

# Metro East Unitarian Universalist Congregation Focus June 2024

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*Newsletter of the  
Metro East Unitarian  
Universalist Congregation*



Masonic Lodge, Glen Carbon IL

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

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**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.

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**June 2 @ 10 a.m.**

**Speaker:** Alex Hoefft

**Title:** *“Pirating Family: The Unauthorized  
Reproduction of Social Relations”*

**Summary:** I will be discussing the idea that we can choose our family and that by doing so we can enhance our collective well-being. That by helping others, we can help ourselves, and it is OK to rely on others when you need help. All of this in the context of my upcoming term as congregational president and my goals and expectations for the congregation.

**Bio:** Alex is a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation UU, having been with this church since he was 5. He went through the RE program, was active in the church youth group, attended the UU Youth Leadership School and was a youth representative on the church board. He has a B.S. degree in Engineering Management from Missouri University of Science and Technology and works as an IT Security Analyst for the MU system.

He has served on the Church Board for four years and is part of the Church Tech Team.

**Worship Associate:** Aimee Villet. Aimee is a fairly recent “transplant” from the east coast. She has a degree in Creative Writing as well as a Master’s Degree in Library Science. She is the Youth Services Director at the Glen Carbon Library and is one of the newest members at MEUUC.

RE classes are over for the summer but childcare is available for children under the age of 5 and older children are invited to remain in the sanctuary.

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**June 9 @ 10 a.m.**

**Speaker:** Rev. Dr. Claudia Hall

**Title:** *“Picnic days, pride parades, and climate change: Navigating new normals as UUs”*

**Summary:** We will look at what our faith has to offer us in good times and in turmoil. Immediately after service is the all UU picnic in Tower Grove Park, Turkish Pavilion. The Park is in South St.

Louis City, cross streets are Grand and Arsenal. Bring a dish to share, labelled for allergens, and invite friends to check us out.

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

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## JUNE 9 ALL UU picnic



An event for all **FOUR UU CHURCHES** – A **PICNIC AT TOWER GROVE PARK (St. Louis City)** – **TURKISH PAVILION**

**Sunday, June 9  
From 11:30 a.m.**

Everyone should bring a dish to share, labeled for allergens, as well as bringing lawn chairs and lawn games if you have them.

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**June 16 @ 10 a.m.**

**Speaker: Robyn Berkley  
Title: T O BE ANNOUNCED**

RE classes are over for the summer, but childcare is available for children under the age of 5 and older children are invited to remain in the sanctuary.

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**June 23  
NO SERVICE AT THE LODGE**

**Watch the Sunday Service from the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly.**

Join us for the largest annual gathering of UUs in worship. **Sunday Worship will be live streamed at <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2024/sunday-worship> Sunday, June 23, 12:00 p.m. CDT.**

The minister leading the Sunday Service at General Assembly will be The **Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**, of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, MO.

A lifelong Unitarian Universalist from Tulsa, Oklahoma, the Rev. Molly Housh Gordon is the minister of the UU Church of Columbia, Missouri, where she is currently suing the state of Missouri for their unconstitutional abortion ban, alongside 13 other multi-faith clergy co-plaintiffs. Molly is passionate about red-state UU ministry, community organizing, and mutual aid. In addition to her ministry and organizing work, Molly is a published essayist and poet completing a Doctor of Ministry in Creative Writing and Public Theology.



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**June 30 @ 10 a.m.**

**Speaker: Rev. Dr. Claudia Hall**

**Title:** *“Where we were, where we are, and where we are heading: Visioning our future together.”*

**Summary:** Using our incoming Board President's message as a beginning, we look at what it will take to get us to our vision. Immediately after service we will have our monthly potluck lunch so bring a dish to share, labelled for allergens, and stay for the annual meeting as we vote on our congregational future.

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

There will be activities planned for ages 12 and under during the Annual Meeting.

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**Slate of Board of Trustees to be Approved  
at the Annual Meeting**

President – Alex Hoeft  
President Elect – Jesie Dominick  
Past President – Robyn Berkley  
Treasurer – Nancee Magilson  
Secretary – Jennifer Lewis  
Member at Large – Aiden Crist  
Member at Large – Aimee Villet



**Rev. Claudia's  
Letter**

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Hello everyone and welcome to cicada season! Everywhere I go right now they are completely deafening,

and it boggles my mind to think of how many billions of them are underneath our feet every day, and then all at once, like magic, this certain group knows it is time to rise up and take over everything in their quest to reproduce. Then, as suddenly as they come, they are all gone, back under the earth for ages, until it is time to do it all over again.

For most of us, cicadas are just a loud nuisance for a few weeks, but for the earth they are vital! High in nutrition, they are a fabulous food source for many creatures, and under the earth they burrow, breaking up soil and aerating it, while above ground they naturally prune and trim trees, helping them stay healthy.

Pledge season is here, and much like cicadas it is a big flurry of activity that can seem annoying but really is vital to the ecosystem of the church. If you have already pledged, THANK YOU! If you haven't, please consider what a sustainable amount for your family looks like. We have so many exciting plans for this next year, and it will take everyone helping as they are able to make this work.

For those who can give time, please talk to Peg! She has been the lead for our outreach and PR, and she has got an INCREDIBLE calendar lined up to make sure that everyone in the area knows who we are, and that when they come to worship we show them our awesome hospitality. But she cannot do it alone, so please, if you physically are able, even one Sunday or event goes a long way to getting our name out there and helping people find us and love us as much as you do.

A huge thank you to all our volunteers who have made this year possible, and I'm looking forward to honoring many of you at the congregational meeting on June 30!

The calendar for June is packed, so definitely give that a look and stay in the know for all the great things happening here at MEUUC.

Blessed be and stay cool out there!  
Pastor Claudia

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**Activities YOU can get involved in!  
If you can help at either of these  
events, please contact Peg Flach.**

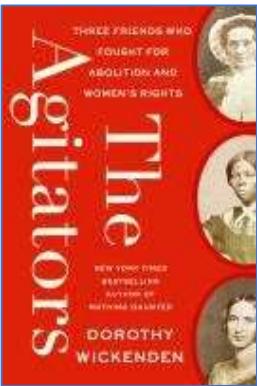
**Saturday, June 8** Goshen Market, downtown Edwardsville 8 a.m. - 12 noon

**Saturday, June 15** Masons' pancake breakfast and UU bake sale (contributing proceeds to the Masons) times: tba.

On **Saturday, June 8** we will be putting up our information booth at the Goshen Market in downtown Edwardsville. There will be giveaways and brochures. At least 3 people are needed to put up our snazzy new canopy tent at 7:30 a.m. and 3 people to take it down at noon. 2 p.m. folks to people the tent from 8 am - 10 am, and 2 folks from 10 a.m. - 12noon. Sign up at church or contact [Peg Flach](#).

On **Saturday, June 15** the Masons will be putting on their community pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m. We encourage our congregants to attend. If they need us, we'll pitch in ... and provide

a bake sale table, the proceeds going to the Masons or their designated community nonprofit for the month. More details will be shared via the weekly UU email.



### MEUUC Summer Book Club

This new activity will be held on Zoom on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. The book is *The Agitators: Three Friends Who Fought for Abolition and Women's Rights* by Dorothy Wickenden.

The meetings will be on June 18, July 16, and August 20. [Email Pastor Claudia for the Zoom link and to RSVP.](#) Sherry Rondi will facilitate the book discussion.

You can usually get the book used for about \$5 from Better World Books, Thriftbooks, etc. If you need help affording the book, email Pastor Claudia at [dr.claudia.hall@gmail.com](mailto:dr.claudia.hall@gmail.com) and she will get you a copy. It should also be available in audiobook and book form from local public libraries.



### Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> from 3 p.m. to whenever.

Join us for an afternoon/evening of fun and games.

Hosted by Jessie Dominick and UU Friends.

At the Masonic Lodge – 90 Kriege Farm Road,  
Glen Carbon

RSVP on the post on UU Friends or contact [Jessie](#).

Please bring an item for the Food Pantry and if you wish, a snack to share and a non-alcoholic beverage.



### Ceremonies during the Worship Service

During the last two Sundays in May the following individuals were recognized in a “new members” ceremony.

**Rebecca Alford, Ned Giberson, Alison Lamothe, Alan Oberholtzer, Suzanne Oberholtzer, Jeff Reed, Nancy Reed, Brian Semmler, Aimee Villet.**

On Sunday May 19 the following children were dedicated.

**Hailey Binkley, Clayton Binkley, Mackenzie Binkley, Ramona Hebert, Emily Lewis.**

On Sunday, May 26 the following youth were recognized in a coming-of-age affirmation ceremony.

**Alex Lewis, Madison Alford.**



### Photos Please

If anyone took pictures at the New Member Recognition Services, or the Child Dedication Service, or the Youth Presentation, or of any of our other events this year, please send them to [Susanne Oberholtzer](#) for the website.



### 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.

### 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,**  
**June 6**  
**11:30 a.m.**



Those of us in attendance at the May meeting decided we would like to return to Bella Milano in Edwardsville – 1063 South State Route 157

<https://bellamilanos.com/edwardsville>

I've made a reservation for 11:30 on Thursday, June 6 with the understanding that any of us who want to arrive closer to their opening time of 11:00 will be welcome. And I'm asking for RSVPs by Friday, May 31 so I can call them with a final count by Monday in the week of our lunch.

[Sandy Shaner](#)



**Men's Lunch**  
**Group**  
**Thursday, June 13**  
**@ 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.

**PLEASE READ BEFORE SIGNING UP.**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cI8jNiL-BFRz9qSaxwRmfKD54ZBLhYuqk3Ur3Bdo-FY/edit>

Please sign up on the Volunteer sheet at church or email Peg at [pegflach@gmail.com](mailto:pegflach@gmail.com).

**See the Hospitality Team Sign Up Sheet on page 7 in this newsletter for more information.**

### Religious Education at MEUUC

RE class is out for summer; however, we are still planning some exciting RE events! If you would like to be contacted about our gatherings, inside and outside of church, send [me an email](#) and I'll make sure you are included! We are also busily planning for an exciting upcoming year! We would very much like to have three levels of classes every Sunday in the next year; this means we will need some more volunteers! If you are interested in teaching our pre-k, elementary, or youth classes starting in the fall, please let me know!

## SCHOLARSHIP FOR WOMEN

**Women's Alliance of First Unitarian Church of  
St. Louis Scholarship to be awarded for the  
2024-2025 academic year.**

Once again the Women's Alliance at First Church STL is offering a \$3,000 scholarship. The scholarship will be given to a woman who is 21 years or older, responsible financially for continuing her education, a member or active friend of a Unitarian Universalist Church or Fellowship in the region, and a registered student. The award will be given on the basis of scholarship, character, and need.

<https://www.firstuustlouis.org/news/2024/5/23/20242025-women%E2%80%99s-alliance-scholarship>

Click on the link above for the information packet or contact Lynn Hunt at First Church [lhunt@firstuustlouis.org](mailto:lhunt@firstuustlouis.org) / 314-640-0653 (c) office hours 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Mon.& Wed.) and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thurs.

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## CHURCH CONTACTS

2023-2024 church year

### Minister

**Rev. Dr. Claudia Hall**

[dr.claudia.hall@gmail.com](mailto:dr.claudia.hall@gmail.com)

### Board Members

President: Robyn Berkley

[robynberkley@yahoo.com](mailto:robynberkley@yahoo.com)

Secretary: Mary Johnson

[mejohanson@mindspring.com](mailto:mejohanson@mindspring.com)

Treasurer: Nancee Magilson

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President Elect: Alex Hoeft

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Member at Large: Aiden Crist

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Member at Large: Jennifer Lewis

[jenniferkaylewis@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferkaylewis@gmail.com)

Member at Large: Jessie Dominick

[jadominick@gmail.com](mailto:jadominick@gmail.com)

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**AV Tech Team:** Alex Hoeft & Ken Hoeft

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**Building and Grounds:** Michael Tarabulski

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

## **Metro East Unitarian Universalist Congregation**

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

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 494, Alton IL 62002

**Phone:** 618-307-5287

**Email:** [church@firstuualton.org](mailto:church@firstuualton.org)

**Website:** <https://www.firstuualton.org>

**YouTube Channel:**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSx-6KMgYdgy1zktuaPUTIQ>

**Facebook:**

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

**Instagram:** meuucglencarbon

## 2024 Hospitality Team Sign Up

**JOB DESCRIPTIONS: please read!** Please click the link and go to the Google Doc <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cl8jNil-BFRz9qSaxwRmfKD54ZBLhYuqk3Ur3Bdo-FY/edit>

Date	Set up sanctuary before service NEED TWO	* Signs In/Out * Greet folks	*Front Desk	*Coffee/Snacks	Break down sanctuary after service NEED TWO	<b>Masons use Building</b> 1st/2nd Th+ check calendar*
<b>arrive time</b>	<b>8:30-8:45 a.m.</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>		
6/2	1 Nancy Reed 2 Jeff Reed	1.Aimee	1.Jennifer L	1 Lorna McElhone	Breakdown ALL 1. 2.	<b>June 6 Masons Meeting</b>
6/8 Sat	<b>GOSHEN MARKET</b>	8:00 -10:00 1 Jennifer L 2 Peg F	10:00-12:00 1 Robyn B 2 Peg F	Watermelon trees (Peg) UU brochures (Claudia)		
6/9 Sun	1. 2.				Break down <u>dining room only</u> *** ALL UU PICNIC in STL***	<b>June 15 Masons breakfast</b>
<b>6/15 Sat</b>	<b>Masons breakfast 8 am - 11 am</b>	Wear UU aprons (under table) and name tags	Needed: Bake sale donations.	Possible breakfast helpers tba after their June 6 meeting		CHECK MASON CALENDAR
6/16 Sun	n/a				n/a	
6/23	n/a No Service at the Lodge				n/a	
6/30	n/a				n/a	

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