This month’s article is originally from a dozen years ago, but I find its message still pertinent. Perhaps even more so than when I first composed it. The fact is that we as a religious community have taken many leaps of faith (and occasional hops) together, and this new year will not only witness the culmination of many such actions but will in turn provide the impetus for even more. One decisive leap from five years ago was the decision to engage in a thorough long-range planning process. You will recall that we held a series of cottage meetings during 2015-2016, in which the vast majority participated. The result was a visioning process, complete with a host of action items. During this new year, 2020, we will cross some crucial new thresholds: breaking ground for our new sanctuary; contracting with a part-time assistant minister (fingers crossed); embarking on the Beloved Conversations journey of Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression social justice work; taking steps to ensure a smooth transition into my sabbatical next year. All four steps will be done in partnership with others within the larger community and/or the UU movement, a reminder that all that we aspire to do, all that we envision, and all that we ultimately accomplish are part of an interconnected web of relationships.

Leap Day

It’s a given that 25% of all sermons presented nationwide this month will be entitled “Leap(s) of Faith” (the percentage being somewhat skewed by newly minted clergy). This concurrence stems from the fact that this particular February contains an extra day, in keeping with the dictates of the Gregorian calendar. One may well wonder why the crafters of the Gregorian system preferred to add an extra day to February rather than, say, May or June. I suspect that the answer may reveal that they were in the employ of the church and that they lived in a milder Italian clime.

In any event, we all have an extra day on our hands. The obvious question to ask therefore is: will it be an extra day to endure, or an opportunity to create a transformation? In short, a burden or a gift? Minute by minute, hour by hour – our habits shape our days, which in turn shape our seasons, and ultimately, our destiny. Will there be a balance of chores and dreams, fear and confessing, doubt and blessing?

If time permits, I recommend watching the film Groundhog Day. As you may

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.
The new year is off to a great start at ALUUC. We held our first Pathways sessions of 2020 and welcomed Renee Bergschneider and Tempa Dunn into membership on January 13th. The staff is hard at work making sure the member rolls are as accurate and complete as possible. I hope to be in touch with each of you in the coming weeks!

These sessions were my first Pathways classes apart from the ones I attended as a prospective member, and I discovered that the second time is just as wonderful as the first. Each gathering follows the same template but is nonetheless unique because of the people gathered to participate, because of their stories and the chance to listen and share and realize how much we all have in common, as well as how much our differences enrich us. I believe that I will find my 10th and 20th sessions just as exciting.

Our next Pathways classes are coming up February 9th and 10th for anyone interested in joining our congregation or in learning more about Unitarian Universalism in general or this congregation in particular. Session 1 is Sunday after service and the 2nd and 3rd sessions will be back-to-back at 6:30 p.m. Monday evening.

For more information about anything please contact welcome@aluuc.org or membership@aluuc.org

**February Pathways to Membership Sessions:**

- **Sunday, February 9 at 12:00 pm after Sunday service**
  - **Session #1 Seeds: Sharing Our Stories.** This session focuses on sharing important themes and stories from our own life stories, with a special emphasis on our faith journeys.

- **Monday, February 10 at 6:30 pm**
  - **Session #2 Roots: An inside scoop on UUism and ALUUC.** This session is intended to present and discuss various themes and developments within UUism as a whole and ALUUC in particular. We will explore the Principles & Purposes, the Sources, and some important milestones.
  - **Session #3 Branches: Fostering Growth & Creating Connections.** This session is an opportunity for newer people to meet some of the leaders and mentors within the congregation, to discuss how one might become more active and engaged!

Send a message to welcome@aluuc.org or catch up with me on any Sunday morning if you would like to attend or have more questions. [I will be wearing a green nametag...and I made myself a spare so that I will definitely be wearing a green nametag!] I would also love feedback from current members about your membership experience and how we can make it even better.

*Heather Vining, Membership Coordinator welcome@aluuc.org*
**Sunday Morning Services**

10:30 am

February 2, 2019

*Seeing the Shadow of White Supremacy*, Rev. Martin Woulfe
The phrase “White Supremacy” has increased in usage during the past few years and been applied to the American Experience in general and even to Liberal Religion. What does it mean, and how does it relate to other phrases like “White Nationalism,” “White Separatism,” “Christian Nationalism” and “Dominionism?” What is the challenge for Religious Liberals?

*Change for Change, Birthday Song*

February 9, 2019

*We Sing When the Spirit Says Do!,* Dr. Dee Evans, Intern Minister
We sing when the spirit says do. We sing to the Spirit of Life. We can have mountain top experiences, but Spirit calls us to compassion.

*Sung Milestones*

February 16, 2019

*Aftershocks: Lessons from the Milgram Experiment*, Rev. Martin Woulfe
This sermon topic, chosen by Phil Salisbury (who won the right to “name a sermon” at a previous Fantasy Auction) will explore the lessons revealed by the Milgram Experiment, which allowed hidden people to administer higher and higher doses of electrical shock to subjects.

*Traditional Milestones*

February 23, 2019

*TBA*, Program Committee
At the present moment, the Program Committee has not yet confirmed the name or topic of our guest preacher. More details will be shared as soon as they become available.

March 1, 2019

*The Death with Dignity Debate*, Rev. Martin Woulfe
On of the emerging issues within the State of Illinois concerns the end of life choices that are available to terminally ill patients. On October 27, 1997, Oregon became the first US State to enact an “Death with Dignity Act” has allowed terminally-ill Oregonians to end their lives through the voluntary self-administration of lethal medications, expressly prescribed by a physician for that purpose. Since then, other States have authorized similar laws, meeting stiff opposition by some religious groups while supported by others. What is at stake in Illinois, and what are the central issues?

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**MINISTER’S OFFICE HOURS**

- **Monday** - Off
- **Tuesday** - 10:30 - 3:30 pm
- **Wednesday** - 10:30 - 3:30 pm
- **Thursday** - 10:30 - 3:30 pm
- **Friday** - 10:30 - 3:30 pm
- **Saturday** - Sermon Preparation Day
- **Sunday** - Available after coffee hour

Please call to schedule an appointment during evening hours.
I must admit, I am very glad when February arrives, not, as Charmaine J Forde says, because “Though, February is short, it is filled with lots of love and sweet surprises” (though it can be), but because it means the days are getting longer and warmer weather waits on the horizon.

We have all sorts of news in RE, with the first piece being a delay in my defending my credentialing portfolio. For those of you who don’t know, I’ve been training and studying the last three years to become a credentialed religious educator, and I’ve finished my portfolio (think dissertation light), but I have run out of personal days to attend my portfolio defense. We had a significant family crisis (extended, not immediate) that required me to take all of my personal days at my day job (which supports my lifestyle and ability to be a ¼ time Director of Religious Education). That means unless I take docked days, I can’t take time off work, unless I’m sick. As I’m retiring from my full-time job in 3 ½ years (but not counting), I can’t do that and still get to my retirement with the full number of days I’m supposed to have. So, I’ve deferred my defense to April of 2021, and I’ll do updates to my portfolio in the meantime.

Spirit Play continues to be a heavy draw for the RE program, and we are focusing on Promise lessons for the next several weeks. It is our Montessori based classroom, led by Christina Raison, in which the students experience a story-telling (based on UU Principles), engage in Wondering Time about the story they heard, then make decisions about their activities as they process out the story and wondering.

The Promises lessons focus on the “Rainbow Promises” (Seven Principles) UUs make to one another.

In Spirit Play language, those are:

- **Red**: We promise to Respect All People
- **Orange**: We promise to Offer Fair and Kind Treatment to All
- **Yellow**: We promise to Yearn to accept and Learn about ourselves, others, and the Mystery
- **Green**: We promise to Grow by Exploring what is true and right in life
- **Blue**: We promise to Believe in our ideas and Act on them
- **Indigo**: We promise to Insist on a Peaceful, Fair and Free world for all
- **Violet**: We promise to Value our home, Earth, that we share with all living things

So, as your students come back to you, talking about “Rainbow Promises”, you’ll know what they’re talking about and could have some engaging conversations about them, should you choose.

World Religions (3-5) will finish exploring Judaism in early February, then move on to consider Islam for the remainder of the month. The 6-9th grade wrapped up their journey through Sacred Spaces in January and will be comparing Rites, Rituals & Traditions during February. Any UU member or friend who might have something to contribute to any of those experiences is welcome to share. Just talk with Pat before or after services, via email at dre@aluuc.org, or via text/call.

Also coming up at the end of February, we’ll host what we hope will become an annual event for 4th-9th grade youth. This year, we’ve themed it “Leaping Forward, Looking Ahead”, and we’ll be offering 4 30-minute workshops for youth, doing a craft or two, getting some great social justice ideas, and conducting a short
wes. Quite a bit for a 4-hour get-together! We’ll need LOTS of volunteers for the 1-5 pm, February 29th event, so again, talk with Pat (or say “yes” when she recruits you).

Finally, we’re welcoming new volunteers into our RE program, as Sydney McCabe, Joshua Capers, and Laura Morrow have expressed interest in joining our cadre of teachers/aides. As with all volunteers in our program, they will be background checked and program oriented. We welcome volunteers at any time during the year, so if you’re thinking this may be your year to volunteer, come talk to Pat Woods (as noted in the previous two paragraphs). She would be delighted to set you up to visit a classroom and find out how your talents could help serve our youth.

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

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**Our Emergency Closure Policy**

www.aluuc.org/emergency-closures

On very rare occasions, church services (and other events scheduled that day) may be cancelled due to poor weather conditions. **On a Sunday, the decision will be made before 8:00am that morning.** If a Sunday Service is cancelled, we will try to notify the congregation in several ways, including:

- Posting a message on our Website and Social Media.
- Emailing church members and friends.
- Encouraging “word of mouth” communications.
- Contacting by phone those members and friends who are without digital communications.
- If possible, putting a note on the door.
- If possible, through traditional media (newspaper, radio, etc.)

Unforeseen situations may prevent these methods of communication, in which case we will use whatever means we can to notify congregants of the closure. **For ALUUC events other than Sunday Services, cancellations will be determined by event leader. It is the responsibility of the event leader to communicate the cancellation with the participants.**

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**COFFEE HOUR**

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](http://aluuc.org/kitchen) to sign up or contact email@aluuc.org.

**FLOWERS**

February 2 - Available
February 9 - Available
February 16 - Available
February 23 - Available

As always your tax-deductible $25 donation is payable the week before the Sunday requested.

Thank you! Vi Lanum, Flower Committee, flower@aluuc.org

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**Pastoral Care**

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, let us know! pastoralcare@aluuc.org
He was my favorite waiter. Let’s call him A.K. He had a way of treating each customer as if they were his favorite customer. I told him even though it was an illusion that I was his favorite, keep the illusion going. We bantered a lot about that. I have a friend who also went to the same restaurant. She insisted that she was A.K.’s favorite customer. I insisted I was. Then one night, he wasn’t there. Since I knew his schedule, I asked if he was okay. Staff told me that he was transferred to another restaurant. It was one of those murky stories about the customer being right even when they weren’t. I quit going to the restaurant, partly to save money, partly because it wasn’t as much fun with A.K. gone. When I went a couple times, the staff filled me in on A.K.’s progress and how happy he was with his transfer.

I live in the Riverbend area of Illinois. Our town is on the Mississippi. One little town follows after another and if you miss the signs, you wouldn’t realize you were in a different town. If we all combine, we could make a small city. There was a murder in one of the towns. A mother, her son, and the son’s partner. The incident was the talk of the area. Sad story especially since those arrested were wanted in another state for murder. They are in custody now.

A friend calls this week. She asks if I am sitting down. She asks if I remember the three people being killed. Of course I do. It was very recent. She asks if I connected the names with anyone I knew. I tell her “no.” She says she didn’t either. She asks again if I am sitting down. She and her husband went to the restaurant. Her husband asked about A.K. The server was quiet and then said, “You know he was killed.” The paper printed his full name in the article on the three murders. Neither my friend nor I connected the full name with how we knew A.K.—by his initials.

Sadness quickly moved to anger. I wanted to rage about gun control. I wanted to rage about drugs and guns in the hands of people who use drugs. This rage was pretty silly since nothing was said about drugs in what I read regarding the murder. Maybe it was the silliness of that rage that stopped me. I realized in all the times I grieved, I went pretty quickly from sadness to anger. It made the grief easier to handle. But later, sadness came back.

One thing I learned from studying Buddhism is to sit with an emotion. It doesn’t matter if it is rage or grief. Just sit with it instead of trying to avoid it. There is something about sitting with it that brings realization that the emotion will pass. It brings realization that we will survive it. Sometimes, I could not do this by myself and I had to ask a friend to be there with me. To sit there with me even if they are reading a book, but just to be silent. I don’t think getting a friend to sit with you is necessarily what Buddhism teaches. Writing this, I think back to being a therapist. Sometimes, clients would come into my office and want to just sit. They didn’t want to talk and didn’t want me to talk. I think about the alleged murderers. Maybe, if they had someone, a therapist, a friend, a mentor, a family member, someone to just sit with them, their lives would have been different. Maybe if they had learned to ask for help, their lives would have been different. No answer to these musings.

Sometimes, when a friend is sad, in a rage, uncertain, or in a glorious state of happiness, we feel we have to say or do something. I am not saying that we should never say or do something. There are times for words and times for actions. Maybe, sometimes, we just need to sit with them.

Sincerely, Dee Evans, intern minister intern@aluuc.org
CORAL Community Forum at ALUUC on Saturday Feb 8
CORAL (the Community of Rainbow Alliances) is hosting a Community Forum at The Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation February 8th, 2020. This forum is open to any individuals interested in learning about and providing input on the subject of communication between some organizations within the lgbt+ community of the Springfield region. This event is sponsored thanks to CORAL and generous funding provided by the Junior League of Springfield. Rev. Woulfe will be one of the panel participants. **This program is free of charge to all participating.** Use the link below for event registration.

Schedule:
8:00 AM Breakfast
8:45 Welcome and Expectations
9:00 Faith Community Panel
10:00 Service Providers and Education Panel
11:00 Volunteer Organizations and Regional Partners Panel
12:00 Next Steps/Wrap-up
12:30 Adjournment

You may register by clicking on [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0844aea828a7ff2-coral](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0844aea828a7ff2-coral) or by visiting the CORAL FaceBook page [https://www.facebook.com/groups/CoralSPI/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/CoralSPI/)

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Join the UU Trivia All-Star Team at the Phoenix Center’s 10th Annual Trivia Night, Saturday February 22

We want YOU to join a team of UU Trivia All Stars (UUTAS)! We have reserved one table (ten people) for this event; as always, you can bring your own food & drinks, there will be mulligans and 50/50 tickets for sale.

Prizes will be awarded for 1st & 2nd place!

Tickets are $10 per person / $100 per table. Are you ready to bring your love of trivia to the table? Please sign up with Rev. Woulfe.

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Choir Rehearsals
We welcome returning and new choir members to join together on **Sunday mornings at 9:20** and begin singing music for services. We meet in the Fuller room for rehearsals and prepare songs for usually two services each month, except January and summer months. There are no auditions, though it is important to be able to match pitches and feel the rhythm of music from old times and new, and of different styles. Singing together is a time of uplifting joy and learning, a time to “Return to the home of your soul.”

Please feel free to contact Kathy Schultz at choir@aluuc.org for questions.
One World, Many Cultures

Fantasy Auction!

Saturday March 7, 2020  6:00 - 9:30pm
745 Woodside Road, Springfield, IL 62711

Salsa Dancing & Entertainment
International Appetizers
Live Auction
Raffles
Silent Auction
Beverages

Tickets - $25 per adult
$10 for children 12 and under - Childcare not provided

For ticket & donation information
www.aluuc.org/auction or auction@aluuc.org

Photo Credits: Equal Earth projection by Daniel R. Strebe, 15 September 2018 via Wikimedia Commons.
Cultural Diversity vector by pikisuperstar using resources from Freepik.com.
Announcing the 2020 Fantasy Auction: "One World, Many Cultures"
Saturday, March 7, 2020 – 6:00pm – 9:30pm

*Put it in your calendars!*

Celebrate Our Wonderful World of Diverse and Amazing Cultures with the ALUUC 2020 Fantasy Auction!

Tickets are on sale now on Sundays and online at aluuc.org/auction for $25.00 per person ($10.00 for children 12 and under), and include delicious International appetizers, beverages, and Salsa Dancing with Julio Barrenzuela!

The fun begins at 6:00pm with Raffles, Silent, & Live Auctions!
This really fun event is a fundraiser that supports our congregation.

*** Special Live Auction Item: A 1 week stay at Casa de Mañana, a Costa Rica Pacific coast beach house!

For more information, including tickets and donation information, go to aluuc.org/auction

We will be accepting donation forms until February 28, so get your forms in!

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Fundraise for ALUUC While You Shop!

**Shop With Scrip!**

Scrip is a cooperative that allows congregation members to buy gift cards to national retailers at face value, and a percentage of each card sold comes back to ALUUC.

Go to www.aluuc.org/about-aluuc/members scrip-program for step-by-step instructions on how to register for this program. Use ALUUC’S code to join the ALUUC’s program.

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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
ALUUC Social Justice Committee (SJC) Update

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

Winter Warming Center Dinners
Thank you to all who donated to and/or volunteered for this year’s Winter Warming Center (WWC) dinners. Interested in volunteering? One last chance to serve Monday February 24. Contact Michelle Green for more information. Details will be sent to volunteers via email. Our service to the WWC supports an important ALUUC social justice priority – homelessness.

Free Introduction to Systemic Racism and Anti-racism Education
Sierra Club, Black Lives Matter, Springfield Call 2 Action and Springfield Immigrant Advocacy Network (SIAN) present a day long training March 20, 2020, 9:30-4:30pm, location TBA. This is an opportunity to begin the journey together as we unlearn and untangle racism and confront white supremacy in ourselves and our institutions with Crossroads trainer Kelly Hurst. Limited to 45 people. For information and registration, contact Elizabeth.Scrafford@sierraclub.org

Change 4 Change - Thanks for you most needed generosity.

**February: The Fire Services that are fighting the Australian bush fires.** “The New South Wales Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) is the world's largest volunteer fire service and provides fire and emergency services to approximately 95 percent of NSW. Our vision and mission: To provide a world standard of excellence in the provision of a community-based fire and emergency service. To protect the community and our environment we will minimize the impact of fire and other emergencies by providing the highest standards of training, community education, prevention and operational capability.”

Donations by Check to ALUUC with NSW RFS noted in the memo line.

**January: Mini O’Beirne Crisis Nursery received $546.08.** This nursery provides free emergency, temporary care, 24 hours/day, 365 days/year, for at risk children from birth to 6 years of age. [https://www.miniobeirne.org/](https://www.miniobeirne.org/)

Donations by check to ALUUC with Crisis Nursery noted in the memo line.

SJC Regular Meetings
We meet the 3rd Sunday at 12 noon in the Berkley Moore room.

Next meeting is January 16th. The foci for this year are Election 2020, Environmental Justice and Homelessness. All are welcome; we need and welcome your concerns and ideas. Be the change you want to see.

Nancy Derrig or Meg Evans, Social Justice Co-Chairs

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 ([rjp@aluuc.org](mailto:rjp@aluuc.org)) for more information or if you would like to join us.
**RECENT SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVITIES**

**Warm Their Digits**
In December, ALUUC collected 25 pairs of gloves, 10 hats and 84 pairs of socks for the homeless in Springfield. As you warmed your own digits with socks or gloves, you remembered those who don’t have any to “warm their digits”. Many thanks to Christi McGinness who organized this successful and needed effort.

**UU the Vote Launch Viewing Party**
Sunday, January 12, ALUUCers joined over 750 UUs nationwide to launch UU the Vote by viewing the UUA’s videoconference. There is strength in numbers in this national UUA effort. We also enjoyed a delicious red/white/blue “UU the Vote” cake. If you missed it, don’t worry, more opportunities will be available. Ginormous thanks to Kitty Wrigley who organized all this and Marissa DeWeese for tech support. Commitment cards will be placed in the order of service for several weeks to facilitate our UU the Vote efforts or contact socialjustice@aluuc.org for more information.

**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**

**Immigration Action**
Many of you have asked what you can do to help the immigration situation in Springfield and on the border. SJC would like to begin an Immigration Alert Network of ALUUC members and friends interested in immigration issues. Alerts would be about both events you can attend and activities you can do. SIAN (Springfield Immigration Advocacy Network) is very busy and could use our help and numbers. If interested, contact Meg Evans.

**UUANI (UU Advocacy Network of Illinois)**
Through Actions of the Week, over the past 2 yrs., nearly 1000 Illinois UUs have sent messages to elected officials to advocate for our UU values. UUANI is launching a program to create a Social Justice Leadership Corps, with teams from congregations participating in a six month program to develop our capacity for spiritually grounded & strategically effective action. Please contact us at uuani@uuani.org if you are interested or would like to nominate someone.” More information and/or Email alerts www.uuani.org or www.facebook.com/UUANI.
Faith Coalition for the Common Good (FCCG)

This is 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

Members and Friends of ALUUC are invited to join with the Interfaith Community on Tuesday, February 4th.

Participants will gather at the First Congregational Church (2100 S. Bates, Springfield, IL 62707) from 11:45 am - 1:30 pm. Please bring your own lunch. Some refreshments will be provided by our host.
ALUUC & Community Events

ALUUC hosts our local PFLAG chapter (Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays) on the Third Monday of every month. The next meeting will be held at ALUUC on Monday, February 17. The Board meets at 6pm and the general meeting will start at 7 pm.

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!

If you have not yet paid your dues, please write a check made out to PFLAG of Springfield for $3 per household and send to Rev. Martin Woulfe.

Visit our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/PFLAGSpringfieldIL
To contact the group by email: pflag-springfieldil_1@juno.com.

THE FAITH COALITION FOR THE COMMON GOOD
Annual Breakfast Fundraiser

THURSDAY, MARCH 5TH 2020
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
533. S. WALNUT, SPRINGFIELD
There is no cost for the breakfast, but those who attend will be asked to invest in The Faith Coalition For The Common Good.

SERVING BEGINS AT 7:15 AM.
THE PROGRAM IS FROM 7:30AM-8:30AM
GUEST SPEAKER: WILLIAM MCNARY
DIRECTOR OF CITIZEN ACTION
**ALUUC Drum Circle**
Drum Circle gatherings will be held twice a month in the Sanctuary at ALUUC! Beginners are welcome!

- Sunday, February 2 - 12:15 pm - 1:30 pm
- Monday, February 10 - 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- Sunday, March 8 - 12:15 pm - 1:30 pm
- Monday, March 16 - 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

If you would like to participate:
1. Contact Diana DeWeese to tell her you are going at drumming@aluuc.org
   OR at https://www.aluuc.org/drum
2. Let her know if you need a drum. *Happy Drumming!*

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**Founders Day Mexican Train Tournament**
**Friday, February 7**

**Doors open at 6:00pm, Tournament starts at 7:00pm!**

It’s that time of the year where we celebrate the founding of the ALUUC with an evening of Mexican Train Dominoes. Come on out for a night of fun and fellowship! There will be prizes for the top 4 players, but only one shall be victorious and take home the Traveling Trophy! 2019’s winner was Vi Lanum. ALUUC will provide pizza and lemonade, so feel free to bring additional food/drinks.

Never played before?

- **Come early for a training/practice round. Doors open at 6:00pm!**
- **The rules of play are available at aluuc.org/domino.**

The tournament officially starts precisely at 7 pm, so if you plan to compete, please arrive on time so we can assign players to tables fairly.

The schedule will be as follows:

- **6 pm — Social Hour and Practice Hour**
  - A good time to a practice game in and a great time for beginning players to learn the game!
- **7 pm — The Tournament Begins!**

  There will be 4 rounds, with a break between the 2nd and 3rd rounds. Players will be randomly assigned to tables at the beginning of Rounds 1 & 3.
  After the 4 rounds, the top players will play 2 rounds for the Championship.

Hope to see you there!
Our next Walk will be held at ALUUC on **Friday, February 21**, starting at 7 pm. Please join us for a unique, ancient pathway to greater spirituality.

There will also be an opportunity to receive a Oneness Blessing before and after you walk; those who wish to may stay after the walk and join in a UU Communion held in Rev. Woulfe’s office.

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**ALUUC & Community Events**

**Sign Up for early-Spring Circle Suppers!**

**Friday, February 28th & Saturday, February 29th**

What better way to meet new friends than over a splendid meal, provided by all? Please sign up if you would like to host a dinner at your house and/or attend a Supper. Once everyone has signed up, hosts and guests will be matched. Hosts generally provide the main course and their guests bring side dishes, but the real joy of the evening is found in the conversations.

If you would like to participate in a Supper, please sign up, either:
- online at [https://www.aluuc.org/circle-suppers](https://www.aluuc.org/circle-suppers),
- the list circulated during Sunday services, OR
- on one of the clipboards posted near the drinking fountain!

**We still need Coordinators for these Spring Circle Suppers!**

Coordinators match hosts and guests and send out one set of emails to the hosts and guests. Please let Martin Woulfe (minister@aluuc.org) or Marissa DeWeese (email@aluuc.org) know if you are interested in helping coordinate - we will help you!

**Deadline to sign up is Friday, February 21st.**

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**Labyrinth Walk Friday, February 21, 7 - 9 PM**

Our next Walk will be held at ALUUC on **Friday, February 21, starting at 7 pm**. Please join us for a unique, ancient pathway to greater spirituality.

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**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 February and is transitioning to new leadership. If you would like to help coordinate topics and facilitators for future meetings, please contact Sarah Iaiennaro at **humanistgroup@aluuc.org**.

**RACIAL JUSTICE PROJECT**

The RJP will meet on **February 23 at 12 noon** in the Commons following service.

Meetings in March, April and May will be on the 4th Sunday at 12 Noon in the Commons. We have 18 people who will participate in *Beloved Conversations: Meditations on Race and Ethnicity*.

Finally, on behalf of all members of the RJP, we congratulate **Dr. Wesley McNeese** as the honored keynote speaker at the recent Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast celebration in Springfield. Dr. McNeese serves on the RJP committee as one of the community members.

**Eco Camp 2020 COMMITTEE - 1st Planning Meeting**!

The Eco Camp Committee is having its first 2020 planning meeting on **Thursday, February 20th at 6:30pm** 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**.

*Eco Camp 2020 will be July 27-31, 2020.*
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
The ALUUC Book Group will meet **Tuesday, February 25, at 7 PM** in the Channing Room.
The book selection is *Lincoln’s Last Trial* by Dan Abrams. This is the true story of Lincoln’s last murder trial, a strange case in which he had a deep personal involvement, and which played out in the nation’s newspapers as he began his presidential campaign.

The book selection in March will be *Educated* by Tara Westover. This was originally scheduled as our selection for November, but that meeting was canceled.

We welcome anyone interested regardless of whether you have read our current book. For questions, email Martha Plog at bookgroup@aluuc.org

COMPASSION & CHOICES GROUP
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, February 5, 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!

NEWS GROUP
The ALUUC News Group will meet **Thursday, February 13, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.**
The News Group meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month for about two hours to discuss current national, state and local news events. 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

MEN’S GROUP
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.

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

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* indicates event takes place off-site. **Bold** text indicates an ALUUIC-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  
**minister@aluuc.org**  
**intern@aluuc.org**

**Staff:**
- **Office Manager** Cheryl Wycoff  
- **Accountant** Brenda Elam  
- **Director RE** Pat Woods  
- **Membership Coordinator** Tracy Zieber  
- **Music** Kathy Schultz  
- **Pianist** Bonnie Ettinger  
**office@aluuc.org**  
**accountant@aluuc.org**  
**dre@aluuc.org**  
**welcome@aluuc.org**  
**choir@aluuc.org**  
**music@aluuc.org**

**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  
**president@aluuc.org**  
**vicepresident@aluuc.org**  
**treasurer@aluuc.org**  
**secretary@aluuc.org**

**Committees of the Congregation**
- **Committee on Ministry** Jodi Perko  
- **Nominating Committee** Michael Plog  
- **Endowment Trust** TBD  
**com@aluuc.org**  
**nominating@aluuc.org**  
**endowment@aluuc.org**

**Committees of the Board**
- **Electronics & Communication** Marissa DeWeese  
- **Newsletter** Cheryl Wycoff & Elaine Gambiani  
- **Webmaster** Carol Kneedler  
- **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  
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**facilities-com@aluuc.org**  
**aesthetics@aluuc.org**  
**flower@aluuc.org**  
**fellowship@aluuc.org**  
**coventangroups@aluuc.org**  
**finance@aluuc.org**  
**greensanctuary@aluuc.org**  
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