We will get through these “interesting times” together.

*Pat Woods, Director of Religious Education, dre@aluuc.org*

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**MINISTER’S OFFICE HOURS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<tr>
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<td>10:30 - 3:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Sermon Preparation Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Available after coffee hour</td>
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During the present pandemic, Rev. Martin Woulfe is dividing his time between his home and the ALUUC office. Please feel free to call him.

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**COFFEE HOUR**

Tentative - Watch for updates

Join us every Sunday morning after service for coffee and conversation!

If you are interested in helping out with Coffee Hour on Sunday, go to aluuc.org/kitchen to sign up or contact email@aluuc.org.

**FLOWERS**

April 5 - Jill Leka  
April 12 - Sandra Creasey  
April 19 - Available  
April 26 - Lisa Udel  

As always your tax-deductible $25 donation is payable the week before the Sunday requested. Thank you! Vi Lanum, Flower Committee, flower@aluuc.org
Just one week ago, everything was different. We had not anticipated the changes to our personal, professional, and social routines or the resulting effect on our individual and collective psyches. When I got the message that the congregation could not, should not gather, I stood still for a moment and contemplated how to "coordinate" the membership under such circumstances.

I quickly realized that we have many tools at our disposal and have only to adjust our strategies and expectations. This space is usually used to let you know about upcoming Pathways classes and to offer updates on new members, and we will absolutely get back to that at a later date! For now, as many or most of us isolate ourselves and our households in the interests of public health, we reevaluate what fellowship means.

I encourage you to use whatever communication tools are at your disposal to reach out to one another. Social media can be an easy way to find those you normally see on Sundays, but you may prefer the phone, or sending a letter or card. This maybe the time to learn how to video chat. These are all wonderful ways to connect with other members and friends, however near or far. If you do not know how to access the online directory, we can get you that information. At any time, you can call or email the office, staff, or volunteers listed on the contact page in this newsletter, and let us know how we can make this unusual time a better one for you and those important to you.

“Everything has its wonders, even darkness and silence, and I learn, whatever state I may be in, therein to be content." - Helen Keller

Heather Vining, Membership Coordinator welcome@aluuc.org

How to Pledge When We Can’t Physically Meet

As we are not meeting physically in the near future, we do not have an opportunity to pass the weekly collection plate!

As of this newsletter, we have not yet set up an online pledging option, so please mail in your pledges as physical checks to ALUUC (745 Woodside Road, Springfield, IL, 62711).

Our Volunteers and Staff are hard at work on additional pledging methods, and plan to have something up soon.

Please check our website for updates on our online pledge payment process.
Yes, the Coronavirus is on my mind. Being in the high-risk group, I fretted and worried. I realized that I could die—sooner than I want to! I went to the grocery store twice to stock up and found all the shelves empty twice. Then I worried about not having enough groceries. Finally, after all the fretting, I started to laugh. Like most of life, there is very little I can do about all of this. I worked in a hospital; I know what to do for infection control. I also know that despite precautions, things happen.

Then I remembered seeing the Dalai Lama on a television program prior to the year 2000. There were predictions of disasters from total utility failures to riots that would happen when 2000 arrived. One person in the audience pressured the Dalai Lama about what he would do if the disasters happened. If memory serves me after all these years, he said that he would do everything he could to avoid the disasters. If all that did not help, he would sit back and enjoy it. One could either panic or enjoy a new adventure—even if it was not particularly pleasant.

So, I am going to enjoy a new adventure. I invite you to join me in enjoying having to change our lifestyles. I invite you to keep in contact with your family and friends by phone, text, and email to share with them this adventure. If you have to go to work, take the precautions needed and follow them strictly. Read the books that you want to read, binge watch the programs you’ve wanted to see, engage in your hobbies or find new ones. Exercise every day like you have always wanted to do. Cook meals like you always wanted to cook. For those of us living alone, social contact may suffer the most. So, you may have to learn Skype, Zoom, Face to Face on your Apple phone, or other new ways of being social. You get the idea. This is the time that you can think about the things you’ve always wanted to think about. This is the time to engage in that spiritual practice you always wanted to develop. This is the time for new adventures.

Now I am not being a Pollyanna. I know it’s going to be hard. Change is always uncomfortable. We will all miss doing things that we are used to doing. So, don’t suffer in silence. Call friends and share your challenges. Ask for help. Give help when you are called. For those of us living alone, social contact may suffer the most, so be sure to keep in contact with others. Psychology says that how we think about things can determine how our experience is. So, think about the good in all this rather than concentrating on the difficulty. Turn to your spiritual practice. And most of all, let us continue to love each other... even if it from a distance.

Sincerely, Dee Evans, intern minister intern@aluuc.org

ALUUC hosts our local PFLAG chapter (Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays) on the Third Monday of every month. The meetings are on hold for now.

This is a safe and confidential gathering of LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer) people, their families, friends and allies to meet and share. This PFLAG group is open to all and welcomes your energy!

Visit our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/PFLAGSpringfieldIL
To contact the group by email: pflag-springfieldil_1@juno.com.
Covenant Groups Foster Service to ALUUC and Our Greater Community

An important expectation of covenant groups is that they will engage in service projects to the congregation and to the broader community. These projects provide opportunities for group members to interact with other congregants and with each other in an environment different from the twice monthly meetings. As an example, one covenant group provided the greeters, ushers, kitchen helpers and pianist for a Celebration of Life for an ALUUC member. Other covenant groups have also provided volunteers who carried out all the “behind the scenes” tasks of several Sunday services.

Some service projects benefit both the congregation and the greater Springfield community. For example, last fall the Sunday covenant group provided food and beverages for the Crossroads workshop at ALUUC, which had a number of our congregants as well as community members participating. On March 1\textsuperscript{st} the Tuesday evening covenant group helped prepare a meal for the Helping Hands Winter Warming Center. Members and additional helpers met at ALUUC to prepare roast vegetables, apple crisp, salad and rolls to compliment the catered, baked chicken. Several members also helped as servers at the center in the evening. Everyone agreed it was an enjoyable way to help out our community and brush up on culinary skills.

Covenant groups provide opportunities to build relationships and to experience a greater sense of belonging. Entities like covenant groups can become insular; service to the congregation helps build sustained connections between members/friends within the congregation. Service to the broader community reminds us that we are part of a larger community.

During these trying times it becomes harder to maintain ties with others. Several covenant groups are turning to social media to maintain connections, while reaching out to those members who cannot readily access this technology. If you would like to learn more about this small group ministry, feel free to call or text Stu Jacobson at or 494-5410. Additional information can be found at www.ALUUC.org/CG.

Fundraise for ALUUC While You Shop!

Are you an Amazon customer?

You can help ALUUC!

When Amazon customers shop on smile.amazon.com, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers. For example, if you make a $100 purchase, Amazon will donate 50 cents to ALUUC. Every time you make a new purchase on Amazon, be sure to start at smile.amazon.com!

Learn more about how to set this up at www.aluuc.org/amazon-smile
Last year the Adopt A Prairie program helped to revive our prairie which is a haven for many kinds of butterflies, native bees, dragonflies, birds and a variety of native plants. You can have a deeper experience of this prairie by adopting a small plot of the prairie to care for this coming year.

This spring the Green Committee will introduce new species of plants to the prairie to further increase its beauty and increase habitat for the many butterflies and other insects that pollinate plants. You can be a part of this effort by adopting one of a limited number of plots where new plants will be planted. (Funding is limited so the number of plants will be limited.). Or, if you don’t like to plant plants, plots are available for weeding so the native plants already established will flourish.

What does adopting a prairie plot entail?

- There are two highly qualified members of our congregation, UIS professor of ecology, Dr. Amy McEuen and Lincoln Land ecology professor Becky Croteau who will mentor you in plant identification and prairie ecology.
- Each plot will be 10 feet by 10 feet, although the plots can be smaller if that size is too large.
- Planting will begin in May and Green Committee members will be available to answer questions about planting.
- Care of the plots will end in September, or at times convenient for you.
- The committee recommends two people per plot - two people are more fun than one, and also the work can be shared.
- New plants will have to be watered once or twice a week until established unless there is sufficient rain. There is a spigot at the garage and a hose and buckets will be provided.
- Weeding - yes weeding. The Green Committee will provide straw for mulching to cut down on the weeding. Mentors will help identify native plants that are keepers and weeds that have to be removed.

Other ways to become involved with the prairie are to photograph blooming plants and/or insects and other wildlife through the season or simply record their presence in a prairie journal that we can start.

If you are interested, contact David Cation or Tony Gambiani of the Green Committee. At greensanctuary@aluuc.org. A number of plots have been spoken for, so now is the time to sign up.
2020 Census invitations are being delivered in the mail between March 12 and March 26. As you may know, census data impacts funding for SNAP benefits, school lunches, special education programs in our schools, improvements in our streets and highways, and much more! The census data is also used to determine the number of US congressional representatives for each state. **Illinois may lose 2 congressional seats!** Check out this short video [https://www.census.gov/library/video/2019/2020-census- PSA-all-videos.html](https://www.census.gov/library/video/2019/2020-census-PSA-all-videos.html)

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**Add your voice to the UUs in Illinois**

Since you’re home, and maybe at your computer, now is the time to get connected with the UU Advocacy Network of Illinois. For more information and/or to sign up for Email alerts: [www.uuani.org](http://www.uuani.org) or [www.facebook.com/UUANI](http://www.facebook.com/UUANI). To receive information on weekly social justice activities: [https://uuani.salsalabs.org/actionoftheweek/index.html](https://uuani.salsalabs.org/actionoftheweek/index.html)

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**UU Prison Ministry of Illinois**

**Take Action Remotely**

- Like our Facebook Page and get notifications about call-ins, petitions, and ways to highlight our concern for public health and especially for those locked up.
- **Urgent Call-in.** As the Chicago Community Bond Fund tells us, "De-carceration is required for social distancing. It is impossible to flatten the curve while maintaining mass criminalization and mass incarceration."
- **Cases are confirmed in Cook County Jail.** Now, more than ever, we must continue to pressure Cook County’s Chief Judge Timothy Evans, Sheriff Tom Dart, and State’s Attorney Kim Foxx to act swiftly to release people from Cook County Jail to protect public health. **Time is running out. To take action, please call and/or email. Take action here.**
- For those not in Chicagoland, please consider inquiring about your local jail conditions and use the Chicago Community Bond Fund script as a resource to call your County State's Attorney, Sheriff, and Chief Judge. Many county jails have no COVID-19 updates even on their websites! Please let me know what you find out.
- If you would like to participate in advocacy at this time, let me know so I can add you to our upcoming Zoom call so we can gather and give more updates.
- Though it may come easy or with difficulty, calling in and video-conferencing can give us social creatures what we need to feel connected and purposeful. Join your congregation’s online worship and stay connected.
- **Get a Pen Pal.** We have the resources to connect you. Visit our Pen Pal connection page here to get connected and grow your heart and your awareness.

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- From Rev. Allison Farnum [uupmi.info@gmail.com](mailto:uupmi.info@gmail.com)
UU the Vote
Even though ALUUC’s UU the Vote task force was unable to take Souls to the Polls on March 15th, we learned a lot from our get out the vote campaign that we can use in the Big Election in November. We are seeing and feeling daily the effect of our national leadership. Please help us when we get rolling again. Thanks to all the folks who helped in this effort planning, providing information after Sunday services and writing postcards.

Winter Warming Center Dinners
Thank you to all who donated to and/or volunteered for this year’s Winter Warming Center (WWC) dinners. They were a great success with two innovations. A Covent Group prepared the meal at ALUUC and served it.

Due to the Coronavirus, a boxed meal was arranged through our great partner Allied Food Service and dropped off at WWC. Much, much thanks to Michelle Green who arranged meals and servers.

Springfield Social Justice Actions

Women’s March - March 8th, Springfield
ALUUC Social Justice tee shirts were out in abundance at re-scheduled Springfield Women’s March on International Women’s Day. Our own Shatriya Smith presented some of her poetry and ALUUC Rev. Martin Woulfe gave the closing prayer. The sun shined on our mass effort, probably the last for at least a little while.
ALUUC Social Justice Committee (SJC) Update

Sunday Service SJ Moment lets you know what you can do to promote social justice

Change-4-Change - Thanks for your most needed generosity.

March: Thank you for your contributions to Cáritas of Puerto Rico for earthquake victims. This local group provides provisions and social work. They are a member Caritas Internationalis Confederation and an agency of Catholic Charities USA. http://caritaspr.net/home Please make checks to ALUUC with PR Caritas noted in the memo line.

Social Justice Meetings

SJC Regular Meetings
We meet the 3rd Sunday at 12 noon in the Berkley Moore room. Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 19th.
The foci for this year are Election 2020, Environmental Justice and Homelessness. We welcome you and your ideas. Be the change you want to see. For more information contact Nancy Derrig at socialjustice@aluuc.org

Racial Justice Project (RJP) now meets on the 4th Sunday of the month, Noon, ALUUC and is open to all. We can use your input and ideas. Please contact co-chairs John Record or Lisa Udel at rjp@aluuc.org for more information or if you would like to join us.

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES FOR HELPING HOMELESSNESS

St. John’s Breadline 430 N. 5th St., Springfield, IL 62702, (217) 528-6098
Volunteers provide and serve meals weekdays 7:30 - 10:00 am or 1:30 – 4:00 pm; Shifts are also available Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays from 10:00 am – 1:30 pm. Groups welcome. http://cc.dio.org/programs/st-johns-breadline

Helping Hands 1023 E. Washington Springfield, IL 62703, (217) 522-0048
Provide a meal: http://www.helpinghandsofspringfield.org/, click the meal train picture, select and book a date. Or call 522-0048 ext. 5; Brandy. (Thanks to Delinda Chapman)

LOCAL CONTACTS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVITIES

Immigrant Communities in Springfield Need Your Help
The Springfield Immigrant Advocacy Network (SIAN) is seeking monetary donations to purchase items for communities in need. We acknowledge the challenges of our immigrant, refugees and...
undocumented children and their families. We know these are very difficult times for everybody but imagine what it is to live in the shadows and fear to even go out to the grocery store or pharmacy. We need to see people in their humanity and understand that dignity, safety, and survival should be afforded to ALL our neighbors and friends. Our Immigrants, Refugees, and Undocumented communities need you. As of right now, if you donate monetary resources, SIAN will purchase the needed food and items. Rent assistance is also needed to keep people in their homes as many are no longer working. SIAN is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization; your donations are tax deductible. If you would like to write a check, please make it to the Springfield Immigrant Advocacy Network Charitable Fund and message me for the street address vespi1@uis.edu. If you prefer to use Paypal, the email associated with the account is andifica.delsur@gmail.com - paypal.me/VeronicaEAndifica.

- From SIAN and Veronica Espinoza vespi1@uis.edu

Faith Coalition for the Common Good (FCCG)
This is a local association faith-based organizations (including ALUUC) and labor unions provides opportunities to work on Antiracism, Immigration, and Homelessness with people of different faith traditions. The work is done by 4 task forces: Education, Jobs and Economic Equity, Civic Engagement & Policy Involvement, and CUJO (Citizens United for Justice and Order). ALUUC members on these task forces would love to have you join them. www.faithcoalition-il.org or Shelley Heideman at 544-2297. Go to http://faithcoalition-il.org/what-we-do/ for a meetings calendar under News and Events. There is strength in numbers and diversity folks. (Thanks Stu Jacobson)

Moms Demand Action For Gun Sense in Illinois
Moms Demand Action is a program of Everytown for Gun Safety, the largest gun violence prevention advocacy organization in the country.
momsdemandaction.org

Action Illinois
Local group created to: build a better future for our kids and grandkids; spread positive change in a world of injustice and inequality; move forward with heads high & get our voices heard & rage onward for what is right.
https://www.facebook.com/ActionIllinois1

GSIA Greater Springfield Interfaith Association Monthly Meeting
Regular meetings are currently on hold.
A COURSE IN MIRACLES RE CLASS

“A Course In Miracles is a self-study system of spiritual awakening that teaches the way to inner peace and awakening through the power of love and forgiveness.” - Alan Cohen

We have started a new study of A Course In Miracles from the beginning on November 5th. This would be the ideal time for the new student, veteran student, or simply curious to join with us and get an understanding of this philosophy.

We meet each **Tuesday at 6 pm** to read and discuss A Course In Miracles in the Berkley Room. For more information contact acim@aluuc.org.

HUMANIST GROUP

The ALUUC Humanist Group will be on hiatus during the month of April and is transitioning to new leadership. If you would like to help coordinate topics and facilitators for future meetings, please contact Sarah Iaienanno at humanistgroup@aluuc.org.

RACIAL JUSTICE PROJECT

We have begun Beloved Conversations, the UU developed antiracism curriculum. Participants started by attending a day and a half retreat and have begun an 8-session program that will continue into May.

We will provide a complete report to the congregation following the conclusion.

If you are interested in learning more about the Racial Justice Project, please contact John Record at rjp@aluuc.org.

Eco Camp 2020 Planning Meeting!

The next Eco Camp Committee planning meeting is **April 23rd at 6:30 pm** at ALUUC. All are welcome to attend, including people who have never helped at Eco Camp before! If you have any questions, please contact ecocamp@aluuc.org.

Read more about Eco Camp at aluuc.org/eco-camp

The ALUUC Book Group will meet on **Tuesday, April 28, at 7 PM** in the Channing Room. The book selection is *Educated* by Tara Westover, AGAIN. This is an unforgettable memoir about a young girl who, kept out of school, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University.

This book was initially scheduled for our November meeting, then March. Hopefully we will be able to discuss it in April.

We will also be discussing book selections for the upcoming meetings. All are welcome. We welcome anyone interested regardless of whether you have read our current book. For questions, email Martha Plog at bookgroup@aluuc.org

The Compassion & Choices Group meets regularly on the **first Wednesday of each month**. Members and friends of this group are invited to join a meeting at ALUUC on **Wednesday, April 1, at 7pm** we will view the one-hour film “Bob’s Choice” and discuss our efforts to promote a compassionate alternative for terminally ill patients in Illinois.

If you can attend, please notify Rev. Woulfe, so we will know how much snack food to bring. Thank you!

The News Group meets regularly on the 2nd Thursday of the month for about two hours to discuss current national, state and local news events. The next meeting will be **Thursday, April 9 at 7pm**. There is no fixed agenda. The group has often heard travel reports of participants, which adds to our knowledge of world affairs. Participants bring up topics of interest in a free-flowing discussion format. All are welcome to attend. Coffee and other (BYOB) beverages, and desserts/snacks are usually provided (potluck).

For more information contact Kurt DeWeese, or email newsgroup@aluuc.org

The Men’s Group meets on the **2nd and 4th Mondays at 6:00 pm**.
Feel free to bring thought provoking books, articles or poems for examination and reflection.

Any questions, contact David Cation at mensgroup@aluuc.org

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All groups must reserve their meeting space in advance for meetings and/or events through Office Manager Cheryl Wycoff at office@aluuc.org.
**April 2020**

Tentative - Watch for updates

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<td>12pm Covenant Group Meeting</td>
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* indicates event takes place off-site.  
**Bold** text indicates an ALUUC-sponsored event.  
Check online at [www.aluuc.org/events](http://www.aluuc.org/events) for the most up-to-date calendar.
# Contact Information

**Minister:** Rev. Martin Woulfe  
**Ministerial Intern:** Dee Evans  
**Staff:**  
**Office Manager:** Cheryl Wycoff  
**Accountant:** Brenda Elam  
**Director RE:** Pat Woods  
**Membership Coordinator:** Heather Vining  
**Music:** Kathy Schultz  
**Pianist:** Bonnie Ettinger  
**Board of Directors:**  
**President:** Debby Hagan  
**Vice President:** Gwen Childs  
**Treasurer:** Tina Bennett  
**Secretary:** Elaine Gambiani  
**Board Members:** Bob Croteau, Michelle Green, Larry Muir, Bonnie Ettinger, Dennis Rumme, Alison Stachera  

**Committees of the Congregation:**  
**Committee on Ministry:** Jodi Perko  
**Nominating Committee:** Michael Plog  
**Endowment Trust:** TBD  
**Committees of the Board:**  
**Electronics & Communication:** Marissa DeWeese  
**- Newsletter:** Cheryl Wycoff & Elaine Gambiani  
**- Webmaster:** Carol Kneelder  
**Facilities:** Larry Muir & Kurt DeWeese  
**- Aesthetics:** Gwen Childs  
**- Flower:** Vi Lanum  
**Fellowship:** TBD  
**- Covenant Groups:** Stu Jacobson  
**Finance:** Kurt DeWeese  
**Green Sanctuary:** David Cation & Tony Gambiani  
**Long Range Planning:** Debby Hagan  
**Membership:** Anna Sabin & Dianne Roberts  
**Pastoral Care:** Jodi Perko & Delinda Chapman  
**Personnel:** Dianne Roberts  
**Program:** Eric Stachera  
**Religious Education (RE):** Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant  
**Social Justice:** Nancy Derrig & Meg Evans  
**- Racial Justice Project:** Lisa Udel & John Record  
**- Welcoming Congregations:** Meg Evans & Tracy Zieber  

**ALUUC**  
745 Woodside Road  
Springfield, IL  
62711  
(217) 585-9550
ALUUC - Since 1953 Celebrating over 67 years of liberal religion in the Springfield area.

Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation
745 Woodside Road
Springfield, Illinois 62711
217-585-9550

Visit us on the web at www.aluuc.org

Who make it so special.

invite you to get to know our congregation and the people
home or just curious about Unitarian Universalism, we
whether you’re looking for a church to call
of individuals coming together for spiritual growth and
Conference of Springfield. It is a religious community
The Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist