

# Metro East Unitarian Universalist Congregation Focus July 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.

## **July 7 @ 10 a.m.**

**Speaker:** Sayer Johnson

**Title:** *"Bergfried\* Forever"*

**Summary:** Reflections on camping as a UU sacrament.

\*Bergfried is a 600-acre property about 70 miles west of St. Louis at the confluence of the Gasconade and Missouri rivers. Bergfried is owned by Eliot UU Chapel. Hiking, picnicking, and rustic camping are popular UU activities at Bergfried, which means "Hill of Joy."

Sayer Johnson is a longtime member of MEUUC, serving many church roles over the years, and an even longer time camper.

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.

## **July 14 @ 10 a.m.**

**Speaker:** Robyn Berkley

**Title:** Flawed Resilience

**Summary:** Sometimes things are tough. Learning to cultivate resilience can help us to embrace change and grow as humans. This sermon will be derived from a service led by the Rev. Meg Riley, Church of the Larger Fellowship.

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

## **July 21 @ 10 a.m.**

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

**Title:** The New Article 2 and YoUU

**Summary: (Part 1)** What is Article 2 again? Why did they change it? What does it actually say? This is a two-part sermon series where we will look at what Article 2 is and is not, and what that means for us as UUs both individually and as a church.

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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**July 28 @ 10 a.m.**

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

**Title: The New Article 2 and YoUU**

**Summary: (Part 2)** Now that we know what Article 2 is and what it says, how do the changes impact my personal spiritual journey as a UU? How can I talk about my faith? What changes does the church have to make? Let's look at how we can apply the changes to our daily lives.

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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### **Rev. Claudia's Letter**

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Hi everyone!

I am keeping this super short because you will hear on Sunday

everything I have to say about how AMAZING this last year was and how many INCREDIBLE plans we have for moving forward in the future. My sermon for Sunday June 30 is half the length of usual so far, so don't be late!

Seriously, we need you there this Sunday June 30th for our Annual Meeting. This meeting sets the tone and direction for our church for the entire year, and without your voice we lose a part of our ability to vision for the community. I was looking over the votes for the General Assembly (the big denomination-wide meeting) and I was really shocked that only 60% of the delegates voted on the biggest decision of our denomination in the last few decades. If we say we value democracy, then we need to get out and vote! Both at the annual meeting

this Sunday, and certainly in the elections heading into Fall.

Besides, there will be fresh homemade bread and lots of desserts there on Sunday, so it's free food AND awesome people! Hope to see you there.

In faith,  
Pastor Claudia

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### **My Final President's Letter Robyn Berkley**

Greetings my friends. After four years, I am finally stepping back as President and passing the baton to Alex Hoefl. It's been a crazy few years between the embezzlement, the pandemic, the loss of our board in 2020 and a minister who left. We built a right relationship covenant, explored ways to stay in the Alton building, explored ways to leave the Alton building, dealt with a flood in the basement, quickly followed by a sewer back up. We ultimately decided to sell so we spent the better part of 2023 exploring options and ultimately sold the building and moved to Glen Carbon in December 2023. I look back on all we accomplished, and I have to tell you I am pretty darn amazed at the resilience, kindness, and strength of this congregation. WE CAN DO HARD THINGS!!! WE DID HARD THINGS! And we've come out on the other end as strong as we can be.

I have nothing more to say other than THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU for your trust in me and the Board, and your willing to see opportunities. This is a very special place and I'm grateful for each and every one of you!

Love and Light,  
Robyn

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING following the Worship Service June 30, 2024**

Everyone is welcome to attend the Annual Meeting but only church members may vote on the issues.

There will be a potluck lunch. The Board is providing sandwich fixings, so please just bring a side dish to share.

If you are unable to attend in person, we have a Zoom option available.  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88505584363>

Meeting ID: 885 0558 4363 Passcode: 641343

**Agenda**

- I. Attendance and determination of Quorum
- II. Welcome Statement – Robyn Berkley
- III. President’s Summary – Robyn Berkley
- IV. Minister’s Report – Rev. Claudia Hall
- V. Financials and Budget Approval Vote – Katherine Valley and Buddy Stricker; Robyn Berkley
- VI. Mask Policy Vote – Robyn Berkley
- VII. Property Purchase Vote – Robyn Berkley and Jessie Dominick
- VIII. Church Board Member Vote – Robyn Berkley and Alex Hoeft
- IX. Any additional business?
- X. Meeting adjourned.

**Slate of Board of Trustees to be Approved by the vote of the members at the Annual Meeting on June 30, 2024**

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

**Activities YOU can get involved in!  
If you can help at any of these events, please contact [Peg Flach](#)**

We have a busy month in outreach projects at MEUUC.

**Saturday, July 13 booth at Goshen Market.**

\*\*\* 2 volunteer shifts needed 7:30 am - 10 am and 10 am - 12:15 pm.

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**Saturday, July 20** congregational gathering at the Mason Lodge (90 Kriege Farm Rd., Glen Carbon) to enjoy the **Masons’ pancake breakfast** (8 to 11 a.m.) **and to offer proceeds of our onsite bake sale to designated community group(s).**

\*\*\* **need** folks to come to enjoy a yummy breakfast and mingle with our Mason friends.

\*\*\* **need** bake sale donations x 2 (for pancake breakfast AND Sunday Moose fundraiser).

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**Sunday, July 21 Moose Lodge 7371 Marine Rd., Edwardsville IL  
Chicken Dinner Fundraiser**

Our chicken dinner fundraiser will take place at the Edwardsville Moose Lodge on Sunday, July 21. As in the past, we’ll need 2 teams of 5 volunteers onsite at the Moose Lodge: Five from 10:00 until 12:30 and five from 12:30 to 3:15. We will also have a bake sale so dessert donations will be appreciated. Please contact Peg Flach to help with any of these tasks or sign up at church beginning Sunday, June 30. We make \$4 per dinner sold and we keep the profits from the bake sale. This is a fast one-day fundraiser that is quite manageable with a few volunteers pitching in. Thanks for your help!

\*\*\* spread the word with your friends. MEUUC gets \$4 per dinner sold!

Cost of the meal: \$12 per adult for chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, corn, green beans, salad, tea/coffee. Children can eat for free or at a reduced cost, according to age. Desserts are available for purchase.

\*\*\* need 2 teams of 5 volunteers (Perky Volunteers can do 2 shifts).  
10:00 am - 12:30 and 12:30 - 3:15ish  
volunteers help serve, clean up, and monitor  
bake sale.  
\*\*\* need bake sale donations.

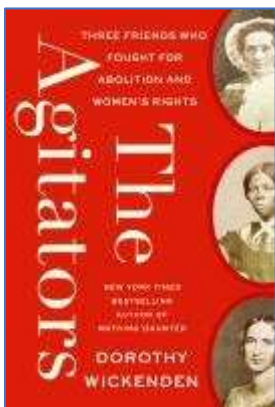
### UU Friends Facebook Group

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



### 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.



### MEUUC Summer Book Club

This 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 July 16, and August 20. **Email Pastor Claudia for the Zoom link and to RSVP.** Sherry Rondi will facilitate the book discussion.

**DATE FOR ANNA Ds LUNCH HAS BEEN CHANGED FROM JULY 4<sup>th</sup> TO THE FOLLOWING THURSDAY, JULY 11<sup>th</sup>.**

### Anna D Sparks Women's Alliance Lunch Thursday, July 11



**11:30 a.m.**

We will be meeting at the Old Bakery Beer Company, 400 Landmarks Blvd., Alton IL Here's the link <https://www.oldbakerybeer.com>

RSVP to [Sandy Shaner](#)

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### Men's Lunch Group Thursday, July 11 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](#).

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### 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](#).

**See the Hospitality Team Sign Up Sheet on page 6 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 at [jenniferkaylewis@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferkaylewis@gmail.com) 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!

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## CHURCH CONTACTS

2024-2025 church year

### Minister

Rev. Dr. Claudia Hall

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

### Board Members

President: Alex Hoeft

[alex.j.hoeft@gmail.com](mailto:alex.j.hoeft@gmail.com)

President-Elect: Jessie Dominick

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

Past President: Robyn Berkley

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

Secretary: Jennifer Lewis

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

Treasurer: Nancee Magilson

[nmagilson@hotmail.com](mailto:nmagilson@hotmail.com)

Member at Large: Aiden Crist

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

Member at Large: Aimee Villet

[aimville13@gmail.com](mailto:aimville13@gmail.com)

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AV Tech Team: Alex Hoeft & Ken Hoeft

[alex.j.hoeft@gmail.com](mailto:alex.j.hoeft@gmail.com) / [kfhoeft@gmail.com](mailto:kfhoeft@gmail.com)

Building and Grounds: To be determined

Custodial: Hedda Kirk [hthrkirk@gmail.com](mailto:hthrkirk@gmail.com)

Music: Joy Hoeft [kjabhoeft@gmail.com](mailto:kjabhoeft@gmail.com)

Newsletter Editor: Mary Johnson

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

Office Support: Nancee Magilson

[nmagilson@hotmail.com](mailto:nmagilson@hotmail.com)

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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](https://www.instagram.com/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>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Set up sanctuary before service NEED TWO</b>	<b>* Signs In/Out * Greet folks</b>	<b>*Front Desk</b>	<b>*Coffee/Snacks</b>	<b>Break down sanctuary after service NEED TWO</b>	<b>Masons use Building</b> <small>1st/2nd Th+ check calendar*</small>
<b>arrive</b>	<b>8:45 a.m.</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>		
7/7	n/a	1.	1.	1.	1. 2.	7-7 Mason event 7-11 Mason event Break down dining room and sanctuary
7/13	GOSHEN MARKET	7:30 - 10 am 1. 2.	10 am - 12:15 1. 2.			
7/14	1. 2.	1.	1.	1.	(break down dining room only)	July 20 Mason breakfast (sanctuary stays)

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