



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

## Today At Our Fellowship Thursday, September 4, 2025

### This Week @ AUUF

#### Thursday, September 4

5:30 – 7:00 pm Anti-Racism Team

Meeting Library & Zoom

6:30- 8:00 pm Choir Practice Sanctuary

#### Friday, September 5

All day Fall Frolic - For All Ages! (Day

1/3) Birchwood Camp - United Methodist

8:15 am – 12:45pm Music Together

Mountain Song Social Room

12:00 – 2:00 pm Freethinkers in Person

Only Room 7

#### Saturday, September 6

All day Fall Frolic - For All Ages! (Day

2/3) Birchwood Camp - United Methodist

8:30 – 10:30 am AA-Slap Happy Group at  
AUUF Social Room

10:00 am – 12:45 pm Music Together

Mountain Song Social Room

1:00 – 3:00 pm Amanda's Violin Class

Room 5

#### Sunday, September 7

All day Fall Frolic - For All Ages! (Day

3/3) Birchwood Camp

9:00 – 10:15 am The Forum

11:00 am – 12:00 pm Sunday Worship

Live at AUUF & on Zoom

12:30 – 2:00 pm The Alliance - At AUUF  
Sanctuary

#### Monday, September 8

3:30 – 6:00 pm Amanda's Violin Class

Room 5

#### Tuesday, September 9

11:00 am – 12:00 pm Staff Meeting

2:00 – 3:30 pm Hungry Book Club

Upstairs Library

#### Wednesday, September 10

2:00 – 4:00 pm Knitting Group

Room 7

2:45 – 5:45 pm Music Together Mountain  
Song Social Room

#### Thursday, September 11

6:30 pm Choir Practice

#### Friday, September 12

8:15 am – 12:45 pm Music Together

Mountain Song Social Room

12:00 – 2:00 pm Freethinkers in Person

Only Room 7

#### Saturday, September 13

08:30 – 10:30 am AA – Slap Happy in the  
Social Room

10:00 am – 12:45 pm Music Together

Mountain Song Social Room



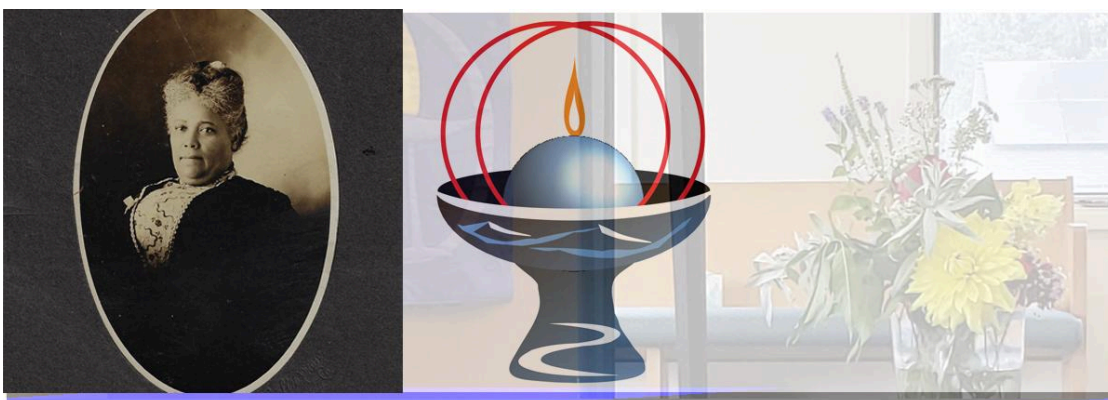
The Forum IN PERSON & on Zoom 9:00 AM Sunday September 7  
*"How Public Broadcasting Will Thrive — Public Support, Politics, Perseverance"* With Alaska Public Media CEO Ed Ulman

## The Forum

Sunday September 7, 2025 9:00-10:15 AM  
IN- PERSON and on Zoom

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

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Sunday Worship Service IN PERSON & on Zoom  
11:00 AM Sunday September 7, 2025  
*"Honoring Frances Harper: Unitarian Author Activist"* with Dennis Arashiro

## Sunday Worship Service

Sunday September 7, 2025 11:00 AM  
IN- PERSON and on Zoom

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

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# Volunteer Nominations are open!

Do you know an outstanding UU in our congregation? Here is your chance to recognize them for all the work they have done on behalf of AUUF! The Board presents two awards during the annual dinner to AUUF members who have contributed substantially to our congregation. The awards are:

**Volunteer of the Year:** This award is meant to honor a person who has contributed a significant amount of volunteer time to the Fellowship during the last year. Recent awardees are Alix McKee and Ken Winterberger, Stephanie Koonz, the CYRE Team, and John McKay & the Forum Committee.

**Fred Hillman Distinguished Service Award:** This award is named after long-time AUUF member and former Board president Dr. Fred Hillman, who passed away in 2014. This award is meant to honor a person like Fred who lives the Seven Principles as part of their everyday life. In recent years we have presented this award to Dennis Arashiro, Peggy Robinson, Marty Freeman, Denise Martin, and Carol Harris.

To nominate someone for an award, send a paragraph telling why this person should be recognized to Board member Marty Freeman at [martyw@ak.net](mailto:martyw@ak.net). The deadline for nominations is September 28. Thank you!

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## TIME FOR 2026 HALF PORTION NOMINATIONS

**Dennis Arashiro and Sara Hannon**

Our Fellowship donates half of our Sunday collections each month to a charitable cause selected by our congregation through the democratic process. Please nominate the causes you find worthy [here](#) and read more below:

**WHAT:** Now is the time to put forth your nominations for next year's Half Portion for Social Action. Your passion for the causes you support can fuel effective positive action by identifying those receiving half the Sunday collections for a month.

**WHO:** Name the charitable funds or organizations you are nominating. They should have tax exempt status, usually designated as a 501(c)(3) organization. They should have a mission consistent with our principles and a demonstrated record of effective action.

**WHEN:** Nominations are due by October 1, 2025. After a period of vetting nominees, you will be given the opportunity to vote from October 9th to November 1st for 11 nominees as recipients of the monthly Half Portion for Social Action for 2026. The final schedule for the 2026 Half Portion will be announced on November 12th.

**WHY:** 5th Principle: The Right of Conscience and the Use of the Democratic Process Within Our Congregations and in Society at Large.

**HOW:** Click the link below to declare your nominations.

[Click here to nominate your favorite organization.](#)

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# Connections Team Needs Sunday Hospitality Volunteers for September!

Please consider signing up ahead of time to help make AUUF a warm and welcoming community. We need greeters, zoom ushers and ESPECIALLY Social Hour volunteers to keep our kitchen tidy and clean. If Connections ends up doing dishes all the time, they will have a hard time staffing the welcome tables as they should be doing. Below is a link to the Signup Genius which includes downloadable directions on what to do. All you need is an email address and you will be sent an automatic reminder 2 days ahead of time.

Thanks to all who continue to help!



---

## Knitting Group

**Wednesday October 10th from 2-4 in Room 7**

If you like to knit or would like to learn please come to the knitting group on Wednesday October 10th from 2-4 in room 7. Knitting with friends is fun, relaxing and we also often have a little afternoon snack.

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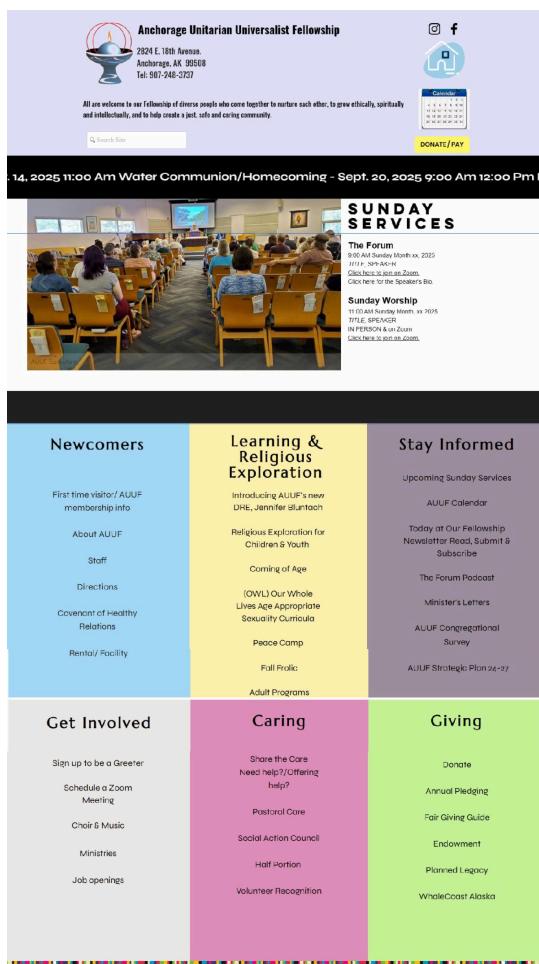
## The Hungry Book Club

**Second Tuesday**

The Hungry Book Club meets once a month, on the 2nd Tuesday, for snacks and a lively book discussion. Our next meeting is on September 9th at 2 PM in the library. This month we will be discussing Doris Kearns Goodwin's book, *An Unfinished Love Story*. It is a great and easy read focusing on the events of the 60's and 70's, offering great insights into what was going on behind the scenes from the perspective of her husband who was a speech writer for JFK, Johnson and RFK. Please join us!

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# Announcing new AUUF website!

Coming soon!

Hi,

We are launching a new website in the coming weeks! Above you will find a (stitched together) screen shot of what the new homepage will look like. On Thursday September 11, we will share a test link here in our newsletter, TAOF. When we share the test link we welcome your feedback before it goes live, as our new website. Then the last week of September we will launch the new site. The intention behind the revamp is to reduce redundancy and create more ease of use! Please contact me if you have any concerns.

communications@anchorageuuf.org

Thanks,  
 Kelly Strycker  
 Communications Specialist



## Brief overview of AUUF Religious Exploration for 2025/2026

[Link to Brochure](#)

## Religious Exploration Registration for 2025/2026 is now OPEN!!

Help us prepare for the Religious Exploration year by registering your child/youth/teen today!

[Registration form](#)

## Grades K-1 OWL (Our Whole Lives) Registration is now OPEN!

Register today to secure your child's spot. (open to 2nd graders as well)

[OWL Registration form.](#)

## NEW for 2025/2026! AUUF Parent/Grown Up Night Out!

Once a month Oct-Apr- childcare for school aged kids.  
Pizza-Activities- Movie-FUN!

[Registration form](#)

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A graphic with a warm orange and yellow background featuring scattered autumn leaves. At the top, the text "Save the Dates!" is in large, bold, black font, followed by "Fall events at AUUF" in a slightly smaller bold font. To the right, a yellow sticky note with a green pushpin contains the text "Choir is back! 6:30 pm Thursdays". Below the main text, a list of events is provided. At the bottom left is a small icon of a blue oil lamp with a flame. To the right of the lamp, the organization's name, website, and phone number are listed.

**Save the Dates!**  
**Fall events at AUUF**

Sept. 5-7, 2025 Fall Frolic  
Sept. 14, 2025 11:00 am Water Communion/Homecoming  
Sept. 20, 2025 9:00 am-12:00 pm Religious Exploration Teacher Training  
Sept. 21, 2025 Fall Religious Exploration Starts  
Oct. 10, 2025 5:30-8:00 pm Parent Grown Up Night Out (Ask Jenn!)  
Oct. 12, 2025 K-1 OWL Starts (Age Appropriate Sexuality Curriculum)  
Oct. 2025 AUUF Hosting of Family Emergency Cold Weather Shelter begins

 Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
AnchorageUUF.org  
907-248-3737



## SEPTEMBER HALF PORTION FOR SOCIAL ACTION:FOOD BANK OF ALASKA

### Compassion in Action: The Fight Against Hunger

Hunger is growing in our state. More Alaskans are turning to food pantries than ever before. At the same time, donations of both food and funds have dropped, which makes it harder to keep up with the need. Pantries across Alaska are feeling the strain.

Today, about 1 in 7 Alaskans, or more than 100,000 people, need food assistance. That is a big increase over last year. Children and seniors are especially impacted. More than 1 in 5 children face hunger, and Alaska ranks near the top in the nation for senior hunger. For many older Alaskans, Social Security is their only income, and it does not stretch far enough.

Food Bank of Alaska works every day to meet this rising need. Last year they distributed nearly 8 million pounds of food through about 150 partners. That included children's meals, senior food boxes, and millions of meals for families statewide. During the annual Thanksgiving Blessing, hosted through faith-based organizations, almost 10,000 households were able to gather for a holiday meal. Outreach efforts also connected families to SNAP so they could secure more than half a million additional meals. September is Hunger Action Month, a time to reflect on the reality of hunger here in Alaska and to join together to do something about it.

This work is only possible through volunteers. Nearly 1,000 people gave more than 16,000 hours of their time last year. Every meal shared, every box packed, and every hour given helps move us closer to a more compassionate Alaska.

If you would like to learn more or get involved, visit [foodbankofalaska.org](http://foodbankofalaska.org) or follow Food Bank of Alaska on Facebook.

You can contribute in person at our Sunday services or online by visiting **[anchorageuuf.org](http://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."

Go to **[anchorageuuf.org](http://anchorageuuf.org)**  
Click on the Half-Portion note or Donate/ Pay



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## ***Our AUUF Covenant***

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***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**  
2824 E. 18th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99508  
(907) 248-3737  
[Website](http://www.aauuf.org)

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, (she/her), Minister,



[RevLise@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:RevLise@anchorageuuf.org), 907-248-3737 x2,

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

**Jennifer Bluntach, (she/her), Director of Religious Exploration**

[DRE@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:DRE@anchorageuuf.org)

Office hours usually are:

Sun 9am-11am, Tu 11am-3pm, Thu 11am-3pm, and by appointment

**Richard Stoneking, (he/him), Congregational Administrator**

[Admin@AnchorageUUF.org](mailto:Admin@AnchorageUUF.org), 907.248.3737 x.1

Office Hours Usually Mon-Thu 11am - 3 pm, Please call first.

**Kelly Strycker, (she/her), Communications Specialist,**

[Communications@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:Communications@anchorageuuf.org)

Kelly's remote office hours Mon, Tues, Wed, Friday 9 am - 1 pm. Thursday 7-9:30 am AK,  
& 1:30-3:00 pm

**Esme Danner, (she/her), Music Director**

907-248-3737 x4, [Music@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:Music@anchorageuuf.org)

**Rebecca Bernard, (she/her), Affiliated Community Minister**

[RBernard.AK@gmail.com](mailto:RBernard.AK@gmail.com)

**Dan Norton, AV Coordinator**

907-248-3737, [AVCoordinator@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:AVCoordinator@anchorageuuf.org)

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

[Connections@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:Connections@anchorageuuf.org)

**Share the Care Team:** [sharethecare@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:sharethecare@anchorageuuf.org)

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

## Today At Our Fellowship Thursday, September 11, 2025

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### This Week @ AUUF

#### Thursday, September 11

6:30- 8:00 pm Choir Practice Sanctuary

#### Friday, September 12

8:15 am – 12:45pm Music Together

Mountain Song Social Room

12:00 – 2:00 pm Freethinkers in Person

Only Room 7

#### Saturday, September 13

8:30 – 10:30 am AA-Slap Happy Group at  
AUUF Social Room

10:00 am – 12:45 pm Music Together  
Mountain Song Social Room

#### Sunday, September 14

9:00 – 10:15 am The Forum

11:00 am – 12:00 pm Sunday Worship

Live at AUUF & on Zoom

4:00 – 5:30 pm Anchorage Friends  
Meeting Sanctuary & Social Room

#### Monday, September 15

3:30 – 6:00 pm Amanda's Violin Class  
Room 5

#### Tuesday, September 16

6:30 – 8:30 pm Finance Committee  
Meeting

#### Wednesday, September 17

2:00 – 4:00 pm Knitting Group

Room 7

2:45 – 5:45 pm Music Together Mountain  
Song Social Room

5:00 – 7:00 pm OWL K-1 Teacher  
meeting Room 7 & on Zoom

6:30 – 9:00 pm Board of Directors  
Meeting - In Person (Zoom-Contact Don)

#### Thursday, September 18

6:30 pm Choir Practice

2:00 pm – 12:00 pm Private rental (Day  
1/2) Rooms 7 and 8

#### Friday, September 19

8:15 am – 12:45 pm Music Together  
Mountain Song Social Room

12:00 – 2:00 pm Freethinkers in Person  
Only Room 7

2:00 – 3:30 pm Care Team Meeting  
Library

6:30 – 8:00 pm Fire Pit Chat Patio

#### Saturday, September 20

08:30 – 10:30 am AA – Slap Happy in the  
Social Room

10:00 am – 12:45 pm Music Together  
Mountain Song Social Room

1:00 – 3:00 pm Amanda's Violin Class  
Room 5



The Forum IN PERSON & on Zoom 9:00 AM Sunday September 14  
*"How has people's access to government improved in our "unified"  
Municipality?"* With Jane Angvik and Lisa Parker

## The Forum

Sunday September 14, 2025 9:00-10:15 AM  
IN- PERSON and on Zoom

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

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Sunday Worship Service IN PERSON & on Zoom 11:00 AM Sunday Sept. 14  
*"Water Communion & Homecoming"*  
Rev. Lise, Jenn Bluntach & Michele Champion

## Sunday Worship Service

Sunday September 14, 2025 11:00 AM  
IN- PERSON and on Zoom

UU congregations have been having Water Communion or Water Ceremony services for about 40 years. It's a time to share how we were nourished over the summer holidays by bringing some water from that nourishing, possibly spiritual, place. We then mingle all our different waters together to represent the diversity of our congregation.

You might wonder, what kind of water should I bring? Water from a garden hose that helped you nourish yourself and your garden over the summer. Maybe you have some water from a rafting trip, or you went to a favorite swimming hole, or enjoyed a rainstorm. If you didn't think to gather

any water from this particular place, no worries, "proxy water" is perfectly acceptable--we'll even have some here Sunday morning if you forget. It's a lovely service, and will be multigenerational, so I hope you can come.

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

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## Fire Pit Chat

Please join the Connections Team for the final fire pit chat of the season on Friday September 19th, 6:30-8 PM. Bring your camp chair and the beverage of your choice. We'll have snacks and s'mores fixings to share. This is a great way to socialize and get to know one another better. If Mother Nature doesn't provide good weather, we'll move inside. Hope to see you there.

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## Volunteer opportunities to help folks experiencing homelessness in Anchorage

For the previous 2 years, AUUF has helped staff the Emergency Cold Weather Shelter for Families (FECWS) as part of a multi-church effort to make sure that families with children are not sleeping outside during the cold weather months (October thru April). We participate on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings/Wednesday mornings of each month, providing staffing coverage and dinner at a designated duplex in a residential neighborhood. This has proven to be a very rewarding experience for our volunteers and a much appreciated service to the families. If you think you might be interested in joining this effort, please see Dennis in the social room after Sunday services or contact Michele Champion (akmichelechamp@yahoo.com) and we can give you more information about this opportunity. If you have not previously volunteered and have interest please get your name on the list soon so we can invite you to an upcoming training session. If you have participated in the past, the sign-up sheets will be available in the social room with Dennis as well as on the online version (coming soon). More details about the training will follow.

AND..... in addition to the winter shelter, please consider helping out at PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT at the EGAN CENTER on TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025. Project Homeless Connect is a one-day, one-stop event connecting people experiencing homelessness in Anchorage with vital services like housing, healthcare, employment support, legal aid, and more. Attendees also receive lunch, supplies, and winter gear while supplies last. There are a variety of roles that need to be filled on this day. You can click the link below to know more about the event and volunteer your time on that one day. Project Homeless Connect 2025

— ACEH

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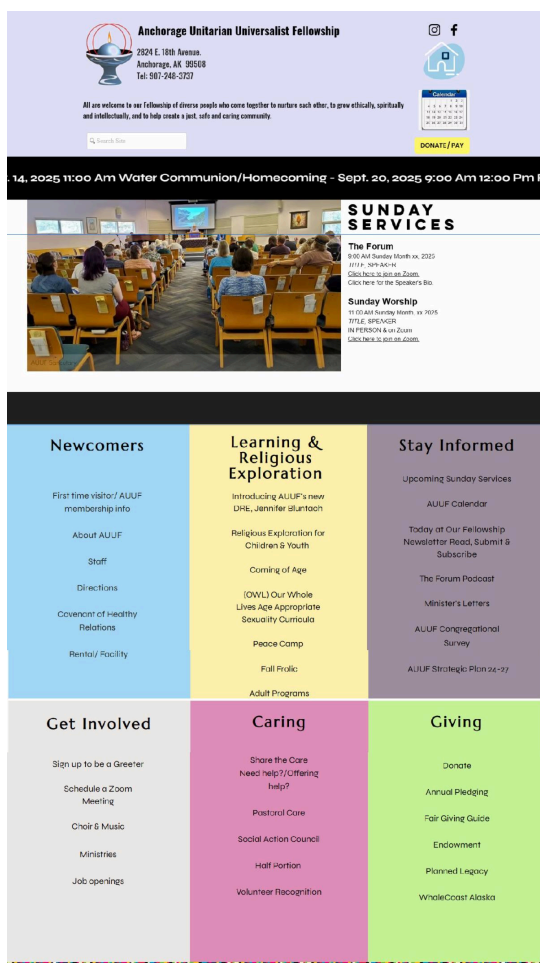
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We welcome your feedback before it goes live, as our new website. The last week of September we will launch the new site. The intention behind the revamp is to reduce redundancy and create more ease of use! We have eliminated the drop down menus and combined some pages. No more links hidden away in drop down menus! As you may know the current website is a really large site. We have made an effort to pair down the info. This has been a work in progress for a long time. Please contact me if you have any concerns, or see anything that needs changed.

FYI the FAQs on the what to expect page is not functional/ updated at the moment. But will be soon. Thank you for patience.

[Click here to see the new website.](#)

communications@anchorageuuf.org

Thanks,  
Kelly Strycker  
Communications Specialist

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## AUUF Religious Exploration Fall 2025 Updates

[Click here to read.](#)

A colorful graphic titled "AUUF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION UPCOMING EVENTS For FALL". The graphic features a sun, a girl's face, a fish, and a drum. It lists two events: "SEP 20 RE HELPER & TEACHER ORIENTATION" and "OCT 5 SUNDAY RE CLASSES BEGIN". The orientation event is on a green background and mentions a 9am-12pm time slot. The classes event is on an orange background and lists four rooms: Pre-k, Grades K-3, Grades 4-7, and Grades 8-12 Youth Group. At the bottom, it provides contact information for Jenn Bluntach.

AUUF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

# UPCOMING EVENTS

For FALL

**SEP 20** RE HELPER & TEACHER ORIENTATION

9am-12pm Orientation will be held for RE Teachers and Helpers for the RE Program year. Please see Jenn if you are interested!

**OCT 5** SUNDAY RE CLASSES BEGIN

Classroom classes will begin this Sunday. There will be four rooms- Pre-k, Grades K-3, Grades 4-7 and Grades 8-12 Youth Group

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT JENN BLUNTACH, DRE AT DRE@ANCHORAGEUUF.ORG OR 218-910-6090

# Save the Dates!

## Fall events at AUUF

*Choir is back!*  
6:30 pm  
Thursdays

Sept. 20, 2025 9:00 am-12:00 pm Religious Exploration Teacher Training  
Sept. 21, 2025 Fall Religious Exploration Starts  
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## SEPTEMBER HALF PORTION FOR SOCIAL ACTION:FOOD BANK OF ALASKA

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This work is only possible through volunteers. Nearly 1,000 people gave more than 16,000 hours of their time last year. Every meal shared, every box packed, and every hour given helps move us closer to a more compassionate Alaska.

If you would like to learn more or get involved, visit [foodbankofalaska.org](http://foodbankofalaska.org) or follow Food Bank of Alaska on Facebook.

You can contribute in person at our Sunday services or online by visiting **[anchorageuuf.org](http://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."

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### **Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

2824 E. 18th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99508

(907) 248-3737

[Website](#)

**Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, (she/her), Minister,**

[RevLise@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:RevLise@anchorageuuf.org), 907-248-3737 x2,

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

**Jennifer Bluntach, (she/her), Director of Religious Exploration**

[DRE@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:DRE@anchorageuuf.org)

Office hours usually are:

Sun 9am-11am, Tu 11am-3pm, Thu 11am-3pm, and by appointment

**Richard Stoneking, (he/him), Congregational Administrator**

[Admin@AnchorageUUF.org](mailto:Admin@AnchorageUUF.org), 907.248.3737 x.1

Office Hours Usually Mon-Thu 11am - 3 pm, Please call first.

**Kelly Strycker, (she/her), Communications Specialist,**

[Communications@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:Communications@anchorageuuf.org)

Kelly's remote office hours Mon, Tues, Wed, Friday 9 am - 1 pm. Thursday 7-9:30 am AK, & 1:30-3:00 pm

**Esme Danner, (she/her), Music Director**

907-248-3737 x4, [Music@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:Music@anchorageuuf.org)



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

Dan Norton, AV Coordinator  
907-248-3737, [AVCoordinator@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:AVCoordinator@anchorageuuf.org)

Contact the Connections Team for more information on how to get involved:  
[Connections@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:Connections@anchorageuuf.org)

Share the Care Team: [sharethecare@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:sharethecare@anchorageuuf.org)

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FELLOWSHIP  
*diverse beliefs,  
common purpose.*

## Today At Our Fellowship Thursday, September 18, 2025

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### This Week @ AUUF

#### Thursday, September 18

6:30- 8:00 pm Choir Practice Sanctuary

#### Friday, September 19

8:15 am – 12:45pm Music Together

Mountain Song Social Room

12:00 – 2:00 pm Freethinkers in Person  
Only Room 7

2:00 – 3:30 pm Care Team Meeting  
Library

6:30 – 8:00 pm Fire Pit Chat  
Patio

#### Saturday, September 20

8:30 – 10:30 am AA-Slap Happy Group at  
AUUF Social Room

9:00 am – 12:00 pm RE Teacher  
Orientation Room 7 & on Zoom

10:00 am – 12:45 pm Music Together  
Mountain Song Social Room

1:00 – 3:00 pm Amanda's Violin Class  
Room 5

#### Sunday, September 21

9:00 – 10:15 am The Forum

11:00 am – 12:00 pm Sunday Worship  
Live at AUUF & on Zoom

12:30 – 1:45 pm Social Action Council  
Room 7

4:00 – 5:30 pm Anchorage Friends  
Meeting Sanctuary & Social Room

#### Monday, September 22

3:30 – 6:00 pm Amanda's Violin Class  
Room 5

#### Tuesday, September 23

11:00 am Staff Meeting

#### Wednesday, September 24

2:00 – 4:00 pm Knitting Group  
Room 7

2:45 – 5:45 pm Music Together Mountain  
Song Social Room

#### Thursday, September 25

6:30 pm Choir Practice

#### Friday, September 26

8:15 am – 12:45 pm Music Together  
Mountain Song Social Room

12:00 – 2:00 pm Freethinkers in Person  
Only Room 7

#### Saturday, September 27

08:30 – 10:30 am AA – Slap Happy in the  
Social Room

10:00 am – 12:45 pm Music Together  
Mountain Song Social Room



**Sunday September 21, 2025 9:00-10:15 AM**  
**IN- PERSON and on Zoom**

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



**Sunday September 21, 2025 11:00 AM**  
**IN- PERSON and on Zoom**

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

by Ernestine Hayes

Ernestine Hayes, half-Tlingit (Kaagwaantaan), half-white, engages readers as she weaves a uniquely personal memoir from her life, clan stories, fiction, history and nature writing. She describes her distant relationship with her mother and the men in her family while conveying their complex stories as well. She relates her trajectory from early childhood and troubled teen to an advocate for education and academia through discovering her cultural identity.

Please join the Anti-Racism Team on three Tuesday evenings, 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.

**Schedule for three TUESDAYS, 6:30 - 8 PM:**

**SEPTEMBER 30** The Retreating Glacier pp. 1-42

**OCTOBER 7** The Emerging Forest pp. 43-70

**OCTOBER 21** The Climax Forest and The Bog pp. 71 - end

We have borrowed 10 copies of the book from Loussac Library for 6 weeks. You can borrow one of these copies from Dennis Arashiro at the Social Justice Table in the Social Room at the Fellowship on Sundays or contact him at [elvischannel@yahoo.com](mailto:elvischannel@yahoo.com). Ernestine's memoir may also be ordered from your favorite book stores. Copies are also available from Loussac Library, electronically or in hard copy.

---

## RE (Religious Exploration) to host Soup Sunday on October 5!

RE parents and kids will be hosting Soup Sunday on October 5! Funds that are raised from donations on this Soup Sunday will go towards purchasing items (Toiletries, Socks, Snacks) to create Blessing Bags for the unhoused in Anchorage. The kids will assemble these bags in their class times during the month of October as we explore the theme of compassion. You are welcome to also donate small toiletries, socks and such outside of Jenn's office downstairs. As always, we appreciate your generosity and involvement! Thank you!

---

## Time to Start Thinking About the Auction!

**Annual on-line auction, set for Nov. 1 – Nov. 8**

It's September and that means it's time to start thinking about donations for our annual on-line auction, set for Nov. 1 – Nov. 8. Do you have a piece of art or gently used outdoor equipment you're ready to part with? Would you be willing to offer your cabin for a weekend or share a skill or service? (These are particularly popular!) Maybe you have a favorite restaurant or other business you could contact for a gift card. And new this year, Tracy Barbee has agreed to take nicer pieces of jewelry and sell them on-line in hopes of reaching a wider bidding audience and generating higher selling prices. We already have an ivory necklace, earrings and pieces with semi-precious stones for Tracy to post on this broader site. If you have jewelry you think might be appropriate for this new approach, please contact Tracy at [barbeetr@gmail.com](mailto:barbeetr@gmail.com) or 907-227-2245. We'll begin collecting other items downstairs Oct. 12.

If you have questions, please contact the team at [auction@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:auction@anchorageuuf.org).

---



# Stewardship in RE (Religious Exploration)- We will be discussing and actively engaging the concept of stewardship throughout the year. Time, Talent and Treasure

## How will RE incorporate stewardship into learning for our children and youth?

Stewardship in Unitarian Universalism involves caring for the environment, community, and resources. Explaining this concept to kids can be engaging and meaningful.

### Key Concepts of Stewardship:

- Responsibility: Teach children that stewardship means taking care of what we have, including nature, our community, and each other.
- Sharing: Emphasize the importance of sharing resources, whether it's time, talents, or material goods.
- Respect for Nature: Discuss how we can protect the environment and why it matters for future generations.

### Activities to Illustrate Stewardship:

- Nature Walks: Explore local parks or nature reserves, discussing the importance of plants and animals.
- Community Service: Involve kids in community projects, such as cleaning up a park or helping at a food bank.
- Creative Projects: Encourage children to create art or write stories about their favorite places and how to protect them.

### Discussion Points:

- Ask questions like, "What does it mean to take care of our planet?" or "How can we help our friends and neighbors?"
- Share stories from Unitarian Universalist teachings that highlight stewardship, such as caring for the Earth or helping those in need.

By using relatable examples and hands-on activities, children can better understand and appreciate the concept of stewardship within the Unitarian Universalist framework.



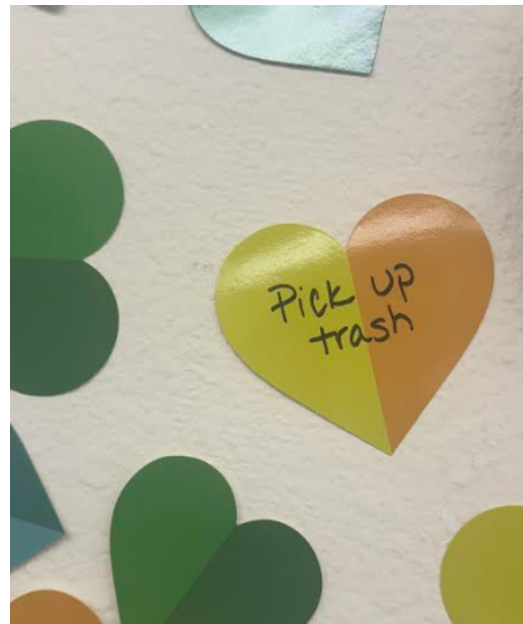
Kids/teachers/adults can bring dried/canned goods on Sunday morning. The teens will replenish the little food pantry outside of AUUF on a monthly basis.



We have Generosity Tree in Room 5, our gathering room. Each week I (or one of you) will ask for a couple of ways to be generous or kind in the upcoming week and we'll



write it on one of the hearts and watch it fill up with ideas throughout the year. Maybe it's doing the dishes, walking the dog, picking up trash they see outside...



Change Maker Challenge (pun intended)- Throughout the 2025-2026 school year we will be collecting change on RE Sunday mornings when we begin downstairs. When our piggy bank is full the kids will vote on which community organization to send 50% of the collection. The other 50% will go into the AUUF general operating fund.

---



## RE will be collecting Hats, Mittens & Scarves throughout Oct, Nov. & Dec.

RE is going to collect warm weather items (hats, mittens, scarves) from October to December). During this time, a box in the RE library downstairs will be used to collect donations. In October, we will focus on the concept of compassion, in November, we will focus on gratitude, and in December, we will focus on hope.

---

## LAST CHANCE FOR 2025 – NOMINATIONS NEEDED!

The Board needs your nominations for people who have stood out as AUUF volunteers this year and over time. Each year we present two awards during the annual dinner to AUUF members who have contributed substantially to our congregation. The awards are:

**Volunteer of the Year:** This award is meant to honor a person or group who has contributed a significant amount of volunteer time to the Fellowship during the last year. Recent awardees are Alix McKee and Ken Winterberger, Stephanie Koonz, the CYRE Team, and John McKay & the Forum Committee.

**Fred Hillman Distinguished Service Award:** This award is named after long-time AUUF member and former Board president Dr. Fred Hillman, who passed away in 2014. This award is meant to honor a person like Fred who lives the Seven Principles as part of their everyday life. In recent years we have presented this award to Dennis Arashiro, Peggy Robinson, Marty Freeman, Denise Martin, and Carol Harris.

To nominate someone for an award, send a paragraph telling why this person should be recognized to Board member Marty Freeman at [martyw@ak.net](mailto:martyw@ak.net). The deadline for nominations is September 28. Thank you!

---

## TIME FOR 2026 HALF PORTION NOMINATIONS

**Dennis Arashiro and Sara Hannon**

Our Fellowship donates half of our Sunday collections each month to a charitable cause selected by our congregation through the democratic process. Please nominate the causes you find worthy [here](#) and read more below:

**WHAT:** Now is the time to put forth your nominations for next year's Half Portion for Social Action. Your passion for the causes you support can fuel effective positive action by identifying those receiving half the Sunday collections for a month.

**WHO:** Name the charitable funds or organizations you are nominating. They should have tax exempt status, usually designated as a 501(c)(3) organization. They should have a mission consistent with our principles and a demonstrated record of effective action.

**WHEN:** Nominations are due by October 1, 2025. After a period of vetting nominees, you will be given the opportunity to vote from October 9th to November 1st for 11 nominees as recipients of the monthly Half Portion for Social Action for 2026. The final schedule for the 2026 Half Portion will be announced on November 12th.

**WHY:** 5th Principle: The Right of Conscience and the Use of the Democratic Process Within Our Congregations and in Society at Large.

**HOW:** Click the link below to declare your nominations.

[Click here to nominate your favorite organization.](#)

---

## Update from a recent AUUF High School Graduate!

It was so wonderful to hear from Denali this week! She shared these photos of her recent completion of boot camp in South Carolina! I asked her about the heat and she replied, "It was so hot I was sweating from my elbows. I didn't even know elbows could sweat!!!" Denali is now in the state of Virginia where she has started advanced training for her job. She said I could share her photos and an update with all of you.

Jenn Bluntach, DRE



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## AUUF Religious Exploration Fall 2025 Updates

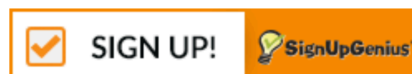
[Click here to read.](#)



## Connections Team Needs Sunday Hospitality Volunteers for September!

Please consider signing up ahead of time to help make AUUF a warm and welcoming community. We need greeters, zoom ushers and ESPECIALLY Social Hour volunteers to keep our kitchen tidy and clean. If Connections ends up doing dishes all the time, they will have a hard time staffing the welcome tables as they should be doing. Below is a link to the Signup Genius which includes downloadable directions on what to do. All you need is an email address and you will be sent an automatic reminder 2 days ahead of time.

Thanks to all who continue to help!





# Save the Dates!


## Fall events at AUUF

Choir is back!  
6:30 pm  
Thursdays

Sept. 20, 2025 9:00 am-12:00 pm Religious Exploration Teacher Training  
Sept. 21, 2025 Fall Religious Exploration Starts  
Oct. 10, 2025 5:30-8:00 pm Parent Grown Up Night Out (Ask Jenn!)  
Oct. 12, 2025 K-1 OWL Starts (Age Appropriate Sexuality Curriculum)  
Oct. 2025 AUUF Hosting of Family Emergency Cold Weather Shelter begins








Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
AnchorageUUF.org  
907-248-3737




**Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**  
2924 E. 18th Avenue,  
Anchorage, AK 99508  
Tel: 907-248-3737

All are welcome to our Fellowship of diverse people who come together to nurture each other, to grow ethically, spiritually and intellectually, and to help create a just, safe and caring community.



14. 2025 11:00 Am Water Communion/Homecoming - Sept. 20, 2025 9:00 Am 12:00 Pm R



**SUNDAY SERVICES**

**The Forum**  
9:00 AM Sunday Month vs. 2025  
11:15 AM - 12:00 PM  
Click here to see the Speaker's Bio

**Sunday Worship**  
11:00 AM Sunday Month vs. 2025  
11:15 AM - 12:00 PM  
Click here to see the Speaker's Bio

<b>Newcomers</b>  First time visitor / AUUF membership info  About AUUF  Staff  Directions  Covenant of Healthy Relations  Rental/ Facility	<b>Learning &amp; Religious Exploration</b>  Introducing AUUF's new DHE, Jennifer slantouch  Religious Exploration for Children & Youth  Coming of Age  [OWL] Our Whole Lives Age Appropriate Sexuality Curriculum  Peace Camp  Fall Praks  Adult Programs	<b>Stay Informed</b>  Upcoming Sunday Services  AUUF Calendar  Today at Our Fellowship Newsletter Read, Submit & Subscribe  The Forum Podcast  Minister's Letters  AUUF Congregational Survey  AUUF Strategic Plan 24-27
<b>Get Involved</b>  Sign up to be a Greeter  Schedule a Zoom Meeting  Choir & Music  Ministries  Job openings	<b>Caring</b>  Share the Care Need help? / Offering help?  Pastoral Care  Social Action Council  Half portion  Volunteer Recognition	<b>Giving</b>  Donate  Annual Pledging  Fair Giving Guide  Endowment  Planned Legacy  WholeCoast Alaska

## Announcing new AUUF website!

Test link below

Hi,

We are launching a new website in the coming weeks! Here you will find a (stitched together) screen shot preview of what the new homepage will look like. Below you can find a link to the test site. Which has not yet replaced our old site.

We welcome your feedback before it goes live, as our new website. The last week of September we will launch the new site. The intention behind the revamp is to reduce redundancy and create more ease of use! We have eliminated the drop down menus and combined some pages. No more links hidden away in drop down menus! As you may know the current website is a really large site. We have made an effort to pair down the info. This has been a work in progress for a long time. Please contact me if you have any concerns, or see anything that needs changed.

[Click here to see the new website.](#)  
communications@anchorageuuf.org

Thanks,  
Kelly Strycker

---

## Volunteer opportunities to help folks experiencing homelessness in Anchorage

For the previous 2 years, AUUF has helped staff the Emergency Cold Weather Shelter for Families (FECWS) as part of a multi-church effort to make sure that families with children are not sleeping outside during the cold weather months (October thru April). We participate on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings/Wednesday mornings of each month, providing staffing coverage and dinner at a designated duplex in a residential neighborhood. This has proven to be a very rewarding experience for our volunteers and a much appreciated service to the families. If you think you might be interested in joining this effort, please see Dennis in the social room after Sunday services or contact Michele Champion (akmichelechamp@yahoo.com) and we can give you more information about this opportunity. If you have not previously volunteered and have interest please get your name on the list soon so we can invite you to an upcoming training session. If you have participated in the past, the sign-up sheets will be available in the social room with Dennis as well as on the online version (coming soon). More details about the training will follow.

AND..... in addition to the winter shelter, please consider helping out at **PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT at the EGAN CENTER on TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025.** Project Homeless Connect is a one-day, one-stop event connecting people experiencing homelessness in Anchorage with vital services like housing, healthcare, employment support, legal aid, and more. Attendees also receive lunch, supplies, and winter gear while supplies last. There are a variety of roles that need to be filled on this day. [You can click here](#) to know more about the event and volunteer your time on that one day. Project Homeless Connect 2025

— ACEH

---



# “THE TALK”

**A SPECIAL CONFERENCE  
FOR YOUNG MEN**

**13–18 yrs. old!**

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2025**

THE NAVE-3502 SPENARD RD.

**SATURDAY**

**9.30-3:00 PM**

**WE'RE KEEPING IT  
REAL, DROPPING  
GEMS!**

*Ready to level up?*

- Two successful men on money moves
- Strengthening Mental Health
- Respect in Relationships
- Finding your Purpose
- Owning your social media game
- Plus more incredible workshops and panel discussion

*Plus free swag and surprises!*

*Breakfast snack and lunch provided*

*Don't miss this. Your future self will thank you.*

Partially funded by



For More Information

Must pre-register



Supported by Alaska Youth Court

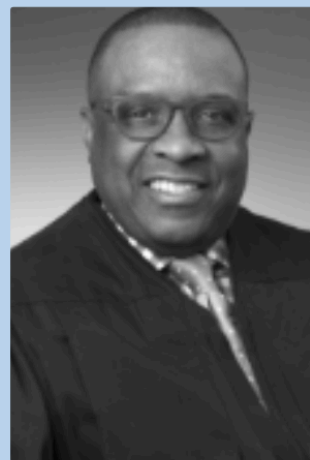
Keys to Life - A Non-profit since 2015

**Keystolifealaska.com**

## Two Dynamic Speakers



**Hardaway Learning**



**Judge Herman Walker**

## A youth empowerment conference for young men

All call to all parents with a young man 13-18 years old. A powerful youth empowerment conference is set to inspire local young men with a day of truthful conversation, personal growth, and life-changing lessons. Headlined by **Derrick Moore**, founder of *Hardaway Learning*. Moore, a social media influencer and author who overcame addiction and now advocates for sobriety and purpose-driven living, will deliver the keynote address. Supreme Court **Judge Herman** Walker will share his life experiences and course on becoming Anchorage's supreme court judge. The conference offers 12 more dynamic workshops—from mental health to money, relationships to resilience designed to support the youth. This conference brings together mentors, educators, and community leaders to tackle real issues. [More info here.](#)

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## SEPTEMBER HALF PORTION FOR SOCIAL ACTION:FOOD BANK OF ALASKA

### Compassion in Action: The Fight Against Hunger

Hunger is growing in our state. More Alaskans are turning to food pantries than ever before. At the same time, donations of both food and funds have dropped, which makes it harder to keep up with the need. Pantries across Alaska are feeling the strain.

Today, about 1 in 7 Alaskans, or more than 100,000 people, need food assistance. That is a big increase over last year. Children and seniors are especially impacted. More than 1 in 5 children face hunger, and Alaska ranks near the top in the nation for senior hunger. For many older Alaskans, Social Security is their only income, and it does not stretch far enough.

Food Bank of Alaska works every day to meet this rising need. Last year they distributed nearly 8 million pounds of food through about 150 partners. That included children's meals, senior food boxes, and millions of meals for families statewide. During the annual Thanksgiving Blessing, hosted through faith-based organizations, almost 10,000 households were able to gather for a holiday meal. Outreach efforts also connected families to SNAP so they could secure more than half a million additional meals. September is Hunger Action Month, a time to reflect on the reality of hunger here in Alaska and to join together to do something about it.

This work is only possible through volunteers. Nearly 1,000 people gave more than 16,000 hours of their time last year. Every meal shared, every box packed, and every hour given helps move us closer to a more compassionate Alaska.

If you would like to learn more or get involved, visit [foodbankofalaska.org](http://foodbankofalaska.org) or follow Food Bank of Alaska on Facebook.

You can contribute in person at our Sunday services or online by visiting **[anchorageuuf.org](http://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."

Go to **[anchorageuuf.org](http://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”



## ***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**  
2824 E. 18th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99508  
(907) 248-3737  
[Website](http://www.aauuf.org)

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, (she/her), Minister,

[RevLise@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:RevLise@anchorageuuf.org), 907-248-3737 x2,

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

**Jennifer Bluntach, (she/her), Director of Religious Exploration**

[DRE@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:DRE@anchorageuuf.org)

Office hours usually are:

Sun 9am-11am, Tu 11am-3pm, Thu 11am-3pm, and by appointment

**Richard Stoneking, (he/him), Congregational Administrator**

[Admin@AnchorageUUF.org](mailto:Admin@AnchorageUUF.org), 907.248.3737 x.1

Office Hours Usually Mon-Thu 11am - 3 pm, Please call first.

**Kelly Strycker, (she/her), Communications Specialist,**

[Communications@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:Communications@anchorageuuf.org)

Kelly's remote office hours Mon, Tues, Wed, Friday 9 am - 1 pm. Thursday 7-9:30 am AK,  
& 1:30-3:00 pm

**Esme Danner, (she/her), Music Director**

907-248-3737 x4, [Music@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:Music@anchorageuuf.org)

**Rebecca Bernard, (she/her), Affiliated Community Minister**

[RBernard.AK@gmail.com](mailto:RBernard.AK@gmail.com)

**Dan Norton, AV Coordinator**

907-248-3737, [AVCoordinator@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:AVCoordinator@anchorageuuf.org)

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

[Connections@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:Connections@anchorageuuf.org)

**Share the Care Team:** [sharethecare@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:sharethecare@anchorageuuf.org)

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UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
FELLOWSHIP  
*diverse beliefs,  
common purpose.*

## Today At Our Fellowship Thursday, September 25, 2025

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### This Week @ AUUF

#### Thursday, September 25

6:30- 8:00 pm Choir Practice Sanctuary

#### Friday, September 26

8:15 am – 12:45pm Music Together

Mountain Song Social Room

12:00 – 2:00 pm Freethinkers in Person

Only Room 7

#### Saturday, September 27

8:30 – 10:30 am AA-Slap Happy Group at  
AUUF Social Room

10:00 am – 12:45 pm Music Together  
Mountain Song Social Room

#### Sunday, September 28

9:00 – 10:15 am The Forum

11:00 am – 12:00 pm Sunday Worship  
Live at AUUF & on Zoom

4:00 – 5:30 pm Anchorage Friends  
Meeting Sanctuary & Social Room

#### Monday, September 29

3:30 – 6:00 pm Amanda's Violin Class  
Room 5

#### Tuesday, September 30

2:00 – 4:00 pm Knitting Group Room 7

6:30 – 8:00 pm "Blonde Indian" book  
discussion  
Library

#### Wednesday, October 1

2:45 – 5:45 pm Music Together Mountain  
Song Social Room

3:30 – 5:00 pm Connections Team  
Meeting on Zoom

Library

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

#### Thursday, October 2

5:30 – 7:00 pm Anti-Racism Team  
Meeting Library & Zoom

6:30 pm Choir Practice Sanctuary

#### Friday, October 3

8:15am – 12:45 pm Music Together  
Mountain Song Social Room

12:00 – 2:00 pm Freethinkers in Person  
Only Room 7

5:00 – 7:00 pm Alaska Citizen's Action  
Project Sanctuary + Social Room

#### Saturday, October 4

8:30 – 10:30 am AA-Slap Happy Group at  
AUUF Social Room

10:00 am – 12:45 pm Music Together  
Mountain Song  
Social Room

1:00 – 3:00 pm Amanda's Violin Class  
Room 5



The Forum IN PERSON & on Zoom 9:00 AM Sunday Sept. 28  
*"Environmental and Science Reporting In an Anti-Science Environment"* With Yereth Rosen, Alaska Beacon

## The Forum

Sunday September 28, 2025 9:00-10:15 AM  
IN- PERSON and on Zoom

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

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Sunday Worship Service IN PERSON & on Zoom 11:00 AM Sept. 28  
*"Building Belonging Through Honoring Other Traditions--Rosh Hashanah"* with Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, Renee Frost & Lars Danner

## Sunday Worship Service

Sunday September 28, 2025 11:00 AM  
IN- PERSON and on Zoom

*Building Belonging Through Honoring Other Traditions--Rosh Hashanah*  
Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, Renee Frost and Lars Danner

Antisemitism has, unfortunately, been on the rise. This is a result of many things including national leadership that condones previously unacceptable behavior, people's feelings about the continuing war in Gaza, and long-held cultural biases. As we finish the month of September looking at the theme of "Building Belonging" we'll visit the Rosh Hashanah



holiday and discuss how we can help make our world a more welcoming place for our Jewish neighbors.

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

---

## AUUF Board Priorities for Fiscal Year 2026

The AUUF Board recently had the opportunity to discuss its priorities for FY26. We started by discussing areas where we believe the Fellowship has made progress in the past few years. Those include filling staffing vacancies by hiring Jennifer Bluntach as Director of Religious Exploration and hiring Esme Danner as Music Director and Congregational Administrator. We had a very successful Fall Frolic and Peace Camp, thanks to Jenn and all of the volunteers who keep the RE program going! We have enjoyed new and reborn social events like the Elders Dinner, the winter folk concert, the holiday sing-a-long, the Variety Show, the Fireside Chats, the upcoming Parents Night Outs, and many others. We joined with the UU Fellowship of Fairbanks to ordain Becca Bernard as a UU minister. We have shown up at Pride Fest and many rallies to support social justice. And we have increased communication with members through Save the Date cards. Thank you to all of the committees, teams, staff, and volunteers who helped to make these goals a reality!

Looking forward, the Board has identified several areas as top priorities for FY26. Those include increased outreach to visitors and new members, the establishment of social action pillars, attempting to build and expand upon existing social activities, establishing new revenue through the New Revenue Task Force, and promoting AUUF through targeted advertising and other means.

While we already are a welcoming congregation and reach out to visitors through the Connections Team and conversations on Sundays, Rev. Lise and I have agreed to contact all visitors to supplement the current outreach from the Connections Team. We hope that having different contacts from different people during the first few months after someone visits the Fellowship will encourage visitors to continue to attend and help to grow the Fellowship. We also encourage all of you to make a concerted effort to reach out to visitors on Sundays and at Fellowship events.

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

---

## Upcoming Worship Services

### October

October's theme is Cultivating Compassion and we're combining this with AUUF's new endeavor to focus more attention on several social justice issues that also match up with our Half-Portion recipients (our Social Justice Pillars, see Justin Roberts' article from the Board). At least two of our worship services this month will be about aspects of homelessness. What follows is our current plan for October services with approximate titles.

*Mental Illness and Homelessness*  
Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, Kay Sind  
October 5, 2025

We know our health care system is broken. This is especially true for those facing mental health challenges. How can we remember and/or develop our compassion for neighbors whose homelessness is a function of their mental health?

*Indigenous People's Day*

A Guest Speaker and Rev. Lise Adams Sherry

October 12, 2025

We're in conversation with a local Alaska Native and are excited to see how we can collaborate together for this service.

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

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## LAST CHANCE FOR 2025 – NOMINATIONS NEEDED!

**The deadline for nominations is September 28.**

The Board needs your nominations for people who have stood out as AUUF volunteers this year and over time. Each year we present two awards during the annual dinner to AUUF members who have contributed substantially to our congregation. The awards are:

**Volunteer of the Year:** This award is meant to honor a person or group who has contributed a significant amount of volunteer time to the Fellowship during the last year. Recent awardees are Alix McKee and Ken Winterberger, Stephanie Koonz, the CYRE Team, and John McKay & the Forum Committee.

**Fred Hillman Distinguished Service Award:** This award is named after long-time AUUF member and former Board president Dr. Fred Hillman, who passed away in 2014. This award is meant to honor a person like Fred who lives the Seven Principles as part of their everyday life. In recent years we have presented this award to Dennis Arashiro, Peggy Robinson, Marty Freeman, Denise Martin, and Carol Harris.

To nominate someone for an award, send a paragraph telling why this person should be recognized to Board member Marty Freeman at [martyw@ak.net](mailto:martyw@ak.net). The deadline for nominations is September 28. Thank you!

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## JOIN OUR ANTI-RACISM TEAM GROUP READ! BLONDE INDIAN: AN ALASKA NATIVE MEMOIR by Ernestine Hayes

Ernestine Hayes, half-Tlingit (Kaagwaantaan), half-white, engages readers as she weaves a uniquely personal memoir from her life, clan stories, fiction, history and nature writing. She describes her distant relationship with her mother and the men in her family while conveying their complex stories as well. She relates her trajectory from early childhood and troubled teen to an advocate for education and academia through discovering her cultural identity.

Please join the Anti-Racism Team on three Tuesday evenings, 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.

**Schedule for three TUESDAYS, 6:30 - 8 PM:**

**SEPTEMBER 30** The Retreating Glacier pp. 1-42

**OCTOBER 7** The Emerging Forest pp. 43-70

**OCTOBER 21** The Climax Forest and The Bog pp. 71 - end

We have borrowed 10 copies of the book from Loussac Library for 6 weeks. You can borrow one of these copies from Dennis Arashiro at the Social Justice Table in the Social Room at the Fellowship on Sundays or contact him at [elvischannel@yahoo.com](mailto:elvischannel@yahoo.com). Ernestine's memoir may also be ordered from your favorite book stores. Copies are also available from Loussac Library, electronically or in hard copy.

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## TIME FOR 2026 HALF PORTION NOMINATIONS

**Nominations are due by October 1, 2025**

**Dennis Arashiro and Sara Hannon**

Our Fellowship donates half of our Sunday collections each month to a charitable cause selected by our congregation through the democratic process. Please nominate the causes you find worthy [here](#) and read more below:

**WHAT:** Now is the time to put forth your nominations for next year's Half Portion for Social Action. Your passion for the causes you support can fuel effective positive action by identifying those receiving half the Sunday collections for a month.

**WHO:** Name the charitable funds or organizations you are nominating. They should have tax exempt status, usually designated as a 501(c)(3) organization. They should have a mission consistent with our principles and a demonstrated record of effective action.

**WHEN:** Nominations are due by October 1, 2025. After a period of vetting nominees, you will be given the opportunity to vote from October 9th to November 1st for 11 nominees as recipients of the monthly Half Portion for Social Action for 2026. The final schedule for the 2026 Half Portion will be announced on November 12th.

**WHY:** 5th Principle: The Right of Conscience and the Use of the Democratic Process Within Our Congregations and in Society at Large.

**HOW:** Click the link below to declare your nominations.

[Click here to nominate your favorite organization.](#)

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## New Fall Discussion Series at AUUF

March On Alaska/Citizens Action Project will be holding a weekly discussion series at AUUF Fridays from 5-7 pm beginning October 3 and closing out November 21. The series will focus on *solutions* to various large challenges we face in our nation. The Citizens Action Project has been working on specific proposals to share with the group and invites you to join us to add your thinking to these proposals.

The focus will be on what it will take to preserve our democracy and get our government back to working for *We the People*, not just the rich and power-hungry few. The goal is to prepare a progressive agenda to let candidates and elected officials know what we see as solutions.

The draft schedule follows:

Oct. 3-- Immigration Reform- Practical and passable options-- ACLU Alaska

Oct. 10-- First Amendment and Free Speech questions-- Is the First Amendment enough? John McKay, atty.; ACLU Alaska

Oct. 17--Universal Health Care- How to get there from here?

Oct. 24-- Voting and Policy Concerns from the Under 35 age group-- What Issues are top of mind for this age group?

Oct. 31-- Potential solutions to buttress Social Security

The remaining three sessions will be developed over the next few weeks.

Please come and bring your friends!

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## RE (Religious Exploration) to host Soup Sunday on October 5!

RE parents and kids will be hosting Soup Sunday on October 5! Funds that are raised from donations on this Soup Sunday will go towards purchasing items (Toiletries, Socks, Snacks) to create Blessing Bags for the unhoused in Anchorage. The kids will assemble these bags in their class times during the month of October as we explore the theme of compassion. You are welcome to also donate small toiletries, socks and such outside of Jenn's office downstairs. As always, we appreciate your generosity and involvement! Thank you!



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## Sign Up Now for “Finding Your Way into Fellowship”

**Oct. 29, Nov. 5, and Nov. 12 from 6:00-8:00 pm**

The AUUF Connections Team is inviting you to learn more about UU and AUUF. This 3-session class is designed for newer folks, or anyone ready to explore our history, our personal spiritual journeys, and ways to get involved. And you'll get to meet some new friends along the way.

**The 3 sessions are scheduled for Wednesday evenings Oct. 29, Nov. 5, and Nov. 12 from 6:00-8:00 pm.** Deadline to sign up is Sun. Oct. 26th, but notify us ASAP if you might be needing childcare.

Please email [connections@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:connections@anchorageuuf.org) to sign up or ask questions.

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## Time to Start Thinking About the Auction!

**Annual on-line auction, set for Nov. 1 – Nov. 8**

It's September and that means it's time to start thinking about donations for our annual on-line auction, set for Nov. 1 – Nov. 8. Do you have a piece of art or gently used outdoor equipment you're ready to part with? Would you be willing to offer your cabin for a weekend or share a skill or service? (These are particularly popular!) Maybe you have a favorite restaurant or other business you could contact for a gift card. And new this year, Tracy Barbee has agreed to take nicer pieces of jewelry and sell them on-line in hopes of



reaching a wider bidding audience and generating higher selling prices. We already have an ivory necklace, earrings and pieces with semi-precious stones for Tracy to post on this broader site. If you have jewelry you think might be appropriate for this new approach, please contact Tracy at [barbeetr@gmail.com](mailto:barbeetr@gmail.com) or 907-227-2245. We'll begin collecting other items downstairs Oct. 12.

If you have questions, please contact the team at [auction@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:auction@anchorageuuf.org).

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## RE will be collecting Hats, Mittens & Scarves throughout Oct, Nov. & Dec.

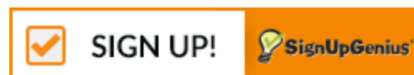
RE is going to collect warm weather items (hats, mittens, scarves) from October to December). During this time, a box in the RE library downstairs will be used to collect donations. In October, we will focus on the concept of compassion, in November, we will focus on gratitude, and in December, we will focus on hope.

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## Connections Team Needs Sunday Hospitality Volunteers for September!

Please consider signing up ahead of time to help make AUUF a warm and welcoming community. We need greeters, zoom ushers and ESPECIALLY Social Hour volunteers to keep our kitchen tidy and clean. If Connections ends up doing dishes all the time, they will have a hard time staffing the welcome tables as they should be doing. Below is a link to the Signup Genius which includes downloadable directions on what to do. All you need is an email address and you will be sent an automatic reminder 2 days ahead of time.

Thanks to all who continue to help!



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## #BiWeek: Affirming and Celebrating Bisexuality+

Did you know that more Americans identify as bisexual than as gay or lesbian? Among adults who identify as LGB (lesbian, gay, or bisexual), 62% say they are bisexual, according to the Pew Research Center in 2023.

#BiWeek has just come to a close, but it's not too late to affirm and celebrate bisexuality+!

#BiWeek is organized and promoted annually by three national nonprofit organizations—GLAAD, the Bisexual Resource Center, and Still Bisexual—and it concludes each year on September 23 with Bi Visibility Day. Bi Visibility Day (also called Celebrate Bisexuality

Day) has been celebrated every year since 1999, thanks to the work of activists who initiated it to raise awareness and challenge the erasure of bi+ people. . . . Because despite their numbers, bisexual people have been called the “invisible majority,” as this identity is often misunderstood and even invisibilized.

What is bisexuality anyway? People who identify as bisexual experience romantic or sexual attraction to people of more than one gender. Some people use other terms, such as pansexual, polysexual, omnisexual, fluid, queer, and more . . . thus, bisexuality+.

[Please click here to read the rest of the article.](#)

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## **Stewardship in RE (Religious Exploration)- We will be discussing and actively engaging the concept of stewardship throughout the year. Time, Talent and Treasure**

### **How will RE incorporate stewardship into learning for our children and youth?**

Stewardship in Unitarian Universalism involves caring for the environment, community, and resources. Explaining this concept to kids can be engaging and meaningful.

#### **Key Concepts of Stewardship:**

- Responsibility: Teach children that stewardship means taking care of what we have, including nature, our community, and each other.
- Sharing: Emphasize the importance of sharing resources, whether it's time, talents, or material goods.
- Respect for Nature: Discuss how we can protect the environment and why it matters for future generations.

#### **Activities to Illustrate Stewardship:**

- Nature Walks: Explore local parks or nature reserves, discussing the importance of plants and animals.
- Community Service: Involve kids in community projects, such as cleaning up a park or helping at a food bank.
- Creative Projects: Encourage children to create art or write stories about their favorite places and how to protect them.

#### **Discussion Points:**

- Ask questions like, "What does it mean to take care of our planet?" or "How can we help our friends and neighbors?"
- Share stories from Unitarian Universalist teachings that highlight stewardship, such as caring for the Earth or helping those in need.

By using relatable examples and hands-on activities, children can better understand and appreciate the concept of stewardship within the Unitarian Universalist framework.



Kids/teachers/adults can bring dried/canned goods on Sunday morning. The teens will replenish the little food pantry outside of AUUF on a monthly basis.



We have Generosity Tree in Room 5, our gathering room. Each week I (or one of you) will ask for a couple of ways to be generous or kind in the upcoming week and we'll write it on one of the hearts and watch it fill up with ideas throughout the year. Maybe it's doing the dishes, walking the dog, picking up trash they see outside...



Change Maker Challenge (pun intended)- Throughout the 2025-2026 school year we will be collecting change on RE Sunday mornings when we begin downstairs. When our piggy bank is full the kids will vote on which community organization to send 50% of the collection. The other 50% will go into the AUUF general operating fund.




It was so wonderful to hear from Denali this week! She shared these photos of her recent completion of boot camp in South Carolina! I asked her about the heat and she replied, "It was so hot I was sweating from my elbows. I didn't even know elbows could sweat!!" Denali is now in the state of Virginia where she has started advanced training for her job. She said I could share her photos and an update with all of you.

A woman in a military uniform, including a garrison cap and a name tag, stands on a paved surface. She is holding a large bouquet of red roses in her right hand. The background features a green lawn and a line of trees under a clear blue sky.



[Click here to read.](#)



**Ancher Christian Universal Fellowship**

2024 E. 18th Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99508  
Tel: 907-543-3272

All are welcome to our Fellowship of diverse people who come together to further each other's faith, to grow ethically, socially and individually, and to help create a just, safe and caring community.

[View Our Site](#)

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## SUNDAY SERVICES

**The Forum**  
8:00 AM Sunday Morning (in 2025)  
Topic: 2025 March  
Guest: Rev. Dr. David Allen  
Call/text to the Support Desk

**Sunday Worship**  
9:00 AM Sunday Service, 2025  
Topic: 2025 April  
BAPTIST & LUTHERAN  
Worship (with guests)

**Join Us!**

**14. 2025 11:00 AM Water Communion/Homocoming - Sept. 01, 2025 9:00 AM 12:00 PM**

### Newcomers

- First time visitor? ALUF membership info
- About ALUF
- Staff
- Directions
- Consent of Healthy Relations
- Rental/ Facility

### Learning & Religious Exploration

- Introducing ALUF, Lutherans, Catholics, Jewish Outreach
- Religious Exploration for Children & Youth
- Come Along
- DOWG Out Initiative
- Live Age Appropriate
- Security Customs
- Pewee Camp
- Fall Fests
- Adult Programs

### Stay Informed

- Upcoming Sunday Services
- ALUF Calendar
- Talky of our Fellowship
- Newsletter, Book, Bulletin & Subscribe
- The Forum Podcast
- Minister's Letters
- ALUF Congregational Survey
- ALUF Strategic Plan 2022-27

### Get Involved

- Sign up to be a Greeter
- Schedule a Zoom Meeting
- Choir & Music
- Ministries
- Job openings

### Caring

- Share the Care
- Need Help? Calling help?
- Practical Care
- Bosch Action Council
- Hilltop Reception
- Volunteer Registry

### Giving

- Donate
- Annual Pledging
- Gift Giving Guide
- Endowment
- Planned Legacy
- WonderCoast Alaska

Hi,  
We are launching a new website hopefully  
by October 1st. Stay tuned.

[You can review the new site here.](#)

communications@anchorageuuf.org

Thanks,  
Kelly Strycker  
Communications Specialist





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## Intro to Allyship: Open to All

When: 30 Sep 2025, 4:00 PM-7:00 PM PDT

Where: Online (link provided with registration confirmation)

Join us for an interactive Zoom session, which serves as an optional gateway to our comprehensive four-session intersectional antiracism "Aiming for Allyship" training series, occurring on four Tuesdays (November 4 and 18, December 2 and 16).

Facilitated by **Justice Movement** and sponsored by **DRUUMM**, this workshop is open to all and includes opportunities for caucusing. Continuing Education certification is available upon request to Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons, DRUUMM Community Minister at [revjoseph@druumm.org](mailto:revjoseph@druumm.org).

In this intro session you will meet Justice Movement facilitators Natalie Nguyen, Danya Xena Davis and Atena Danner, be introduced to our intimate style of pedagogy, and engage in an example exercise that reflects our dynamic approach to education. This session is meant to give you a taste of what to expect in our upcoming four-session “Aiming for Allyship” course.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

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## SEPTEMBER HALF PORTION FOR SOCIAL ACTION:FOOD BANK OF ALASKA

### Compassion in Action: The Fight Against Hunger

Hunger is growing in our state. More Alaskans are turning to food pantries than ever before. At the same time, donations of both food and funds have dropped, which makes it harder to keep up with the need. Pantries across Alaska are feeling the strain.

Today, about 1 in 7 Alaskans, or more than 100,000 people, need food assistance. That is a big increase over last year. Children and seniors are especially impacted. More than 1 in 5 children face hunger, and Alaska ranks near the top in the nation for senior hunger. For many older Alaskans, Social Security is their only income, and it does not stretch far enough.

Food Bank of Alaska works every day to meet this rising need. Last year they distributed nearly 8 million pounds of food through about 150 partners. That included children’s meals, senior food boxes, and millions of meals for families statewide. During the annual Thanksgiving Blessing, hosted through faith-based organizations, almost 10,000 households were able to gather for a holiday meal. Outreach efforts also connected families to SNAP so they could secure more than half a million additional meals. September is Hunger Action Month, a time to reflect on the reality of hunger here in Alaska and to join together to do something about it.

This work is only possible through volunteers. Nearly 1,000 people gave more than 16,000 hours of their time last year. Every meal shared, every box packed, and every hour given helps move us closer to a more compassionate Alaska.

If you would like to learn more or get involved, visit [foodbankofalaska.org](http://foodbankofalaska.org) or follow Food Bank of Alaska on Facebook.

You can contribute in person at our Sunday services or online by visiting **[anchorageuuf.org](http://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."

Go to **[anchorageuuf.org](http://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"



## ***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**

2824 E. 18th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99508

(907) 248-3737

[Website](#)

**Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, (she/her), Minister,**

[RevLise@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:RevLise@anchorageuuf.org), 907-248-3737 x2,

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

**Jennifer Bluntach, (she/her), Director of Religious Exploration**

[DRE@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:DRE@anchorageuuf.org)

Office hours usually are:

Sun 9am-11am, Tu 11am-3pm, Thu 11am-3pm, and by appointment

**Richard Stoneking, (he/him), Congregational Administrator**

[Admin@AnchorageUUF.org](mailto:Admin@AnchorageUUF.org), 907.248.3737 x.1

Office Hours Usually Mon-Thu 11am - 3 pm, Please call first.

**Kelly Strycker, (she/her), Communications Specialist,**

[Communications@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:Communications@anchorageuuf.org)

Kelly's remote office hours Mon, Tues, Wed, Friday 9 am - 1 pm. Thursday 7-9:30 am AK,  
& 1:30-3:00 pm

**Esme Danner, (she/her), Music Director**

907-248-3737 x4, [Music@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:Music@anchorageuuf.org)

**Rebecca Bernard, (she/her), Affiliated Community Minister**

[RBernard.AK@gmail.com](mailto:RBernard.AK@gmail.com)

**Dan Norton, AV Coordinator**

907-248-3737, [AVCoordinator@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:AVCoordinator@anchorageuuf.org)

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

[Connections@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:Connections@anchorageuuf.org)

**Share the Care Team:** [sharethecare@anchorageuuf.org](mailto:sharethecare@anchorageuuf.org)

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