



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

Today At Our Fellowship
Thursday, June 5, 2025

This Weekend @ AUUF

Thursday 6/5/25

1:00 – 5:00 pm Peace Camp Counselor
Training Social Room
5:30 – 7:00 pm Anti-Racism Team
Meeting Library & Zoom

Friday 6/6/25

8:15 – 11:15 am Music Together
Mountain Song Social Room
12:00 – 2:00 pm Freethinkers in Person
Only Room 7

Saturday 6/7/25

8:30 – 10:30 am AA-Slap Happy Group at
AUUF Social Room
1:00 – 5:00 pm Peace Camp Set Up
Social Room
5:00 – 10:00 pm Ron Devon - Private
Rental Sanctuary and Social room

Sunday 6/8/25

9:00 – 10:15 am The Forum

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

12:30 – 1:30 pm Playground Dedication
Outside
1:30 – 2:30 pm Worship Associate
Meeting on Zoom
4:00 – 5:30 pm Anchorage Friends
Meeting Sanctuary & Social Room

Monday 6/9/25

8:00 am – 5:00 pm Peace Camp Building
and Grounds
1:30 – 3:00 pm The Alliance - At AUUF
Library
3:30 – 6:00 pm Amanda's Violin Class
Room 5

Tuesday 6/10/25

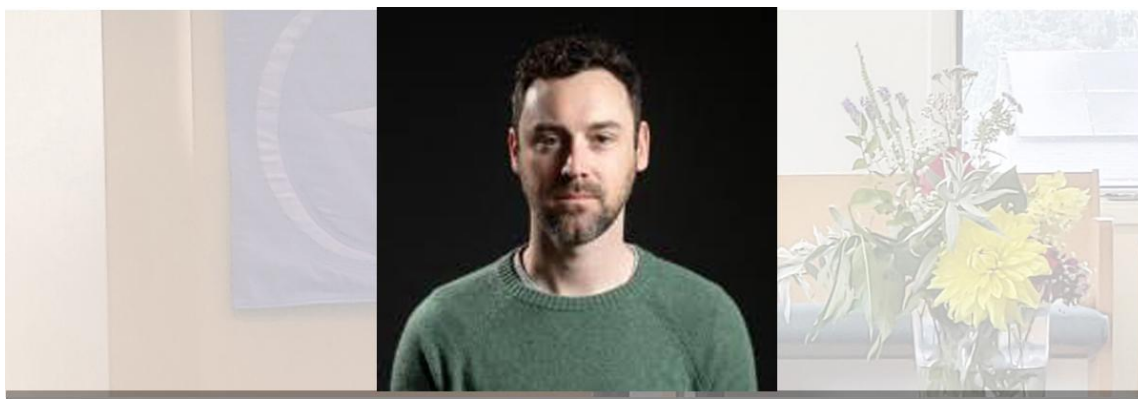
8:00 am – 5:00 pm Peace Camp Building
and Grounds
11:00 am – 12:00 pm Staff Meeting
2:00 – 3:30 pm Hungry Book Club
Upstairs Library
6:30 – 8:30 pm Planned Parenthood Sign
Making and Story-telling
Sanctuary and Social Room

Wednesday 6/11/25

8:00 am – 5:00 pm Peace Camp Building
and grounds
6:30 – 8:00 pm Dr Royce Dream Class
Room 8

Thursday 6/12/25

8:00 am – 5:00 pm Peace Camp Building
and Grounds
11:00 am – 12:00 pm The Alliance - At
AUUF Library
2:00 – 3:00 pm UU HR Meeting
5:30 – 7:00 pm CYRE Team Meeting - In
Person & Zoom Library



The Forum IN PERSON & on Zoom 9:00 AM Sunday June 8, 2025
The Politics of Alaska's Looming Medicaid Crisis
907 Initiative Exec. Dir. Aubrey Wieber

The Forum

IN PERSON & on Zoom
9:00 AM Sunday June 8, 2025

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



Sunday Worship Service IN PERSON & on Zoom
11:00 AM Sunday June 8, 2025
Faith and Pride
Becca Bernard, Worship Leader & Lauren Rench, Worship Associate

Sunday Worship Service

IN PERSON & on Zoom
11:00 AM Sunday June 8, 2025

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

Summer Sunday Hospitality

We know people are very busy in the summer, but there are also more visitors than usual due to the political climate! Don't you want to help make them feel welcome and get involved? The Connections Team needs more people to be greeters and support social hour on Sunday so the same people don't get stuck with it all the time. Spread the word and invite friends to join you. Even newer folks can get on this Sign Up Genius list. Or maybe consider asking your AUUF team/committee take on one Sunday a month? For more info, contact Denise Martin. Please click on the button below to view the online sign up sheet. Thanks to all who step up to help!



UPDATED

Save the Dates! Spring & Summer events at AUUF

June 8, 2025 12:30 pm Playground Dedication

June 9-13, 2025 9:00 am- 4:00 pm Peace Camp

June 15 & July 24, 2025 WhaleCoast Banquets

August 10, 2025 Becca Bernard's Ordination



Playground Dedication

June 8, 12:30-1:30 pm

The time is finally here to formally dedicate our new playground to long-time AUUF member Wendy Romberg. We will gather at 12:30 pm on June 8th to dedicate the playground, and share light refreshments. Please join us!

The AUUF Book Club

2:00 pm June 10th

The AUUF book club will meet this month on June 10th in the Fellowship library to discuss Mary

Roach's book, Gulp. All are welcome to join us. Gordy Harper will lead our discussion. Do consider joining us!

Planned Parenthood: Sign Making and Story-Telling

Tuesday, June 10, 6:30-8:30 PM

Dennis Arashiro

Planned Parenthood is staging an advocacy event at the Fellowship on Tuesday evening, June 10, 2025, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. There will be sign making in the Social Room for the upcoming No Kings Rally on Saturday, June 14, 2025. The messages will be about Medicaid and Planned Parenthood services. Feel free to come up with your own sign ideas.

In the Sanctuary will be the opportunity to share personal stories about why Medicaid and Planned Parenthood are essential to Alaska. These stories may be submitted confidentially and anonymously, or may be shared online and events by contributors. They will serve to educate the public and our elected officials to protect Medicaid and Planned Parenthood.

Please join in the sharing of our stories and our actions with some coffee, tea and evening snacks. We are just getting started!

All of who you are is sacred. All of who you are is welcome.



Unitarian Universalism

Medicaid and Health Care Cuts in the Budget Bill: What's Coming and What You Can Do About It

An Education & Action Event with
Christians for Equality
and the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
with expert speakers from the community

Thursday, June 12, 2025

5:30-6:30pm

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
2824 E. 18th Avenue

Part II: More Ordination Stories from AUUF

Last week we celebrated three ministers who were ordained at AUUF. This week we recognize three other ministers whose journeys included time at AUUF.

Carla Grosch: Rev. Grosch was a member of AUUF in the 1980s. She reluctantly left Alaska to go the UU seminary at Starr King before transferring to a seminary in Illinois and being ordained as a United Church of Christ minister. For an interesting article about her spiritual journey, see <https://www.chicagotribune.com/1995/04/16/higher-calling-4/> She now lives in England where her ministry is active with LGBTQIA2+ inclusion.

Jacqueline DuHart: Rev. DuHart was a member of AUUF when she lived in Anchorage (1990-2004). She went on to lead the First Unitarian Church of Oakland, then served as the Director of Spiritual Care for Starr King School for the Ministry, and worked as a spiritual director for the interfaith Chaplaincy Institute. For a short bio from her time at Starr King, see <https://www.sksm.edu/faculty/rev-jacqueline-duhart> We were able to have her lead a Zoom service for us in August 2020.

Lastly, Heather Christiansen: Rev. Christiansen came to AUUF as an ordained Presbyterian minister. Her affiliation was transferred to UU and she was recognized as a UU minister by AUUF. She went on to serve congregations in WA, and for 10 years wrote UU World's weekly guide to UU blogs.

On August 10, together with the UU Fellowship of Fairbanks, AUUF will ordain another minister, Becca Bernard. We hope you will join us for this important ritual.

Do you have questions? Contact any member of Becca's Ordination Team – we'd love to hear them! Team members are: Katherine Huffman, Ruth Greenwood, Cassie Thomas, Marty Freeman, Laura Volmert (UUFF), and of course, Becca!

AUUF Religious Exploration Summer 2025 Updates

AUUF RE Quick Notes- Summer RE begins this Sunday!

[Click here for the full update!](#)



JUNE HALF PORTION FOR SOCIAL ACTION:

Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services (RAIS)

The Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services (RAIS) program of Catholic Social Services is honored to be the half portion recipient this June. Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services (RAIS) provides a bridge for refugees (individuals who have had to flee their countries of origin due to the tragedies of persecution and war) and other new arrivals from their former life experiences to the new skills required for success in the United States. Through a focus on economic self-sufficiency, community integration, and a respect for unique cultures, history and traditions, RAIS creates an environment of compassion and encouragement for refugees to flourish. We offer programming to clients statewide including case management, employment assistance, health case management and youth/elder programming.

On January 20, President Trump signed an Executive Order titled "Realigning the United States Refugee Admissions Program" which indefinitely suspended the resettlement of Refugees through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP). While we are not receiving new arrivals through that program, we continue to serve more than 1,000 clients currently in Alaska. With the uncertainty of federal policy, loss of significant federal funds, and increasing client needs, community support is more important now than ever.

Here are some immediate ways you can support:

- Make a Financial Donation: Donations help cover housing needs, transportation, job readiness tools, and emergency assistance. You can donate online at <https://www.cssalaska.org/donate/> and indicate that your gift is for Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services in the drop down.
- Donate Essential Items: Current highly requested items include school supplies, shelf stable snacks, bike locks, bikes, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, and twin and queen bed sheets.
- Volunteer Your Time: We especially need youth mentors, family mentors, childcare support and help sorting donations. Please reach out to our volunteer coordinator Anna Wnuk at awnuk@cssalaska.org.
- Join us for World Refugee Day June 27 from 4-7 at Grow North Farm to celebrate our refugee community.

Donations may be dropped off at St. Francis House Food Pantry, Monday–Thursday from 1–4 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Please indicate that your donation is for RAIS.

You can contribute in person at our Sunday services or online by visiting 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
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"



Join us to celebrate

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

2025

Thursday, June 26

4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

at Grow North Farm

3601 Mountain View Drive,
Anchorage, AK 99508

Questions? Please contact Mai La Vang at mvang@cssalaska.org
cssalaska.org/worldrefugeeday

Our AUUF Covenant

Together . . .

We seek to be an open and welcoming community.

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

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

Together we are Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.



Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (907) 248-3737

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

RevLise@anchorageuuf.org, 907-248-3737 x2,

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

*On sabbatical March 17, 2025 through June 30, 2025.

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

DRE@anchorageuuf.org

Office hours usually are:

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

Richard Stoneking, (he/him), Congregational Administrator

Admin@AnchorageUUF.org, 907.248.3737 x.1

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

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

Communications@anchorageuuf.org

Kelly's remote office hours Mon-Fri 9 am -1 pm

Esme Danner (she/her) Music Director

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

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

RBernard.AK@gmail.com

Dan Norton: AV Coordinator

907-248-3737, AVCoordinator@anchorageuuf.org

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

Connections@anchorageuuf.org

Connect with us



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common purpose.*

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Thursday, June 12, 2025

This Weekend @ AUUF

Thursday 6/12/25

8:00 am – 5:00 pm Peace Camp Building
and grounds

2:00 – 3:00 pm UU HR Meeting

5:00 – 7:30 pm Interfaith event Sanctuary
and Social Room

Friday 6/13/25

8:00 am – 5:00 pm Peace Camp Building
and grounds

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

Saturday 6/14/25

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

11:30am – 12:30 pm

No Kings March to Juneteenth

Anchorage Citywide Celebration

Sunday 6/15/25

Father's Day

8:00 – 11:00 am Whale Coast Social
Room

9:00 – 10:15 am The Forum

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

Sunday 6/15/25 (Continued)

4:00 – 9:00 pm Whale Coast

Sanctuary and Social Room

4:00 – 5:30 pm Anchorage Friends
Meeting Room downstairs

Monday 6/16/25

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

Tuesday 6/17/25

6:30 – 8:30 pm Finance Committee
Meeting

Wednesday 6/18/25

6:30 – 8:00 pm Dr Royce Dream Class
Room 8

Thursday 6/19/25

Juneteenth Holiday - Office Closed

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

TODAY Thursday, June 12, 2025

5:30-6:30pm

**Medicaid and Health Care Cuts
in the Budget Bill:
What's Coming
and What You Can Do About It**

**An Education and Action Event with
Christians for Equality
and the Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
with expert speakers from the community**

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
2824 E. 18th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska

**No Kings March to Juneteenth Anchorage Citywide
Celebration**

Saturday, June 14th, 11:30 AM

Location: Starting at 510 L Street, concluding at 9th & F

Details: Join us for the "No Kings March" as we stand united with the National 50501 movement to kick off the Juneteenth Anchorage Citywide celebration! The march begins at 510 L Street and ends at 9th & F, where we'll celebrate Juneteenth with joy, unity, and resistance.

This is more than a march—it's a celebration of Black history, which is American history, and honoring it is both patriotic and Alaskan. Let's come together to celebrate freedom, resilience, and community!

Don't miss it—be part of the movement!"



The Forum IN PERSON & on Zoom 9:00 AM Sunday June 15, 2025
"Cook Inlet's declining natural gas: Should we worry about keeping our homes warm?" With Journalist Tim Bradner

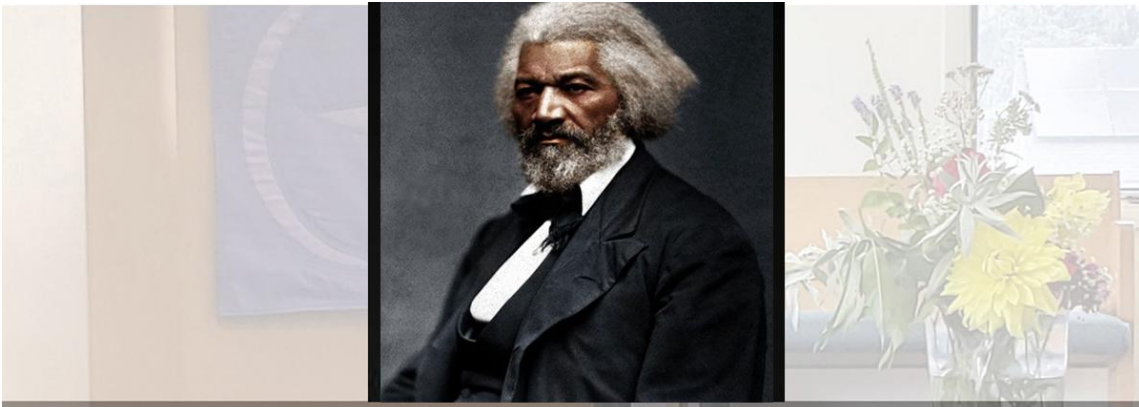
The Forum

IN PERSON & on Zoom

9:00 AM Sunday June 15, 2025

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

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



Sunday Worship Service IN PERSON & on Zoom
11:00 AM Sunday June 15, 2025
"From Slavery to Freedom: Frederick Douglass."
Dennis Arashiro & Cassie Thomas

Sunday Worship Service

IN PERSON & on Zoom

11:00 AM Sunday June 15, 2025

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



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BALTIMORE • JUNE 18 - 22, 2025

UU General Assembly

The annual General Assembly (GA) starts next Wednesday. This is an opportunity to connect with UUs from all over. UUA staff are busy preparing for an inspiring time of reconnection, democratic governance, worship, and learning together in community. Registration is still open; you are warmly invited to join in person in Baltimore, MD or online from Wednesday, June 18 through Sunday, June 22. Learn more and register at UUA.org/GA.



AUUF Honors Elders

June 28th , 4pm – 7:30 pm

We will be honoring five AUUF elders at our Elder Dinner Saturday, June 28th , 4pm – 7:30pm. It is our privilege to honor Mary Kulawik, Kalen Saxton, John Blaine, Stephanie Koonz and Dave Johnston this year. We gather at 4:00pm in the AUUF sanctuary for appetizers and greetings. After a full lasagna dinner, we will hear from each honoree stories from their lives. Family, friends and all of the AUUF community is invited!

The AUUF Alliance is proud to continue the tradition of organizing this important event. Please contact Katherine Huffman 907-342-9890 with any questions, and RSVPs would be helpful.

All of who you are is sacred. All of who you are is welcome.



Unitarian Universalism

The Meaning of the Pride Flag

Harvey Milk's election in 1978 as the first non-incumbent openly gay man to win an

election for public office in the United States made headlines across the country. Milk was an energetic public servant and activist who championed gay rights both locally and nationally. After several civil rights ordinances supporting equal rights for LGBTQ+ people in employment were overturned in Dade County, Eugene, Oregon and other communities, Milk sought to bring more visibility to the gay community and his constituents in the Castro. While the pink triangle, lambda symbol, green carnation, and even a lavender rhino had been used as symbols for the LGBTQ+ community, these were felt to be reminders of a grim past or too subtle to be recognized. Milk commissioned multimedia artist and drag queen Gilbert Baker, as well as tie-dye artist Faerie Argyle Rainbow, seamster and photographer James McNamara, and around 30 other people to create a potent symbol of progress. They focused their efforts on creating a flag because “flags are about proclaiming power”.

Since the late 1970's, many iterations and dozens of other pride flags have emerged, often as a result of efforts to create visibility and foster inclusion. The Philly Pride Flag developed in 2017 by the Philadelphia Office of LGBT Affairs under the leadership of Amber Hikes, added a black and brown stripe to represent Black and Latino communities. In 2018, Portland, Oregon designer Daniel Quasar created the “Progress Pride Flag” that combines the transgender flag to represent gender-nonconforming people and those lost to HIV and AIDS.

Even though the original pride flags were sewn almost 50 years ago, we are facing uphill battles which echo previous challenges. Legislation protecting the rights of LGBTQ+ people is being overturned. There are efforts underway to strip away healthcare and access to equal opportunities for trans people. The US Navy ship *Harvey Milk* is being renamed and many symbols of pride seem less visible this year. We can also look to history to find a way forward: be visible, advocate for LGBTQ+, immigrants, BIPOC, and all community members, share visual symbols of progress to proclaim power, and find moments of joy. As Harvey Milk said in one of his last speeches, “I cannot prevent anyone from getting angry, or mad, or frustrated. I can only hope that they'll turn that anger and frustration and madness into something positive so that two, three, four, five hundred [people] will step forward..”

Happy Pride Month!

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Alaska Workers Association

A community member wanted to share info about AWA.

AWA began in late 2000 when concerned citizens and low-income working people in Anchorage heard of the success of organizing drives of seasonal workers and farm workers in Oregon. Low-income working people, determined to launch an organizing effort of their own that enabled them to build a collective solution, banded together with others in the community who had previously attempted to organize to change conditions in low-income communities. Students, teachers, professionals, clergy and other concerned residents joined in the effort on a volunteer basis to fight for a permanent solution to poverty.

AWA was founded as a free and voluntary unincorporated private membership association of the area's low-income workers. AWA's uniquely successful method of Systemic Organizing enables anyone who dares to care and is willing to work to build an organization that unites low-income workers with allies from all walks of life who are also affected by the economic problems faced by low-income workers.

[Click here for more info here.](#)



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Thursday, June 26

4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

at Grow North Farm

3601 Mountain View Drive,
Anchorage, AK 99508

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cssalaska.org/worldrefugeeday

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Richard Stoneking, (he/him), Congregational Administrator

Admin@AnchorageUUF.org, 907.248.3737 x.1

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

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

Communications@anchorageuuf.org

Kelly's remote office hours Mon-Fri 9 am -1 pm

Esme Danner (she/her) Music Director

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

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

RBernard.AK@gmail.com

Dan Norton: AV Coordinator

907-248-3737, AVCoordinator@anchorageuuf.org

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

Connections@anchorageuuf.org

Connect with us



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Today At Our Fellowship
Thursday, June 19, 2025

This Weekend @ AUUF

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Juneteenth Holiday - Office Closed

Friday 6/20/25

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

Saturday 6/21/25

8:30 am – 10:30 am AA-Slap Happy
Group at AUUF Social Room
10:30 am – 2:00 pm Anchorage
Rainbow Elders Brunch Social room

Sunday 6/22/25

9:00 – 10:15 am The Forum
11:00 am – 12:00 pm Sunday Worship
Live at AUUF & on Zoom

Sunday 6/22/25 (Continued)

4:00 – 5:30 pm Anchorage Friends
Meeting Room downstairs

Monday 6/23/25

2:00 – 9:00 pm Elizabeth Snyder
memorial Sanctuary and Social Room
3:30 – 6:00 pm Amanda's Violin Class
Room 5

Tuesday 6/24/25

8:30 am – 8:30pm Whale Coast
Sanctuary and Social Room
11:00 am – 12:00 pm Staff Meeting

Wednesday 6/25/25

Thursday 6/26/25



The Forum IN PERSON & on Zoom 9:00 AM Sunday June 22, 2025
The AK Cultural Trust: When Government Slashes Funding, Who Fills the Void? With Nina Kemppel

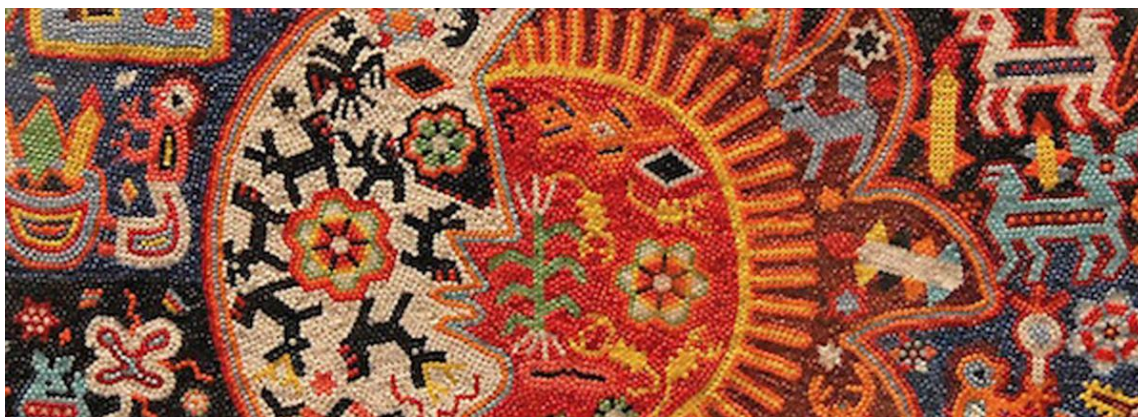
The Forum

IN PERSON & on Zoom

9:00 AM Sunday June 22, 2025

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

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



Sunday Worship Service IN PERSON & on Zoom

11:00 AM Sunday June 22, 2025

"Gifts of the Summer Solstice" With Ruth Greenwood & Renee Frost

Sunday Worship Service

IN PERSON & on Zoom

11:00 AM Sunday June 22, 2025

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

Fifty ninth Annual AUUF Payment in Lieu of Taxes

5:15 pm Tuesday, June 24th Loussac Library Assembly Chambers

Our 59th annual Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) to the Anchorage Assembly will take place on Tuesday June 24th at the regular assembly meeting in the Loussac Library Assembly Chambers. Please join us for a short presentation and delivery of the PILOT payment to the assembly. The meeting begins at 5:00 pm and our presentation is scheduled for the 5:15 portion of the meeting.

Although we are a religious organization and exempt from property tax payments, we believe that religious organizations do have a responsibility to help support the services that benefit us directly as congregations – like fire protection and other emergency services, transportation systems, snow removal and road maintenance. Therefore, one month out of each year, our Half-Portion collection is directed toward our PILOT payment.

If you would like to make an additional contribution directly to the PILOT payment on behalf of AUUF, please contact our administrator, Richard, in the AUUF office at 248-3737.



AUUF Honors Elders

June 28th , 4pm – 7:30 pm

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Manitoba Huts Glamping Opportunity Saturday 6/28-Sunday 6/29 (2025)

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Our AUUF Manitoba weekend is coming up on June 28-29 and **we have space available!!** This is a wonderful weekend. We have rented the whole shebang from noon Saturday until noon Sunday. This is a fundraiser for AUUF so it is \$150 pp which includes a bunk in one of the two yurts, dinner Saturday and breakfast Sunday. Meals are provided by Carma and Susan. There is great hiking. The main hike is usually Sunday, led by Carma and/or Susan. We usually have a shorter hike on Saturday—leader to be determined (it depends on when people arrive and what the hosts are making for dinner!) Or you can hang out at the cabin, which is where we have our meals. There is a campfire, a sauna, a rushing river, there are stories to be told and card games to be played!

As you know, this opportunity was part of the AUUF auction last November and not all the spaces were filled. We would love for you to join us! If you want to join us contact me at 907-727-5275, text, call or by email. If you have questions call me or Susan. We'd love to have you and the church will benefit too! Children are welcome. Spread the word! It's fun!! Join us!

- Carma and Susan

[More info click here.](#)

All of who you are is sacred. All of who you are is welcome.



Unitarian Universalism

ANCHORAGE PRIDE PARADE

Saturday, June 28, 2025, 11:30 AM

Delaney Park Strip

The Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is a Gold Sponsor of the Pride Parade again this year, so let's show up in force to represent our UU values of love, pluralism and justice!

Wear your "Side With Love" T-shirts, your other festive UU gear, and your Pride colors! We'll meet up no later than 11:15 AM at the Parade starting point at 8th and F Street.

Any questions, please contact Amy Fiebrink at 907-317-8166 or Kalen Saxton at 907-244-8221. A huge thank you to the Alliance for covering the cost of our participation in this joyful community event!

Happy Pride Month!

Looking for a Stained Glass Artist

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Thank you!



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
BALTIMORE • JUNE 18 - 22, 2025

LGBTQIA+ PROGRAMMING and EVENTS
at Multiplatform General Assembly

Scan QR code or visit www.uua.org/lgbtq/generalassembly



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JUNE HALF PORTION FOR SOCIAL ACTION:

Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services (RAIS)

The Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services (RAIS) program of Catholic Social Services is honored to be the half portion recipient this June. Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services (RAIS) provides a bridge for refugees (individuals who have had to flee their countries of origin due to the tragedies of persecution and war) and other new arrivals from their former life experiences to the new skills required for success in the United States. Through a focus on economic self-sufficiency, community integration, and a

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On January 20, President Trump signed an Executive Order titled “Realigning the United States Refugee Admissions Program” which indefinitely suspended the resettlement of Refugees through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP). While we are not receiving new arrivals through that program, we continue to serve more than 1,000 clients currently in Alaska. With the uncertainty of federal policy, loss of significant federal funds, and increasing client needs, community support is more important now than ever.

Here are some immediate ways you can support:

- **Make a Financial Donation:** Donations help cover housing needs, transportation, job readiness tools, and emergency assistance. You can donate online at <https://www.cssalaska.org/donate/> and indicate that your gift is for Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services in the drop down.
- **Donate Essential Items:** Current highly requested items include school supplies, shelf stable snacks, bike locks, bikes, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, and twin and queen bed sheets.
- **Volunteer Your Time:** We especially need youth mentors, family mentors, childcare support and help sorting donations. Please reach out to our volunteer coordinator Anna Wnuk at awnuk@cssalaska.org.
- Join us for World Refugee Day June 27 from 4-7 at Grow North Farm to celebrate our refugee community.

Donations may be dropped off at St. Francis House Food Pantry, Monday–Thursday from 1–4 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Please indicate that your donation is for RAIS.

You can contribute in person at our Sunday services or online by visiting [**anchorageuuf.org**](https://www.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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Join us to celebrate

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

2025

Thursday, June 26

4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

at Grow North Farm

3601 Mountain View Drive,
Anchorage, AK 99508

Questions? Please contact Mai La Vang at mvang@cssalaska.org
cssalaska.org/worldrefugeeday

Our AUUF Covenant

Together . . .

We seek to be an open and welcoming community.

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

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

Together we are Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.



Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (907) 248-3737

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

RevLise@anchorageuuf.org, 907-248-3737 x2,

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

*On sabbatical March 17, 2025 through June 30, 2025.

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

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Communications@anchorageuuf.org

Kelly's remote office hours Mon-Fri 9 am -1 pm

Esme Danner (she/her) Music Director

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

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

RBernard.AK@gmail.com

Dan Norton: AV Coordinator

907-248-3737, AVCoordinator@anchorageuuf.org

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

Connections@anchorageuuf.org

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

Today At Our Fellowship
Thursday, June 26, 2025

This Weekend @ AUUF

Thursday 6/26/25

Friday 6/27/25

8:15 – 11:15 am Music Together

Mountain Song Social Room

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

Saturday 6/28/25

8:30 am – 10:30 am AA-Slap Happy
Group at AUUF Social Room 1

2:30 - 4:00 pm Set up for Honor Elders
Dinner Sanctuary and Social Room

4:00 - 7:30 pm Alliance Honor Elders
Dinner

Sunday 6/29/25

9:00 – 10:15 am The Forum

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

Sunday 6/29/25 (Continued)

12:00 – 2:30 pm Anti-Racism Team
/ACLU prison mailing project Social
Room

4:00 – 5:30 pm Anchorage Friends
Meeting Room downstairs

Monday 6/30/25

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

Tuesday 7/1/25

2:00 – 3:00 pm UUHR Human Resource
Meeting

4:30 – 6:30 pm Forum Planning on Zoom

Wednesday 7/2/25

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

5:30 – 7:00 pm RE Meeting Social Room

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

Thursday 7/3/25

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



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WORLD REFUGEE DAY
2025



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Unitarian Universalism

Walk or Ride with AUUF in the Anchorage Pride Parade!

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Happy Pride Month!



The Forum IN PERSON & on Zoom 9:00 AM Sunday June 29, 2025
"Rooted in Resilience: RAIS, Refugees, and Rising to New Challenges" Heba El-Hendi, Senior Director, RAIS

The Forum

IN PERSON & on Zoom

9:00 AM Sunday June 29, 2025

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

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



Sunday Worship Service IN PERSON & on Zoom 11:00 AM Sunday June 29, 2025
"Honoring World Refugee Day"
Heba El-Hendi, Senior Director, RAIS & Lauren Rench

Sunday Worship Service

IN PERSON & on Zoom

11:00 AM Sunday June 29, 2025

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

We're Mailing It In!

Dennis Arashiro

Join the Anti-Racism Team AFTER the WORSHIP SERVICE in the FELLOWSHIP SOCIAL ROOM on SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 2025 in assembling the ACLU Prison Project mailing. We will be stuffing envelopes with newsletters providing news and guidance to individuals incarcerated in the Alaska prison system. The Prison Project is the ACLU's first step in fighting for a true justice system in place of a punishment system. We are partners with the ACLU in this effort and can use your elbow grease. Just stuff it this Sunday!

Picnic Sunday!

Sunday, June 29 after the 11am service

This Sunday, June 29 is the first summer Picnic Sunday! (Weather permitting) It's a 'bring your own picnic lunch' invitation to stay after the 11am service and enjoy your lunch outdoors. A time for all ages to visit, kids can play, and it makes for easy clean up with everyone bringing their own meal. There are two picnic tables in the playground area and a couple of tables and chairs will be set up under the tent near the basketball hoop. If the weather doesn't cooperate you are welcome to have your lunch in the social hall. It just won't have the same feel as being outdoors- but we can't control the weather! There will be additional Picnic Sundays on July 27 and August 10.



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- Carma and Susan

[More info click here.](#)

Bulletin Boards

A message from our administrator, Richard. The bulletin boards will be cleared at the end of this month so we can start the new fiscal year with a fresh start.

Hungry Book Club on July 8

What do you know about the friendship between Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary McLeod Bethune? The wealthy wife of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the black leader

of civil rights from the 1900's until her death in 1955, the book we're reading, *The First Ladies*, is a fictional story based on decades of information about both of them. The book, written by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray, is a very enlightening read. Come join us for fellowship and discussion on Thursday, July 8, at 2pm in the library upstairs!

Fireside Chat on Friday July 18th at 6:30 PM

All are welcomed to come and join with the Connections Team for informal conversation around the fire pit at AUUF on Friday evening, July 18th at 6:30. Please bring your camp chair and the beverage of your choice. Snacks and s'more fixings will be provided. If it's raining we'll find a place inside. Hope to see you there!



Words of Wisdom from AUUF members & friends to Bridging High School Graduates

Notes from the AUUF congregation to High School graduates. The Bridging service for Nora, Levi and Denali took place on April 27. Here are the words of wisdom for the young adults... (we all can take some wisdom from these wise words.)

- We hold you in our hearts & community. Thank you.
- Say YES to any opportunities that come your way!
- Drink lots of milk. – Amelia, Age 10
- Enjoy the ride! Despite the challenges, there is so much good in the world. Hold on to the passion and purpose you have. Thank you for all you have given this community.
- Stay connected to creating something bigger than you are.
- Believe in yourself! When self-doubt creeps in politely show it the door- remember that life chose you to be here, as you are.
- Please read, *The Tao of Pooh*- I suggest once a year, truly. I have to say you are FABULOUS!
- And to Nora- from Diane Smith- go for that law degree as you are planning. You can do great work as a lawyer and make important changes in the world. I got to find that in my own career.
- Be brave enough to love as the more you love the more it comes back to you.
- Walk out into a world that needs you. Know you are who you need to be in each moment. It is a gift to the world what you bring. You will not always feel sure but will learn through it.
- Getting outside will do you good!
- Nora, thank you for sharing your thoughts on the world, society, religion, government and leadership. Thank you for being a part of the solution and following your dreams – Joel
- Levi, thank you for sharing your thoughts today. Your authenticity shines through

- and makes the world a better place. Thanks for just being yourself! – Joel
- All- Keep doing what you are doing. Search, explore, evaluate. The world is not over- be brave as you do everything!
- It's ok to struggle, get lost, get mad and sad, and question everything. We all do. Being human is difficult but we have an amazing capacity for joy, love, and awe. Life is often wonderful!
- I wish you love, truth and happiness on your journey.
- Humor is not everything. It is the only thing !! -Wray
- Openess- to new, to power, to others, to adventures- go for it!! -Cindy
- I have learned over the years that good communication is the key to successful relationships. Don't just talk, but listen. When someone is speaking to you, put the phone down. Turn away from the computer and look at them. Make them feel that they are being heard and appreciated.
- Be true to who you are.
- The beauty inside each of you brightens the lives of all persons & animals in the world. Keep shining bright!
- Don't let your doubts keep you from doing what you want to do. Have courage! Enjoy your life!
- Follow your heart no matter what other people say.
- Be the voice for the conversations that will support the world you dream of.
- Actively maintain friendships.
- Sing with other people.
- When things are bringing you down, get outdoors.
- Be ready to give a real apology when you screw up.
- Celebrate special occasions.
- Do not be afraid to stand up for what you believe in. Our world needs your courage to keep it kind, loving and caring.
- Perseverance
- Create something positive every day. Listen to music at 432 HZ Happiness frequency.
- JOY
- EMPATHY
- Continue to look forward.
- Life is so worth living.
- Keep smiling.
- When your basic needs are met, choose experiences over things- the memories will enrich your soul and last a lifetime- Ruth Greenwood.
- My mother, Shirley Dickens, was very fond of this quote by Oscar Wilde: "Be yourself. Everyone else is taken." Be you- you are the only one who can! – Ruth Greenwood
- Keep being yourself, don't be afraid of change, and don't be afraid of discovering new things about yourself! You are amazing and bright and your ideas will change the world! Congratulations on graduation!
- Always keep a pair of scissors in your car.
- Hold onto what feels good, especially if it is helping those around you.
- Do YOU and carry on and on! Never forget humor.
- Don't be too afraid to take a calculated risk. We all make mistakes – it's how we grow.
- Listen to the whisper of your soul and not the roar of society.
- Don't be too eager to date...Learn about yourself first. Love yourself first.
- Be patient...be kind...be true to yourself!
- Plant a garden, tend it well and it will take care of you.

Thank you all so much for sharing!
Jenn Bluntach, DRE

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