

# Metro East Unitarian Universalist Congregation Focus March 2025

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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. Religious Education for PreK – Youth, and care for younger children is provided each Sunday.

*Our front "sign in" table has been moved to near the Sanctuary entrance.  
A Welcome Greeter is needed by the front door and another in the Fellowship Hall.*

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## **March 2 @ 10 a.m.**

**Speaker:** Eden Johnson

**Title:** "ADD/ADHD and what it means for us as UUs."

**RE classes – PreK, elementary, and youth.  
Childcare for children younger than PreK.**

spiritual self ready to celebrate the coming of Spring.

Lynn has been a member of Eliot Unitarian Chapel since the 1980s, serving in many capacities – as a board member, an RE teacher, coordinating various lgbq+ activities, singing in the choir, and drumming!!

**RE classes – PreK, elementary, and youth.  
Childcare for children younger than PreK.**

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## **March 16 @ 10 a.m.**

**Speaker:** Karandeep Pujji

**Title:** To Be Announced

**Summary:**

**RE classes – PreK, elementary, and youth.  
Childcare for children younger than PreK.**

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**March 9 @ 10 a.m.** (Daylight Savings Time begins – set your clocks ahead when you go to bed on Saturday.)

**Speaker:** Lynn Murphy

**Title:** "Come Sing and Celebrate Spring."

**Summary:** Since March is Women's History Month, you are invited to come hear music by women composers and sing hymns by UU women. In addition, we will hold a brief ritual honoring the Spring Equinox which occurs this month too. So, come bring your voice ready to sing, and your

**March 23 @ 10 a.m.**

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

**Title:** "Autism and UU"

**Summary:** We talk a lot about Autism, but what is it, exactly? How does it impact us at church, both on and off the spectrum? What gifts do our autistic members bring to church that enrich us? These and more will be explored.

**RE classes – PreK, elementary, and youth.  
Childcare for children younger than PreK.**

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**March 30 @ 10 a.m.**

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

**Title:** "The 'Dys-es'. Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, Dyspraxia, and Dyscalculia"

**Summary:** Usually called learning disabilities, these are all poorly understood neurological conditions that affect people throughout their lives. As an inclusive community, what can we learn from these conditions about how to support all our members when and if they have neurological needs?

**RE classes – PreK, elementary, and youth.  
Childcare for children younger than PreK.**

**POTLUCK lunch follows the service.  
Please bring something to share.**

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### Rev. Claudia's Letter

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Good news in anxious times

I think a lot about the role of religion in anxious times, especially the role of hope when everything in the world is crashing down. For many of us it seems like there isn't a lot to be hopeful about, and while I agree that Washington is a horror show with terrible trickle-down effects right here in our community, there are still things worth celebrating. As I continue to remind people, for us to live and love and thrive in the midst of this is an act of resistance.

We celebrate so many new people joining us and the many new visitors we get each week. We celebrate the progress we are making on finding a

new home, and we are excited for the events that we are now hosting (thank you Eden!) that allow us to spend time with others who care and feel as we do in these times.

It goes beyond the human world as well, I see birds migrating north and flowers starting to bring up shoots, so there is the joy of springtime to look forward to as well. My prayer for us all is that we continue to find the things we look forward to, the signs of hope and the things to celebrate as we live lives of loving resistance and challenge to the powers that be.

Amen, and Blessed Be.

Pastor Claudia

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### ***The Bible for Liberals* Concludes**

In March, the **Bible for Liberals** classes conclude! This month we will finish learning how to examine Bible passages for ourselves, so that we are prepared when someone says "But the Bible says..." and we will take a look at ways that UUs can feel comfortable using the Bible in their own devotional lives if they wish, without the baggage of past interpretations. *You can come to these even if you haven't been to other classes!*

***The classes will meet from 6:30-8 PM Central time on Zoom, on the 3rd and 4th Tuesdays of the month – March 18 and March 25.***

***<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83999230532?pwd=uUuU2PgC5lYw2AYya6sZMOepDVsnbd.1>***

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### **We're Starting a Choir at MEUUC!**

Last Sunday (2/23/25), Rev. Claudia passed around a signup sheet for those interested in forming a choir – and 13 people signed. Details are still to be worked out so stay "tuned" for further information.





**RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION  
FOR OUR  
CHILDREN  
AND YOUTH**

If you are interested in working with our children in the RE program, please contact [Jennifer Lewis](#).

We have changed our curriculum from the RE lessons that we've been using since last fall, and we are looking forward to introducing a new UU curriculum to both our Elementary and Youth class.



**What: A  
Gathering of  
Women**  
**When: Sunday,  
March 2, 2025  
12:30 pm**

**Where: 90 Kriege Farm Rd., Glen Carbon, IL**

We are convening a circle--we have no idea who will show up, but this is by invitation only--to come together in community. This is about meeting like-minded others and deepening relationships with those we already know. As we know from the National Climate Assessment Tool Kit, "social cohesion" is key to resilience during disaster.

Cultivating joy and leaning into action or "rest" as part of resistance ... choices as we will explore and evolve to whatever we evolve to be.

Social action (or not), firepit musing, walks in the park, crafts (Emotional Support Chickens!), Reiki, drumming, meditation, ... ???

If that sounds good to you, please join us!  
Contact [Peg Flach](#) for questions/details.

**ANNA Ds WOMEN'S ALLIANCE**

**Luncheon  
Thursday, March 6  
11:30 a.m.**

**Peel Wood Fired Pizza**  
100 Quartz Knoll  
Court, Edwardsville IL

RSVP to [Sandy Shaner](#).



**MEN'S LUNCH GROUP  
Thursday, March 13  
11:30 a.m.**

**Old Bakery Beer  
Company**  
400 Landmarks Blvd., Alton

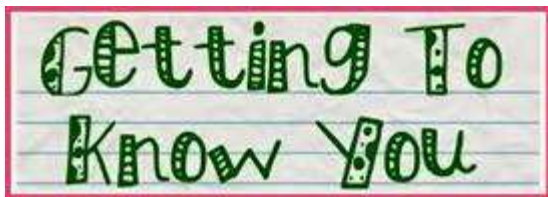
If you're not on the men's lunch email list, contact [Paul Hebert](#) or call him at 314-702-3453 (c).

**The Spiritual Dimension of Nonviolent Communication – A class offered by Eden Johnson**

**Wednesday March 19th and 26th 6:30-7:30  
In Person.**

Go with Eden on a mystical journey to widen your tool belt to incorporate the interpersonal work of NVC, and how it can become a regular spiritual practice to strengthen your relationships with yourself and others. Marshall Rosenberg's work teaches the language life, a way of seeing the world in terms of feelings and needs, resting on the spiritual principle - all needs can be met and all beings desire deep down cooperation in Life serving roles. Come to learn and practice what this way of seeing has to offer you on your path.





### Joanne Berry.

I was born in Philadelphia. We lived there till I was 15 when my parents decided I should learn about culture shock and moved me and my 3 younger siblings out here. I spent two semesters at St. Louis University. At the end of the year, I found myself with child without the benefit of clergy. I had a shotgun wedding at age 18 and a baby at 19 and divorced when I was 22. I got a job that barely paid the rent. Two years later when I lost my lousy job, a cute guy I was dating suggested I finish college. I got a degree in accountancy in 1984. A hallmark in my profession is passing the CPA exam, which I did in 1986. For thirty years, I bounced from job to job. Because I was a hot mess in, oh, so many ways, After a lot of therapy and numerous 12 step meetings, at the ripe old age of fifty I found the job where I spent the final 15 years of my career.

Today, I'm retired, and I live in Glen Carbon. I have a little 18-pound Pomeranian mix named Rusty. I have one daughter, Barbie, one son-in-law, Ken, (I'll wait for the giggling to subside) and one granddaughter, Alayna. (Warning: Grandma brag coming) Alayna, who was the valedictorian of her class last year, is 19 and in the Honors College at the University of Illinois in Chicago. Her parents live in Peoria.

Oh, I almost forgot to tell you about the cute guy. We've been married for 44 years. He's still cute.

### A NOTE FROM PEG

"We have supported the Moose with their fundraiser chicken dinners in the past and we are helping to promote this April event for them. Please come for a fun Sunday afternoon at the Moose Lodge 7371 Marine Rd."



The **Sharon ShareAlike DRAG Comedy Bingo Show** from Diamond Entertainment will return to Edwardsville on Sunday, April 27 at 3 :00 p.m. This show is sponsored by the Women of the Edwardsville Moose Lodge. Tickets are \$20 if purchased prior to the show, and \$25 at the door. Call 618-656-5051.

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### **Masons' March Calendar as of February 25, 2025**

More things might be added to their calendar as March progresses. The current calendar only indicates that the Masons will be meeting on Thursday, March 9, and Saturday March 22.

At this point we will need to –

March 2 - Break Down

March 9 - Set Up.

March 16 - Break down

March 23 - Set up

March 30 - Break down

**CHURCH CONTACTS**  
**2024-2025 church year**

**Minister**

**Rev. Dr. Claudia Hall**  
[dr.claudia.hall@gmail.com](mailto:dr.claudia.hall@gmail.com)

**Pastoral Assistant**

**Eden Johnson**  
[fromedenjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:fromedenjohnson@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  
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Member at Large: Aiden Crist  
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Member at Large: Aimee Villet  
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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  
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[nmagilson@hotmail.com](mailto:nmagilson@hotmail.com)

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

**Metro East Unitarian Universalist Congregation**

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**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

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