



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

Today At Our Fellowship
Thursday, February 5, 2026

This Week @ AUUF

Thursday, February 5

5:30 – 7:00 pm Anti-Racism Team
Meeting Library & Zoom
6:30 – 8:00 pm Choir Practice Sanctuary

Friday, February 6

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

Saturday, February 7

8:30 – 10:30 am AA-Slap Happy Group at
AUUF Social Room
5:00 – 9:00 pm Taco Fiesta and Card
Games Social Room

Sunday, February 8

9:00 – 10:15 am The Forum
11:00 am – 12:15 pm Sunday Worship
Service Live at AUUF & on Zoom
12:45 – 2:00 pm Worship Associate
Meeting- In Person Room 8
4:00 – 5:30 pm Anchorage Friends
Meeting Sanctuary & Social Room
6:30pm – 10:30 pm Private Rental
Social Room

Monday, February 9

Tuesday, February 10

2:00 – 4:00 pm Knitting Group
Room 7
2:00 – 3:30 pm Hungry Book Club
Upstairs Library

Wednesday, February 11

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

Thursday, February 12

2:00 – 3:00 pm UU HR Meeting
6:30 – 8:00 pm Choir Practice
Sanctuary

Friday, February 13

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



The Forum IN person & on Zoom 9:00 AM Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026
"Know Your Rights with I.C.E."
Immigration Attorney Asa Hohman

The Forum

Sunday February 8, 2026, 2026 9:00 AM
IN- PERSON and on Zoom

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



Sunday Worship Service IN person & on Zoom 11:00 AM Sunday, Feb. 8,
"Embody Resilience—Love One Another"
Rev. Lise Adams Sherry; Jenn Bluntach, Director of Religious Exploration;
Renee Frost, Worship Associate

Sunday Worship Service

Sunday February 8, 2026 11:00 AM
IN- PERSON and on Zoom

Caring for one another (and being cared for!) is one of the best ways to rebuild our resilience. This care helps us to build connections that support us in difficult times. With our children we'll explore some fun ways to do this.

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

Soup Sunday

February 8

Soup Sunday is planned for after the Multi-Generational Service on Sunday, February 8. It's the perfect time of year for a cup of warm soup and time for fellowship in the social hall following the 11am service. We need yummy soup, bread, desserts and a couple of crews to set up and clean up.



If you'd like to sign-up to help in any way you can use this link.

Thank you for your consideration!

The Hungry Book Club

February 10 at 2:00 pm

The AUUF Book Club will meet on February 10 at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship library. The book for discussion in February is a novel, *The Next Ship Home* by Heather Webb. Those who come enjoy a lively discussion of the book over snacks. March 10, our book discussion will be on *Buckeye* by Patrick Ryan.

All are welcome.

CUISINE TO GO 2026

Your AUUF Alliance is planning our very popular fundraiser, the Cuisine to Go auction. Alliance members and friends who would like to contribute can contact Cathy Steen at csteen356@gmail.com by February 21st. Please include the name of the dish and, if possible, a photo, a word or two about what makes the offering special, main ingredients and any timelines or options for delivery. We will gratefully receive your donation. Proceeds for the auction will fund AUUF projects. Soon you will be able to bid on delicious homemade meals! The auction will be held February 28-March 8. A link will be sent via email to AUUF members and friends. If you have any questions you can contact Donna at slowingdownnow13@gmail.com or Katherine at 907 342-9890.

Support our Business Auction Donors!

We had some wonderful donations from local businesses for our auction last November! I encourage you to support them if you can and thank them for providing support for AUUF. Many of these are long-time auction donors.

Sports: Skinny Raven Sports, Arctic Valley Ski Area, UUA Athletics

Clothing & Gifts: Wild Spruce Knits, Sourdough Mercantile, Cabin Fever

Food: Locally Grown Restaurants (Snow City Café, Spenard Road House, Crush Bistro & Bottle Shops), The Tooth Company (Bear Tooth, Moose's Tooth), Kaladi Brothers Coffee,

Auction Experiences Are a Great Way to Get to Know Each Other

Several of our congregants offer fun experiences for our auction bidding. These range from a family chocolate dipping & dinner experience to Iditarod Watching Brunch to overnight camping in a dry yurt or cabin. Last weekend we had a fun poker party with great food, and this coming Saturday the Connections Team is offering Tacos and Cards. (There is still space!) For next fall's auction, consider what you could offer or assist with, or plan on bidding on one or more offerings! While we also offer a variety of things in the auction, the only item you take home for an experience is a gift certificate for future fun!



Update on February 2026 Pledge Update Process

We provided individualized personalized forms in envelopes to those of you in person at AUUF Sunday services the past two weeks and then mailed with real envelopes and stamps to the remaining 130 of you on Sunday afternoon. Please return the forms in person, via mail, or scan them in and email them back to us -

admin@anchorageuuf.org OR just email us what you want to do. For those of you contributing monthly your contribution will now continue until you end it or change it - similar to recent changes with public radio and other organizations. Just to remind everyone - our budget is right about \$500,000 and all of our full time and part time paid positions are filled so we need all of it to pay them and to cover the costs of the facility (heat, utilities, snow removal, cleaning, maintenance, etc). We have lots of great events and programming but this is the amount it takes to do all of that - in addition to the huge number of hours you all volunteer in support of AUUF.

We bring in right around \$100,000 raised funds from WhaleCoast hosting, the auction, Half-Portion on sundays, and renting our facility. We have about \$305,000 currently in pledges. This leaves us about 90,000 short. To make this up will require something like - 1) 10-15% more from each of you who give (ca. \$30K), PLUS 2) New members (ca. 15K), PLUS 3) 5-10 of your to increase from about \$1,000 to \$5,000 per year as your commitment to AUUF has grown (ca. \$20K, PLUS some one time gifts as you receive one-time money (Alaska Dividend, inheritance, stock pay-out, or retirement RMD that is 'one more' than you need to meet your needs (\$15K) PLUS increased facility rentals (weddings, memorial services, events, etc). ALL of these have to occur at these levels to close the gap.

We encourage you to help with each of these areas of income increase as you are able. We do NOT, of course, want to create hardship for anyone so if money is tight, this message is not aimed at you! Thank you for your generosity in time, attendance, volunteering, and financial giving.

Doug Eby - Treasurer

[Suggested Fair Share Contribution Guide #1](#)

[Suggested Fair Share Contribution Guide #2](#)

[Click her to see Sid's stewardship message from 2022.](#)

NEW- AUUF Religious Exploration Updates

[Click here to read.](#)



**FROM YOUTH
TO
ADULTHOOD**

Calling all High School Seniors

Do you have a High School Senior who is interested in participating in the Bridging Ceremony at AUUF of Sunday, May 10? Contact Jenn Bluntach at dre@anchorageuuf.org

[More information can be found about what the Bridging ritual is at this link.](#)

Peace Camp 2026- Peace Around the World

Peace Camp 2026 prep is underway! We will be offering two weeks of Peace Camp- June 1-5 and June 8-12. We have amazing teen cabin leads and volunteers at AUUF that make this camp happen. If you are interested in helping with Peace Camp in any way, for any amount of time, please contact Jenn Bluntach at dre@anchorageuuf.org. New helpers encouraged and welcomed! We need adult help/supervision in many different areas- check-in/check-out table, lunch buddies, adult bike riders, morning workshops, before and after camp child care etc. This year marks the 10th anniversary of Peace Camp. We'd love for you to be a part of this special event!

Volunteer for Sunday Hospitality through Sign-Up Genius

Please consider signing up to help make AUUF a warm and welcoming community. Encourage a friend or relative to join you! Every Sunday we need greeters, zoom ushers and Social Hour helpers to keep our kitchen tidy. 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!



Project Homeless Connect photos

From Peggy Robinson

These photos popped up on my computer today from 2018. They were from Project Homeless Connect in January of 2018. I enjoyed looking at them and I thought others might too.





How to Help Those at Risk of Deportation Training

Save the Date

Plans are being made for a training for "those not personally at risk of deportation" but want to know how best to help.

Sunday Feb 15th. 1-3 pm @ St Mary's 2222 E Tudor Rd, Anchorage, AK 99507

More details coming soon.

ALASKA INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE

Protecting the Human Rights of Alaskans
Promoting Justice & Empowering Survivors

Aerial Photo of Shishmaref (Dennis Davis).

FEBRUARY HALF PORTION FOR SOCIAL ACTION:

Alaska Institute for Justice

The Alaska Institute for Justice (AIJ) is the February Half Portion donation recipient. AIJ was founded in 2005 as the Alaska Immigration Justice Project with the mission to protect the Human Rights of Alaskans. Today, AIJ comprises three programs that together help break down barriers to access to social, health, and legal services, champion critical policy changes for indigenous communities and promote justice for all. AIJ's programs include the Alaska Immigration Justice Project (AIJP), the Language Interpreter Center, and the Climate Justice Program.

All three programs are of the utmost importance to AIJ's mission and the diverse populations AIJ serves. However, the Alaska Immigration Justice Project is AIJ's longest standing program, with a long history of serving immigrant communities and protecting human trafficking victims, many of whom have also experienced domestic violence and sexual assault. The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act was enacted in October 2000. As defined by this law, victims of human trafficking can be divided into three populations:

- Children under age 18 induced into commercial sex
- Adults aged 18 or over induced into commercial sex through force, fraud, or coercion
- Children and adults induced to perform labor or services through force, fraud, or coercion

The first federal prosecution to occur in the United States after this legislation was enacted occurred in Anchorage, Alaska. AIJ staff worked with the FBI, US Attorney's Office and the legacy Immigration and Naturalization Service to ensure that the 7 victims received access to safety and protection. As the Nation faces uncertainty on many fronts with the upcoming change of Presidential Administration, the Alaska Immigration Justice Project's services are more critical than ever to help protect and guide Alaskans facing complex immigration, asylum, and refugee processes. AIJP currently represents approximately 310 clients and continues to prioritize representation of immigrants fleeing persecution, torture, human trafficking, sexual assault and domestic violence.

You can contribute in person at our Sunday services or online by visiting **anchorageuuf.org** click on Donate/ Pay on the home page. Enter your donation under "Half-Portion for Social Action."

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



SIDE WITH LOVE



Minnesota Resource Kit

As ICE escalates its presence in Minneapolis and across the Twin Cities, communities are facing fear, disruption, and state violence at an alarming scale. More than 2,000 ICE officers are currently deployed in the region, and the harm unfolding there is not accidental or isolated. It is the result of policies that criminalize immigration and enforce borders through fear, surveillance, and force rather than care.

In response, Side With Love has created a Minnesota Resource Kit to help.

[View the MN Resource Kit](#)

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, 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

Office hours usually are:

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

Esme Danner, (she/her), Congregational Administrator

Admin@AnchorageUUF.org, 907.248.3737 x.1

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

Esme Danner, (she/her), Music Director

907-248-3737 x4, Music@anchorageuuf.org

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

Communications@anchorageuuf.org

Kelly's remote office hours Monday, Wednesday Friday 9-2 PM

Thursday 8 am-1 PM

Rev. Rebecca Bernard, (she/her), Affiliated Community Minister

RBernard.AK@gmail.com

Dan Norton, AV Coordinator (he/him)

907-248-3737

Share the Care Team: sharethecare@anchorageuuf.org

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Today At Our Fellowship
Thursday, February 12, 2026

This Week @ AUUF

Thursday, February 12

2:00-3:00 pm UU HR Meeting
6:30 – 8:00 pm Choir Practice Sanctuary

Friday, February 13

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

Saturday, February 14

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

Sunday, February 15

9:00 – 10:15 am The Forum
11:00 am – 12:15 pm Sunday Worship
Service Live at AUUF & on Zoom
12:30 – 1:45 pm Social Action Council
Library
2:00 – 4:00 pm Juggling Workshop
Social Room
4:00 – 5:30 pm Anchorage Friends
Meeting Sanctuary & Social Room

Monday, February 16

Tuesday, February 17

2:00 – 4:00 pm Knitting Group
Room 7
2:00 – 3:30 pm Hungry Book Club
Upstairs Library
6:30 – 8:30 pm Finance Committee
Meeting

Wednesday, February 18

6:30 – 9:00 pm Board of Directors
Meeting

Thursday, February 19

6:30 – 8:00 pm Choir Practice
Sanctuary

Friday, February 20

12:00 – 2:00 pm Freethinkers in Person
Only Room 7
5:30 – 8:00 pm Parent Night Out -
Childcare



The Forum IN person & on Zoom 9:00 AM Sunday, February 15,
"Data for Indigenous Justice: Addressing Missing & Murdered Indigenous Persons in Alaska" Charlene Aqpiq Apok, Exec. Dir., Data for Indigenous Justice

The Forum

Sunday February 15, 2026, 2026 9:00 AM
IN- PERSON and on Zoom

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



Sunday Worship Service IN person & on Zoom 11:00 AM Sun., Feb. 15
"Keeping Our US History Honest" Rev. Lise Sherry, Dennis Arashiro

Sunday Worship Service

Sunday February 15, 2026 11:00 AM
IN- PERSON and on Zoom

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

CUISINE TO GO 2026

Your AUUF Alliance is planning our very popular fundraiser, the Cuisine to Go auction. Alliance members and friends who would like to contribute can contact Cathy Steen at csteen356@gmail.com by February 21st. Please include the name of the dish and, if possible, a photo, a word or two about what makes the offering special, main ingredients and any timelines or options for delivery. We will gratefully receive your donation. Proceeds for the auction will fund AUUF projects. Soon you will be able to bid on delicious homemade meals! The auction will be held February 28-March 8. A link will be sent via email to AUUF members and friends. If you have any questions you can contact Donna at slowingdownnow13@gmail.com or Katherine at 907 342-9890.

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Clothing & Gifts: Wild Spruce Knits, Sourdough Mercantile, Cabin Fever

Food: Locally Grown Restaurants (Snow City Café, Spenard Road House, Crush Bistro & Bottle Shops), The Tooth Company (Bear Tooth, Moose's Tooth), Kaladi Brothers Coffee, Wild Scoops, Great Harvest Bread, The flying Dutchman Pastry Shop, Tastee Freez

Auction Experiences Are a Great Way to Get to Know Each Other

Several of our congregants offer fun experiences for our auction bidding. These range from a family chocolate dipping & dinner experience to Iditarod Watching Brunch to overnight camping in a dry yurt or cabin. Last weekend we had a fun poker party with great food, and this coming Saturday the Connections Team is offering Tacos and Cards. (There is still space!) For next fall's auction, consider what you could offer or assist with, or plan on bidding on one or more offerings! While we also offer a variety of things in the auction, the only item you take home for an experience is a gift certificate for future fun!



Stewardship Message

Dear AUUF Family,

Some of you have heard me talk about my road to you — the feeling that I had been searching for you for 40 years. Not really searching, since I didn't know you existed. It's more accurate to say that I have needed and longed for you my whole life.

I was raised in a Christian home in one of the most conservative areas of our country. Even as a child, none of it truly resonated with me. My attempts to avoid church eventually culminated in my completely stepping away from religion when I left home for college.

The only spiritual options I had ever been exposed to were Christianity, Judaism, Islam, and Mormonism. In my twenties, I began quietly creating my own "religion," grounded in my love of nature and a belief in human goodness. Because of my upbringing, I felt like a heathen and struggled to admit — even to myself — that I was no longer Christian. It was a deeply personal and spiritual struggle.

Then, in 2022, I found you.

I had watched a documentary about a Unitarian Christian church, and the values expressed fascinated me. I Googled "Unitarian church Anchorage" — and discovered something even better: Unitarian Universalism, AUUF, and a faith community that reflected the spiritual beliefs I had slowly formed over decades.

To say that I floated out of my first service would be an understatement. My connection to this community and to the Seven Principles was immediate and profound. I was elated, and I will never forget that first day.

At AUUF, I have found my spiritual home. I have found my spiritual siblings. I love you all dearly.

I joined as soon as I could. I was grateful to pledge what I was able, because I cannot imagine a better investment in my life. As an accountant and former director of small nonprofits, I understand that our Fellowship is sustained almost entirely by the generosity of its members. Our Fellowship exists because we choose to sustain it. Every pledge — large or small — is an act of faith in this community and in one another. I am proud to support such a meaningful and vibrant community, and I only wish I could pledge more.

As we consider our pledges this year, I invite you to reflect on the value this Fellowship brings to your life. I personally cannot imagine navigating the current state of our country without the relationships I have formed here. You lift me up. You give me hope. You add immeasurable value to my life.

I will leave you with this final thought: I know I am not alone in my religious background or in my longing for something different. Please do not be afraid to share who we are with others. I sincerely wish I had found you 34 years ago when I first moved to Anchorage. I'm still a little mad that none of you found me!

Now, I feel a responsibility to help others discover what we offer — a community of warm, caring, thoughtful, and compassionate people walking a shared spiritual path.

With love and gratitude,

Tracy Barbee

NEW- AUUF Religious Exploration Updates

[Click here to read.](#)



**FROM YOUTH
TO
ADULTHOOD**

Calling all High School Seniors

Do you have a High School Senior who is interested in participating in the Bridging Ceremony at AUUF of Sunday, May 10? Contact Jenn Bluntach at dre@anchorageuuf.org

[More information can be found about what the Bridging ritual is at this link.](#)

Peace Camp 2026- Peace Around the World

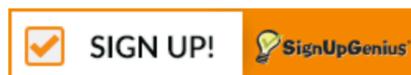
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after camp child care etc. This year marks the 10th anniversary of Peace Camp. We'd love for you to be a part of this special event!

Registration for campers will become available in March. Watch for more details...

Volunteer for Sunday Hospitality through Sign-Up Genius

Please consider signing up to help make AUUF a warm and welcoming community. Encourage a friend or relative to join you! Every Sunday we need greeters, zoom ushers and Social Hour helpers to keep our kitchen tidy. 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!



How to Help Those at Risk of Deportation Training

Save the Date

Plans are being made for a training for "those not personally at risk of deportation" but want to know how best to help.

Sunday Feb 15th. 1-3 pm @ St Mary's 2222 E Tudor Rd, Anchorage, AK 99507

More details coming soon.



Immigration Bystander Training

**TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 17
6 PM - 7 PM
VIRTUAL ON
ZOOM**



SCAN TO REGISTER

Concerned about increased ICE enforcement in Alaska? Want to know how to be more helpful for our immigrant neighbors? Join the ACLU of Alaska for an Immigration Bystander Training to learn how to safely intervene and provide assistance to community members and fellow Alaskans interacting with federal immigration officials.

Participation in this virtual event is anonymous to the public; pre-registration is required. Scan the QR code to register or visit www.acluak.org/events.

Concerned about increased ICE enforcement in Alaska? Want to know how to be more helpful to our immigrant neighbors? Join the @acluofalaska for an Immigration Bystander Training to learn how to safely intervene and assist community members and fellow Alaskans interacting with federal immigration officials. Join the Immigration Bystander training on th Tuesday, February 17 at 6 PM. Register here:

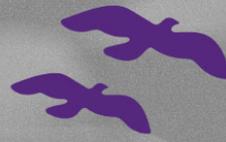
ZOOM REGISTRATION LINK

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dvvN81tMTjqVCn9f-Z2NVw

FACEBOOK EVENT <https://www.facebook.com/share/1By5X2MrYs/>

WEBSITE EVENT <https://www.acluak.org/.../immigration-bystander-training-2/>

ALASKA INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE



Protecting the Human Rights of Alaskans

Promoting Justice & Empowering Survivors



Aerial Photo of Shishmaref (Dennis Davis).

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

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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
Office hours usually are:
Sun 9am-11am, Tu 11am-3pm, Thu 11am-3pm, and by appointment

Esme Danner, (she/her), Congregational Administrator
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Office Hours Usually Mon-Thu 11am - 3 pm, Please call first.

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Kelly's remote office hours Monday, Wednesday Friday 9-2 PM
Thursday 8 am-1 PM

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

Dan Norton, AV Coordinator (he/him)
907-248-3737

Share the Care Team: sharethecare@anchorageuuf.org

Connect with us



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diverse beliefs,
common purpose.

Today At Our Fellowship Thursday, February 19, 2026

This Week @ AUUF

Thursday, February 19

*6:30 – 8:00 pm Choir Practice Sanctuary

Friday, February 20

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

*5:30 – 8:00 pm Parent Night Out -
Childcare Downstairs Library & Room 8

Saturday, February 21

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

Sunday, February 22

*9:00 – 10:15 am The Forum

*11:00 am – 12:15 pm Sunday Worship
Service Live at AUUF & on Zoom

*11:00 am – 1:00 pm HS Youth Group
Room 7

*11:00 am Religious Exploration Classes
for kids

*12:30 – 3:45 pm Anti-Racism Movie
Sanctuary

2:00 – 4:00 pm Juggling Workshop
Social Room

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

Monday, February 23

Tuesday, February 24

*2:00 – 4:00 pm Knitting Group
Room 7

Wednesday, February 25

10:00 – 11:00 am Peace Camp Planning
Meeting

Thursday, February 26

*6:30 – 8:00 pm Choir Practice
Sanctuary

Friday, February 27

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

*Open to AUUF Members & Friends

**Social Justice Pillar for January, February &
March; Alaska Native Culture and Indigenous**

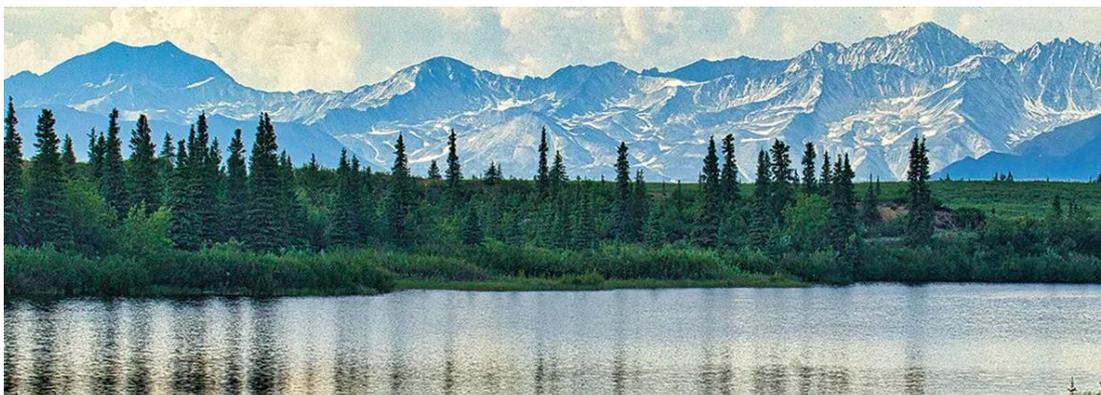


The Forum IN person & on Zoom 9:00 AM Sunday, February 22, 2026
"Candidate for Alaska's U.S. House Seat"
Bill Hill

The Forum

Sunday February 22, 2026, 2026 9:00 AM
IN- PERSON and on Zoom

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



Sunday Worship Service IN person & on Zoom 11:00 AM Sun., Feb. 22,
"Finding Solace in the Wilderness"
Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, Michele Champion

Sunday Worship Service

Sunday February 22, 2026 11:00 AM
IN- PERSON and on Zoom

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

Upcoming Worship Services

This is the last Sunday of our SoulMatters theme Embodying Resilience. We're also continuing to explore AK Native Culture and Indigenous Rights as our current Social Justice Pillar. (A Social Justice Pillar is a contemporary topic we explore together as a congregation in Worship, the Forum, and Religious Exploration for about three months.)

Feb. 22, 11 am In-person and Zoom

"Finding Solace in the Wilderness"

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, Michele Champion

Many in our society are beginning annual times of spiritual devotion and focus (Lent, Ramadan) that help to ground them in the uncertainty of the every day. What can we learn from them and other cultural traditions (Indigenous, Black) that will lead us to finding our own steady path in the wilderness?

The SoulMatters theme for March is Paying Attention. We'll look at what matters to us, what we give our attention to, what we should perhaps give more attention to. As we continue our Social Justice Pillar of AK Native Culture and Indigenous Rights we'll include contributions from their perspectives.

March 1

"Women Leaders in Indigenous Culture"

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, Renée Frost

Born in Nebraska in the 19th century, Susan La Flesch Picotte (Omaha) left home to study medicine. She returned to as a doctor to care for her people and to eventually establish a hospital on their reservation. Suzan Shown Harjo (Hodulgee Muscogee/Southern Cheyenne) has fought for indigenous sovereignty in the 20th and 21st centuries, receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom. As part of Women's History Month, we'll pay attention to their contributions and legacies.

March 8

"Crafting as a Path to Attention"

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, Michele Champion

Crafting in the forms of quilting, crochet, coloring, building bird houses and more, has served so many purposes—practical needs, a creative outlet, showing love and even as a way to record culture and history. Are you a practitioner or is there a future of crafting in your life? Please bring items you'd like to share with the congregation or send a photo of your work to Rev. Lise (RevLise@AnchorageUUF.org) to be included in the Sunday slides.

AUUF Connections Team Presents:

AN EVENING OF *Barbershop* *Quartets*

 AUUF
2824 E. 18th Ave.

FEB 21, 6:30PM

SUGGESTED DONATION

\$20.00

BUT PAY WHAT YOU
CAN AT THE DOOR.

HALF OF THE PROCEEDS WILL
GO TO AUUF AND THE OTHER
HALF TO THE PERFORMERS.

FEATURING:
BONFIRE
IMPERFECT FOURTH
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND
DREAM CATCHERS FROM SERVICE
HIGH SCHOOL



Barbershop Quartets

Saturday, Feb 21, 6:30-8:00 pm

Greetings from the Connections Team. We are hosting a Quartet of Barbershop Quartets at the Fellowship this Saturday, Feb 21, 6:30-8pm. Everyone is welcome! Whether you're a regular at a cappella concerts or not -- come enjoy the variety, the talent, the energy of a part of Anchorage's huge Barbershop community! Featured groups: *Bonfire* (with someone you will know!), *Imperfect Fourth*, *The Prince William Sound*, and a student group from Service High School, *the Dreamcatchers*. Suggested donation of \$20 - half of the proceeds will go to the AUUF, and half will go to the performers. Contact Katherine with any questions 907-342-9890.

CUISINE TO GO 2026

Your AUUF Alliance is planning our very popular fundraiser, the Cuisine to Go auction. Alliance members and friends who would like to contribute can contact Cathy Steen at csteen356@gmail.com by February 21st. Please include the name of the dish and, if possible, a photo, a word or two about what makes the offering special, main ingredients and any timelines or options for delivery. We will gratefully receive your donation. Proceeds for the auction will fund AUUF projects. Soon you will be able to bid on delicious homemade meals! The auction will be held February 28-March 8. A link will be sent via email to AUUF members and friends. If you have any questions you can contact Donna at slowingdownnow13@gmail.com or Katherine at 907 342-9890.

Support our Business Auction Donors!

We had some wonderful donations from local businesses for our auction last November! I encourage you to support them if you can and thank them for providing support for AUUF. Many of these are long-time auction donors.

Sports: Skinny Raven Sports, Arctic Valley Ski Area, UUA Athletics

Clothing & Gifts: Wild Spruce Knits, Sourdough Mercantile, Cabin Fever

Food: Locally Grown Restaurants (Snow City Café, Spenard Road House, Crush Bistro & Bottle Shops), The Tooth Company (Bear Tooth, Moose's Tooth), Kaladi Brothers Coffee, Wild Scoops, Great Harvest Bread, The flying Dutchman Pastry Shop, Tastee Freez

Auction Experiences Are a Great Way to Get to Know Each Other

Several of our congregants offer fun experiences for our auction bidding. These range from a family chocolate dipping & dinner experience to Iditarod Watching Brunch to overnight camping in a dry yurt or cabin. Recently, we had a fun poker party with great food, and then the Connections Team is offered Tacos and Cards recently. For next fall's auction, consider what you could offer or assist with, or plan on bidding on one or more offerings! While we also offer a variety of things in the auction, the only item you take home for an experience is a gift certificate for future fun!



Stewardship Message

Dear AUUF Family,

Some of you have heard me talk about my road to you — the feeling that I had been searching for you for 40 years. Not really searching, since I didn't know you existed. It's more accurate to say that I have needed and longed for you my whole life.

I was raised in a Christian home in one of the most conservative areas of our country. Even as a child, none of it truly resonated with me. My attempts to avoid church eventually culminated in my completely stepping away from religion when I left home for college.

The only spiritual options I had ever been exposed to were Christianity, Judaism, Islam, and Mormonism. In my twenties, I began quietly creating my own "religion," grounded in my love of nature and a belief in human goodness. Because of my upbringing, I felt like a heathen and struggled to admit — even to myself — that I was no longer Christian. It was a deeply personal and spiritual struggle.

Then, in 2022, I found you.

I had watched a documentary about a Unitarian Christian church, and the values expressed fascinated me. I Googled "Unitarian church Anchorage" — and discovered something even better: Unitarian Universalism, AUUF, and a faith community that reflected the spiritual beliefs I had slowly formed over decades.

To say that I floated out of my first service would be an understatement. My connection to this community and to the Seven Principles was immediate and profound. I was elated, and I will never forget that first day.

At AUUF, I have found my spiritual home. I have found my spiritual siblings. I love you all dearly.

I joined as soon as I could. I was grateful to pledge what I was able, because I cannot imagine a better investment in my life. As an accountant and former director of small nonprofits, I understand that our Fellowship is sustained almost entirely by the generosity of its members. Our Fellowship exists because we choose to sustain it. Every pledge — large or small — is an act of faith in this community and in one another. I am proud to support such a meaningful and vibrant community, and I only wish I could pledge more.

As we consider our pledges this year, I invite you to reflect on the value this Fellowship brings to your life. I personally cannot imagine navigating the current state of our country without the relationships I have formed here. You lift me up. You give me hope. You add immeasurable value to my life.

I will leave you with this final thought: I know I am not alone in my religious background or in my longing for something different. Please do not be afraid to share who we are with others. I sincerely wish I had found you 34 years ago when I first moved to Anchorage. I'm still a little mad that none of you found me!

Now, I feel a responsibility to help others discover what we offer — a community of warm, caring, thoughtful, and compassionate people walking a shared spiritual path.

With love and gratitude,

Tracy Barbee



Mark your calendars:

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AUUF Religious Exploration Updates

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TO
ADULTHOOD

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Registration for campers will become available in March. Watch for more details...

Volunteer for Sunday Hospitality through Sign-Up Genius

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ALASKA INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE



Protecting the Human Rights of Alaskans

Promoting Justice & Empowering Survivors



Aerial Photo of Shishmaref (Dennis Davis).

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You can contribute in person at our Sunday services or online by visiting **anchorageuuf.org** click on Donate/ Pay on the home page. Enter your donation under "Half-Portion for Social Action."

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Candlelight Vigil

Sonia Espinoza Arriaga
& her Children

5pm - 6pm
Monday 23rd February 2026



St John United Methodist Church
1801 O'Malley Road

Candlelight Vigil for Sonia Espinoza Arriaga & Children

Monday, Feb 23rd from 5-6 pm

Sonia Espinoza Arriaga and her three children were arrested and detained by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. The youngest is 5 years old, and in Kindergarten. There is now a community-wide Candlelight Vigil in Anchorage scheduled for Monday, Feb 23rd from 5-6 pm at St. John United Methodist Church.

[The AK Public story is linked here.](#)

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, 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

Office hours usually are:

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

Esme Danner, (she/her), Congregational Administrator

Admin@AnchorageUUF.org, 907.248.3737 x.1

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

Esme Danner, (she/her), Music Director

907-248-3737 x4, Music@anchorageuuf.org

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

Communications@anchorageuuf.org

Kelly's remote office hours Monday, Wednesday Friday 9-2 PM

Thursday 8 am-1 PM

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

Dan Norton, AV Coordinator (he/him)
907-248-3737

Share the Care Team: sharethecare@anchorageuuf.org

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

Today At Our Fellowship Thursday, February 26, 2026

This Week @ AUUF

Thursday, February 26

*6:30 – 8:00 pm Choir Practice Sanctuary

Friday, February 27

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

Saturday, February 28

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

Sunday, March 1

*9:00 – 10:15 am The Forum

*11:00 am – 12:15 pm Sunday Worship
Service Live at AUUF & on Zoom

*11:00 am – 1:00 pm HS Youth Group
Room 7

*11:00 am Religious Exploration Classes
for kids

*12:30 – 3:30 pm Stewards of Children
Training Sanctuary

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

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

Monday, March 2

Tuesday, March 3

*2:00 – 4:00 pm Knitting Group
Room 7

4:30 – 6:30 pm Forum Planning (Library
and Zoom)

Library

*5:30 – 6:45 pm Anchorage Against
Christian Nationalism - All are welcome
Sanctuary

Wednesday, March 4

11:15 am – 1:30 pm Christians for
Equality Social Room

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

5:00– 6:30 pm CYRE Team Meeting - In
Person & Zoom Library

5:00– 6:00 pm RE Meeting

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

Thursday, March 5

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

*6:30 – 8:00 pm Choir Practice
Sanctuary

Friday, March 6

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

*Open to AUUF Members & Friends

Social Justice Pillar for January, February & March; Alaska Native Culture and Indigenous Rights

Half Portion February Recipient: Alaska Institute for Justice



The Forum IN person & on Zoom 9:00 AM Sun. March 1, 2026
"AUUF R.E. Programs for Youth—"OWL" (Our Whole Lives) Sex Ed for Teens, & More" with Religious Exploration Dir. Jenn Bluntach

The Forum

Sunday March 1, 2026, 2026 9:00 AM
IN- PERSON and on Zoom

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



Sunday Worship Service IN person & on Zoom 11:00 AM Sun., March 1,
"Women Leaders in Indigenous Culture"
Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, Renée Frost

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IN- PERSON and on Zoom

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Update on Planned Giving/Pledging/Stewardship efforts at AUUF

As we near the end of February, we are nearing the end of our annual update on Planned Giving/Pledging/Stewardship efforts at AUUF. The update is that many of you have updated your plans - and those of you who have updated are being wonderfully generous in your Planned Giving. The relative rate of giving per giving unit is up about 10% from last year - which is a great thing. There are still many of you who have not given us your plan for Planned Giving in support of AUUF, however, and we really need a 100% response in order to plan the budget for next year. In particular we hope that many of you who have joined us over the past year or two can give a few hundred or a couple thousand per month to help support AUUF - but even \$20 a month - if that is your affordable level - is helpful. The answer to our budget gap challenge is a combination of 1) 10 - 15% more from regular givers, 2) 5-10 givers to make a sizable jump up as you learn to value AUUF more and more, and 3) newly joining people joining the Planned Giving process. We will also continue to work on other sources of income - rental use of our facility, fund raising events, Whale Coast hosting, etc., but the core of our financial survival is the Planned Giving of our membership. This past Saturday was a fabulous Barbershop Music event where half of the ticket/admission giving will benefit the AUUF

budget. Just a few words on the budget development work - we are in better shape than we thought with some 'savings' in some administrative cost areas and so our total annual budget cost will end up about \$475,000 rather than the \$500,000 that we thought might be the case. While this is good news, we are still \$50 - \$70,000 short depending on how the Planned Giving effort ends up. Thank you to all who have made generous Planned Giving commitments!! The Annual Business Meeting will be the first Sunday in May (same as usual) and materials will be sent electronically at least one month prior to that. Please plan to attend - we need a quorum present to do business!!

Social Justice Pillars

As many of you already know, the Board has introduced the Social Justice Pillars this year. It is a concept that we have been working on for several years. Essentially, the pillars are social justice focus areas that we have asked Forum, Worship Service, and RE to focus on for a few months during the year. It is not intended to be an exclusive focus on that issue during those months, but simply an increased focus and coordination on that issue for a few months.

The first topic was Homelessness in October through December. Forum, RE, and Worship services all addressed this topic during those months. The current topic is Indigenous Rights and Alaska Native People. The final topic will be Immigration and Refugees in the second quarter of 2026.

At our annual meeting on May 3, we will be asking members to fill out a survey advising the Board on whether you would like the social justice pillars to continue for another year. And, if so, which of the following topics you would like to see as the focus areas next year. We will be asking members to mark up to six topics from the following list:

- Climate and Environmental Justice
- Economic Justice
- Anti-Racism and Multiculturalism
- LGBTQ Equality
- Reproductive Justice
- Disability and Accessibility
- Government/Democracy
- Education
- Health Care
- Poverty/Food Security
- Freedom of Speech/ Freedom of the Press
- Religious Freedom
- World Peace
- Homelessness (repeat from 4th quarter 2025)
- Alaska Native People/Indigenous Rights (repeat from 1st quarter 2026)

Please let me or any other Board members know if you have any questions. Your current Board members and officers are:

- Justin Roberts – President
- Don Antrobus – Vice President
- Doug Eby – Treasurer
- Mel Langdon – Secretary
- George Bryson – Board Member
- Marty Freeman – Board Member
- David O'Brien – Board Member

In Fellowship,



**BIDDING OPENS Feb 28th
For The Alliance's
Cuisine-to-Go**

Cuisine-to-Go

Look in your email for your own special link to bid on delicious meals made by The Alliance. This is one of the annual fundraisers that help us grant funds to special projects at AUUF. We have such gratitude for our tech guru, Cathy Steen.

Contact Katherine with any questions, 907-342-9890.

BIDDING CLOSES March 8 th – so you'll have to consider quickly!



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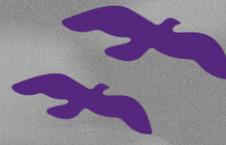
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Deepen Your Engagement
with March's Theme!
Sign up for
BioSpiritual Focusing!

SoulMatters is the curriculum we use for worship themes, RE and small groups ministry. On occasion they'll offer other opportunities that you can do on a case by case basis without needing to be subscribed for the entire year.

Friends,

As a way of exploring March's theme of Paying Attention in more depth, Soul Matters is thrilled to offer a four week class in BioSpiritual Focusing. This class is made up of four sessions on March 2, 9, 16 & 23.

BioSpiritual Focusing is a contemplative awareness practice that taps into the body's wisdom to deepen spiritual awareness in a way that leads to personal growth and healing. Participants will not only experience this process but will learn how to make it a part of their on-going spiritual practice routine.

To learn more and register, visit the **[Online Groups Page](#)** on our website.

Please feel free to share this email with others or advertise this opportunity to your congregation.

Don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions.

Rev. Scott

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.anchorageuuf.org)

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

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

DRE@anchorageuuf.org

Office hours usually are:

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

Esme Danner, (she/her), Congregational Administrator

Admin@AnchorageUUF.org, 907.248.3737 x.1

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

Esme Danner, (she/her), Music Director

907-248-3737 x4, Music@anchorageuuf.org

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

Communications@anchorageuuf.org

Kelly's remote office hours Monday, Wednesday Friday 9-2 PM

Thursday 8 am-1 PM

Rev. Rebecca Bernard, (she/her), Affiliated Community Minister

RBernard.AK@gmail.com

Dan Norton, AV Coordinator (he/him)

907-248-3737

Share the Care Team: sharethecare@anchorageuuf.org

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