The month of January is, as many know, named after the Roman god Janus – a two-faced deity that can simultaneously peer forward into the future and while the other looks behind. For several millennia, this deity has been used as an apt metaphor as humans assess their successes and losses while imagining what may lie just ahead.

I know of some who are planning to celebrate the milestone of the new year with a “Roaring Twenties,” a tribute to the Jazz Age from a century ago.

There are many contemporary ways to reckon time, e.g., according to lunar cycles, solar cycles, civil or religious calendars. For the typical layperson, this new year will be popularly known as 2020 CE (of the Common Era) although many will think of it as A.D. (Anno Domini, the Year of Our Lord). Some of us may speak of “two thousand and twenty” whereas I favor “twenty-twenty.” Either is fine, really.

What might 2020 hold? Political pundits, social historians, economists, followers of fashion, and yes, even theologians and faith leaders will no doubt conjure likely scenarios and timetables. All, in their own way, will note calendars, set plans and appointments, hoping against hope that God will not laugh (as the saying goes).

At the risk of provoking divine laughter, allow me to offer a few reflections and hazard a prophecy. Perhaps the very name of this publication, FOCUS, is inspiring me in this regard.

During the past year, we have seen an enormous surge of energy and visioning. We can well visualize that fairly soon, ground will be broken for the sanctuary expansion project. Hopefully, we will welcome a half-time Assistant Minister who will further our social justice aspirations.

In general terms, social justice is one of the most important characteristics of our mission. This will continue to be true in 2010. Of special note, ALUUC will soon be embarking on a special anti-racism/anti oppression curriculum developed by my alma mater, Meadville/Lombard Theological School. This will be far-reaching in terms of our self-awareness and engagement with social justice.

And yes, we will continue to be engaged in other social justice concerns that demand attention. During the past three years, “resistance” has been a popular
Greetings of the season to the ALUUC family! This is my first submission as your new Membership Coordinator and I am really pretty darned excited. Not about coming up with a word count, but about serving the congregation in this role.

As I write this, I have my first committee meeting tomorrow evening, so I cannot bring you any news from that front just yet. The next Pathways to Membership for anyone and everyone who wishes to join the congregation will be **January 12th after service** and the **evening of Monday, January 13th**.

The past month, my transitional month, has been mostly full of familiarizing myself with procedures and passwords, reading up and educating myself. I thank Tracy for working alongside me, answering questions and offering information. I plan to fill the next month, my inaugural month, with finding as many ways as possible to communicate with and serve you. I'd like to begin by encouraging you to use **welcome@aluuc.org** to share comments, questions, suggestions — they will ALL be answered!

Heather Vining, **Membership Coordinator** welcome@aluuc.org
Membership Committee, membership@aluuc.org.

**January Pathways to Membership Sessions:**

**Sunday, January 12 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, January 13 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!
**Sunday Morning Services**

**10:30 am**

**January 5, 2020**

**Greeting The New Year With The Arts,** Penny Wollan-Kriel

This service will be filled with the arts from music to poetry and prose to visual arts. Come and delight in the contributions of our UU congregants.

*Change for Change, Birthday Song*

**January 12, 2020**

**Imagine,** Rev. Martin Woulfe

John Lennon wrote and recorded the song Imagine in the aftermath of the breakup with the Beatles – which was quite a popular band back in the day. (Yoko Ono was later credited with being its co-author, BTW.) Imagine became one of the most popular pop/rock songs of the 20th century and is, perhaps, an anthem that resonates with many religious liberals. Why is that – and why does it still appeal to so many?

*The Covenant Group will offer an Affirmation*

*Potluck after the Service, Pathways to Membership, Sung Milestones*

**January 19, 2020**

**The State of the Union: Religion in American,** Rev. Martin Woulfe

Given that a State of the Union address is an opportunity to reflect upon the current condition and trends within a nation, this service will focus on the relative health and challenges faced by various religious groups & movements within the USA.

*Traditional Milestones*

**January 26, 2020**

**The Spirituality of Robert Burns,** Rev. Martin Woulfe

Robert Burns was quite a character in his own age – and a very prolific poet and lyricist as well. Lesser known is that he was a Unitarian. Among his devotees was Abraham Lincoln himself. What do his poems and songs reveal about Burns’ spiritual nature?

**February 2, 2020**

**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*

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**MINISTER’S OFFICE HOURS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10:30 - 3:30 pm</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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<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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Please call to schedule an appointment during evening hours.

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Rev. Woulfe will be on vacation from December 25 until January 8. Please direct any Pastoral Care concerns during that time to the Pastoral Care Chairs, Jodi Perko or Delinda Chapman

[pastoralcare@aluuc.org](mailto:pastoralcare@aluuc.org).
Goodness! It seems as if I was just writing a blurb about the New Year, but it was a whole 12 months ago. I’ve never been one for “New Year’s Resolutions”, but I do think the turn of the calendar year gives us the opportunity to reflect upon the year that’s past, own the things we need to own, and choose (as much as we are able) the path we wish to walk in the coming year.

Back in 2014, Michelle Richards noted that “[o]ur children absorb not only our words, but also our behavior as they attempt to understand what it means to live a moral and ethical life. They see and hear what we believe from the answers we give them and they internalize our actions as evidence of our values.”

So, what do I do (or, maybe more importantly, what do I NOT do) to evidence my values? That’s something important for all of us to question as we move into the New Year, especially given the effect our actions have upon children, our own and those with whom we interact.

Speaking of interactions, what splendid interactions we had with our pageant in December. Huge thanks to Jackie Jackson for the use of her script, and to the many people, many of whom stepped in at the last minute when others had to withdraw.

The pageant is always a challenge—on the one hand, we’d like to present a “play”, but on the other hand, modern UUs have so much going on in their lives that regular rehearsals can be challenging. I’ll be sending out a feedback form in January, asking for input regarding next year’s pageant (yes, we really do plan that far ahead ☺) and I would very much appreciate your responses.

January sees us back in the regular RE classes, where our pre-K-2nd graders have a choice of nursery or Spirit Play; our 3-5 graders are investigating World Religions; our 6-9th graders are exploring the themes common to World Religions, and our Senior Youth can enjoy a mentoring partnership as well as large group camaraderie. January 5 will be mentor meetings; January 12 a large group meeting during service; January 19 a “go to service” Sunday; and January 26 an activity/possible field trip/volunteer opportunity.

Pat Woods, Director of Religious Education, dre@aluuc.org
Beloved Conversations
Retreat: Friday, January 31 - Saturday, February 1
Regular Sessions: February - May

The congregation has committed itself to participating in the UU anti-racist program, Beloved Conversations: Meditations on Race and Ethnicity.

It is important that we all join in this important project. Beloved Conversations takes place through a retreat and eight sessions.

The retreat meets at the UU Bloomington on Friday, January 31, 6-9pm with dinner and Saturday, February 1, 9am-5pm with breakfast and lunch.

After this, participants will meet at ALUUC in eight sessions, twice monthly, from February-May.

Look for a sign-up sheet after service. Please ask members of the Racial Justice Project any questions that you might have, or contact John Record or Lisa Udel at rjp@aluuc.org.

ALUUC Expansion Capital Campaign:
ALUUC Expansion: As we approach the end of 2019 and the end of our Building Expansion Capital Campaign, we are just under $2,000 short of our $200,000 goal. Thank you to those of you who have pledged.

There are many more of you who have not yet pledged. Please consider pledging or increasing your pledge to push us over the $200,000 goal. Every dollar that we collect now is a dollar that reduces our future mortgage!

The campaign committee includes Chair Tina Bennett, Kent Childs and Michelle Green – they will be glad to answer your questions.

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 to sign up or contact email@aluuc.org.

FLOWERS

January 5 - Available
January 12 - Available
January 19 - Available
January 26 - 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.
From Your Intern Minister

One bit of trivia that I found interesting is the number of people who join health clubs in January and already by mid January attendance starts to fall. By March, many people are no longer going to the health club at all. While the start of a New Year can be a wonderful time for change, it can also be a time to make futile decisions. Most of us know what we should be doing—like exercising. Some of us—including me—just don’t do it. Why? Intellectually, we know the benefits of doing what we should do. Emotionally, we are not convinced. Whatever the activity is, we don’t really get satisfaction from it. So, does this leave us hopeless about ever doing what is good for us?

The answer lies in the wisdom of living one day at a time. If we want to do something and think we have to commit to it forever, it becomes impossible. But if I decide just for today, I am going to exercise, then it can be done for one day. To make it better, give yourself a reward after you do it. Now I don’t mean eating a chocolate cream pie after exercising as a reward. Yet, for example, you can say that you will take 30 minutes just for yourself. If you do this three times a week, the exercise becomes connected to the “me” time and before you know it, you are exercising to get something you like. You might even start to enjoy the exercise. Of course, exercise is just one example. The idea of one day at a time I will do this and then reward myself works for almost every behavior.

One behavior I want to start is taking some quiet time each day. I can find every excuse in the world not to do this. There is always some sort of work associated with the seminary and, of course, work to do around the house. Or, there is a friend I neglected and I really ought to call them. I could go on, but you get the idea. Research gives all sorts of benefits of quiet time. The one that I have not read, but that friends and I noticed is that quiet time steadies us.

When we take our quiet time, when life hits us with surprises, we handle it better. I think this is because we stop. When we do so, our breathing slows and we become calmer (unless we agitate ourselves by our own thoughts). We are teaching ourselves what to do when life surprises us—stop and breathe. So, I will take some quiet time. I don’t think I will need to give myself a reward for this one—I like quiet time. So, no longer will work interfere with rewarding myself.

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

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

Milestones

The Program Committee is pleased to share that Milestones will be included during the following worship services during January.

January 12- Sung Milestones
January 19- Traditional Milestones
Covenant Groups

ALUUC Covenant Groups Are Seeking Additional Members Starting January, 2020

Are you seeking opportunities to experience a greater sense of community through building sustained relationships with members and friends in the congregation? Covenant groups are a great way to get to know others by participating in meetings that focus on a range of topics and that honor each member’s voice and views.

These groups meet twice a month for two hours and depend on each member’s commitment to attend faithfully; recognizing that members may miss meetings due to illness or for other compelling reasons. We have found that those who were unable to attend a meeting are surprised how much they missed hearing the perspectives of other participants.

Starting with a guide or template, each group develops its own written covenant that clarifies expectations of how members will relate to one another during meetings. Two practices are foundational to covenant groups: confidentiality and active listening that honors the voices of others. Covenant group meetings are lead by experienced facilitators; these groups are not therapy groups.

We will be signing up new covenant group members before and after service on January 5 and 12. The Tuesday and Thursday night groups are both welcoming additional participants. The Sunday and Tuesday afternoon groups and the Monday night group are currently at capacity, although by January they may have one or two openings. The groups will start meeting again in mid-January and run until the end of May. They will start again in fall, when new members will have opportunities to join an existing or new group.

Participation in a covenant group is open to both friends and members of the congregation. Interested persons should indicate days and times when they are available on the covenant group signup forms, even if there may be no openings in the groups meeting those days. Representatives will be wearing Covenant Group name tags and several will be staffing a signup table in the foyer before and after the January 5 and 12 services.

Interested in joining a covenant group? Look for signup forms in January.

Find more information at www.ALUUC.org/CG or email covenantgroups@aluuc.org

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.
**ALUUC Social Justice Committee (SJC) Update**

## 2020 Women’s March in Springfield

Let’s all get together to celebrate our democracy and to gear up for the 2020 elections. On January 18, 2020 at 11 am., meet at the Lincoln Statue on the grounds of the Illinois State Capitol, corner of Second Street and Capitol Avenue. We will have powerful, inspirational speakers, along with talented musicians. Wear your ALUUC tee shirt. More at [facebook.com/events/2605757186323620/](https://www.facebook.com/events/2605757186323620/)

## Warm Their Digits

SJC is collecting new gloves, mittens and socks for folks of all ages this December. As you put on your own warm socks or mittens, please remember those don’t have any to “warm their digits”. You can deposit them in the box in the foyer and SJC will make sure they go to cold digits.

## Winter Warming Center Dinners

Thank you to all who donated to this year’s Winter Warming Center (WWC) dinners. Anyone interested volunteering to serve this season, please contact Michelle Green. This year there is a Monday option for those who cannot make a Sunday evening activity due to travel, etc. The dates are: **Monday, January 27**; **Sunday, March 1** (Cooks wanted for this one! Location TDB); and **Monday, March 23**. Details will be sent to all participants each time via email. Our service to the WWC supports an important ALUUC social justice priority – homelessness.

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

### January: Mini O’Beirne Crisis Nursery

This nursery provides free emergency, temporary care, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for at risk children from birth to 6 years of age. Free developmental and medical screenings and referrals for educational, psychological, medical, dental, and food and clothing sources are available. Other free services include: in-home parent ed classes, monthly parent support groups, crisis counseling, follow-up home visits, advocacy and referrals to drug or alcohol abuse treatment, and shelter. Please be generous and support this needed community resource. [www.MiniOBeirne.org](http://www.miniobeirne.org) Donations are most welcome by check made out to ALUUC with Crisis Nursery noted.

### December: FirstSteps

You contributed $546.08 to FirstSteps, a re-entry house for people returning to the Urbana/Champaign community after incarceration. The UU Congregation of Urbana-Champaign (UUCUC), hopefully with a UU MidAmerica Chalice Lighters grant, is partnering with FirstFollowers to open this house in the fall. Please help our neighboring UU church to open this needed re-entry house in their community. Donations still most welcome by checks made out to ALUUC with FirstSteps noted. [faithify.org/projects/open-firststeps-re-entry-house-for-people-returning-home-from-prison-to-champaign-co-illinois/](http://faithify.org/projects/open-firststeps-re-entry-house-for-people-returning-home-from-prison-to-champaign-co-illinois/)

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**SJC Regular Meetings**

We meet on the 3rd Sunday, 12 noon in the ALUUC Berkley Moore room. Next meeting is Sunday, January 19. The foci for this year are Election 2020, Environment/Environmental Justice and Homelessness. We also identified several other areas of interest where we hope to partner with existing community organizations. All are welcome; we need and welcome your concerns and ideas. Be the change you want to see. For more information contact:

— Nancy Derrig or Meg Evans, socialjustice@aluuc.org, SJC Co-chairs

**Social Justice Activity Abroad**

Khwamba, Malawi, Africa has 1600 orphans and every day we feed about 900 who show up for lunch. On Dec. 16, in Malawi to visit family, Vinnie Gupta helped serve them lunch.

— From Vinnie Gupta and Daniel Moyo

**Racial Justice Project (RJP)**

This project meets on the 4th Thursday of the month, 6:30 pm, 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) 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 & serve meals weekdays 7:30-10:00 am or 1:30–4:00 pm; 10 am–1:30 pm weekends & holidays. Groups welcome. https://cc.dio.org/programs/st-johns-breadline

**Helping Hands** — 1023 E. Washington Springfield, IL 62703, (217) 522-0048

Provide a meal: www.HelpingHandsOfSpringfield.org, click the meal train picture; select and book a date. OR call 522-0048 ext 5; Brandy.

— Thanks to Delinda Chapman!
Several members of ALUUC are involved in the Springfield Immigration Advocacy Network (SIAN) which works to educate about issues impacting immigrants and refugees, understand the challenges of recent and established immigrants, and identify resources to meet their needs. Contact Meg Evans or Springfieldimmigrant@gmail.com to learn more about SIAN and how you can become involved.

— Thanks Meg Evans

Immigration Action

LOCAL CONTACTS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVITIES

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 and CUJO (Citizens United for Justice and Order). ALUUC members on these task forces would love to have you join them. FaithCoalition-IL.org or Shelley Heideman at 544-2297. There is strength in numbers and diversity folks.

— Thanks Stu Jacobson

Attend a People's Caucus Presidential Forum on January 12, 2020 in Davenport, Iowa

Members & friends of ALUUC are invited to join with other members of the Faith Coalition and attend a People’s Caucus presidential forum on January 12, 2020 from 2:30 pm – 5:30 pm in Davenport, IA.

This forum is hosted by Gamaliel of IL/IA and will provide the opportunity to directly impacted people to bring their issues directly to presidential candidates and allow average citizens to hear the candidates’ views on these issues. Candidates Castro and Delaney have already confirmed and we hope to have additional candidates confirm soon.

A chartered bus will take us to and from Davenport on Sunday, January 12. You MUST register and pay in advance to reserve your seat on the bus!

Payment is $20/person and is nonrefundable.

- Pickup & drop off at JC Penney Parking lot (1201 S Dirksen Pkwy, Springfield, IL 62703).
- Arrive at 9:30 am on Sunday, January 12 to board the bus.
- The bus will leave PROMPTLY at 10am!
- The bus should return by 10pm Sunday, January 12.
- Bring a sack lunch for the trip to Davenport. Drinks will be provided.
- On the return trip to Springfield, the bus will stop at a restaurant for dinner. Each person is responsible for the cost of their own meal.

Reserve a Seat on the FCCG Bus to the People's Caucus by calling 217-626-1004 or faithcoalition-il.org

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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 facebook.com/UUANI.

Moms Demand Action

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. facebook.com/ActionIllinois1

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, January 20, at 7 pm. The Board meets at 6 pm, 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!

PFLAG dues ($30 per family) are due by January 20, 2020. If you haven’t paid them yet, please write a check made out to PFLAG of Springfield and send to Rev. Martin Woulfe or bring to the next meeting.

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

Labyrinth Walk

Friday, February 21st, 7 - 9pm

The revised schedule for the 2019-2020 Labyrinth Walk is now set: the next Walk will be 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 stay after the walk may join in a UU Communion held in Rev. Woulfe’s office.
Preparations for the Fantasy Auction on March 7th have begun!

We are looking forward to a fun event this year and would appreciate any and all help with preparations and the day of. The fabulous Fantasy Auction team will be meeting after services on Sunday January 5th to start planning. If you are interested in participating in any way I would encourage you to join us!

More information and donation sheets will be coming in the Sunday inserts through the month of January but mark your calendars for our biggest fundraising event on Saturday March 7th!!

If you have any questions you may contact Anna Sabin at auction@aluuc.org.

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

Fundraise for ALUUC While You Shop :)

ALUUC Fellowship Events

Join us at the January Potluck!

Sunday, January 12, 12 Noon (after the service)

Please bring a dish to share if you are able :)

Do you know what you'll be bringing? Let us know here: https://www.aluuc.org/potluck
Want to know what other people are bringing? Find out at https://www.aluuc.org/food

If you would like to volunteer to help with setup or cleanup, please sign up online at https://www.aluuc.org/kitchen or contact email@aluuc.org.

Movie Outing - Just Mercy

This film is coming to the Springfield, IL area in mid-January. If you are interested in seeing this in a group, please contact Marissa DeWeese (email@aluuc.org). Please let her know by Monday, January 6, 2020.

“Walter McMillian (Jamie Foxx), A black man wrongly accused of murder, spends six years on death row before Bryan Stevenson (Michael B. Jordan), a lawyer with the Equal Justice Initiative, gets him exonerated.” Rated PG-13. 2 hours, 17 minutes.
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! 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 on the table in the foyer and for download at [www.aluuc.org/domino](http://www.aluuc.org/domino).

**Hope to see you there!**

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

**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! ALUUC will provide pizza and lemonade, so feel free to bring additional food/drinks.

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**Hope to see you there!**
Community Events

GSIA Greater Springfield Interfaith Association Meeting

Tuesday, January 7th

Members and Friends of ALUUC are invited to join with the Interfaith Community on Tuesday, January 7th. Please join us at First Church of the Brethren, 2115 Yale Blvd, Springfield, IL from 11:45 am – 1:30 pm for a conversation. ALUUC’s very own Delinda Chapman will talk about the upcoming Liturgical Arts Festival.

Please bring your own lunch. Some refreshments will be provided by our host.

Martin Luther King Jr Community Breakfast

Monday, January 20, 2020 — 7:30 am

Please sign up to attend the Frontiers International Martin Luther King Jr Breakfast on Monday, January 20, 2020. The breakfast begins at 7:30 AM. The special keynote speaker will be the Rev. Wes McNeese.

ALUUC has reserved two tables (20 places); you may reserve your place now by speaking with Rev. Martin Woulfe; tickets are $25 per person. A limited number of sponsored tickets will be available for those in need.

Robert Burns Banquet

Saturday, January 25th

Mark your calendar for the St. Andrew’s Society Annual Robert Burns Banquet, Saturday, January 25.

Did you know that Robert Burns was a Unitarian? Did you also know that there is an annual banquet held in his honor, celebrated across the globe - including here in Springfield - that includes music and dancing and unique ethnic food (haggis)? The festivities are held at the Northfield Inn and the cost is $35 (members) or $40 (non-members). If you would like to attend this event, please contact Rev. Woulfe who will share the registration details, including choice of dinner. Social hour starts at 5 pm, Piping in the Haggis at 6:30 pm followed by dinner.

99th Annual Lincoln-Douglass Banquet

Sunday, February 9 at the Crowne Plaza

The Springfield Branch of the NAACP invites members & friends of ALUUC to attend its 99th Annual Lincoln-Douglass Banquet on Sunday, February 9 at the Crowne Plaza. This event starts at 2:45 pm. The 2020 theme is "When We Fight Together, We Win: 99 Years in the Making." Tickets are $60 each (student price is $30 each). If you are interested in attending, please contact Rev. Woulfe. If enough people from ALUUC attend, we can reserve a table.
The Electronics and Communications Committee will be sending out the NEW passwords in early January for ALUUC's online Membership Directory and online Photo Directory. This email will go to all those addresses that we have marked as belonging to a Member or a Friend of ALUUC.

The Members Page can be found on our website at www.aluuc.org/about-aluuc/members

- under the About Us menu OR
- clicking Members on the sidebar menu.

If you have trouble opening either of the directories, or did not receive the password, you can email webmaster@aluuc.org. Thank you!

Sound System Lessons

Plan to host an event at ALUUC? Want to help out on a Sunday morning? Want to push all the buttons and levers??

Then learn how to work the ALUUC’s Sound System! Our system uses three input microphones, a wireless handheld microphone, and has the capacity to play music off any electronic device that has a normal stereo input (like those used for headphones) such as most smartphones and laptops.

Kurt DeWeese and Marissa DeWeese are available most Sundays, and are happy to show anyone how the Sound System works in about 5 minutes or so. Contact email@aluuc.org if you have any questions.

Note: If you would also like to know the “ins and outs” of the SMART TV on a cart, let us know ☺

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.
The ALUUC Book Group will meet Tuesday, January 28, at 7 PM in the Channing Room. The book selection is *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. This novel immerses the reader in an elegantly drawn era with the story of Count Alexander Rostov, an unrepentant aristocrat, who is sentenced to house arrest in a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin.

The book selection in February will be *Lincoln’s Last Trial* by Dan Abrams.

We welcome anyone interested in reading a wide variety of books to join us. For questions, email Martha Plog at bookgroup@aluuc.org.

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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. **We will not meet on New Year’s Eve, December 31st.** For more information contact acim@aluuc.org.

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**BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

The ALUUC Book Group will meet **Tuesday, January 28, at 7 PM in the Channing Room.** The book selection is *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. This novel immerses the reader in an elegantly drawn era with the story of Count Alexander Rostov, an unrepentant aristocrat, who is sentenced to house arrest in a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin.

The book selection in February will be *Lincoln’s Last Trial* by Dan Abrams.

We welcome anyone interested in reading a wide variety of books to join us. For questions, email Martha Plog at bookgroup@aluuc.org.

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**COMPASSION & CHOICES GROUP**

The Compassion & Choices Group usually 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, January 8, at 7pm** to discuss our efforts to promote a compassionate alternative for terminally ill patients in Illinois.

**Please note that this meeting has been moved to a different day of the month than usual, due to the January 1st holiday. If you can attend, please notify Rev. Woulfe, so we will know how much snacks to bring.**

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**COVENANT GROUPS**

Are you seeking opportunities to experience a greater sense of community through building sustained relationships with members and friends in the congregation? Covenant groups are a great way to get to know others by participating in meetings that focus on a range of topics and that honor each member’s voice and views.

Read more on page 7...

We will be signing up new covenant group members on January 5 and 12. The Tuesday and Thursday night groups are both welcoming additional participants. The Sunday and Tuesday afternoon groups and the Monday night group are currently at capacity, although by January they may have one or two openings. The groups will start meeting again in mid-January and run until the end of May.

Find more information at www.ALUUC.org/CG or email covenantgroups@aluuc.org
Seasons greetings from the ALUUC Humanist Group! We are taking a winter hiatus and will resume in February 2020. For more information, contact Sarah Iaiennaro at humanistgroup@aluuc.org.

The ALUUC News Group will renew its meetings Thursday, January 9, 2020 at the ALUUC at 7:00 p.m. We will focus our discussion on the Impeachment of our 45th President of the United States Donald J. Trump and its implications for the next Presidential election. We will also consider Local and state Primary Elections scheduled for St. Patrick’s Day March 17, 2020. We sorely miss our most active and informed voice in Frank Kopecky, but look forward to enriched meetings with new voices. Participation is open to any and all members and friends of ALUUC. H’ordeuvres and BYOB beverages are welcome. Contact Kurt DeWeese if you have any questions at newsgroup@aluuc.org or his cell phone.

Drum Circle gatherings will be held twice a month in the Sanctuary at ALUUC! Beginners are welcome!

- Sunday, January 5 - 12:00pm- 1:00 pm
- Monday, January 13 - 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 aluuc.org/drum
2. Let her know if you need a drum.

Happy Drumming!

HUMANIST GROUP

MEN’S GROUP

The Men’s Group meets on the second and fourth 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.

NEWS GROUP

The ALUUC News Group will renew its meetings Thursday, January 9, 2020 at the ALUUC at 7:00 p.m.

We will focus our discussion on the Impeachment of our 45th President of the United States Donald J. Trump and its implications for the next Presidential election. We will also consider Local and state Primary Elections scheduled for St. Patrick’s Day March 17, 2020. We sorely miss our most active and informed voice in Frank Kopecky, but look forward to enriched meetings with new voices. Participation is open to any and all members and friends of ALUUC. H’ordeuvres and BYOB beverages are welcome.

Contact Kurt DeWeese if you have any questions at newsgroup@aluuc.org or his cell phone.

All groups must reserve their meeting space in advance for meetings and/or events through Office Manager Cheryl Wycoff at office@aluuc.org. If you aren’t on the reservation calendar, you could find yourself bumped by another group who followed procedures.
### January 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
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<th>Thu</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>December 29</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sunday Service</td>
<td><strong>December 30</strong>&lt;br&gt;New Year’s Eve</td>
<td><strong>December 31</strong>&lt;br&gt;</td>
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<td><strong>5</strong>&lt;br&gt;9am Finance Committee&lt;br&gt;Sunday Service&lt;br&gt;C-4-C Collection&lt;br&gt;12pm Drum Circle&lt;br&gt;12pm Green Sanc. Committee&lt;br&gt;12pm Fantasy Auction Planning Meeting&lt;br&gt;Covenant Group Signups</td>
<td><strong>6</strong>&lt;br&gt;11:45am GSIA Meeting&lt;br&gt;1pm Covenant Group&lt;br&gt;6pm A Course In Miracles RE Class</td>
<td><strong>7</strong>&lt;br&gt;6pm ALUUC Board Meeting&lt;br&gt;7pm Compassion &amp; Choices Group</td>
<td><strong>8</strong>&lt;br&gt;6:30pm Meditation Group&lt;br&gt;7pm News Group</td>
<td><strong>9</strong>&lt;br&gt;</td>
<td><strong>10</strong>&lt;br&gt;9am Zen Meditation</td>
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<td><strong>12</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sunday Service&lt;br&gt;Potluck Sang Milestones&lt;br&gt;Covenant Group Signups&lt;br&gt;12pm Pathways to Membership&lt;br&gt;12pm Covenant Group</td>
<td><strong>13</strong>&lt;br&gt;6pm Drum Circle&lt;br&gt;6pm Men’s Group&lt;br&gt;6:30pm Pathways to Membership</td>
<td><strong>14</strong>&lt;br&gt;6pm A Course In Miracles RE Class&lt;br&gt;6:30pm Moms Demand Action</td>
<td><strong>15</strong>&lt;br&gt;6:30pm Membership Committee&lt;br&gt;6:30pm Meditation Group</td>
<td><strong>16</strong>&lt;br&gt;</td>
<td><strong>17</strong>&lt;br&gt;9am Zen Meditation&lt;br&gt;4:30pm Private Rental</td>
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<td><strong>19</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sunday Service&lt;br&gt;Traditional Milestones&lt;br&gt;12pm RE Committee Meeting&lt;br&gt;12pm Social Justice Committee</td>
<td><strong>20</strong>&lt;br&gt;*7:30am&lt;br&gt;Martin Luther King Jr Community Breakfast&lt;br&gt;7pm PFLAG</td>
<td><strong>21</strong>&lt;br&gt;1pm Covenant Group&lt;br&gt;6pm A Course In Miracles RE Class</td>
<td><strong>22</strong>&lt;br&gt;6:30pm Facilities Committee Meeting&lt;br&gt;6:30pm Meditation Group</td>
<td><strong>23</strong>&lt;br&gt;6:30pm Racial Justice Project Meeting&lt;br&gt;6:30pm Meditation Group</td>
<td><strong>24</strong>&lt;br&gt;9am Zen Meditation</td>
<td><strong>25</strong>&lt;br&gt;*5pm Robert Burns Banquet</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.
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ALUUC - Since 1953 Celebrating over 66 years of liberal religion in the Springfield area.

Visit us on the web at www.aluuc.org