



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

Today At Our Fellowship Thursday, January 1, 2026

This Week @ AUUF

Thursday, January 1

New Year's Day staff Holiday

Friday, January 2

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

Saturday, January 3

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

Sunday, January 4

9:00 – 10:15 am The Forum
Live at AUUF & on Zoom
11:00 am – 12:15 pm Sunday Worship
Live at AUUF & on Zoom
12:30 – 2:00 pm The Alliance - At AUUF
Sanctuary
4:00 – 5:30 pm Anchorage Friends
Meeting Sanctuary & Social Room

Monday, January 5

Tuesday, January 6

2:00 – 4:00 pm Knitting Group Room 7
4:30 – 6:30pm Forum Planning on Zoom
5:30 – 6:45 pm Anchorage Against
Christian Nationalism - All are welcome
Sanctuary

Wednesday, January 7

3:30 – 5:00 pm Connections Team
Meeting on Zoom Library
7:00 – 8:30 pm Building & Grounds
Meeting - Zoom

Thursday, January 8

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

Friday, January 9

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



With Love & Care,
Rev. Lise, Esme, Jenn, Dan & Kelly



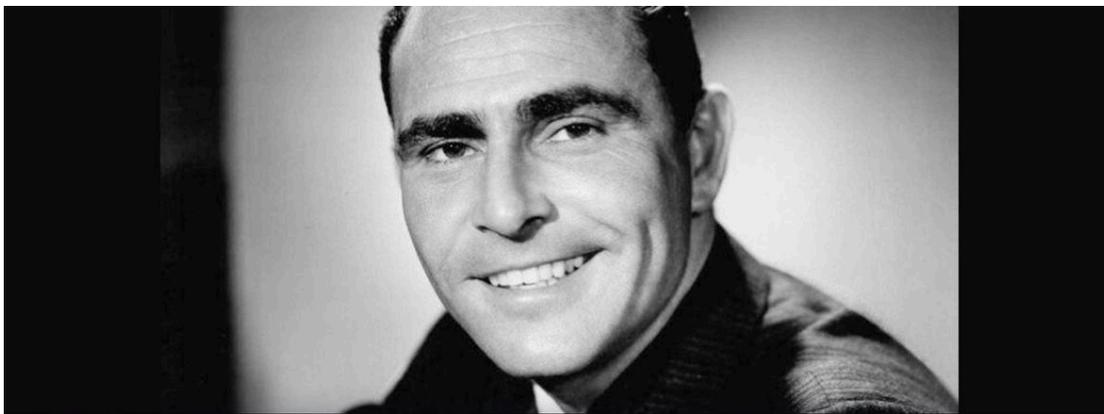
The Forum IN person & on Zoom 9:00 AM Sunday, January 4, 2026
"The Story Behind the Score: Reclaiming What Matters in Public Education" Caroline Storm, Director, Coalition for Education Equity

The Forum

Sunday January 4, 2025 9:00-10:15 AM
IN- PERSON and on Zoom

We'll kick off 2026 with a Forum on **January 4** featuring **Caroline Storm**, Executive Director of the **Coalition for Education Equity in Alaska**. She will address issues that will be front and center as the Legislature reconvenes to consider the education budget and the future of our children, their teachers, and our communities.

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



Sunday Worship Service IN person & on Zoom 11:00 AM, Jan. 4, 2026
"Rod Serling: Unitarian Universalist" Dennis Arashiro

Sunday Worship Service

Sunday January 4, 2025 11:00 AM
IN- PERSON and on Zoom

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

Happy Holidays from your AUUF Board

Happy holidays from your AUUF Board members, Justin Roberts, Don Antrobus, Doug Eby, Mel Langdon, George Bryson, David O'Brien, and Marty Freeman! These members represent you. Please feel free to contact them with any concerns.

A Board member is expected drop out in June and we are looking for a Fellowship member to fill out the final year of that position (July 2026 to June 2027). Interested in what the Board does and have time for a one-year commitment? Please let Justin know!

The Board members' names and Board meeting minutes can be found out on [AUUF's website here](#) under Governance and Leadership. We all wish you a fulfilling and auspicious 2026!

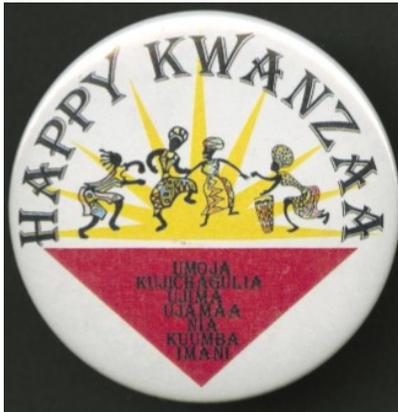
Rev. Lise gone over the Holidays

Rev. Lise will be gone visiting family Dec. 25-Jan. 4. In her absence if you have a pastoral care need, please reach out to Donna Massey. You can text her at 727.408.1002 or email her at slowingdownnow13@gmail.com. Donna will reach out to Rev. Lise in case of an emergency. Thank you!

Holiday Staff Info

This email is pre-scheduled.

Thanks & Happy Holidays!



Minister's Message: Celebrating Kwanzaa

Most years during the month of December we find some way to acknowledge Hannukah, the Winter Solstice and Christmas during our services. But then many of us (staff especially) leave for the rest of the holidays and by the time we get back we're focused on the New Year and all that brings with it. In the midst of all this busyness, we miss Kwanzaa, an important pan-

African holiday. This year, I thought I would share a little about it in our weekly newsletter.

Kwanzaa, which means first fruits in the Swahili language, was created specifically as a non-religious holiday to celebrate African American people and re-connect them to traditions in Africa. Dr. Maulana Karenga, who is a US citizen, author, activist and African studies professor, created the holiday, or festival, in 1966. Concerned about the oppression and lack of civil liberties that Black US citizens were experiencing, he wanted to find a way to ground this population in the rich cultural heritage from which they all originated before being enslaved in the New World. Karenga hoped this grounding would not only re-establish a sense of pride and self-worth among Black Americans, but also help them find a way to move forward in resilient and positive ways. On his current website (maulanakarenga.org) he writes: "This is our duty: to know our past and honor it; to engage our present and improve it; and to imagine a whole new future and forge it in the most ethical, effective and expansive ways."

So, what does this holiday involve? It is celebrated every year from December 26 through January 1, and each of the seven days is used to honor a specific principle or Nguzo Saba (the Seven Principles) which are meant to be kept alive throughout the year. Each day or evening there are special foods that come from the African diaspora, songs and writings to reflect on, music to play and dancing to do. Families and friends may also give gifts to each other. In the evening, celebrants light a new candle on the kinara (candleholder) until all seven of the black, red or green candles are lit. The candles are the same color as the bendera, the African American flag. Like the bendera, the colors stand for the struggle and blood of the African American people (red), the color of their faces (black), and the color of new growth and hope (green).

Each of the seven days of Kwanzaa has a particular theme or principle to celebrate. [More info here:](#)

- 1. Umoja (Unity): To strive for and to maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race.**
- 2. Kujichagulia (Self-Determination): To define and name ourselves, as well as to create and speak for ourselves.**
- 3. Ujima (Collective work and responsibility): To build and maintain our community together and make our brothers' and sisters' problems our problems and to solve them together.**

4. Ujamaa (Cooperative economics): To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together.
5. ***Nia (Purpose): To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.***
6. ***Kuumba (Creativity): To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.***
7. ***Imani (Faith): To believe with all our hearts in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.***

There are additional symbols and traditions associated with this holiday, which has grown from its US roots to one celebrated worldwide. For more information, please refer to the two websites listed above, and [explore this one as well](#), from the National Museum of African American History and Culture. This last website suggests readings, songs, food and more to explore the theme for each day.

At a time when so many in our world are working to stamp out the differences and diversity that can bring more beauty and strength to our world, it's more important than ever that we honor and acknowledge as many as we can.

Happy Kwanzaa!

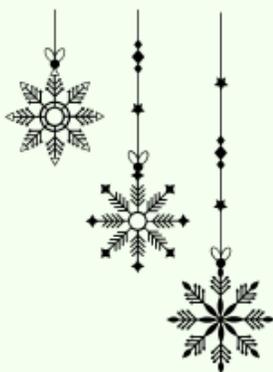
Blessings, Rev. Lise

AUUF Religious Exploration (RE)

What's happening...

Dec 2025 & Jan 2026

Questions? Contact
Jenn Bluntach at
dre@anchorageuuf.org



Sunday, Dec 14

11am Multi-Gen Service
(Childcare available in Room 1)

Sunday, December 21

11am Grinch Themed RE Party Day!

You are welcome to wear your pajamas or holiday themed sweater!

Wednesday, December 24

6:30pm Christmas Eve Service
(No childcare available).



Sunday, December 28

Winter Break- No RE Classes
Childcare available at the 11am service in
Room 1.
Point Person- Sarah Coburn

Sunday, January 4

Winter Break- No RE Classes
Childcare available in Room 1
Point Person- Andrea Van Ravenswaay

Sunday, January 11

11am RE Classes resume



Friday, January 16

5:30pm-8pm Parent/Grown-Up Night Out
Register your school aged children online.

Sunday, January 18

11am RE Classes and Youth Group
1pm-3pm Parent OWL Orientation
(Grades 10-12)

Sunday, January 25

11am RE Classes and Youth Group
1pm-3pm Grades 10-12 OWL Class

GRADES 10-12 OWL CLASSES

OUR WHOLE LIVES: LIFESPAN SEXUALITY EDUCATION

Honest, accurate information about sexuality changes lives. It dismantles stereotypes and assumptions, builds self-acceptance and self-esteem, fosters healthy relationships, improves decision making, and has the potential to save lives. For these reasons and more, we are proud to offer Our Whole Lives (OWL), a comprehensive, lifespan sexuality education curricula.

**REGISTRATION
DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO
JANUARY 9, 2026**

PARENT MEETING IS SUNDAY, JAN 18
1PM-3PM

MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT:
[HTTPS://WWW.UUA.ORG/LIFESPAN/OWL](https://www.uua.org/lifespan/owl)

GOOGLE DOC TO REGISTER:
[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/15ATBKNTMBQORQQ8](https://forms.gle/15ATBKNTMBQORQQ8)



Questions? Contact Jenn Bluntach
dre@anchorageuuf.org

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
2824 E 18th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99508
(907) 248-3737

AUUF Religious Exploration December & January 2025 Updates

[Click here to read.](#)

Volunteer Hospitality Slots for all Sundays in 2026 are available on the Sign-Up Genius

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!



JANUARY HALF PORTION FOR SOCIAL ACTION: PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILOT)

Payment to the Municipality of Anchorage for essential services provided to the Fellowship.

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"**

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- Friday 9 am - 1 pm.

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

RBernard.AK@gmail.com

Dan Norton, AV Coordinator

907-248-3737

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

Connections@anchorageuuf.org

Share the Care Team: sharethecare@anchorageuuf.org

Connect with us



Visit Our Website

AUUF Podcast

Donate

ANCHORAGE UU FELLOWSHIP | 2824 E. 18th Ave | Anchorage, AK 99508 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!



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

Today At Our Fellowship
Thursday, January 8, 2026

This Week @ AUUF

Thursday, January 8

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

Friday, January 9

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

Saturday, January 10

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

Sunday, January 11

9:00 – 10:15 am The Forum
Live at AUUF & on Zoom
11:00 am – 12:15 pm Sunday Worship
Live at AUUF & on Zoom
12:15 – 1:00 pm Women's Retreat -
Library
12:15 – 1:30 pm Nominating Committee
Meeting Room 8
12:45 – 2:00 pm Worship Associate
Meeting- In Person Room 8
4:00 – 5:30 pm Anchorage Friends
Meeting Sanctuary & Social Room

Monday, January 12

Tuesday, January 13

2:00 – 4:00 pm Knitting Group Room 7
11:10 am – 12:10 pm Staff Meeting
2:00 – 4:00 pm Knitting Group Room 7
2:00 – 3:30 pm Hungry Book Club
Upstairs Library

Wednesday, January 14

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

Thursday, January 15

6:30 – 8:00 pm Choir Practice
Sanctuary

Friday, January 16

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

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



The Forum IN person & on Zoom 9:00 AM Sunday, January 11
"Schools, Taxes, Energy, PFDs, and More— What's Ahead for the 34th Legislature?" Alaska Senator Bill Wielechowski

The Forum

Sunday January 11, 2026 9:00-10:15 AM
IN- PERSON and on Zoom

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



Sunday Worship Service IN person & on Zoom 11:00 AM Sunday, Jan. 11,
Resist: Work for Peace
Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, Barb Clark

Sunday Worship Service

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

The theme for this month is resistance, and with the chaos in our world right now it seems we need to stretch our resistance muscles more than ever. Working for peace is an important way to do this, especially as our administration flexes its bully muscles more and more.

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

Bring a Friend to the Fellowship

Jan. 18, 2026

We are declaring Sunday, Jan. 18 as Bring a Friend to the Fellowship day. More and more people need our message of love and ethical values. And we need people to join us in our work and message. Or maybe, you'd like to bring someone simply because you like the people here and you'd like to share your luck in life. Maybe you know someone searching for community and in need of support, or perhaps you think their gifts are a perfect match for us. Ours is an interdependent community, and the more we can share and learn from one another, the better we'll all be. Let's make our circle wider! Oh, and we'll have cake!

Taco Fiesta & Cards Night

February 7th 5:30-8 PM

Looking for something fun to do? There is plenty of room at our table so please let us know if you would like to join the Connections team for our auction event on February 7th 5:30-8 PM. The cost for individuals is \$20/each or families with children grade 8 and up at \$50. Food and soft beverages will be provided. Adult beverages will be available with an extra donation at the event. After dinner we will have a variety of card games. We would appreciate knowing if you are planning to come so please contact Donna at slowingdownnow13@gmail.com to let us know.

WhaleCoast Dates in Anchorage

I hope many of you are interested in supporting our WhaleCoast fundraiser in 2026! The dates are for the National Parks Tour: June 20th-22nd and 24-25th and for the All-Alaska Tour: July 22nd-24th. Please put these on your calendar and try to plan around them. The June one especially as it is when we always have a shortage of hosts.

If you are not familiar with WhaleCoast, it is a tour group of up to 30 people originally started by a Fairbanks UU teacher to provide a tour of Alaska to UU's and other like-minded people. What makes it different than other tours is that the host congregations in Anchorage and Fairbanks provide the lodging, breakfasts, and transportation to the first meeting location and pick ups from sites to go back to your home. We also host a banquet for each group, with congregants bringing food and providing entertainment. Helping with it is especially a good way for those who can't host in their home or in another's home. We are paid for these services, giving us about \$17,000 between the 2 groups. The Juneau congregation provides some meals but the participants stay in hotels.

AUUF Religious Exploration January 2025 Updates

[Click here to read.](#)

Volunteer Hospitality Slots for all Sundays in 2026 are available on the Sign-Up Genius

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!



JANUARY HALF PORTION FOR SOCIAL ACTION: PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILOT)

Payment to the Municipality of Anchorage for essential services provided to the Fellowship.

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"

DEMOCRACY FAIR



YOUR ROLE IN DEMOCRACY

Z.J. LOUSSAC PUBLIC LIBRARY
SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026
11AM - 3PM



Join the League of Women Voters at the Democracy Fair on January 10 from 11 am –3 pm at the Z. J. Loussac Public Library. Stop by our table to learn how we serve the community, meet community partners, and take part in hands-on activities. This free, family-friendly event also features workshops led by subject-matter experts covering important civic topics. We'd love to see you there!



**INTERFAITH
ALLIANCE**
ACHIEVING DEMOCRACY TOGETHER

In this trying moment for our democracy, many of us are asking the same question: How do we show up with courage, clarity, and care when democratic norms are under threat?

Interfaith Alliance is dedicated to rallying religious Americans around the message of “Choose Love, Not ICE” – making clear that brutality, repression and mass deportation runs totally counter to our values of compassion and mercy, and our belief in the common dignity and humanity of all people.

Following the horrific killing of Renee Nicole Good by an ICE agent in Minneapolis, faith communities there and around the country are continuing to show up right now to organize against ICE’s violence and cruelty.

We are committed to supporting nonviolent civil resistance among diverse faith communities around the country. As part of that work, we are offering a virtual training on Monday night at 7 pm ET/4 pm PT: Answering the Call: Interfaith Nonviolent Civil Resistance 201.

The training builds on the long legacy of faith-led movements for justice and introduces practical frameworks for disciplined, strategic, and morally grounded nonviolent action. Together, participants will explore how people of faith can strengthen democracy, resist

authoritarianism, and support one another through collective action rooted in our shared values.

This training is for you if you are:

- A clergy member, lay leader, or organizer figuring out how you can best lead and organize in this moment
- Part of an interfaith or faith-based community committed showing up for democracy and human dignity
- Looking for the hope that can be found in concrete tools, shared language, and real-world examples of effective nonviolent resistance

The session is part of a broader national campaign to equip and connect interfaith leaders across the country to challenge authoritarianism and ICE cruelty—and participants will have opportunities to stay engaged through future trainings and local collaboration.

Join us as we answer this call together—grounded in faith, guided by conscience, and committed to the work of democracy for all.

In solidarity,

Adam Friedman

Campaigns Director, Interfaith Alliance

[More info & Register 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- Friday 9 am - 1 pm.

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

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

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

Share the Care Team: sharethecare@anchorageuuf.org

Connect with us



Visit Our Website

AUUF Podcast

Donate

ANCHORAGE UU FELLOWSHIP | 2824 E. 18th Ave | Anchorage, AK 99508 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!



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

Today At Our Fellowship Thursday, January 15, 2026

This Week @ AUUF

Thursday, January 15

6:30 – 8:00 pm Choir Practice Sanctuary

Friday, January 16

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, January 17

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

11:00 am – 3:00 pm Japanese American
Citizens League Meeting Social Room

Sunday, January 18

9:00 – 10:15 am The Forum

Live at AUUF & on Zoom

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

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

12:15 – 2:00 pm Anti-Racism
Team/ACLU Prison Project Newsletter
Mailing Social Room

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

Monday, January 19

Martin Luther King Day

Tuesday, January 20

2:00 – 4:00 pm Knitting Group Room 7

6:30 – 8:30 pm Finance Committee
Meeting

Wednesday, January 21

6:30 – 9:00 pm Board of Directors
Meeting - In Person

Thursday, January 22

6:30 – 8:00 pm Choir Practice
Sanctuary

Friday, January 23

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



The Forum IN person & on Zoom 9:00 AM Sunday, January 18, 2026
"Subsistence: Its Importance to Native Community, Spirituality & Nutrition" with Native Journalist Joaqlin Estus

The Forum

Sunday January 18, 2026 9:00-10:15 AM
IN- PERSON and on Zoom

Our speaker at the **Forum this week**, 9:00 a.m. Sunday, **January 18**, is longtime **Native journalist Joaqlin Estus**. The U.S. Supreme Court this week rejected a petition from the state of Alaska to overturn protection of federal subsistence priorities for Alaska Natives. Joaqlin will talk with us about **the importance of subsistence** to the Native sense of community and spirituality as well as nutrition.

The following Sunday, **January 25**, there will be **no separate Forum or Worship Service**, and instead Rev. Lise will conduct an **all-Fellowship service at 10:00 a.m.** focusing on stewardship and strengthening our AUUF community.

The following week, on **February 2, at 9:00 a.m.**, we'll be back to our regular time, to hear from **Anchorage Mayor Susanne LaFrance**.

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



Sunday Worship Service IN person & on Zoom 11:00 AM Sun. Jan. 18
"MLK & Native American Civil Rights" Rev. Lise Adams Sherry & Renee Frost

Sunday Worship Service

Sunday January 18, 2026 11:00 AM
IN- PERSON and on Zoom

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

Bring a Friend to the Fellowship

Jan. 18, 2026

We are declaring Sunday, Jan. 18 as Bring a Friend to the Fellowship day. More and more people need our message of love and ethical values. And we need people to join us in our work and message. Or maybe, you'd like to bring someone simply because you like the people here and you'd like to share your luck in life. Maybe you know someone searching for community and in need of support, or perhaps you think their gifts are a perfect match for us. Ours is an interdependent community, and the more we can share and learn from one another, the better we'll all be. Let's make our circle wider! Oh, and we'll have cake!

NEWSLETTER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Dennis Arashiro

The ACLU continues its Prison Project for the New Year. A newsletter providing needed information and guidance will be going out those incarcerated in the Alaska prison system. This is part of an ongoing effort to bring recognition of the worth and dignity of all those facing the challenges of the criminal justice system.

In partnering with the ACLU, the Fellowship Anti-Racism Team will need your help in preparing the mailing of the newsletter **AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE, THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026, in the FELLOWSHIP SOCIAL ROOM.** Please join us as we stuff newsletters into envelopes and address each mailing. We especially need volunteers who can use their laptops to double check current addresses.

See you Sunday!

Taco Fiesta & Cards Night

February 7th 5:30-8 PM

Looking for something fun to do? There is plenty of room at our table so please let us know if you would like to join the Connections team for our auction event on February 7th 5:30-8 PM. The cost for individuals is \$20/each or families with children grade 8 and up at \$50. Food and soft beverages will be provided. Adult beverages will be available with an extra donation at the event. After dinner we will have a variety of card games. We would appreciate knowing if you are planning to come so please contact Donna at [slowingdownnow13@gmail](mailto:slowingdownnow13@gmail.com) to let us know.

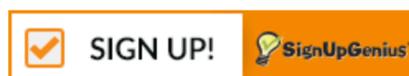
AUUF Religious Exploration January 2025 Updates

[Click here to read.](#)

Volunteer Hospitality Slots for all Sundays in 2026 are available on the Sign-Up Genius

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!



JANUARY HALF PORTION FOR SOCIAL ACTION: PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILOT)

Payment to the Municipality of Anchorage for essential services provided to the Fellowship.

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”

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://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

Connect with us



Visit Our Website

AUUF Podcast

Donate

ANCHORAGE UU FELLOWSHIP | 2824 E. 18th Ave | Anchorage, AK 99508 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!



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

Today At Our Fellowship
Thursday, January 22, 2026

This Week @ AUUF

Thursday, January 22

6:30 – 8:00 pm Choir Practice Sanctuary

Friday, January 23

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

Saturday, January 24

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

Sunday, January 25

10:00 am Combined Service
Live at AUUF & on Zoom

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

11:30 am – 12:30 pm
RE Teacher Mid-Year Meeting
Room 7

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

Monday, January 26

Tuesday, January 27

11:10 am – 12:10 pm Staff Meeting

2:00 – 4:00 pm Knitting Group
Room 7

6:00 – 8:00 pm Program Council

Wednesday, January 28

1:00– 3:00 pm Peace Camp Planning
Meeting Library & on Zoom

Thursday, January 29

6:30 – 8:00 pm Choir Practice
Sanctuary

Friday, January 30

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



Combined Service of The Forum & Sunday Worship Service
January 25, 2026 10:00 am, In-person & on Zoom
"Resist with Love"
With Rev. Lise Sherry & Michele Champion

Combined Service

Sunday January 25, 2026 **10:00 AM**
IN- PERSON and on Zoom

This Sunday, **January 25**, there will be **no separate Forum or Worship Service**, and instead Rev. Lise will conduct an **all-Fellowship service at 10:00 a.m.** focusing on stewardship and strengthening our AUUF community.

Combined Service of The Forum & Sunday Worship Service
January 25, 2026 10:00 am, In-person & on Zoom
"Resist with Love"
With Rev. Lise Sherry & Michele Champion

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

Upcoming Worship Services

As I've shared at services this January, our SoulMatters theme for this month is Practicing Resistance. It's an apt topic for our times, eh? We've also kicked off the focus for our Social Justice Pillar for the next three months: Alaska Native Culture and Rights. Please let me know if you have any ideas to explore for this pillar. So far, the services I've led this month have included "Resist: Work for Peace," and "MLK and Indigenous People's Rights." This Sunday, January 25, we're having a service about stewardship as we start this year's pledge drive. **This will be a joint service for both the Forum and Worship services and we'll start together at 10 am. Children's religious exploration classes (RE) will be at 10 am as well.**

January 25 10 am In-Person and Zoom
Resist with Love (and Support AUUF!)
Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, Michele Champion

It's the beginning of our stewardship drive and we need places like AUUF more than ever. In today's world our values are more important than ever. We need people who will care about others regardless of their ethnicity, their religion, or any other marginalized category someone may happen to fit into. Our congregation is a place where we nurture

these kinds of values and teach our children their importance as well. Ours is a place where we allow others to question, to search for truth and meaning and realize that together we do so much more to create Beloved Community than we can accomplish alone. I hope you'll join us as we reaffirm and call for the monetary foundation we need to do this work.

In February we move to the theme of Embodying Resilience. After a month of Practicing Resistance, we need to spend a bit of time replenishing our hearts, minds and souls. We have the first two Sundays planned, and we'll post the rest of the month's titles later. It's Black History Month so we'll have some content regarding that as well. Finally, we are returning to our regular 9 am Forum, 11 am Worship Service and RE schedule.

Feb. 1, 11 am In-person and Zoom

Your Turn

Lars Danner

This will be everyone's opportunity to get on the metaphorical soapbox and share your hopes, concerns, and other thoughts with the fellowship.

Feb. 8, 11 am In-person and Zoom

Embody Resilience—Love One Another

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry; Jenn Bluntach, Director of Religious Exploration; Renee Frost, Worship Associate

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.



Stewardship Sunday

A message from Doug Eby - AUUF Treasurer and Board Member

This Sunday January 25th is Stewardship Sunday and the AUUF community will gather at 10am for a single meeting time rather than the usual 9am and 11am times. The following four weeks is when we all will make any changes we decide to make in our contributions to help keep AUUF going financially - leading to the responsible development of our next year's fiscal year budget. We are a member organization who does not receive outside money, and gives, in fact, to the national organization the amount they request to support their budget (about \$20K/year) and so, our ongoing functioning depends on the giving of our members to pay for the staff we depend on, and the costs of the facility we meet in. Our budget is just over \$450,000 a year, with a deficit of right around \$60,000, so we

need lots and lots of generous giving from all of you!! We don't expect any large changes up or down in costs next fiscal year (July to end of June). Everyone needs to give something - the attached table/suggested giving guide lists \$20 per month as the least amount (2%) - for those who's post-tax income is under \$20,000 a year - and \$3-4,000 per month (7-10%) for those making \$500,000 a year after taxes. For a household/pledging unit with a post-tax income of \$150,000 a year, the recommended monthly giving range is \$500/month (4%) to \$1250/month (10%). We also need you to invite friends and neighbors to give us a visit and consider joining AUUF! We will thrive better as a somewhat larger group.

We have moved to an ongoing giving system where your monthly giving will continue until you change it or end it (similar to what public media and other non-profit organizations generally do now). If you prefer to give once annually, quarterly, or some other way (stocks, RMD's, etc.) we will work individually with you to accommodate your preferences. Once a year we will do this special Stewardship Sunday - and report what is happening with our budget and where we stand in terms of current total giving/revenue - and ask you to consider whether you can comfortably give more.

At present we pay a full-time minister, full-time Director of Religious Exploration, a nearly full-time combined Administrator/Music Director, a part time Communications Coordinator, and a part time AudioVisual expert. We also, of course, depend on very large numbers of volunteer hours to keep AUUF organized and working well. The past few years have seen us significantly increase our pay levels to pay more equitably, and more closely match similar positions in our larger Anchorage community - and we are committed to keeping up each year with cost of living increases. We have not seen a proportional increase in giving per pledging entity compared to our increased costs, and so we encourage you to raise your giving fairly significantly if that is possible for you without creating significant difficulty for you. Your prepared forms we have created provide increases options of 5% (just keeping up), 10% (help with upwards pay adjustments), and 15% (helps cover for those who are unable to increase giving without hardship). Any other option is welcomed and a line is provided for you to fill in some other number or gift.

We think that we offer a community of caring, like-minded people in search of deeper meaning and truth and community - and impact on social justice issues - and that the type of welcoming community we offer is even more important to maintain in the current political and economic climate in Alaska and the U.S. We ask that you consider prioritizing the AUUF community with your giving and think about the direct impact on our members - and all of the work your fellow community members do for the good of the larger community.

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

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

[Click here to see a video from our RE kids.](#)

The Forum

Next week

February 2, at 9:00 a.m., we'll be back to our regular time, to hear from **Anchorage Mayor Susanne LaFrance**.

Taco Fiesta & Cards Night

February 7th 5:30-8 PM

Looking for something fun to do? There is plenty of room at our table so please let us know if you would like to join the Connections team for our auction event on February 7th 5:30-8 PM. The cost for individuals is \$20/each or families with children grade 8 and up at \$50. Food and soft beverages will be provided. Adult beverages will be available with an extra donation at the event. After dinner we will have a variety of card games. We would appreciate knowing if you are planning to come so please contact Donna at slowingdownnow13@gmail.com to let us know.

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.

AUUF Religious Exploration January 2025 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.](#)

Grades 10-12 OWL postponed until Fall 2026

Due to low enrollment, Grades 10-12 OWL is postponed until Fall of 2026. Watch for an upcoming Forum where we will offer information on the OWL program and Religious Exploration at AUUF.



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!

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

Volunteer Hospitality Slots for all Sundays in 2026 are available on the Sign-Up Genius

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!



JANUARY HALF PORTION FOR SOCIAL ACTION: PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILOT)

Payment to the Municipality of Anchorage for essential services provided to the Fellowship.

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

30 Days of Love: Week One is Live

As people of faith, we are forever called to reimagine, to center love and to let it guide our way, to believe that a better world is not only possible, but that we are creating it right now, every day, in large and small ways. — Rachel Myslivi

30 Days of Love 2026 is live! [This week's theme is Reimagining Thriving](#). We begin in vision. What if thriving—not surviving—were the measure of our collective life?

This week invites us to dream boldly and theologically, rooting our imagination in joy, sustainability, and possibility.

Check out our incredible offerings for this week: a reflection from Rachel Myslivi, UUA Climate Justice Strategist; a theological conversation with Dr. Elías Ortega; an original coloring sheet; a meditative body practice; multiple activities for families to do together; and a journal worksheet to reflect on this week's theme.

[**WEEK ONE: REIMAGINING THRIVING**](#)



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

Connect with us



Visit Our Website

AUUF Podcast

Donate

ANCHORAGE UU FELLOWSHIP | 2824 E. 18th Ave | Anchorage, AK 99508 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!



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

Today At Our Fellowship Thursday, January 29, 2026

This Week @ AUUF

Thursday, January 29

6:30 – 8:00 pm Choir Practice Sanctuary

Friday, January 30

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

Saturday, January 31

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

Sunday, February 1

9:00 – 10:15 am The Forum
11:00 am – 1:00 pm HS Youth Group
Room 7
11:00 am – 12:15 pm Sunday Worship
Live at AUUF & on Zoom
12:30 – 2:00 pm The Alliance - At AUUF
Sanctuary
4:00 – 5:30 pm Anchorage Friends
Meeting Sanctuary & Social Room

Monday, February 2

Tuesday, February 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, February 4

3:30 – 5:00 pm Connections Team
Meeting on Zoom Library
5:00 – 6:30 pm CYRE Team Meeting - In
Person & Zoom
Library
7:00 – 8:30 pm Building & Grounds
Meeting - Zoom

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



The Forum IN person & on Zoom 9:00 AM Sunday, February 1, 2026
"Community Update 2026" Mayor Suzanne LaFrance

The Forum

Sunday February 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 Sunday, Feb. 1
"Your Turn"
With Lars Danner & Barb Clark

Sunday Worship Service

Sunday February 1, 2026 11:00 AM
IN- PERSON and on Zoom

[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.

News from Rev. Lise

Dear Ones,

As many of you know, at the moment I'm at the Institute in Albuquerque, NM. This is a once every three year opportunity for UU religious professionals to delve into a deeper topic of their choosing to help enrich their ministries. When the Institute finishes on Friday I'll then go to visit my sister-in-law and her family who live in NM. Nelson is already there, hiking up a storm. I'll be back late on Thursday, Feb. 5 and see you on Sunday, Feb. 8, if not before.

In the meantime, I wanted to share my sermon from last week that described my experiences in Minneapolis last week. It has been good to hear that the Trump administration is getting enough feedback they are changing some of their approach. We need more changes however. Anyway, here's my sermon and I hope you have a good week.

Blessings, Rev. Lise

Resist with Love (and Support AUUF)

This is going to be a different kind of stewardship sermon, because, if you didn't know, I made a quick trip to Minneapolis this week.

As I write, it's Saturday morning and I'm sitting in the restaurant of the hotel where I've stayed the last two nights. While eating my breakfast I've been watching people come in, chat, eat, leave, seemingly go about their everyday lives. At the same time, I've been continuing to monitor my Minnesota clergy Signal chat. If you aren't familiar with Signal, it's an encrypted texting system that many folks are using for security reasons. At first there were messages about delayed flights due to the cold, questions about how we could help if we were stuck here for a while--you know, a bunch of overachieving UU ministers wanting to DO something. Then, someone posted that an observer was shot, and maybe killed. An hour later I found this confirmed on the NYTs app.

I keep reminding myself to pause and breathe. I need to go walk to settle the butterflies in my chest and stomach, AND I need to write this message. So simply breathing in place until I leave for the airport will have to do.

Two youngish white men, late 20s, early 30s, are sitting at the bar in front of me. They have short, well kept hair and I wonder if they might be off-duty ICE officers. There's really nothing that is making me wonder this except that they have short hair. They look like regular, kind, reasonable people. But so did the ICE officers I saw intimidating a pregnant Latina woman on Thursday. Have you heard that story yet? Okay, deep breaths.

First off, I decided Sunday night to answer the clergy call that the group MARCH sent out on Friday. MARCH stands for Multi-faith Anti-Racist Change and Healing, and it's an organizing collaborative. They've been working to support their community in Minneapolis in the midst of the ICE invasion since ICE arrived in December. They have been observing and notifying their neighbors when ICE comes near. They follow ICE in their cars so ICE knows they're being watched. They blow whistles on corners, in parking lots, anywhere that ICE agents may get out of their vehicles in order to abduct or intimidate someone. MARCH folks provide food, medicines, diapers and other necessities to folks who are too afraid to leave their homes for fear of being abducted. On Thursday, the morning we all first gathered together, one of the organizers was late because she was delivering breast milk to a three-month old baby whose mom had been abducted a few days before. These folks are operating on their deep knowledge of the inherent worth of every individual. They're operating on the fact that no human is illegal. They are operating on and resisting with love.

And the folks who work through MARCH are exhausted. Exhausted. So on Thursday, January 15 they decided to ask for help—much the way that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. asked clergy to come to Selma, AL in 1965. And help came. By Thursday morning, one week later, over 700 clergy from all faiths and from all over the country including 200ish UUs answered their call.

But back to my story about the innocuous looking ICE agents.

Late Thursday morning a few hours after all of us had gathered together, those of us who were willing and able were asked to get on buses to go to a neighborhood in south Minneapolis to observe ICE activity for an hour. We loaded ourselves into three buses of about 50 people each. On the bus, we were told to stay in pairs and stay safe. At all times, clergy were asked to discern their needs regarding safety and to act accordingly. We were told that if a certain action seemed too risky, for whatever reason, that all types of help would be welcome and there were many folks, we could take shifts. So, my friend James and I headed in search of a place we thought ICE agents might be. I saw a small L-shaped strip mall with obviously immigrant ethnic businesses in it. The parking lot wasn't

very full, but we decided to go explore. We had been told that even if we didn't see any ICE agents, we could visit shops, talk with people and maybe buy something as a show of support. Out of the nine businesses located in the strip mall, six were closed. One of the three that was open was keeping their doors locked.

If this story is sounding familiar, you may have read it on AUUF's or my FB pages. It's worth retelling again—many times.

As we crossed the parking lot, James noticed a dark colored Suburban with four people inside. They were parked so they had a full view of the mall. One of them was absent minded playing with his buff, pulling it up over his mouth and nose, then down again, as one does. Both James and I felt a rush of anxiety. Should I pull out my whistle and start blowing now? What should we do? Would that antagonize the agents or needlessly scare people? We were new to this and didn't know for sure if they were ICE agents. Maybe they were harmless. We hailed two more clergy over for support and the four of us stood on the sidewalk in front of the stores, talked, watched and waited.

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

Stewardship Sunday

A message from Doug Eby - AUUF Treasurer and Board Member

This Sunday January 25th is Stewardship Sunday and the AUUF community will gather at 10am for a single meeting time rather than the usual 9am and 11am times. The following four weeks is when we all will make any changes we decide to make in our contributions to help keep AUUF going financially - leading to the responsible development of our next year's fiscal year budget. We are a member organization who does not receive outside money, and gives, in fact, to the national organization the amount they request to support their budget (about \$20K/year) and so, our ongoing functioning depends on the giving of our members to pay for the staff we depend on, and the costs of the facility we meet in. Our budget is just over \$450,000 a year, with a deficit of right around \$60,000, so we need lots and lots of generous giving from all of you!! We don't expect any large changes up or down in costs next fiscal year (July to end of June). Everyone needs to give something - the attached table/suggested giving guide lists \$20 per month as the least amount (2%) - for those who's post-tax income is under \$20,000 a year - and \$3-4,000 per month (7-10%) for those making \$500,000 a year after taxes. For a household/pledging unit with a post-tax income of \$150,000 a year, the recommended monthly giving range is \$500/month (4%) to \$1250/month (10%). We also need you to invite friends and neighbors to give us a visit and consider joining AUUF! We will thrive better as a somewhat larger group.

We have moved to an ongoing giving system where your monthly giving will continue until you change it or end it (similar to what public media and other non-profit organizations generally do now). If you prefer to give once annually, quarterly, or some other way (stocks, RMD's, etc.) we will work individually with you to accommodate your preferences. Once a year we will do this special Stewardship Sunday - and report what is happening with our budget and where we stand in terms of current total giving/revenue - and ask you to consider whether you can comfortably give more.

At present we pay a full-time minister, full-time Director of Religious Exploration, a nearly full-time combined Administrator/Music Director, a part time Communications Coordinator, and a part time AudioVisual expert. We also, of course, depend on very large numbers of volunteer hours to keep AUUF organized and working well. The past few years have seen

us significantly increase our pay levels to pay more equitably, and more closely match similar positions in our larger Anchorage community - and we are committed to keeping up each year with cost of living increases. We have not seen a proportional increase in giving per pledging entity compared to our increased costs, and so we encourage you to raise your giving fairly significantly if that is possible for you without creating significant difficulty for you. Your prepared forms we have created provide increases options of 5% (just keeping up), 10% (help with upwards pay adjustments), and 15% (helps cover for those who are unable to increase giving without hardship). Any other option is welcomed and a line is provided for you to fill in some other number or gift.

We think that we offer a community of caring, like-minded people in search of deeper meaning and truth and community - and impact on social justice issues - and that the type of welcoming community we offer is even more important to maintain in the current political and economic climate in Alaska and the U.S. We ask that you consider prioritizing the AUUF community with your giving and think about the direct impact on our members - and all of the work your fellow community members do for the good of the larger community.

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

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

[Click here to see a video from our RE kids.](#)

AUUF Religious Exploration January 2025 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.](#)

Grades 10-12 OWL postponed until Fall 2026

Due to low enrollment, Grades 10-12 OWL is postponed until Fall of 2026. Watch for an upcoming Forum where we will offer information on the OWL program and Religious Exploration at AUUF.



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!

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

Volunteer Hospitality Slots for all Sundays in 2026 are available on the Sign-Up Genius

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!



JANUARY HALF PORTION FOR SOCIAL ACTION: PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILOT)

Payment to the Municipality of Anchorage for essential services provided to the Fellowship.

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



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

Connect with us



Visit Our Website

AUUF Podcast

Donate

ANCHORAGE UU FELLOWSHIP | 2824 E. 18th Ave | Anchorage, AK 99508 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!