December heralds the seasons of lights (at least, in our hemisphere), a time that reminds us of the needs and aspirations that lie at the center of our being. As the shadows stretch further upon the exterior landscape, so too do they stretch across our imaginations. Wisdom whispers hope, in the form of a candle or hearth flame. It is natural to connect the symbolism of that light to the religious notion that a spark of the divine resides within each living creature, that we are all interconnected to the Sacred.

There have been times, as a young adult, when I balked at that thought, when it was difficult to perceive anything that was holy about humanity or the universe. In my mid twenties, I was repulsed by the crass commercialism of the season. With the passing of a few more years, though, my perception has been tempered and even transformed – I no longer lay the blame for that aspect on the season itself. Such commercialization might be likened to the storms that strike during this season; it is inevitable, but we can take precautions against the chill. Partly we can cultivate a richer inner spirituality – one that figuratively provides light in the darkness; but more so, we can practice a living spirituality, one that touches other living creatures in practical ways. I am reminded of the observation that come winter, it is not the lack of light that kills but the lack of warmth. I dare to imagine that the various sparks of light that reside within us all may be fanned by hope, courage and compassion – together, may these dispel whatever shadows fall across our paths, and provide genuine warmth.

Rev. Martin Woulfe
Fellow Members of the Central Midwest District:

Greetings from your Board of Trustees! We have exciting news to share, which we wanted to send without delay: at our meeting last Saturday, November 12th, we voted unanimously to work collaboratively with the Boards of our adjacent districts--Prairie Star to the west, and Heartland to the east--to create a regional governance entity to replace the three existing districts. The Prairie Star board made the same unanimous decision on the same day, and the Heartland Board did so earlier this fall. **Our target date to establish this entity is July 1, 2013, pending a vote on this initiative at our District Assembly in the spring of that year.** I’m further pleased to note that all three boards are the first in our denomination to advance this future-oriented proposal.

This initiative is the result of at least three years of consideration by your district board, and almost two years of discussion with leaders in our partnering districts. The decision also follows the recommendation of the combined Executive Committees of the three districts, who met in Chicago last month to discuss possible forms of regional governance. Moreover, those of you who attended our District Assembly in Bloomington, IL, last spring, might recall that the topic of regional collaboration on both the staff and volunteer levels were reviewed at our district business meeting and after, as the Presidents from Prairie Star and Heartland were in attendance to participate in the discussion.

We agree with our sister districts that the creation of a new regional entity is an opportunity to form something more than a geographically larger district. Forming one entity out of three districts allows us to:

- To use resources formerly used for governance to support the growth, within existing congregations and beyond, of Unitarian Universalism in our region. This would allow us to be a denominational leader in using technologies virtually unheard of (such as personal computing and wireless technology) at the time of the UUA merger in 1961. Coupled with recent advances through the Internet (like various social media), we in the “MidAmerica” region can advance new collaborations among UU’s within and beyond “bricks and mortar” congregations, as well as to develop creative ways to spread the message of our faith;
- “Mirror” the perspectives and reach of our staff, who are now operating out of regional model. Indeed, the Reverend Dr. Ian Evison, our CMwD Congregational Services Director, is now the lead manager for the “MidAmerica” regional UUA staff cohort;
- Reduce the cost of governance, as the Central Midwest, Prairie Star, and Heartland policies and decisions were becoming increasingly redundant.

A “Regional Steering Committee,” comprised of the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of all three districts, will in early December be detailing the tasks needed to complete this 18-month transition to a regional structure. I can assure you that the Steering Committee will be mindful of “best practices” for financial reporting and for non-profit governance. And the members of all three boards were emphatic that representative governance, borne of the democratic process so valued in congregational polity, must be a hallmark of our new system.

Lastly, all of us on the CMwD Board want to ensure that all of our stakeholders have ways to communicate with us about this process. We’re in the process of developing a Web-based format for this, which will be posted on the websites of all three districts. In the meantime, you can contact me directly at either the phone or e-mail addresses listed below.

Change is rarely easy. Yet our Board joins with the elected leaders of Prairie Star and Heartland in believing the time for this change is upon us. We all share the conviction that regional format will provide the staff with the best available opportunities for supporting congregational health, and that a new board can model responsive and transparent governance. I fervently believe that it will allow us to spread the news of our transformational liberal faith -- grounded in justice, reason and spiritual depth -- effectively to meet the challenges and changes we'll surely encounter in the 21st Century.

Warmly, in the Spirit,

The Reverend Brian H. Covell
President, Central Midwest District
MidAmerica Region of the UUA
Sunday Morning Services

December 6, 2011
UU Pilgrimages
Rev. Martin Woulfe

Various religious traditions celebrate the idea that becoming a pilgrim and making a special journey is important to deepening one’s spirituality. To where might a UU pilgrim travel, and what might we learn both from the journey itself and the destination? Will include a “Change for Change Collection.”

December 11, 2011
The Best Christmas Ever
Rev. Martin Woulfe

As the holiday season approaches, many families feel enormous pressure to create “the best Christmas ever” for their families. Why do we do this -- what is the source of this desire, and what are the consequences?

December 18, 2011
Youth Holiday Pageant

Every year the RE Committee, along with all the children, work together to create a wonderful pageant. Please join us and enjoy this fun event!

December 24, 2011
Christmas Eve Service: Candles and Carols
6:00 PM

Come celebrate this annual favorite with your friends and neighbors at ALUUC; this service will feature the musical talents of Bonnie Ettinger, the ALUUC choir — and all those assembled!

December 25, 2011
After the Presents Have Been Opened
Rev. Martin Woulfe

This service will explore the enduring power and meaning of Christmas, removed from its theological and consumer trappings.

January 1, 2011
A New Year and New Beginnings

This will be a casual morning with no structured program. The Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a morning brunch from 9 am until 11:00 am. This will be accompanied by participants who are invited to bring readings, resolutions and poetry discussing new beginnings, seasonal thoughts, personal goals and commitments for the new year. Please see page 11, Fellowship Committee article, for more details. Will include a “Change for Change Collection.”

Worship services are held Sunday mornings at 10:30 am. Religious education & child care provided for children of all ages. Large print bulletins & hymnals, as well as hearing devices, are available upon request.
Rehearsals have begun for the Holiday Pageant and will continue during the regular Sunday mornings' Religious Education time. There will be one Saturday Dress Rehearsal December 17 (the day before the pageant) from 2-4 pm. The children have been placed into four groups. The pre-K/K will be in their own group and will get to use their special talents in the pageant. The older children will be in Groups 1, 2 and 3. A few children have dual roles and will be working in more than one group. The children are aware of which group(s) they are in. The remaining rehearsals will go as follows: November 27, everyone will rehearse; December 4, Group 3 will rehearse; December 11, everyone for a run through; Saturday, December 17, everyone for a dress rehearsal; December 18, performance. All children will have activities on every Sunday day and we welcome them to join us even if their group isn’t rehearsing that particular Sunday. Having your child(ren) in attendance on those dates that their group is rehearsing is especially important. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at cre@aluuc.org.

Marla Johnson
Coordinator of Religious Education

Kids Club

All of you have a golden ticket and are invited to join us at Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory during Kids Club. Kids Club meets Friday, December 2, 6 pm-8 pm.

Remember to RSVP to Marla Johnson, CRE at cre@aluuc.org to ensure that the Oompa Loompas have made enough treats for everyone. Kids Club is for children in 1st-5th grade. The Junior High Youth Group will be meeting at the same time to review the movie "Gremlins". This group is for those in 6th-8th grade.

Junior High Youth Group

I would like to also mention that we have begun a Junior High Youth Group. Jerrid Foiles will be coordinating activities for those children in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. The Junior High Youth Group will be meeting on the first Friday of each month during the Kids Club time. Jerrid will be involving the youth in book discussions, movie reviews, and just some good ole' game nights.

I think it is wonderful that Jerrid has given us an opportunity to help this age group feel a part of our church community.

Marla Johnson
Coordinator of Religious Education
From the Intern…

As I write this, I am recovering from a tiredness that comes from exhilaration. Yesterday, Sunday, November 20, 2011, was the occasion of my being commissioned as intern minister at ALUUC. I didn’t know what to expect, as Martin and my ‘lay committee’ did all the planning. (A lay committee is a requirement of the UUA for each intern, and comprises members of the congregation and the wider UU community who are in place to support interns as they journey toward ministerial fellowship.) The first surprise was the letter from my home congregation in Peoria. That was just the beginning of the waterworks! For me, the most touching part of the ritual was the gathering of flowers. To look into the eyes, to see the smiles, to accept the hugs and good wishes of congregants made me feel so welcome, and that I am in the right place. Several times during the gathering, I was asked if I wanted to put the flowers in vases, and I couldn’t. As I was holding that glorious bouquet, I felt as if I were both embracing and being embraced by people of Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation. I cherish those minutes and will hold them dearly in my heart.

That I was ALUUC’s intern was already official on paper, but the ritual seals the knowing and binds us all together in ways that a contract cannot.

I will do my best to honor the church’s vision; to be part of its learning processes and spiritual growth; to be a good representative in the Springfield community; to excel in my academic path; and to be steadfast in my personal growth on this path of ministry.

This is the beginning of a season of thanksgiving, and indeed, I am celebrating.

Peace and Blessings,

Lynnda White

ALUUC Annual Glove, Mitten, Hat and Scarf Tree

This year we will again be collecting gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves for the Contact Ministries for their Christmas Assistance Giveaway Program that will be held on December 15, 2011 at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Please bring new gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves to ALUUC on Sunday, December 4 and 11 and hang them on the tree! If you would prefer to make a financial contribution, please deposit your check in the offering (make check payable to ALUUC with Contact Ministries in the memo) on December 4 and 11.

UUSC Holiday Cards

This year, the ALUUC Social Action Committee will be selling UUSC Holiday Cards. Teresa Liberati will be selling the cards on Dec. 4, 11 and 18 after service. The cards will also be available by emailing Teresa (and she will bring them to a Sunday service. UUSC has added four new card designs – Holiday Ornaments, Winter Adventures, Freedom Doves, Rainbow Pines. They also have previous year’s designs - Snow Globe Kids, Children and World, People Tree, and Plant Justice, Harvest Peace. Each pack comes with 10 cards and 10 envelopes, at a cost of just $10 per pack and are of high quality. That’s only a dollar per card! All proceeds from holiday card sales support UUSC’s work.
Looking for a Different Holiday Gift? Consider Fair Trade Products

We all know that the holidays are a time for reconnecting with family and friends. They are also a time to connect with our global community. When you support Fair Trade, you become part of a network of people dedicated to facilitating change for disadvantaged artisans and farmers. During the month of December, the Social Action Committee will be selling Fair Trade products (coffee, teas, cocoa, and chocolate bars) on December 4, 11 and 18 in the vestibule following the service. The purchase of fair trade goods through the UUSC Coffee Project benefits agricultural cooperatives through UUSC’s Small Farmer Fund. The UUSC Coffee Project is collaboration between the UUSC and Equal Exchange, a worker-owned, fair trade, company based in West Bridgewater, MA. UUs have the highest participation rate of any denomination in Equal Exchange’s Interfaith Program!

Springfield Overflow Shelter

Once again, this year, the Social Action Committee will provide a meal at the Springfield Overflow Shelter (SOS) one evening a month. The evening chosen for ALUUC will again be the first Sunday of each month, November through March. The dates are December 4, January 1, February 5 and March 4. Past workers and new volunteers are welcome to join us in serving the meals on these nights.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Delinda Chapman, SOS Coordinator. If there are volunteers who would like to provide desserts each of these Sundays, please see Delinda to make these arrangements. Whatever gifts we give be it time or money or desserts is most appreciated.

The volunteers for November 6 were Julio Barrenzula, Delinda Chapman, James Custer, Meg Evans, Vinnie Gupta, Peter Lazare, Randy Pratt, Laura Vaught, Tom Vaught and Kitty Wrigley.

Next meal will be served on December 4.

Action and Support for Immigrants (ASI)

ASI was born as a response to a family in crisis facing deportation and with the hope to help others in need. With this in mind, the following are the vision and mission statements of the organization:

Vision Statement
All immigrants are welcomed as neighbors and contributing members of the Springfield community.

Mission Statement
Advocacy and Support for Immigrants (ASI) is a volunteer organization working with others in the Springfield area to insure that our immigrant neighbors may fulfill a life with dignity in our community.

As part of this work, we would like to invite you to participate in our upcoming meeting to discuss immigrant related topics and as well as how you could support the organization by becoming a member, proving resources or simply by participating as part of our community.
Change For Change

Thanks to the generosity of ALUUC members and friends, $211.62 was collected for the Harriet Tubman/Susan B. Anthony Women’s Self Help Center. The Social Action Committee has selected the Mini O’Beirne Crisis Nursery for the December Change For Change Program. Community volunteers started the Crisis Nursery in 1989. Its mission is to prevent child abuse and neglect by providing emergency, temporary care, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for children who may be at risk or whose parents are experiencing some type of crisis. Services provided by Crisis Nursery staff include in-home parent education classes, monthly parent support group meetings and crisis counseling. Families receive follow-up home visits and advocacy and referrals to other needed services such as drug or alcohol abuse treatment, medical, food, clothing and shelter. As with the care of the children, the family support services are free.

It's time to welcome a Guest at Your Table!

Each year at this time, friends and families in our congregation participate in Guest at Your Table. This year, the program began on November 20, 2011 and will wrap up on Sunday, December 18.

Guest at Your Table provides an excellent opportunity for families and friends to discuss and share their thoughts on the many struggles for justice in the United States and around the world and how the UUSC works in advancing basic human rights. An opportunity to give thanks for the many gifts we have in our lives everyday.

With each box comes a copy of Stories of Hope, which helps children, youth, and adults learn more about how UUSC works to change our world for the better. The stories introduce human-rights champions like Carolina Lara, a youth leader of a movement in Ecuador that successfully lobbied to have the human right to water included in the country’s new constitution; or Dalia, a youth leader and human-rights activist in Egypt. She is shattering barriers to empower a generation of Egyptians who are experiencing democracy for the first time.

Consider making Guest at Your Table part of a meal-time ritual to read through one of the stories and discuss its meaning and how we can help. When we share our blessings with our “guests,” we ensure that UUSC and people like Carolina and Dalia can continue their important work.

And, thanks to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, N.Y., gifts of $100 or more are eligible to be matched, dollar for dollar, doubling the impact of your support!

Please stop by our table in the Commons and pick up a Guest at Your Table box and Stories of Hope; and commit to taking the opportunity to reflect, learn, and share. Boxes will be collected on Sunday, December 18. Before bringing back your Guest at Your Table box, be sure to complete the form on the box. And please convert your cash and coins to a check made out to “UUSC”. On behalf of UUSC, we thank and commend every person who has chosen to share their blessings through Guest at Your Table.

Social Action Committee Members

SAC members include Bernie Carver, Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, Delinda Chapman, Peggy Finley, Pat Fletcher, Vinnie Gupta, Linda Haynes, Doug Liberati, Teresa Liberati, Vicki Lock (UUSC Local Rep), John Malan, Sally Millichamp, Neha Patel-Dunkirk, Michael Plog (Board Committee Liaison) and Susan Solon. If you are interested in becoming a member of the ALUUC Social Action Committee, contact Deborah at through ALUUC.
Our New Group Photo

This is our latest congregational picture. Although it may seem very small, in the newsletter, it is actually much larger. Approximately four-times larger! If you would like to have a copy of the original, please contact Rev. Martin Woulfe at this email address: minister@aluuc.org or talk to him in person on Sunday after the service.

Nature Area at ALUUC

You have likely noticed the unmowed area in the back corner of the church property with taller grass. This is the site of the “Nature Area” which is the signature project of the Green Sanctuary Committee. The Illinois Native Plant Society has awarded a $1000 grant to ALUUC toward the establishment of approximately one acre of native prairie vegetation.

The rewards of this project at our church are multifaceted and abundant. The Nature Area will provide:

- Reduced carbon footprint
- Wildlife habitat
- Educational resources
- Seasonal altar flowers
- Space for contemplation
- Seed source for new projects
- Minimal maintenance
- No mowing!
- An example to our community of alternatives to the corporate lawn
- Beauty in our backyard!

The unfolding of the Nature Area is a multi-year process which is right on schedule. The area was left unmowed during the summer to keep the grass as tall as possible for a herbicide application, done by a licensed pesticide handler, to knock out the existing grass. We will conduct a controlled burn and sow the prairie seeds in early December. The prairie plants will sprout next spring and summer. By planting some root stock next Spring, we hope to have a good amount of bloom the first year. Other activities next Spring include spot herbicide of non-native weeds from the seed bank, mowing a few times and hand pulling of weeds. Ongoing maintenance will include controlled prairie burns for the first few years.

The Green Sanctuary Committee will keep you informed of progress with the Nature Area and ways to become involved. We hope that this work can be a source of personal growth and connection with nature for all involved, especially the youth.

Submitted by Meg Evans & the Green Sanctuary Committee

Sing Shape-Note from the American Christmas Harp

ALUUC
Sunday, December 4th
2:00 - 5:00 pm

This is not a concert, nor a practice session, but all members are welcome to attend and may quietly listen.
Holiday Pageant
Sunday, December 18th
10:30 am
Watch ALUUC’s youth perform a wonderful holiday pageant that is sure to set you into a festive spirit.
Mark the date and bring your friends.
It’s fun entertainment for everyone at ALUUC!

UUU President Releases Statement on Occupy Wall Street Protests

October 13, 2011
UUU President the Rev. Peter Morales has released the following statement regarding the Occupy Wall Street movement:

"The Occupy Wall Street movement that has now spread to other cities across the country is a public outcry of frustration and anger. The protestors have taken to the streets to draw attention to the fact that our economic system has not only failed to protect the most vulnerable among us, it has preyed on the majority for the benefit of very few. The Occupy protests are a wake-up call that the American people are in great peril, and we have been for some time.

"It is not surprising that Americans have had to take to the streets to get the attention of our leaders. For too long, we have seen attention paid to banks that are 'too big too fail' while the plight of the poor and the working class goes unaddressed. For too long, we have been pitted against each other by those in power, by a corrupt economic system that pushed us to consume more and to 'get ours' at any cost. Now we know: The cost is too great, and is ultimately without satisfaction.

"Last Sunday, I had the opportunity to join the Occupy Boston protesters in this city's financial district. Unitarian Universalist ministers from several of our Massachusetts congregations came together to organize an evening vespers service at the Occupy Boston encampment, offering spiritual support and encouragement to the hundreds of souls gathered there.

"I was honored to bear witness to this historic event, and grateful for the chance stand side by side with Unitarian Universalist ministers showing such passionate devotion to our Fourth Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large. And I know that our ministers and congregants have played similar roles at the other Occupy events across the country.

"Unitarian Universalism embodies a long tradition of working for economic justice and workers' rights. Today is another opportunity for us to live our faith, and the Occupy protests are a first step on the road to repairing our country.

"I reach out to Unitarian Universalists everywhere to consider how you might be of service to any among us who are struggling to provide for their families, those who have been cheated and abused by financial institutions, and all those whose backs ache under a burden of debt, unemployment, and fading hope. Let the world see the power of our faith in action.

"And if these protests are truly planting the seeds of a reformation – even a revolution – may those seeds be nurtured by love. May the change come from a place of compassion and good will. And may all those involved know this: We are with you.”

~Peter Morales
Groups & Events

BRIDGE GROUP
The December meeting of the Bridge Group, on Friday evening, December 9th at 7:00 pm, is scheduled to be at the home of Barbara Moore. Those not on the calling list are also most welcome to attend, but need to contact Barbara in advance (see directory or contact ALUUC).

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
The Book Group will not meet in December. Future books we will read include “The Abstinence Teacher” by Tom Perotta and “My Name is Mary Sutter” by Robin Oliviera. Call ALUUC if you have any questions.

FLUTE CIRCLE
The Sangamon Valley Flute Circle meets in the Sanctuary on the second Wednesday of every month from 7 - 9 PM. Our next gathering is December 14th. Anyone who has an interest is welcome to join us. No experience or flute ownership required.

DREAM GROUP
The Dream Group will meet on Monday December 12 at 7:00 pm in the Fuller Room at church. The meeting gives folks an opportunity to discuss their dreams in a relaxed and informal setting. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information about this group, contact ALUUC.

MOVIE NIGHT
Sunday, December 11, 6 pm at ALUUC The 2005 film “Joyeux Noel” will be presented; this movie depicts actual events during the First World War, when embattled British, French and German soldiers negotiated a truce at Christmas.

LABYRINTH WALK & ONENESS BLESSING
Come, Friday, December 16th at 7:00 pm and experience the ALUUC Labyrinth! Walking the labyrinth is an ancient practice, older than most religions and is a wonderful way to center yourself as this new season continues to unfold. Labyrinth walks have grown in popularity not only among UUs but among other faith traditions -- our labyrinth has been in use longer than most in central Illinois -- come see why.

Adding to the spiritual depth of the experience, Carley Mattimore-Malan will be offering a Oneness Blessing to participants.

UU COMMUNION
Those members who desire to share an informal UU communion are invited to join Rev. Woulfe at ALUUC following the Labyrinth Walk. Blessing to participants.

HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP
The Humanist Group emphasizes core values such as dignity of the individual, equality, and social justice. This area involves a variety of topics including morality/ethical values, humanism as way of life, separation of church and state, science/evolution, behavioral economics and progressive politics.

On winter break In December and January, the Humanist Discussion Group will meet Monday February 27 at ALUUC. If you have questions about the group please contact ALUUC.

NEWS COVENANT GROUP
The News Group meets on the first Thursday of each month. Join us on December 1, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at Renata and Heiko Buchloh’s, 7901 Hunt Road. Everyone is welcome. Call ALUUC.

SPANISH CLUB
Feliz Navidad! A seasonal fiesta will be held at the home of Angela Aznarte & Rev. Martin Woulfe on Sunday, December 18, beginning at 6 pm. This will be a pot luck party – a great opportunity for fellowship & para hablar espanol con sus amigos!
Fellowship Committee

Let me begin by sending out a warm thank you to Diana DeWeese for organizing Circle Dinners. Thank you to everyone who hosted a dinner and as always thanks to everyone who helped in the kitchen after and before Sunday’s Service.

We have a few events planned for the holidays. The biggest event of the month is our Holiday Gala, December 10th, 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. It is a simple idea a holiday party for our congregation. This is the time for holiday cheer so let us get together and have fun. There will be food, drink and entertainment. Currently we have a few performers scheduled but we need more. A performance can be anything from reading a poem, singing a song, playing an instrument or telling a tale. If you are interested in performing please contact Randy Pratt, rebusrandy@yahoo.com or by phone 494-5118.

We invite the entire congregation to come and have some holiday fun. We welcome the opportunity to share various holiday traditions. Fellowship will provide snacks and beverages but you are encouraged to bring a treat or two. In lieu of the Holiday Gala we will not have a game night this month. It will return in January.

Instead of a potluck there will be a Holiday Cookie Exchange on Sunday December 18th after the service and RE Pageant. The concept is simple; bring a dozen cookies take home a dozen; bring two dozen take home two dozen. Of course you can share you cookies with the congregation afterward.

PRAIRIE GRAPEVINE CONCERT

Join us for a great evening of traditional Bluegrass music.

River Ramblers
Tuesday, January 17, 2012
7:30 pm at ALUUC

It’s also time for our traditional Walk n Talk, 6:00 pm, December 8th, the annual Old Capitol Holiday Walk, downtown Springfield. We will meet at Café Andiamo 204 South Sixth Street at 6:00 PM.

“May your holidays be peaceful and stress free.”
~ Fellowship Committee

Special Notice
Rev. Woulfe will be out of town from Monday December 25 – January 9. During this period, please refer pastoral care concerns to either Jodi Perko or Delinda Chapman.
Choir

A big thank you to the choir members who sang at the Interfaith Thanksgiving service at First Presbyterian Church on November 20. We sang "We Are One" by Brian Tate after hearing other faith groups share music, poetry, and verse. It was a very inspiring service and the choir represented ALUUC well.

Now we are preparing for the Christmas Eve program. Children are invited to join the choir in singing "Still, Still, Still". We welcome more teen and adult singers for this service of several choir songs, in particular we have a greater need for men, especially baritones. If you or your child are interested in singing please contact Kathy Schultz and/or show for our rehearsals on Sundays at 9:30am in the sanctuary.

Celebration of Life for Celia Wesle

A service to celebrate the life of
Celia Wesle
will be held at
ALUUC
Saturday, December 3
2:00 pm.
A short reception will follow.

ALUUC Recognized as an Honor Congregation, 2010-2011

The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations has sent ALUUC a letter and certificate of recognition in support of the Annual Program Fund.

"We are writing to offer a warm and heartfelt message of appreciation and gratitude for your congregation's full financial support of your Unitarian Universalist faith through your contributions to the UUA Annual Program Fund in 2010-2011. We are pleased to recognize yours as one of our esteemed APF Honor Congregations. Even with the lingering effects of recent economic recession still felt, your Annual Program Fund contributing conveys the commitment to fulfilling our mission of support to your covenantal partners, our 1,050 member congregations." "We know that fully funding APF and district contributions through your annual budget takes leadership, hard work, and generosity on the part of many. Your contributions support the good works of Unitarian Universalism in your community and extend the reach of our ministry in the wider world.

Together, we stand on the side of love and justice, actively working on behalf of those seeking advocacy and support. Together, we give voice in opposition to the forces of oppression that are barriers to freedom and peaceful relations. Together, we educate our children, empower our youth and provide nurturing and healing ministry for all ages and life stages. The Annual Program Fund is essential to sustaining our most vital UUA programs and services."
HOLIDAY GIFTS AVAILABLE FROM UUA BOOKSTORE

Consider buying holiday gifts through the Unitarian Universalist Association.

The bookstore offers free shipping through December 8.

Books for all ages and many interests, as well as jewelry, gift items, and cards are available.

http://www.uuabookstore.org/client/client_pages/HolidayNav.cfm

Book specials change daily through December 16
http://www.uuabookstore.org/

New to UU Sessions

Have you been attending ALUUC and feel that this should be your “spiritual home?” Would you like to learn more about UUism and this congregation? Please sign up for this informal session, and meet other new people as well as Rev. Woulfe and our Membership Coordinator, Susan Solon. The next session will be held on Monday, Monday, December 12th, 7 pm at ALUUC. Please sign up on the sheet posted by the water fountain. Child care will be provided if requested.

FYI

Newsletter Option:

To stop receiving this newsletter by mail or to change to receive it by email, please email your request to Linda Haynes at: newsletter@aluuc.org

Change of Address or Email:

Changes can be submitted by email to Updates@aluuc.org or by completing the ALUUC Membership Update Form found in the office.

Nametags:

If you need a replacement nametag, please email your request to our Membership Coordinator, Susan Solon, at welcome@aluuc.org or print your name on a piece of paper and place it in the nametag slot found on the nametag rack.
## Contact Information

### Clergy:
- Minister: Rev. Martin Woulfe  
  minister@aluuc.org
- Minister Emeritus: Rev. Berkley Moore  
  minister-emeritus@aluuc.org

### Staff:
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- RE Coordinator: Marla Johnson  
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- Membership Coordinator: Susan Solon  
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- Music/Pianist: Bonnie Ettinger  
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### Board of Directors:
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- Vice President: Phillip Anderson  
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- Treasurer: George Metcalf  
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### Board Members:
- David Brunson
- Carol Floyd
- Chelsea Fry
- Brian Reynolds
- Michael Plog
- Kathy Barnes Schultz

### Committees of the Congregation
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- Nominating Committee: Berkley Moore  
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- Endowment Trust: Jeff Bennett  
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- Green Sanctuary: Meg Evans  
  greensanctuary@aluuc.org
- Welcoming & Publicity: Susan Solan  
  welcome@aluuc.org
- Pastoral Care: Michael Plog  
  pastoralcare@aluuc.org
- Program: Jeff Bennett  
  program@aluuc.org
- Religious Education (RE): Dianne Roberts  
  RE@aluuc.org
- Social Action: Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant  
  SAC@aluuc.org
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<td>News Group 7:00 pm*</td>
<td>Kids Club &amp; Jr High Youth Group 6 –8:00 pm</td>
<td>Zen Meditation 9:00 am Ceila Wesle Memorial Service 2:00 pm</td>
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<td>Meditation 7:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Choir 9:30 am Service 10:30 am Change/Change Pageant Rehearsal Shape Note Singers 2:00 - 5:00 pm SOS (see pg. 6)</td>
<td>Dream Group 7:00 pm</td>
<td>GSIA Mtg. 11:45 am Board Meeting</td>
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<td>Walk 'n Talk 6:00 pm Old Capital Meditation 7:00 pm</td>
<td>Bridge Group 7:00 pm*</td>
<td>Zen Meditation 9:00 am</td>
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<td>Holiday Gala 6 - 9:00 pm</td>
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<td>Choir 9:30 am Service 10:30 am Pageant Rehearsal</td>
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<td>Flute Circle 7:00 pm Meditation 7:00 pm</td>
<td>Labyrinth Walk 7 –9:00 pm</td>
<td>Zen Meditation 9:00 am Pageant Rehearsal 2-4 pm</td>
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<td>Holiday Pageant 10:30 am Cookie Exchange Committees Meet Spanish Fiesta Martin &amp; Angela’s 6:00 pm</td>
<td>Hanukkah begins</td>
<td>Winter Solstice/Yule</td>
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<td>Meditation 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>Zen Meditation 9:00 am Candles &amp; Carols Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Day Service 10:30 am</td>
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<td>Hanukkah ends</td>
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* Events held at another location, rather than Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation building.
The Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Springfield, IL is a religious community of individuals coming together for spiritual growth and fellowship. Whether you're looking for a church to call home or just curious about Unitarian Universalism, we invite you to get to know our congregation and the people who make it so special.

Visit us on the web at www.aluuc.org