

Metro East Unitarian Universalist Congregation Focus June 2025



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

June 1 @ 10 a.m.

Speaker: Eden Johnson, Pastoral Assistant

Title: *"Including OurSelves: Reparenting the past, to be present now, to make way for who we really are."*

Summary: Richard Schwartz Ph.D. in 'No Bad Parts' writes of the myth of the monomind, or the misunderstanding of the idea of a person as a single unified self, and instead suggests there's many parts of the self that make up a person. Eden shares how this idea can lead to the work of reparenting as a spiritual practice to fully embrace all sides of our internal world to find presence wherever we are, no matter what conditions are present.

No RE classes. Quiet activity "Pew Packs" will be provided for children in the sanctuary during the service.

There will be childcare for children younger than PreK.

Take down Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall

June 8 @ 10 a.m.

Speaker: Rev. Marlene Bricker

Title: *"Patchwork Quilt"*

Summary: It will be about inclusion and how all of the beautiful individual pieces make amazing artwork

No RE classes. Quiet activity "Pew Packs" will be provided for children in the sanctuary during the service.

There will be childcare for children younger than PreK.

Set Up Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall

June 15 @ 10 a.m.

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Claudia Hall

Title: “Inclusion - when does bringing people in leave people out?”

No RE classes. Quiet activity “Pew Packs” will be provided for children in the sanctuary during the service.

There will be childcare for children younger than PreK.

Setup/Take Down status unknown.

June 22 @ 10 a.m.

Speaker: Robyn Berkley

Title: “A Seat for Everyone at the Table: The Importance of Inclusion and Belonging”

The service will cover a basic understanding of the elements needed to ensure we have an inclusive environment, and that everybody feels like they belong, at work, in church, and in society.

No RE classes. Quiet Activity “Pew Packs” will be provided for children in the sanctuary during the service.

There will be childcare for children younger than PreK.

Setup/Take Down status unknown.

June 29 @ 10 a.m.

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Claudia Hall

Title: “Inclusion- how to have boundaries without being fundamentalist.”

RE classes – PreK, Elementary, and Youth.
Childcare for children younger than PreK.

Potluck lunch follows the service.

Setup/Take Down status unknown.



Rev. Claudia's Letter

Summer is upon us!

While I'm grateful for the cooler and wetter weather this year than in years past, I also know that summer is

ready to descend upon us in full swing. For most of us this means a slightly less zany schedule as kids get out of school, vacations start, and the church year draws to a close.

If you haven't sent in your pledge card for next year, please do so, as it's really important for us to know where things will stand as we go into a new building and shift staff around. You can pick one up at church or you should be getting one in the mail soon if you haven't already, so be looking for that to come your way.

On the volunteer front, Goshen market is back and it is our #1 way to introduce people to who we are and help folks know there is a place for them with us, so that those like us aren't alone. Contact Jennifer Lewis for more info on when and where and how, we will have several Saturdays this summer to let the whole of Edwardsville know about MEUUC.

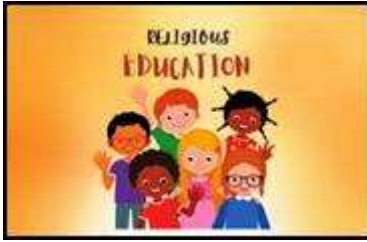
As for staff changes, while both Eden and I will remain here at church, I am moving so don't be surprised when you start seeing me preaching on the screen here shortly. I'm still planning to come back to St Louis for big stuff, like dedicating a new building when we get one, but Eden will be stepping up and doing the in person work while I step back into more of a consulting or supervising role as I prepare to transition into retirement next year. Although I have heard it said that ministers never really retire, we just get put out to pastor (groan!)

On that really bad joke I'll leave you for now, wishing you all a safe and happy, and cool and fun June.

Best,
Pastor Claudia

RE NEWS

RE classes will only meet on the last Sunday of each month in June, July, and August.



However, there will be pew packs on the other Sundays to provide children in the sanctuary with quiet activities.

Note from Nancee Magilson, Church Treasurer Pledge Forms for Church Year July 2025 – June 2026

Christian Koebel is undertaking the task of sending out this year's pledge letters.

Pledge forms for fiscal year 2026, which begins July 1, 2025, may be picked up from the Sunday collection plate. They will also be sent out soon via US mail.

Completed forms may be dropped into the collection plate on any Sunday before the end of June. They may also be mailed back to P.O. Box 494, Alton, IL 62002, or may be scanned and returned as an email attachment addressed to treasurer@firstuualton.org or alex.j.hoeft@gmail.com

Thank you to EVERYONE for contributing to our church in any way you are able.



**ANNA Ds
WOMEN'S
ALLIANCE
Luncheon
Thursday,
June 5
11:30 a.m.**

**Bakers & Hale - 7120 Montclair Ave
Godfrey, IL 62035.**

RSVP to [Sandy Shaner](#).



Welcome to Our New Church Member Pete Eaton

I grew up on the east coast (Maryland) until 1970. My Dad had moved to Illinois several years earlier to teach Accounting at SIUE and he would commute back and forth until I had graduated from High School.

I then attended SIUE and at the same time Air Force ROTC. Upon graduation and commissioning as a 2nd Lt. I attended Undergraduate Pilot Training in Columbus MS. Once I received my Wings I was stationed briefly at Little Rock AFB to become a C-130 Pilot.

I then moved to Tokyo Japan and was stationed at Yokota Air Force Base for several years. In short, I was "living the dream". I then returned to the US briefly and then headed to England from where I spent my time flying around Europe.

Once I completed my Military Service I returned to Illinois. I then decided to change careers and helped form a Research & Development Corporation which focused on making Wireless Data Communication products and then licensing them to interested companies. It was a huge success. Side note; this was in the early 80's decades before what we now call WIFI existed.

I have been a UU since childhood. I grew up in the Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church in Bethesda, MD. Once moved and in College I focus on other things and really did not attend Church again until I was living in Arkansas in the early 80's, again many years passed until joining here in April.

I am heart sick watching what is happening to our country and realized I needed help to cope with it. I knew if I went back to my UU Roots and joined a local Congregation I would be with like-minded folks and hopefully make some new friends. For me that's exactly what happened.

MEN'S LUNCH GROUP

Thursday, June 12
11:30 a.m.

Info about the location will be sent out by email.

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

MILESTONES



Jerry and Mary Johnson will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on June 5 and will take a road trip to TN to watch their grand-daughter perform in an ACRO gymnastics competition.

200th Anniversary of the founding of the American Unitarian Association (AUA) and the British and Foreign Unitarian Association.

https://youtube.com/watch?v=_nlS1X_PFj4&si=kOVJ911M9W7YXSz9

May 25, 2025, marked the 200th anniversary of the founding of the American Unitarian Association (AUA) and the British and Foreign Unitarian Association. The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) President, the Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt and Liz Slade, Chief Officer of the British Unitarians, come together to share a message of care, inclusion, and solidarity on this historic occasion.



**The Goshen Market
MEUUC Booth**

**Saturday - June through
October – 1st Saturday
each month.**

MEUUC will have a booth from 8 a.m. to noon on the first Saturday of the 5 months of the Goshen Market in downtown Edwardsville. Mark your calendars for 6/7/25, 7/5/25, 8/2/25, 9/6/25, 10/4/25.

[Jennifer Lewis](#) requests a partner to help her organize this important outreach project.

Additional volunteers will also be needed as we give out free children's books to the community ... sometimes lemonade, watermelon, etc. too. If you have any children's books to donate, please contact Jennifer.

The RE youth have some ideas for participation this year too!



Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregation-al Meeting will be held in June (date will be announced asap) and as the terms for several current Board members are expiring, there will be an election for some new Board members. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please contact [Robyn Berkley](#) for further information.

CHURCH CONTACTS
July 2024-June 2025 church year

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

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

Instagram: meuucglencarbon

[Click here to see this month's calendar](#)

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