

Metro East Unitarian Universalist Congregation Focus May 2024



*Newsletter of the
Metro East Unitarian
Universalist Congregation*



Masonic Lodge, Glen Carbon IL

Location: *Masonic Lodge – 90 Kriege Farm Road, Glen Carbon IL 62034*

Welcome! We hope to see you in person this month at our meeting place in Glen Carbon. For those at home, the worship service will be live streamed each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. on YouTube (or click Virtual Services) on the church’s homepage at <https://www.firstuualton.org>. A “coffee hour” follows every service.

May 5 @ 10 a.m.

Speaker: Ian Reed

Title: “Where Does the Truth Lead Us?”

Summary: Using Insights from my Buddhist practice to offer guidance on what a “responsible” search for truth and meaning might look like.

Bio: Ian grew up in the Unitarian church. He is the grandson of a Unitarian minister, the late Rev. Robert Reed of the Louisville Unitarian Church. Ian has had a lifelong interest in world religions and religious history, particularly in India, which led him to get a Master of Arts in Religious Studies. He grew up in Austin, TX, spent time in graduate school in Florida, and recently moved to Edwardsville to be closer to family. He’s currently working on being certified as a Middle School history teacher.

Childcare is available for children under the age of 5 and a Religious Education (RE) class for school-aged children will be offered during the service.

May 12 @ 10 a.m.

Speaker: Rev. Dee Evans

Title: “Can we stop holding Mothers to Ridiculous Standards?”

Summary: We all agree no one is perfect. Yet, we expect mothers to be all things and do all things. Let us consider if these expectations are rooted in injustice.

Childcare is available for children under the age of 5. Older children are invited to remain in the sanctuary.

May 19 @ 10 a.m.

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Claudia Hall

Focus of the Day: Children's dedication and new member recognition.

Summary: The homily for the day will focus on the dedication and recognition ceremonies.

Childcare is available for children under the age of 5 and a Religious Education (RE) class for school-aged children will be offered during the service.

May 26 @ 10 a.m.

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Claudia Hall

Focus of the Day: Youth Day and new member recognition.

Summary: The homily for the day will focus on the youth as well as additional new member recognitions.

Childcare is available for children under the age of 5.

Potluck lunch follows the service. Please bring something to share.



**Rev. Claudia's
Letter**

May 2024
Metro East Unitarian
Universalist
Congregation

Hello everyone!

Welcome Spring and all the wild and woolly changes that come with it. We are working hard on wrapping up the church year and getting into our Summer programming! There are so many things going on it is hard to keep track, so please pay attention to Sunday announcements to make sure you don't miss anything. Here are just a few of the things that are coming up:

May 19 - Children's Dedication

We are offering this service for any families with children from birth up who would like to be dedicated here in the church. This is our chance as a church to offer our support and love to our families!

May 26 - Youth Statements of Faith

We have been working with the youth all year on their statements of faith. Who they are, what they believe, and how we as a church can support them. This service is their chance to be recognized for their emerging leadership and commitment to our faith.

Also coming up we will be having LOTS of events outside the community as well, at the Farmer's Market, at Pancake Breakfasts hosted by the Masons, and lots of Pride events through the Summer and into the Fall.

Absolutely none of this can happen without financial resources, so we are also doing our pledge campaign this month. We ask for those who are able that they increase their giving of money and/or time so that we can get the word out throughout this community that there is a liberal, welcoming, loving community of people where their family - of all shapes sizes and colors - is welcome to believe and act in so many ways, as long as it is with love.

Finally, mark your calendar for June 30. That is our annual congregational meeting after the service, and we need you there to be sure we keep moving forward in love as a congregation.

So many exciting things going on, I can't wait to keep growing this congregation with you!

In faith,
Pastor Claudia

President's Column

I will be away for several Sundays but want to let you know that our Stewardship Drive (a.k.a. Pledge Drive or Canvass) will begin in a few weeks. We look forward to working together to continue to grow and find a permanent home.

Also, the Masons will be holding their annual community pancake breakfasts on the third Saturday in June, July, and August so we will be asking for volunteers to help them on those Saturdays.

Love and Light – Robyn.



New Name Tags

If you would like to have a magnetic name tag made, please fill out the blue Name Tag Request card found on

the Information Table in the fellowship hall at the Lodge and put the card in the marked basket. This is for both people just starting to attend, and for people who already have other forms of name tags.

if you know someone who would like to receive our weekly flyers and/or monthly newsletter ask them to contact [Mary Johnson](#).

UU Friends Facebook Group

If you would like to join the MEUUC Friends Facebook page, please contact [Robyn Berkley](#), the Group Administrator.



Anna D Sparks Women's Alliance Lunch Thursday, May 2 11:30 a.m.

Santino's (in the parking lot of the Alton Square Mall) <https://santinos-restaurant.com/>
180 East Center Drive,
Alton, IL 62002
(618) 462-7791

RSVP to [Sandy Shaner](#) as soon as possible so she can have a relatively accurate count for making the reservation.

Anna Davenport Sparks was mover and shaker in the Alton Community and in the Alton Unitarian Church. She died in 1896 at the age of 66, and in 1898 the church women formed an organization to carry on her social justice work and named it the Anna D Sparks Alliance.



Men's Lunch Group May 9 11:30 a.m.

Location to be determined. Info will be sent out by email. If you're not already on the group's email list, contact [Paul Hebert](#).

Sunday Morning Volunteers Needed

We need a number of different people to take on volunteer jobs on Sunday morning. We don't want the same people to have to be responsible every Sunday for seeing that all systems are "GO" for our weekly services – that's how burnout quickly happens.

At the link below is a detailed description of tasks that need doing on Sunday mornings.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1c18jNiL-BFRz9qSaxwRmfKD54ZBLhYuqk3Ur3Bdo-FY/edit>

Please sign up on the Volunteer sheet at church or email [Peg](#).

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT MEUUC

We welcome all children to participate in our Religious Education class held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Children start in the sanctuary, and following the "story for all ages," are invited to attend class in the fellowship hall.

Childcare for children under the age of 5 is available during the service.

To volunteer to help with the RE program, or if you have any questions about what is offered in the RE program, please get in touch with [Jennifer Lewis](#).

CHURCH CONTACTS

2023-2024 church year

Minister

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Board Members

President: Robyn Berkley

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**SOME OF THESE CONTACT LINKS WILL
BE CHANGED OVER THE UPCOMING
MONTHS**

Metro East Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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62034***

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Phone: 618-462-2462

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YouTube Channel:

**[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSx-
6KMgYdgyIzktuaPUTIQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSx-6KMgYdgyIzktuaPUTIQ)**

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/firstuualton>

Instagram: [meuucglencarbon](https://www.instagram.com/meuucglencarbon)

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