



ANCHORAGE
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP
*diverse beliefs,
common purpose.*

Today At Our Fellowship
Thursday, November 7, 2024

This Weekend @ AUUF

Thursday 11/7/24

5:30 pm Anti-Racism Team Meeting

5:30 pm CYRE Team Meeting

6:30 pm Choir Practice with Esme

Friday 11/8/24

8:15-11:15 am Music Together Mountain
Song

12:00-2:00 pm Freethinkers, In-Person

Saturday 11/9/24

8:30-10:30 am AA Slap Happy Group

10:30-12:45 am Music Together Mountain
Song

1:30-3:30 pm Private Rental

5:30 pm Annual Dinner starts

Sunday 11/10/24

9:00 am The Forum In- Person & on
ZOOM

11:00 am Sunday Worship Service In-
Person & on ZOOM

12:30-2:00 pm The Alliance at AUUF

1:30-2:30 pm Worship Associate Meeting

4:00 pm Anchorage Friends Meeting

Monday 11/11/24

Veteran's Day - Office closed

3:30-6:00 pm Private Rental

6:30 pm Fireweed Sangha of Mindful
Living - Private Rental Visitors Welcome

Tuesday 11/12/24

11:00 am Staff Meeting

6:00-7:00 pm Community Connections

Wednesday 11/13/24

6:00-8:00 pm Safer Congregation Team
on Zoom

Thursday 11/14/24

2:00-3:30 pm UUHR Meeting

6:30 pm Choir Practice with Esme



The Forum 9:00 AM Sunday November 10, 2024
IN PERSON & on Zoom
The Nov. 5 Election—What Just Happened?
John-Henry Heckendorn and Burke Croft, Ship Creek Group

The Forum

9:00 am Sunday, November 10, 2024
Live at AUUF & on Zoom

[Click here to join on Zoom.](#)
[Click here for Speaker's bio.](#)



Sunday Worship Service IN PERSON & on Zoom
11:00 AM Sunday November 10, 2024
It's Good To Be Together.
Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, Worship Associate Cassie Thomas

Sunday Worship Live at AUUF & on Zoom
11:00 am Sunday, November 10, 2024

[Click here to join on Zoom.](#)

Sad News

Dear Ones,

On Sunday we announced the death of Dawn Danner, wife of Lars, and mom to Esme, our Music Director. She died late on the evening of October 27.

If you didn't yet know her, Dawn was tall, with short red hair and a ready smile. She had been coming to the Fellowship this fall and had just attended our Finding Your Way to Fellowship class with her husband. She was warm, funny, and ready to be engaged with us.

There will be a Memorial here at the Fellowship, on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 1 pm.

Please join me in sending love and condolences to the Danner family.

Blessings, Rev. Lise



Time's Running Out to Bid! Bid! Bid!

You have until *this Saturday* evening during the annual dinner to get your final bids in for a whole slew of fabulous items in this year's on-line auction. Using the personal link that was emailed to you last Saturday, you'll find lots of wonderful framed art (Time to up-date your look?), gorgeous pottery, Taylor Swift swag, slots for community-building activities, holiday décor and more. You also have until Saturday to buy raffle tickets for our three grand prizes, including another incredible Irene O'Brien quilt, a stunning piece of Alaska Native art and a Civil Rights travel package and scholarship. Please email the auction committee if you have any questions or need directions on how to share the link with friends and family. auktion@anchorageuuf.com You'll be able to pick up your winning items at Saturday's annual dinner and Sunday before and after the 11 a.m. service. And from your small but mighty auction team, a huge THANK YOU for all your generous donations and feverish bidding!

ANNUAL DINNER AND AWARDS BANQUET, SATURDAY NIGHT, LIVE FROM ANCHORAGE AUUF

Don't forget that our annual dinner is this Saturday night, November 9th, at the Fellowship. We sure hope to see you there! Doors open at 5:30 pm. A summary of the program can be found below.

And please check out all the awesome items in our "Stronger Together Auction" catalog – like the ping pond table with free delivery in Anchorage! Check your email for the distributed auction links.

ANNUAL DINNER PROGRAM

3:30 – 5:30 pm: Set-up and Food Preparation

5:30 – 6:15 pm: Happy Hour / Meet and Greet

- Raffle tickets sales including attendee only items
- Opportunity to purchase auction “Experiences” and other remaining items
- Wine and Beer bar open

6:15 pm: Closing of all Raffle Ticket Sales

6:15 pm: Blessing (Rev. Lise)

6:15 - 7:15 pm: Potluck Dinner

7:15 – 7:30 pm: General Auction Results and Raffle Drawings

7:30 – 8:00 pm: AUUF Annual Awards

8:00 pm: Closing Words (Rev. Lise)

About the election . . .

Yes, the presidential election did not turn out as many of us had hoped. Last I checked we're still waiting on the results of our local races. Yesterday was hard and we'll continue to have some hard days. That's how grief and anger and emotions work. We feel them all, and not always when we want to. But our Fellowship will be here and we'll keep working towards making our Beloved Community, one step at a time.

In fact, we shared Beloved Community last night to find solace, express our anger, our grief. There were a little over 20 of us and it was good to be together. Here's what I wrote about our time last night on Facebook:

"I know not everyone had the energy, heart or time to come tonight, but you were well represented. Folks shared their hearts, we lit candles, did a few readings, sang a few songs, and then we had cake! (Comfort food). There were other food options, too. Mostly, we just enjoyed being together--it was helpful. When we blew out our chalice we sent it out in honor of our collective strength. You are all loved. ☐"

We are all loved--our Universalist theology tells us this and I hope you can feel it. We are all loved, no matter how we voted.

I'll see you on Sunday!

Blessings, Rev. Lise

DRE Fall Conference & Out of Office

Jenn Bluntach will be out of her office and attending a virtual DRE Fall Conference November 6-8. She will periodically be checking her email. You can reach out at any time to Jenn at DRE@anchorageuuf.org and she will reply as she is able.

From November 12-14 Jenn's children and grandson will be visiting from Minnesota. She will be back in the office on Fri, Nov 15 and her family will be joining us on Sunday, Nov 17 at the Fellowship.

Again, you can always contact Jenn by email.

Thank you!

HALF PORTION FOR SOCIAL ACTION 2025 RECIPIENTS

Dennis Arashiro and Sara Hannon

With the completion of the voting for the 2025 Half Portion for Social Action, we now have a complete list of recipients for the coming year. See the graph below for the voting results. The top ten organizations in the voting will be assigned to the monthly schedule. One other month is reserved for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT); the remaining month will be reserved for the Alaska Native Birthworkers. The 2025 monthly Half Portion schedule will be announced before the end of this month to allow for preparations for the January 2025 Half Portion.

Thanks go to Kelly Spring, our communications specialist, for preparing the online voting process and all the members who made their voices heard in nominating and voting for the organizations for us to support. We can now look forward to continuing our giving to those in the larger community who are making a positive difference in the world.



A Message from your Endowment Fund Committee

A question we get asked as Endowment Fund Committee members is how large of a total value does the national UUA office recommend our Endowment Fund be before disbursement? AUUF's goal for an initial possible disbursement was raised by a vote of the congregation in 2022 from \$250K to \$500K, as adjusted for inflation. The UUA recommendation is three times our annual budget. For AUUF this would mean a little over \$1 million. By setting the disbursement goal to this lower value, AUUF believes that some benefit will occur sooner, while still creating a likely scenario of continued growth until the \$1 million mark is achieved.

Help Us Celebrate!

The Endowment Fund Committee is very happy to announce that the Fund has now passed the half-way mark for its initial disbursement goal to the Fellowship! The Fund recently received a generous "living giving" donation from James Dryden and Stephanie Koonz and a bequest donation from the estate of Sylvia Short that topped out the current balance at just over \$263,000. This is over the 50% threshold for our \$500,000 goal (adjusted for inflation). Please join us in celebrating this milestone with cake and beverages on Sunday November 17 before and after the 11AM service.



Grades 4-6 OWL instructors needed

If you are a trained OWL instructor please consider helping in the teaching rotation for grades 4-6 this winter. Right now, there are two committed instructors but ideally we'd like two more teachers in the rotation. The plan is to offer the OWL class starting in January through the beginning of April in Room 7 on the same Sunday afternoons that the Coming of Age group meets in Room 8. Twice in January, February, March and once in April. Contact Jenn at dre@anchorageuuf.org if you are willing to teach a lesson or two to give our lead teachers a break on occasion this winter. We thank you for your consideration in helping us continue to offer OWL in the community.

New Religious Exploration Communication

There is a new communication option for Religious Exploration. Jenn has created a specific RE monthly quick note that includes more detailed information of what is planned in RE for the upcoming month. Right now, registered RE families, teaching volunteers and the RE team receive this special quick note via email. If you would like to be added to the email list to also receive this more detailed communication, reach out to Jenn at dre@anchorageuuf.org and she will happily add your email to the group.

 Mark your calendars now for this fun and festive event in December! Extend invitations to your friends and family to join us for a cup of Hot Cocoa as we travel on the Polar Express!  All aboard!!! 



The Polar Express Movie

JOIN US! ALL ARE WELCOME!

HOT COCOA & CANDY CANES WILL BE SERVED
WEAR YOUR HOLIDAY PAJAMAS OR FESTIVE CLOTHING. BRING A BLANKET AND GET COZY AS WE TRAVEL ON THE POLAR EXPRESS!

WHEN: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
12:30 PM IN THE SANCTUARY

ANCHORAGE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
2824 E. 18TH AVENUE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508

CONTACT JENN AT DRE@ANCHORAGEUUF.ORG FOR MORE INFO
www.anchorageuuf.org

UU Community Resilience Hub

Community resilience is a collective effort. We know many of you are already doing your part to build strong, connected, and resilient communities. This hub is designed to offer ongoing support, including the latest updates, resources, and events, to help guide you through the challenges we face. Together, we can harness our collective power to meet this moment, because democracy isn't just something we do—it's who we are, and who we strive to be.

In moments of instability and fear, we must respond with clarity and courage. It is our responsibility to leverage our resources, relationships, and collective power to defend democracy, ensure safety, and build a future where everyone can thrive. Through this hub, we offer guidance and resources on how to take action now, support each other, and build a resilient community that stands firm in the face of uncertainty.

[Click here to read more.](#)

Invitation to the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of The Equity Center

Saturday, November 9th, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

You are warmly invited to celebrate the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Equity Center, a significant community investment project, on Saturday, November 9th, 2024, at 1 PM, located at 605 Barrow Street. The Equity Center is a permanent sanctuary where the Alaska Black Caucus and other BIPOC individuals, organizations and businesses can breathe freely, strategize for meaningful change, and engage with fellow community members and leaders. It serves as a platform for building trust, forging relationships, and translating advocacy into tangible action that uplifts and empowers our communities.

NOVEMBER HALF PORTION FOR SOCIAL ACTION: Alaska Literacy Program

Alaska Literacy Program is a volunteer-based community agency with the mission of *changing lives through literacy*. For 50 years, we have taught adults to read, write and speak English. The learners come from all over the world, including the United States. They come to class to learn the skills needed to get and keep a job in Alaska, help their children in school, become citizens and understand their new home country.

Since 1974, ALP has been providing literacy services to Anchorage residents and individuals throughout the state. ALP recruits, trains, certifies, and supports volunteer teachers who work in a classroom setting teaching reading, writing and speaking English to adults. ALP provides these core [English language classes](#) year-round for adults and families with young children, concentrating on those most in need. In recent years we've also gained the opportunity to serve other Anchorage area adult learners such as [GED](#) students.

Over time, ALP has grown to define literacy as more than reading and writing: it includes having the skills needed to navigate our complex and rapidly changing world. It is the philosophy of Alaska Literacy Program that adults have the right to be free from the burden of illiteracy - free to function as independent, productive citizens. For ALP families, this looks like digital literacy, health literacy, financial literacy, and [family literacy](#). Through this comprehensive framework, ALP is increasing the self-sufficiency of our ELL adults, changing lives and enriching our community.

Today, ALP provides [GED test prep services](#), supporting adults to overcome this long-standing barrier to employment and career advancement. ALP's [Peer Leader Navigator](#) initiative provides information on important health and life topics to people who face barriers in finding that information themselves.

ALP is an accredited member of [ProLiteracy](#), the largest volunteer literacy organization in the world.

Go to anchorageuuf.org
Click on the Half-Portion note or Donate/ Pay
at the bottom of the home page.

Our AUUF Covenant

Together . . .

We seek to be an open and welcoming community.

We strive to listen deeply and speak with one another and to our larger community with consideration and respect.

We hold each of us and all of this amazing world worthy of our attention, compassion and care.

Together we are Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.



Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (907) 248-3737

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, (she/ her), Minister,
RevLise@anchorageuuf.org, 907-248-3737 x2,

Office hours are usually Tu 11-3; Th and F 11-3, and by appointment

Rebecca Bernard, (she/ her), Affiliated Community Minister
RBernard.AK@gmail.com

Richard Stoneking, (he/him), Congregational Administrator
Admin@AnchorageUUF.org, 907.248.3737 x.1
Office Hours Usually Mon-Thu 11am - 3 pm, Please call first.

Jennifer Bluntach (she/her), Director of Religious Exploration
DRE@anchorageuuf.org
Office hours usually are:

Sunday 9am-11am, Tuesday 11am-3pm, Thursday, 11am-3pm, and by appointment

Kelly Spring, (she/ her), Communications Specialist,
Communications@anchorageuuf.org
Kelly's remote office hours Mon-Fri 9 am -1 pm

Esme Danner (she/her) Music Director
907-248-3737 x4, Music@anchorageuuf.org

Dan Norton: AV Coordinator
907-248-3737 x5, AVCoordinator@anchorageuuf.org

Contact the Connections Team for more information on how to get involved.
Connections@anchorageuuf.org

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common purpose.*

Today At Our Fellowship
Thursday, November 14, 2024

This Weekend @ AUUF

Thursday 11/14/24

6:30 pm Choir Practice with Esme in the Sanctuary

Friday 11/15/24

8:15-11:15 am Music Together Mountain Song
12:00-2:00 pm Freethinkers, In-Person

Saturday 11/16/24

8:30-10:30 am AA Slap Happy Group
10:30-12:45 am Music Together Mountain Song
1:30 pm Private Rental Sanctuary

Sunday 11/17/24

9:00 am **The Forum** In- Person & on ZOOM

10:15 am-12:45 pm Endowment Fund Halfway Celebration

11:00 am **Sunday Worship Service** In-Person & on ZOOM

12:30-2:00 pm Anti-Racism Book Read/Discussion Library with Dennis Arashiro

4:00 pm Anchorage Friends Meeting

Monday 11/18/24

3:30-6:00 pm Private Rental Room 5
6:30 pm Fireweed Sangha of Mindful Living - Private Rental Visitors Welcome

Tuesday 11/19/24

5:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting
6:00-7:00 pm Community Connections
6:00-7:00 pm Program Council

Wednesday 11/20/24

5:45 – 7:45pm Coming of Age Group Adventure: Candlelight concert; A Tribute to Taylor Swift
49th State Brewing - Anchorage
6:00– 8:00 pm Trans day of Remembrance at AUUF Sanctuary Sanctuary & Social room

Thursday 11/21/24

6:30 pm Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 pm Choir Practice with Esme in the Sanctuary



At Food Bank of Alaska, we believe that no one deserves to be hungry.



The Forum 9:00 AM Sunday November 17, 2024

IN PERSON & on Zoom

An Update on the Rising Food Insecurity Rate in Alaska—and How to Support FBA

Daniel Bentle, Food Bank of Alaska

The Forum

9:00 am Sunday, November 17, 2024

IN- Person at AUUF & on Zoom

[Click here to join on Zoom.](#)

[Click here for Speaker's bio.](#)



Sunday Worship Service 11:00 AM Sunday November 17, 2024

IN PERSON & on Zoom

Welcoming LGBTQ+ Folks

Rev. Lise Sherry & Rebecca Bernard

Sunday Worship In- Person at AUUF & on Zoom

11:00 am Sunday, November 17, 2024

[Click here to join on Zoom.](#)

Help Us Celebrate!

Sunday November 17 before and after the 11AM service.

The Endowment Fund Committee is very happy to announce that the Fund has now

passed the half-way mark for its initial disbursement goal to the Fellowship! The Fund recently received a generous "living giving" donation from James Dryden and Stephanie Koonz and a bequest donation from the estate of Sylvia Short that topped out the current balance at just over \$263,000. This is over the 50% threshold for our \$500,000 goal (adjusted for inflation). Please join us in celebrating this milestone with cake and beverages on Sunday November 17 before and after the 11AM service.

Transgender Day of Remembrance

November 20, 2024, 6-8pm

AUUF is hosting a service for this important event with members of Anchorage's Trans Community. All Trans folks and their allies are welcome. We will gather in support and witness.

PLEASE NOTE: Do not post this information on any public media sites or community bulletin boards. Because of safety concerns, we have been asked to only share this information to known people. Thank you!

For further information, please contact Rev. Lise or Becca Bernard.

Gratitude Soup Sunday

November 24, after the 11 am service

Seeking soup, breads and dessert donations. As well as help with set up, clean up would be much appreciated.

Elayne Text or call 907-223-6507 to volunteer.



AUUF Membership: Something Important to Consider

On Sunday November 24th, the Connections Team will be introducing our newest members at the 11:00 am service, as we covenant together as a Fellowship. Maybe you've thought about joining but aren't sure about it.

Why become a member of AUUF? Because it represents your commitment to making your best effort of giving time, talent and treasure to our beloved community. Because your participation and care help us become stronger during this time of uncertainty. Because we are a self-supporting organization, using democratic processes that offer voting privileges to its members. Because we need your voice to decide on budget, bylaws and other important issues. Because we need dedicated members to fill leadership positions to create our just, safe and caring community. Makes sense, right?

How do you become a member? It's easier than you might think. If you feel you are ready

to join, just talk to Rev. Lise to set up an appointment. She'll ask you a few questions, have you fill out some paperwork, and then have you sign the membership book. If you do this before the 24th then you can be among those we plan to recognize that day.

Letter of Introduction from Your New Affiliated Community Minister

Dear AUUF members and friends,

In the nearly 10 years that I've been involved with AUUF, I've followed a winding path from one role to another: first, an explorer; then a member; a few years later a Ministerial Intern; and now, an Affiliated Community Minister. The Board approved this covenantal relationship late in the summer and will revisit our agreement annually. If you're wondering what it means, or if you and I haven't yet met, this letter is for you.

The Unitarian Universalist world recognizes Community Ministry as any form of ministry that occurs beyond the four walls of a UU congregation, out in the wider community. UU community ministers serve as chaplains in all sorts of institutions, run non-profit organizations, educate, advocate, work as spiritual directors, and more. My particular community ministry is evolving; at present, I am a part-time chaplain at Providence Alaska Medical Center and I devote a lot of my time to advocating in support of trans youth and the trans community.

But even though Community Ministry is focused outside of a congregation, it is valuable for UU community ministers to be anchored in a congregation or other UU community – both to maintain firm roots in our UU values and practices, and for the visibility this brings to the work. Community ministers affiliated with a congregation often provide occasional services like leading worship, teaching classes, or providing pastoral care.

[Please click here to read Rebecca's entire message.](#)

A Message from Your Building and Grounds Committee

Are you handy with tools? Do you like swinging a hammer, drilling holes, and banging down nails every once in a while? If so, the AUUF Building and Grounds Committee might be the right place for you! We are looking for congregational members who are mechanically inclined to join our committee. We have a variety of projects, both large and small, that need to get done periodically throughout the year. Most of this work is done on a volunteer basis by our committee members. We meet once a month on the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm via Zoom for about an hour to discuss the status of Fellowship projects. Many hands make light work, so please join us so that the doors don't sag, the windows don't leak, and any new wall dings get fill in.

Please call or text committee member David O'Brien at 907-720-0648 for more information.

2025 HALF PORTION FOR SOCIAL ACTION MONTHLY SCHEDULE

From the Social Action Council

[Click here to view the schedule.](#)

Join Our Anti-Racism Team Book Read!

WE HAVE NOT STOPPED TREMBLING YET: LETTERS TO MY FILIPINO-ATHABASCAN FAMILY

by E.J.R. DAVID

Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Alaska Anchorage, Dr. David, in a series of letters to his mixed-race Filipino-Athabascan family, explores the deep effects of colonialism and racial oppression that his children are confronted with. Weaving together deeply personal memories, family experiences and empirical data, he engages us in a journey of learning and healing.

Please join the Anti-Racism Team after the Worship Service in person in the Fellowship Library or online through the link provided on the AUUF website to discuss the many issues raised in the readings on:

SUNDAYS, 12:30 - 2 PM,
NOVEMBER 17: Our Roots - Postscript, pp. 113-164

If you have any questions, please contact Dennis Arashiro at the Social Justice Table in the Social Room at the Fellowship on Sundays or at elvischannel@yahoo.com.



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Office hours are usually Tu 11-3; Th and F 11-3, and by appointment

Rebecca Bernard, (she/ her), Affiliated Community Minister
RBernard.AK@gmail.com

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Dan Norton: AV Coordinator

907-248-3737 x5, AVCoordinator@anchorageuuf.org

Contact the Connections Team for more information on how to get involved.

Connections@anchorageuuf.org

Connect with us



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FELLOWSHIP
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9:00 am - 1:00 pm Worship Retreat
10:30-12:45 am Music Together Mountain
Song
1:30-3:30 pm Private Rental

Sunday 11/24/24

9:00 am The Forum In- Person at AUUF
& on ZOOM
11:00 am Earth quake drill

11:00 am Sunday Worship Service In-
Person at AUUF & on ZOOM

12:30-2:30 pm Envelope stuffing for
ACLU

12:30-2:00 pm Lunch Potluck

4:00-5:30 pm Anchorage Friends
Meeting

Monday 11/25/24

3:30- 6:00 pm Private Rental Room 5

6:30-8:00 pm Fireweed Sangha of
Mindful Living - Private Rental -Visitors
Welcome

Tuesday 11/26/24 11:00 am Staff
Meeting

6:00-7:00 pm Community Connections

Wednesday 11/27/24

**Thursday 11/28/24 & Friday
11/29/24**

Thanksgiving Office is closed



The Forum 9:00 AM Sunday November 24, 2024
IN PERSON & on Zoom
Progress on Eklutna's Long Journey Toward Building a Casino
Native Village of Eklutna President and Chief Aaron Leggett

The Forum

9:00 am Sunday, November 24, 2024
IN- Person at AUUF & on Zoom

[Click here to join on Zoom.](#)
[Click here for Speaker's bio.](#)



Sunday Worship Service 11:00 AM Sunday November 24, 2024
IN PERSON & on Zoom
Multigenerational Gratitude Service
Rev. Lise Adams Sherry

Sunday Worship In- Person at AUUF & on Zoom
11:00 am Sunday, November 24, 2024

[Click here to join on Zoom.](#)

Gratitude Soup Sunday

November 24, after the 11 am service

Seeking soup, breads and dessert donations. As well as help with set up, clean up would

be much appreciated.

Elayne Text or call 907-223-6507 to volunteer.

Post-Election Reflection and Next Steps

Dec. 4, 2024 6:30 pm at AUUF

Many of us have still been grieving and wondering what to do next regarding our anticipated society for the next four years. As one way forward, we did some brainstorming at the Program Council meeting and decided we wanted two things:

1. Another opportunity to express our feelings around the election outcomes
2. An opportunity to start digging into the question of what's next.

So, on Dec. 4, AUUF members, friends and other community members are welcome to come to the sanctuary at 6:30 pm for a time of reflection--similar to what we did November 6. Afterwards, we'll go into the social room, share some finger foods and start brainstorming how we want to take action. To begin, we'll divide into the four groups I talked about in the service on Nov. 10: People protectors, Institution Protectors, Rabble Rousers, Future Envisioners. (I'm paraphrasing these names, but hopefully you get the idea.) From these groups we hope to develop definite strategies and actions for creating the kind of Beloved Community we'd like to have. Other ideas are welcome.

If this sounds like a good way you can move forward in this challenging time, I hope to see you there.

Blessings, Rev. Lise



Grades 4-6 Our Whole Lives (OWL) Registration is now open

Grades 4-6 OWL registration is now open for Grades 4-6. Class size is limited to 12 participants. Deadline to register is December 11. Classes begin January 12, 2025. (Tentative plans are to have Grades 7-9 OWL Fall of 2025 and K-1 OWL Winter 2026)

[Click here to register.](#)

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Dec. 24, 2024 6:30 PM Christmas Eve



Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
2824 E. 18th Avenue, Anchorage, AK
anchorageuuf.org



AUUF Membership: Something Important to Consider

On Sunday November 24th, the Connections Team will be introducing our newest members at the 11:00 am service, as we covenant together as a Fellowship. Maybe you've thought about joining but aren't sure about it.

Why become a member of AUUF? Because it represents your commitment to making your best effort of giving time, talent and treasure to our beloved community. Because your participation and care help us become stronger during this time of uncertainty. Because we are a self-supporting organization, using democratic processes that offer voting privileges to its members. Because we need your voice to decide on budget, bylaws and other important issues. Because we need dedicated members to fill leadership positions to create our just, safe and caring community. Makes sense, right?

How do you become a member? It's easier than you might think. If you feel you are ready to join, just talk to Rev. Lise to set up an appointment. She'll ask you a few questions, have you fill out some paperwork, and then have you sign the membership book. If you do this before the 24th then you can be among those we plan to recognize that day.

A Message from your Endowment Fund Committee

A question we get asked as Endowment Fund Committee members is how large of a total value does the national UUA office recommend our Endowment Fund be before disbursement? AUUF's goal for an initial possible disbursement was raised by a vote of the congregation in 2022 from \$250K to \$500K, as adjusted for inflation. The UUA

recommendation is three times our annual budget. For AUUF this would mean a little over \$1 million. By setting the disbursement goal to this lower value, AUUF believes that some benefit will occur sooner, while still creating a likely scenario of continued growth until the \$1 million mark is achieved.

A Message from Your Building and Grounds Committee

Are you handy with tools? Do you like swinging a hammer, drilling holes, and banging down nails every once in a while? If so, the AUUF Building and Grounds Committee might be the right place for you! We are looking for congregational members who are mechanically inclined to join our committee. We have a variety of projects, both large and small, that need to get done periodically throughout the year. Most of this work is done on a volunteer basis by our committee members. We meet once a month on the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm via Zoom for about an hour to discuss the status of Fellowship projects. Many hands make light work, so please join us so that the doors don't sag, the windows don't leak, and any new wall dings get fill in.

Please call or text committee member David O'Brien at 907-720-0648 for more information.

2025 HALF PORTION FOR SOCIAL ACTION MONTHLY SCHEDULE

From the Social Action Council

[Click here to view the schedule.](#)

 Mark your calendars now for this fun and festive event in December! Extend invitations to your friends and family to join us for a cup of Hot Cocoa as we travel on the Polar Express!  All aboard!!! 



The Polar Express Movie

JOIN US! ALL ARE WELCOME!

HOT COCOA & CANDY CANES WILL BE SERVED

WEAR YOUR HOLIDAY PAJAMAS OR FESTIVE CLOTHING. BRING A BLANKET AND GET COZY AS WE TRAVEL ON THE POLAR EXPRESS!

WHEN: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
12:30 PM IN THE SANCTUARY

ANCHORAGE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
2824 E. 18TH AVENUE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508

CONTACT JENN AT DRE@ANCHORAGEUUF.ORG FOR MORE INFO
www.anchorageuuf.org

NOVEMBER HALF PORTION FOR SOCIAL ACTION: Alaska Literacy Program

Alaska Literacy Program is a volunteer-based community agency with the mission of *changing lives through literacy*. For 50 years, we have taught adults to read, write and speak English. The learners come from all over the world, including the United States. They come to class to learn the skills needed to get and keep a job in Alaska, help their children in school, become citizens and understand their new home country.

Since 1974, ALP has been providing literacy services to Anchorage residents and individuals throughout the state. ALP recruits, trains, certifies, and supports volunteer teachers who work in a classroom setting teaching reading, writing and speaking English to adults. ALP provides these core **English language classes** year-round for adults and families with young children, concentrating on those most in need. In recent years we've also gained the opportunity to serve other Anchorage area adult learners such as **GED** students.

Over time, ALP has grown to define literacy as more than reading and writing: it includes

having the skills needed to navigate our complex and rapidly changing world. It is the philosophy of Alaska Literacy Program that adults have the right to be free from the burden of illiteracy - free to function as independent, productive citizens. For ALP families, this looks like digital literacy, health literacy, financial literacy, and [family literacy](#). Through this comprehensive framework, ALP is increasing the self-sufficiency of our ELL adults, changing lives and enriching our community.

Today, ALP provides [GED test prep services](#), supporting adults to overcome this long-standing barrier to employment and career advancement. ALP's [Peer Leader Navigator](#) initiative provides information on important health and life topics to people who face barriers in finding that information themselves.

ALP is an accredited member of [ProLiteracy](#), the largest volunteer literacy organization in the world.

Go to anchorageuuf.org
Click on the Half-Portion note or Donate/ Pay
at the bottom of the home page.
Enter your donation under
"Half-Portion for Social Action"



[Live stream link click here.](#)

Take Action: Protect Nonprofits from Federal Executive Overreach

Dear Friend,

We're writing with an urgent action request: Urge your House Member to vote NO on HR 9495, the "nonprofit killer".

UUSJ (UUs for Social Justice) explains:

H.R. 9495 could allow the federal executive to investigate, harass, and, in effect, shutter any nonprofit organization based on unilateral accusations of wrongdoing. It provides a poorly checked opportunity to strip them of their tax-exempt status and thus dismantle a civil society entity. This includes news outlets, universities, and civil liberties organizations

This could also include organizations like UUSJ and other nonprofit entities like our congregations.

Take Action: **Call** (preferable) or **email** your House Representative and demand they vote "No" on HR 9495. Use the script drafted by UUSJ or speak from your UU values.

[Click here to read the entire article.](#)

Our AUUF Covenant

Together . . .

We seek to be an open and welcoming community.

We strive to listen deeply and speak with one another and to our larger community with consideration and respect.

We hold each of us and all of this amazing world worthy of our attention, compassion and care.

Together we are Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.



Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
(907) 248-3737

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, (she/ her), Minister,
RevLise@anchorageuuf.org, 907-248-3737 x2,
Office hours are usually Tu 11-3; Th and F 11-3, and by appointment

Rebecca Bernard, (she/ her), Affiliated Community Minister
RBernard.AK@gmail.com

Richard Stoneking, (he/him), Congregational Administrator
Admin@AnchorageUUF.org, 907.248.3737 x.1
Office Hours Usually Mon-Thu 11am - 3 pm, Please call first.

Jennifer Bluntach (she/her), Director of Religious Exploration
DRE@anchorageuuf.org
Office hours usually are:
Sunday 9am-11am, Tuesday 11am-3pm, Thursday, 11am-3pm, and by appointment

Kelly Spring, (she/ her), Communications Specialist,
Communications@anchorageuuf.org
Kelly's remote office hours Mon-Fri 9 am -1 pm

Esme Danner (she/her) Music Director
907-248-3737 x4, Music@anchorageuuf.org

Dan Norton: AV Coordinator
907-248-3737 x5, AVCoordinator@anchorageuuf.org

Contact the Connections Team for more information on how to get involved.
Connections@anchorageuuf.org

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ANCHORAGE
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP
*diverse beliefs,
common purpose.*

Today At Our Fellowship
Thursday, November 28, 2024

This Weekend @ AUUF

Thursday 11/28/24

Thanksgiving Day Office is closed.

Friday 11/29/24

Thanksgiving Holiday office is closed.

10:00 am - 10:00 pm Private Rental

12:00-2:00 pm Freethinkers, In-Person

Saturday 11/30/24

8:30-10:30 am AA Slap Happy Group

Sunday 12/1/24

9:00 am The Forum In- Person at AUUF
& on ZOOM

11:00 am Sunday Worship Service In-
Person at AUUF & on ZOOM

4:00-5:30 pm Anchorage Friends Meeting

Monday 12/2/24

3:30- 6:00 pm Private Rental Room 5

6:30-8:00 pm Fireweed Sangha of
Mindful Living - Private Rental -Visitors
Welcome

Tuesday 12/3/24

4:30-6:30 pm Forum Planning on Zoom

5:00-9:00 pm Private Rental

6:00-7:00 pm Community Connections

Wednesday 12/4/24

5:00-8:00 pm Connections Team Meeting

6:30-8:30 pm Post Election: Reflection
and Next Steps

7:00-8:30 pm Building & Grounds
Meeting - Zoom

Thursday 12/5/24

5:30-7:30 pm Anti-Racism Team Meeting
Library & Zoom

6:30 – 8:00 pm Choir Practice
Sanctuary



The Forum 9:00 AM Sunday Dec. 1, 2024 IN PERSON & on Zoom
Looking Back at the Last Legislature, Looking Forward to the Next
Alaska State Senator Forrest Dunbar

The Forum In- Person at AUUF & on Zoom
9:00 am Sunday, Dec.1, 2024

One Wedding and Some Numerals—A Fresh Look at Housing
Alaska State Senator Forrest Dunbar

[Click here to join on Zoom.](#)
[Click here for Speaker's Bio.](#)



Sunday Worship Service 11:00 AM Sunday Dec. 1, 2024
IN PERSON & on Zoom
Staying Present With Difficult People
Lauren Rench, Maribeth Snell

Sunday Worship In- Person at AUUF & on Zoom
11:00 am Sunday, Dec.1, 2024

AUUF's worship team is thrilled to see so many new and returning faces at our 11:00 AM services! We'd like to encourage everyone to find their seat in the sanctuary promptly by 11 AM, postponing longer conversations until after the service. Our reasons for this include:

- silent respect for our Music Director Esme Danner's work in finding, rehearsing and playing wonderful music for our preludes, including little known works that are

- helping expand our musical universe,
- courtesy to newer attendees who otherwise find themselves among the "few in the pews" when they first enter the sanctuary,
- your help in creating a calm, peaceful atmosphere as we gather to explore our UU values, and
- respect for our land acknowledgement, read at the start of each service.

Thanks in advance for doing what you can to help create our beloved community

[Click here to join on Zoom.](#)

Sad News

Dear Ones,

I found out on Tuesday, that AUUF member, Susie Kobierowski, died earlier this week. My understanding is that she fell and received a head injury about a year ago, which was followed by fast onset dementia. I know you all will join me in sending love and healing thoughts to Susie's family.

Susie was most recently active with the Green Sanctuary, and choir and had been a member for many years. A couple of years ago, she invited her son to play the bagpipes for one of our Zoom only services--she did the filming of Jakob playing his pipes up in the hills with the Anchorage Bowl down below. It was lovely!

We don't know yet if Susie's family is planning on having any kind of memorial. When we hear news, we'll let you know. In the meantime, cards may be sent to:

19307 Second St.,
Eagle River, AK 99577.

Please take care of one another.

Blessings, Rev. Lise

Post-Election Reflection and Next Steps

Dec. 4, 2024 6:30 pm at AUUF

Many of us have still been grieving and wondering what to do next regarding our anticipated society for the next four years. As one way forward, we did some brainstorming at the Program Council meeting and decided we wanted two things:

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Alternative Gift Fair

Online from Thursday, December 5 to Sunday, December 15

Once again, the Fellowship is having our annual Alternative Gift Fair for the holiday season. There is no greater gift than one that expands the giving. There are those who are dear to us who want nothing more than to make the world a better place. There are those causes whose purposes are to do just that. When we consider just the right gift for the special people in our lives, let's consider donating in their honor to the causes in the Alternative Gift Fair. Representatives of the nonprofits selected for this year's Fair will be on-hand on Sunday December 8th to tell you about their agencies and missions. From Thursday, December 5 to Sunday, December 15, you can go online to see the many organizations that could use our help in continuing their efforts to heal and brighten our world. You will receive a personal link to the donation site (the same one we use for auctions) and we'll also have a link in next week's TAOF.



Endowment Fund Celebration!

On Sunday November 17, the Endowment Fund Committee hosted a "Half-Way Goal Celebration" for the congregation before and after the 11am service. Committee members Carol Harris, Irene O'Brien, David O'Brien, and Jame Denney were present to serve up chocolate cake and sparkling cider. The event was to recognize the congregation's achievement in surpassing the 50% threshold for our goal of achieving a \$500,000 balance (adjusted of inflation) for the Endowment Fund. As of last month, the balance was about \$263,000. Once the goal is reached, the Fellowship many choose to withdraw up to 4 percent of the balance each year for use in various projects.

Grades 4-6 Our Whole Lives



(OWL) Registration is now open

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2824 E. 18TH AVENUE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508

CONTACT JENN AT DRE@ANCHORAGEUUF.ORG FOR MORE INFO
www.anchorageuuf.org

December HALF PORTION FOR SOCIAL ACTION:

The Alaska Innocence Project would like to thank the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship for designating us once again as the December recipient of the Half Portion for Social Action. It means so much to AKIP to receive support from an organization as informed and engaged as the Fellowship. We cherish this honor, especially at the height of the season of giving.

AKIP is the only nonprofit organization of its kind in Alaska and the last hope for those who have been wrongfully convicted and remain incarcerated. The costs of this work are quite high.

Investigators must find and interview witnesses who have spread all over the country. Experts must be retained to review and reanalyze evidence from the original case. Transcript costs, filing fees, and witness expenses all are incurred in bringing a case of wrongful conviction to court. These costs are covered by the donations received by AKIP. Every dollar received by AKIP helps bring a wrongfully convicted individual sitting in prison closer to going home.

I will be presenting in person at AUUF on an upcoming Sunday in December to update the Fellowship on our work, focusing on present and future issues given that the number of exonerations nationally is increasing exponentially year by year.

Swift changes in forensic science and DNA testing capabilities are allowing us to give previously reviewed cases another closer look. New and more complete methods of data collection & analysis are revealing new problem areas. New perspectives, corroborated by new technology, are revealing new avenues to discover innocence claims. Most importantly, Alaska needs to adopt changes in policy and practice to match these new trajectories.

I look forward to our discussion regarding these forward-looking issues, and the work that got us where we are. We could not look forward confidently without community support. Thank you again to the Fellowship for continuing to be a keystone for AKIP's important work.

Respectfully and gratefully yours,

Jory Knott
Executive Director
Alaska Innocence Project
jory@alaskainnocence.org
alaskainnocence.org

Go to anchorageuuf.org
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Connections@anchorageuuf.org

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