



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

Today At Our Fellowship Thursday, December 4, 2025

This Week @ AUUF

Thursday, December 4

10:45 am – 12:45 pm Music Together
Mountain Song Social Room
5:30 – 7:00 pm Anti-Racism Team
Meeting Library & Zoom
6:30 – 8:00 pm Choir Practice Sanctuary

Friday, December 5

8:15 am – 12:45 pm Music Together
Mountain Song Social Room
12:00 – 2:00 pm Freethinkers in Person
Only Room 7

Saturday, December 6

8:30 – 10:30 am AA-Slap Happy Group at
AUUF Social Room
10:00 am – 12:45 pm Music Together
Mountain Song
1:00 – 3:00 pm Amanda's Violin Class
Room 5
4:00 – 6:00 pm Holiday Sing-Along
Sanctuary

Sunday, December 7

8:30 am – 1:00 pm Holiday Bazaar
Social Room
9:00 – 10:15 am The Forum
11:00 am – 12:15 pm Sunday Worship
11:00 am – 1:00 pm HS Youth Group
Room 7
11:00 am – 12:00 pm Sunday Worship
Live at AUUF & on Zoom
12:30 – 2:00 pm The Alliance - At AUUF

Monday, December 8

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

Tuesday, December 9

11:00 am – 12:00 pm Staff Meeting
2:00 – 4:00 pm Knitting Group
Room 7

Wednesday, December 10

5:00 – 7:00 pm OWL HS Teacher
Meeting Room 7 & on Zoom
6:00 – 8:00 pm Safer Congregation Team
on Zoom

Thursday, December 11

10:45 am – 12:45 pm Music Together
Mountain Song Social Room
2:00– 3:00 pm UU HR Meeting
6:30 – 8:00 pm Choir Practice
Sanctuary

Friday, December 12

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

December Worship Services

The theme for our worship services this month is “choosing hope.” It obviously fits thematically with this time of year as we celebrate various holidays that recognize the importance of hope. The hope the Jews felt for the renewal of their faith when they won back their temple and the oil for their lamps miraculously lasted until more oil could be made. The hope for the recognition of traditions, community and self-determination that Kwanzaa illuminates for Black society (and any others who wish to honor such values). And the hope that the baby Jesus brought of wisdom and peace for the world, and which UUs recognize all children and people may bring to us. There’s also the hope of the sun rising each morning and warm temperatures arriving again after a long, cold winter. And Emily Dickinson referred to hope as “the thing with feathers.” Hope is necessary for our human condition, and we sometimes need to work to renew it. Hopefully, this month of Sundays will help us to do so. *(But read the dates below carefully, there’s some non-Sundays and some evening times in the mix, too.)*

Dec. 7, 2025, 11 am In-person and Zoom (No) World AIDS Day

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, Alix McKee

Since the 1980s, our world has worked to learn about and halt the transmission of AIDS. This year, 2025, is the first that our federal government has not marked World AIDS Day since 1988, in addition to defunding international AIDS health resources. Our UU values and principles call us to a different path of action, encouraging us to work for justice, equity, generosity and more. And we know that hope is still alive.

Dec. 14, 2025, 11 am In-person and Zoom Multigenerational Solstice Service

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, Jenn Bluntach—Director of Religious Exploration

We’ll light candles, sing songs and tell stories before we enact our yearly ritual with drums and chanting to entice the sun back into our midst. Feel free to recreate what we do today on the actual Solstice—we’re starting a little early to accommodate folks who may travel during the holidays.

Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2025, 6 pm In-person and Zoom Blue Holidays

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, Renée Frost

The holidays can be hard, especially for those experiencing loss or other challenges. Coined as the “happiest time of the year,” all the bustle and good cheer can be stressful and sometimes oppressive. Those who don’t share in the joy may feel pressured to bury their sadness or anger. While hope does exist, we want to acknowledge that we can’t always find it. Tonight, we want to create a safe place to simply be, to simply feel whatever we may need to feel. We’ll start with soup at 6:30 pm, then begin our worship service around 7 pm.

[Click here to read the worship titles for all of December.](#)
[Click here to join on Zoom.](#)



Carol 'Til You Drop Holiday Sing-Along 2025 Dec 6th 4-6 pm

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
2824 E 18th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99508

Come celebrate the season with AUUF at the Carol 'Til You Drop Holiday Sing-Along! Come capture that magical holiday feeling together. Caroling has a history of being ruckus and reverent, Pagan, Christian and Secular. Like all holidays, our celebrations are what we make them, and ours is about community! Come be a part of a little nostalgia and sing old favorites, learn new songs, and enjoy our own UU rendition of the caroling tradition! We'll have lyrics and musical accompaniment, all we need is you!

This is an all-ages event! Please reach out if you'd like to volunteer to play an instrument. Bring wassail, wine, nog, holiday goodies or anything you'd like to share!

Call AUUF at (907)248-3737 or James Dryden at 907-344-4995

AUUF Christmas Bazaar

AUUF Christmas Bazaar – December 7

Sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Committee

Get ready to shop with purpose! The AUUF Christmas Bazaar returns on Saturday, December 7, offering a festive selection of gift-worthy treasures—all in support of a brighter, greener future for our fellowship.

Donations Welcome!

We're seeking new or gently used items that would make great holiday gifts. Please no used clothing. Donations can be dropped off downstairs in Room 2 at the fellowship. Items will be reviewed for suitability; anything not appropriate may be redirected to Value Village or responsibly discarded.

Final Drop-Off Day: Saturday, December 6, 1–4 PM. The committee will also be setting up during this time.

Why It Matters:

Proceeds from the Bazaar will help fund the installation of solar panels—a meaningful step toward sustainability and stewardship.

Let's celebrate the season with generosity and joy!

Half Portion Voting Results

Sara Hannon

For the past several years, the Social Action Council has organized nominations and voting for Half Portion causes. These are causes that are selected by our Fellowship through an open voting process during a two-week period in November. Everyone who is a member of the Fellowship can vote and select worthy causes to support through an online voting process once per year.

A New Approach

After a few years of selecting the same causes, members of our Social Action Council felt that we were at a fork in the road. It seemed like we faced three main choices: continue to hold nomination and voting opportunities which takes effort and would likely have yielded the same results, select the worthy causes without nomination or voting (stay with the same causes from previous years), or provide an opportunity for non-incumbents to be selected. To provide an opportunity for emerging worthy causes to receive recognition, we chose to adjust the selection process so that the eight highest vote getters, at least two non-incumbents, and at least one cause focused on Indigenous people would be selected. This allowed our Fellowship to participate in the selection of worthy causes while ensuring that at least one Indigenous cause and at least two emerging, non-incumbent causes to be selected.

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

A Message from Douglas Eby

At the May Business Meeting, the AUUF membership agreed to pass an ambitious budget that kept all of our full-time and part-time staff employed, raised the pay for some positions, and provided benefits for those closer to full time, despite not being able to

identify enough revenue to cover all of this. The plan was - and is - to attract enough new people, create more rental payments for use of our facility, and optimize the one time revenue categories (such as the Auction and WhaleCoast) - in large enough numbers to cover the predicted \$50-60,000 shortfall on a \$475,000 budget. We did - and do - also know that we have enough undesignated reserves to get us through one more year of deficit spending if this did not all materialize. So...where are we with 1/3 of the fiscal year completed? The good news is that WhaleCoast was solid, the Auction slightly exceeded its ambitious \$17,000 target, and our membership is giving their pledged amounts on schedule. The bad news is that there has not been any significant increase in new people who create new pledges or any real increase in facility-use rental payments. We do have one person using the building more who will be paying us somewhat more beginning in January. So - we have 7 months left to 'up our efforts' at sharing the wonderfulness of AUUF, attracting new members as a result - and to share with others the opportunities for paid use of our facility (weddings, funerals, celebrations, performances, etc.). It is important that we each feel a sense of responsibility to help with this effort, and to remember this need as we also consider our pledges in February for the next year. We are a fabulous community of people, activities, passions, and advocacy with potential appeal to more people living among us!

A message from your Endowment Fund Committee

(Endow@AnchorageUUF.org)

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

Consider a tax-free Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to the Endowment Fund when making your final Required Minimum Distribution from eligible IRA accounts. QCD checks must be processed before December 31st to qualify for the 2025 tax year. Talk to your financial adviser soon!

The current balance of our Endowment Fund is \$299,656, which includes a recent \$1,000 member contribution. That leaves us just \$344 shy of \$300,000! Our committee challenges you to make a contribution to the Fund to meet this goal. Are you up to the challenge???



The Alliance is selling 2026 Calendars!

These special calendars feature photos of members of The Alliance and include the dates of important AUUF events. This fundraiser supports programs and projects at AUUF. Calendars will be sold after the Forum and the Worship Service. The price is \$30 and we can accept cash or checks only. Thank you! For more information contact Katherine Huffman or Linda McCool.

AUUF Religious Exploration December & January 2025 Updates

[Click here to read.](#)

Grades 10-12 OWL Registration is now open

Our Whole Lives:
Sexuality Education for Grades 10-12, 2nd edition
Our Whole Lives (OWL) values:

- Self-Worth
- Sexual Health
- Responsibility
- Justice and Inclusivity

OWL provides a safe setting for teens to explore their attitudes, values, and



beliefs about their own and others' sexuality. This developmentally appropriate, field-tested curriculum addresses important topics through dialogue and engaging activities. It promotes decision-making informed by accurate information and a foundation of personal values and life goals.

Registration Deadline is Thursday, December 18

[Click here to register.](#)

Please Volunteer for Sunday Hospitality Connections Team Needs help for Sundays in December!

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

Thanks to all who continue to help!



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For a PWR local contact please reach out to Claudia Van Buren by email at claudiav@prairieuu.org or by phone 303-501-2628. "

DECEMBER HALF PORTION FOR SOCIAL ACTION: ALASKA INNOCENCE PROJECT

Dennis Arashiro



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

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

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

This is an interesting time for many organizations – similarly for AKIP. Cases that have started with our involvement are actively changing the legal landscape for future cases of innocence. Advances in forensic science compound year by year while more complete data collection assisted by AI analyses are revealing new problem areas.

Near and dear to AKIP, this December marks the 10-year anniversary of the Fairbanks Four Exoneration. We'd be remiss to call it a celebration given all that these four men have gone through. Reflection on their last decade has forced an expansion of our mission toward post-exoneration reform and prevention. Our state needs to adopt policies that gives innocent individuals basic services and adopts practices that match the trajectory of other states.

I look forward to a discussion that both reflects and looks forward at these issues. I do know that we could not look forward confidently to tomorrow without community support. Thank you again to the Fellowship for continuing to be a keystone for AKIP's important work.

Respectfully and gratefully yours,

Jory Knott
Executive Director

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"



Save the Dates!
Holiday events at AUUF

- Dec. 6, 2025 4:00 PM Winter Sing -Along
- Dec. 12, 2025 5:30-8 PM Parents Night Out
- Dec. 14, 2025 11:00 AM Multi-Generational Winter Solstice Service
- Dec. 16, 2025 6:30 PM Blue Christmas Service
- Dec 18, 2025 Registration ends for OWL Grades 10-12
- Dec. 24, 2025 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Service
- Jan. 16, 2026 5:30-8 PM Parents Night Out
- Jan. 18, 2026 OWL Grades 10-12 starts

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

Our AUUF Covenant

Together . . .

We seek to be an open and welcoming community.

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

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

Together we are Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.



Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2824 E. 18th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99508

(907) 248-3737

[Website](http://www.anchorageuuf.org)

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

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

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

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

DRE@anchorageuuf.org

Office hours usually are:

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

Esme Danner, (she/her), Congregational Administrator

Admin@AnchorageUUF.org, 907.248.3737 x.1

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

Esme Danner, (she/her), Music Director

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

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

Communications@anchorageuuf.org

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



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common purpose.*

Today At Our Fellowship Thursday, December 11, 2025

This Week @ AUUF

Thursday, December 11

10:45 am – 12:45 pm Music Together
Mountain Song Social Room
2:00 – 3:00 pm UU HR Meeting
6:30 – 8:00 pm Choir Practice Sanctuary

Friday, December 12

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, December 13

8:30 – 10:30 am AA-Slap Happy Group at
AUUF Social Room
10:00 am – 12:45 pm Music Together
Mountain Song

Sunday, December 14

8:30 am – 1:00 pm Alternative Gift Fair
Social Room
9:00 – 10:15 am The Forum
11:00 am – 12:15 pm Sunday Worship
11:00 am – 1:00 pm HS Youth Group
Room 7
11:00 am – 12:00 pm Sunday Worship
Live at AUUF & on Zoom
1:30 – 2:30 pm Worship Associate
Meeting on Zoom
4:00 – 5:30 pm Anchorage Friends
Meeting Sanctuary & Social Room

Monday, December 15

Tuesday, December 16

2:00 – 4:00 pm Knitting Group Room 7
6:30 – 8:30 pm Finance Committee
Meeting
6:30 – 8:00 pm Blue Christmas

Wednesday, December 17

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

Thursday, December 18

8:15 am – 12:45 pm Music Together
Mountain Song Social Room
6:30 – 8:00 pm Choir Practice
Sanctuary

Friday, December 19

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



The Forum IN person & on Zoom 9:00 AM Sunday Dec.14, 2025
"TSDO or not TSDO? That is Not the Question—Housing and Zoning in Anchorage" John Weddleton, Erin Baldwin Day

The Forum

Sunday December 14, 2025 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
Dec.14, 2025 *"Multi-generational Solstice Service"*
Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, Jenn Bluntach—DRE

Sunday Worship Service

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

December Worship Services

The theme for our worship services this month is “choosing hope.” It obviously fits thematically with this time of year as we celebrate various holidays that recognize the

importance of hope. The hope the Jews felt for the renewal of their faith when they won back their temple and the oil for their lamps miraculously lasted until more oil could be made. The hope for the recognition of traditions, community and self-determination that Kwanzaa illuminates for Black society (and any others who wish to honor such values). And the hope that the baby Jesus brought of wisdom and peace for the world, and which UU's recognize all children and people may bring to us. There's also the hope of the sun rising each morning and warm temperatures arriving again after a long, cold winter. And Emily Dickinson referred to hope as "the thing with feathers." Hope is necessary for our human condition, and we sometimes need to work to renew it. Hopefully, this month of Sundays will help us to do so. *(But read the dates below carefully, there's some non-Sundays and some evening times in the mix, too.)*

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Multigenerational Solstice Service

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, Jenn Bluntach—Director of Religious Exploration

We'll light candles, sing songs and tell stories before we enact our yearly ritual with drums and chanting to entice the sun back into our midst. Feel free to recreate what we do today on the actual Solstice—we're starting a little early to accommodate folks who may travel during the holidays.

Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2025, 6:30 pm In-person and Zoom

Blue Holidays

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, Renée Frost

The holidays can be hard, especially for those experiencing loss or other challenges. Coined as the "happiest time of the year," all the bustle and good cheer can be stressful and sometimes oppressive. Those who don't share in the joy may feel pressured to bury their sadness or anger. While hope does exist, we want to acknowledge that we can't always find it. Tonight, we want to create a safe place to simply be, to simply feel whatever we may need to feel. We'll start with soup at 6:30 pm, then begin our worship service around 7 pm.

[Click here to read the worship titles for all of December.](#)

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

Alternative Gift Fair

This Sunday, December 14, the Green Sanctuary Committee will host our Alternative Gift Fair — a meaningful way to celebrate the season by giving back.

Instead of traditional gifts, participants can make donations in their own name or in honor of loved ones. Representatives from each participating charity will be present, offering the chance to learn more about their work and connect directly with the causes you support.

Participating Charities

- Facing Foster Care in Alaska
- ACLU
- Standing Together Against Rape (STAR)
- Green Sanctuary's Solar Panel Project
- AUUF Endowment Fund
- Planned Parenthood
- Friends of the Library
- Airport Heights Elementary School

How to Give

- In person: Donations can be made during the event on Sunday, December 14.
 - Online: Contributions may also be made throughout the following week via school auction. A link will be emailed to you on Sunday if you would like to use this option.
- Join us in turning generosity into community impact — and discover how your gift can shine far beyond the holiday season.
-

Holiday Communication Info

Happy Holidays! AUUF Staff will be off Dec 25- Jan 1 for the holiday.

I will prepare & publish Today at Our Fellowship Newsletter Dec 24, with information valid running up to Dec 31st. On Dec 31, I will have the same newsletter scheduled to send again. So no new info will be added or subtracted between Dec 24- Dec 31 for the TAOF newsletter and the AUUF website. If you want anything published between those dates, please send it to me by Dec 22nd at 9 am.

Thanks & Happy Holidays!

As always you can submit your article at [this link](#).

-Kelly Strycker
Communications Specialist

Holiday Message from your Endowment Fund Committee

(Endow@AnchorageUUF.org)

'Tis the season for generous giving and for making those year-end charitable donations. We would like to gently remind you that this giving can include the AUUF Endowment Fund. This endowment fund is an investment in our AUUF future that we can all support. On the AUUF website, click on "Giving," then "Donate/Pay Now" and then enter an amount on the line for the Endowment Fund. Donations are welcome anytime throughout the year no matter the amount and we can also provide you with information about making a legacy gift.

Consider a tax free Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to the Endowment Fund when making your final Required Minimum Distribution from eligible IRA accounts. QCD checks must be processed before December 31st to qualify for the 2025 tax year. Talk to your financial adviser soon! Have a happy and giving holiday.

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

Busy bags are now available in the sanctuary for kids! Each bag contains 2 books, coloring sheets, crayons and pipcleaners. These can be used during any service held in the sanctuary at AUUF. Please return them after services (as neatly as possible) 😊 Bags will be updated periodically with new books and seasonal coloring pages.

***There is still a small tote with toddler appropriate books and toys for the littles**



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/15ATBKNTRMBQORQQ8](https://forms.gle/15ATBKNTRMBQORQQ8)



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[Click here to read.](#)

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Dennis Arashiro

ALASKA
INNOCENCE PROJECT

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I look forward to a discussion that both reflects and looks forward at these issues. I do know that we could not look forward confidently to tomorrow without community support. Thank you again to the Fellowship for continuing to be a keystone for AKIP's important work.

Respectfully and gratefully yours,

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

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

Save the Dates!

Holiday events at AUUF

Dec. 12, 2025 5:30-8 PM Parents Night Out

Dec. 14, 2025 11:00 AM Multi-Generational Winter Solstice Service

Dec. 16, 2025 6:30 PM Blue Holiday Service

Dec 18, 2025 Registration ends for OWL Grades 10-12

Dec. 24, 2025 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Service

Jan. 16, 2026 5:30-8 PM Parents Night Out

Jan. 18, 2026 OWL Grades 10-12 starts



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

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.



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 Mon, Tues, Wed, Friday 9 am - 1 pm. Thursday 7-9:30 am AK,
& 1:30-3:00 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

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Today At Our Fellowship

Thursday, December 18, 2025

This Week @ AUUF

Thursday, December 18

10:45 am – 12:45 pm Music Together

Mountain Song Social Room

6:30 – 8:00 pm Choir Practice Sanctuary

Friday, December 19

12:00 – 2:00 pm Freethinkers in Person

Only Room 7

Saturday, December 20

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

AUUF Social Room

Sunday, December 21

9:00 – 10:15 am The Forum

11:00 am – 12:15 pm Sunday Worship

Live at AUUF & on Zoom

4:00 – 5:30 pm Anchorage Friends

Meeting Sanctuary & Social Room

Monday, December 22

Tuesday, December 23

2:00 – 4:00 pm Knitting Group Room 7

Wednesday, December 24

6:30 pm Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day

Friday, December 26

12:00 – 2:00 pm Freethinkers in Person

Only Room 7



The Forum IN person & on Zoom 9:00 AM Sunday, December 21, 2025
"Freeing Wrongly Convicted Alaskans and Preventing Future Injustice"
Jory Knott, Alaska Innocence Project

The Forum

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

Join us in person if you are able **for the last Forums of the year**. See your friends, and let our speakers know you appreciate them making the effort to be with us. And, of course, we welcome your participation by Zoom when you can't make it to the Fellowship.

This Sunday's Forum, on **December 21**, will feature the **Alaska Innocence Project**. AKIP Executive Director Jory Knott will speak about ***"Freeing Wrongfully Convicted Alaskans and Preventing Future Injustice."*** In this season of "choosing hope," it's a chance to focus on a group that tirelessly bucks the odds to give hope to people who may it's out of reach. AKIP is AUUF's Half-Portion recipient for December.

We'll close out 2025 and a year of great Forums on Sunday, **December 28**, by "taking a breather" from the constant flow of urgent and important social, political, environmental, cultural, and other issues competing for our attention and energy. **Dr. Robert Alexander** will talk with us about ***"Breathwork for Daily Life: Release, Recharge, Reclaim."*** When Robert spoke to the Forum last time, he talked more about his work sonifying solar wind data for NASA. This time his focus will be inward, with some techniques we can incorporate in our daily life; a moment of calm before we charge back into the storm.

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



Sunday Worship Service IN person & on Zoom 11:00 AM Sun. Dec. 21, 2025
"Hope Is The Thing With Feathers" Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, Barb Clark

Sunday Worship Service

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

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

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diverse beliefs,
common purpose.

*Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service*

Dec. 24, 2025 6:30 PM. All ages. Live at AUUF & on ZOOM

2824 E. 18th Avenue, Anchorage, AK
AnchorageUUF.org

Minister's Message

I hope you all are finding your way through the holiday craze, or holiday bliss, or holiday blaze . . . 😊

I have found myself sticking closer to home, doing work in front of the fireplace, pondering the sun low on the horizon, and drinking more hot drinks than usual. As we'll be leaving to see our new grandchild in Massachusetts on Christmas morning (she's due to appear any

day now), we haven't done much decorating around home. There's still time if I feel so inclined, but I've been trying to enjoy the respite and darkness that this season brings which seems to involve more contemplation than decoration.

In whatever way we may celebrate, or don't, I still find it a beautiful time of year. The crisp coldness outside, snow on the ground, the sparkly lights. Even the yearning we may feel for past events and people can have a bittersweet beauty to it.

I asked my daughter-in-law this morning if she would hold the phone to her pregnant belly so I could ask my granddaughter to be born today. I wanted her to share her birthday (December 17) with my long-deceased mom—her great grandmother. As there are only a few hours left on this day on the east coast, I doubt my wish will come true. My granddaughter will already show her unique tastes and talents by arriving when she is ready, and not before. And that's a good thing. For me it's joy and sorrow intermixed—that bittersweetness I mentioned earlier.

So many of us have much for which to be thankful. So many of us are struggling. Either way, I hope you might be able to share some of your goodwill and/or attention with those who have less. The cliché runs true—focusing outside ourselves (at least part of the time) can help us to create our own happier life. At our Christmas Eve service I'm dedicating our offering to the Housing Fund for clients in our Family Emergency Cold Weather Shelter. Much of the funding that this program previously received came from government funding which no longer exists; they make do with private donations now. Even if you can't come to our Christmas Eve service at 6:30 pm, maybe you can go online on our website and donate to our Christmas Eve offering. [Additionally, listed here are ways you can give to the community through the Catholic Social Services.](#)

Any little bit will help.

I wish you all a happy holiday season, and hopefully I'll see you at the Fellowship before December 25.

With blessings and love,

Rev. Lise

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!

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.

Holiday Communication Info

Happy Holidays! AUUF Staff will be off Dec 25- Jan 1 for the holiday.

I will prepare & publish Today at Our Fellowship Newsletter Dec 24, with information valid running up to Dec 31st. On Dec 31, I will have the same newsletter scheduled to send again. So no new info will be added or subtracted between Dec 24- Dec 31 for the TAOF newsletter and the AUUF website. If you want anything published between those dates, please send it to me by Dec 22nd at 9 am.

Thanks & Happy Holidays!

As always you can submit your article at [this link](#).

-Kelly Strycker
Communications Specialist

Holiday Message from your Endowment Fund Committee

(Endow@AnchorageUUF.org)

'Tis the season for generous giving and for making those year-end charitable donations. We would like to gently remind you that this giving can include the AUUF Endowment Fund. This endowment fund is an investment in our AUUF future that we can all support. On the AUUF website, click on "Giving," then "Donate/Pay Now" and then enter an amount on the line for the Endowment Fund. Donations are welcome anytime throughout the year no matter the amount and we can also provide you with information about making a legacy gift.

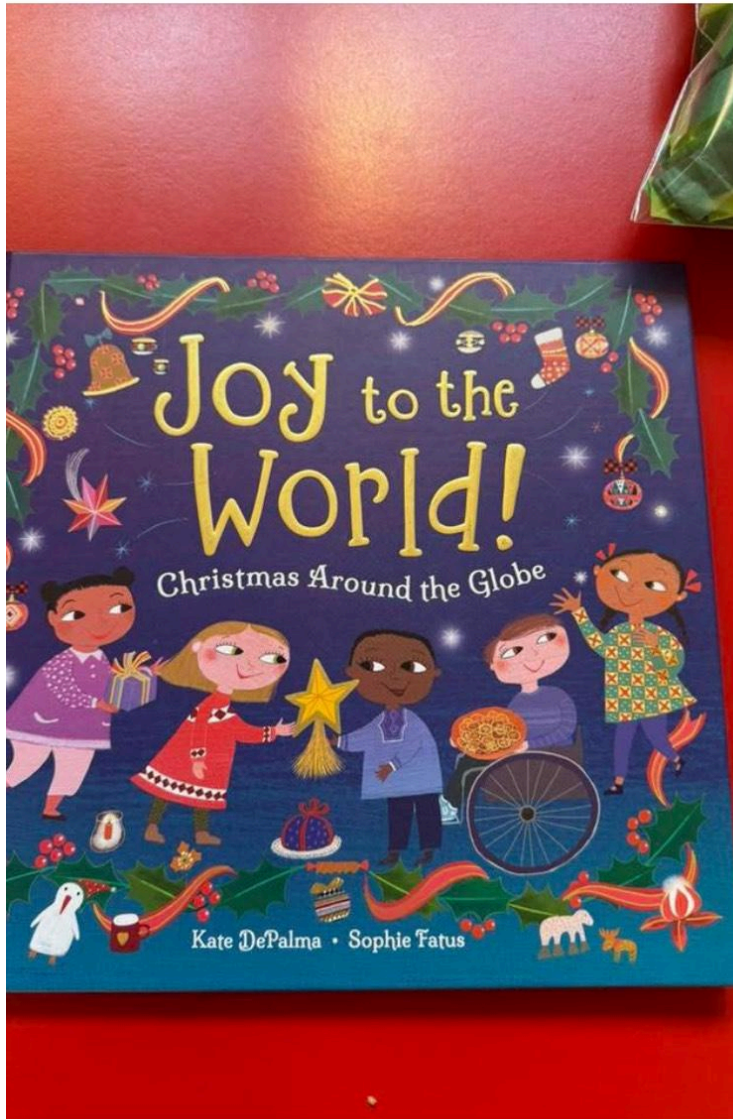
Consider a tax free Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to the Endowment Fund when making your final Required Minimum Distribution from eligible IRA accounts. QCD checks must be processed before December 31st to qualify for the 2025 tax year. Talk to your financial adviser soon! Have a happy and giving holiday.

In the Elemental Owl Room (grades 4-7) the kids will be tasked with making Grinch slime for each child in RE to bring home this week in individual containers. They'll also get to play some fun games as we discuss the lesson we will learn about the Grinch.



GRINCH SLIME

In the Rainbow Butterfly Room (Pre-K) the kids have a cute Grinch ornament to make this week as well as learn about how other children around the world celebrate Christmas. Remember, you can wear your festive holiday pajamas or sweater this Sunday!



In the Thunder Tiger Room (grades k-3) this week it'll be all things, Grinch! What lesson can we learn from the Grinch?! Come and find out! Activities include- Grinch art work, Grinch Ornament, Grinch Dice Game and finding out our Grinch Names! If there's time, we'll watch the classic Grinch cartoon. (We begin upstairs this week for, A Time For All Ages)



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

Busy bags are now available in the sanctuary for kids! Each bag contains 2 books, coloring sheets, crayons and pipcleaners. These can be used during any service held in the sanctuary at AUUF. Please return them after services (as neatly as possible) 😊 Bags will be updated periodically with new books and seasonal coloring pages.

***There is still a small tote with toddler appropriate books and toys for the littles**



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/15ATBKNTRMBQORQQ8](https://forms.gle/15ATBKNTRMBQORQQ8)



Questions? Contact Jenn Bluntach
dre@anchorageuuf.org

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2824 E 18th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99508
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AUUF Religious Exploration December & January 2025 Updates

[Click here to read.](#)

**Please Volunteer for Sunday Hospitality
Connections Team Needs help for Sundays in
December!**

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!



Blanketed in Beauty

A Winter Solstice Ritual Honoring the Gifts of the Darkness

Sunday, December 21st
4pm PT / 7pm ET

[\(Click here if you want help translating to your time zone.\)](#)

Winter solstice offers an opportunity to pause at a pinnacle, honoring Earth's longest night. For many moons leading up to this darkest moment, trees have been baring themselves of their leaves, offering a blanket to the Earth below. How can we as humans enter into the energy of this sacred time, using it as medicine, and aligning with the season's offerings?

Join the UU Ministry for Earth and some very special guests on the evening of Sunday, December 21st for our 5th annual winter solstice service that honors the energy and teachings of Earth's darkest time of year, which encourages us

to rest and seek nourishment in the sacred dark. Click the button below to learn more and register to attend.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

DECEMBER HALF PORTION FOR SOCIAL ACTION: ALASKA INNOCENCE PROJECT

Dennis Arashiro



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

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

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

This is an interesting time for many organizations – similarly for AKIP. Cases that have started with our involvement are actively changing the legal landscape for future cases of innocence. Advances in forensic science compound year by year while more complete data collection assisted by AI analyses are revealing new problem areas.

Near and dear to AKIP, this December marks the 10-year anniversary of the Fairbanks Four Exoneration. We'd be remiss to call it a celebration given all that these four men have gone through. Reflection on their last decade has forced an expansion of our mission toward post-exoneration reform and prevention. Our state needs to adopt policies that gives innocent individuals basic services and adopts practices that match the trajectory of other states.

I look forward to a discussion that both reflects and looks forward at these issues. I do know that we could not look forward confidently to tomorrow without community support. Thank you again to the Fellowship for continuing to be a keystone for AKIP's important work.

Respectfully and gratefully yours,

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

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Share the Care Team: sharethecare@anchorageuuf.org

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Today At Our Fellowship

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

This Week @ AUUF

Wednesday December 24

6:30 pm Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day Office Closed

Friday, December 26

Office Closed

Saturday, December 27

Office Closed

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

Sunday, December 28

Office Closed

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

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

Monday, December 29

Office Closed

Tuesday, December 30

Office Closed

2:00 – 4:00 pm Knitting Group Room 7

Wednesday, December 31

Office Closed

Thursday, January 1

Office Closed

Friday, January 2

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



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Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Dec. 24, 2025 6:30 PM. All ages. Live at AUUF & on ZOOM

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The Forum IN person & on Zoom 9:00 AM Sunday, Dec. 28, 2025
"Breathwork for Daily Life: Release, Recharge, Reclaim"
Dr. Robert Alexander

The Forum

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IN- PERSON and on Zoom

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



Sunday Worship Service IN person & on Zoom 11:00 AM Sunday Dec. 28,
"Inquiry: That's What Love Does" Kay Sind & Lars Danner

Sunday Worship Service

Sunday December 28, 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 <https://www.anchorageuuf.org/aboutmain> under Governance and Leadership. We all wish you a fulfilling and auspicious 2026!

Happy Holidays from AUUF Staff



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

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

**AUUF Staff will be on vacation Dec 25- RETURNING Jan 2.
Esme won't be back until January 5.**

Thanks & Happy Holidays!

Minister's Message

I hope you all are finding your way through the holiday craze, or holiday bliss, or holiday blaze . . . 😊

I have found myself sticking closer to home, doing work in front of the fireplace, pondering the sun low on the horizon, and drinking more hot drinks than usual. As we'll be leaving to see our new grandchild in Massachusetts on Christmas morning (she's due to appear any day now), we haven't done much decorating around home. There's still time if I feel so inclined, but I've been trying to enjoy the respite and darkness that this season brings which seems to involve more contemplation than decoration.

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Any little bit will help.

I wish you all a happy holiday season, and hopefully I'll see you at the Fellowship before December 25.

With blessings and love,

Rev. Lise

AUUF Religious Exploration (RE)

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Dec 2025 & Jan 2026

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GRADES 10-12 OWL CLASSES

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REGISTRATION

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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:
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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.](#)

**Please Volunteer for Sunday Hospitality
Connections Team Needs help for Sundays in
December!**

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!



DECEMBER HALF PORTION FOR SOCIAL ACTION: ALASKA INNOCENCE PROJECT

Dennis Arashiro



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

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

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

This is an interesting time for many organizations – similarly for AKIP. Cases that have started with our involvement are actively changing the legal landscape for future cases of innocence. Advances in forensic science compound year by year while more complete data collection assisted by AI analyses are revealing new problem areas.

Near and dear to AKIP, this December marks the 10-year anniversary of the Fairbanks Four Exoneration. We'd be remiss to call it a celebration given all that these four men have gone through. Reflection on their last decade has forced an

expansion of our mission toward post-exoneration reform and prevention. Our state needs to adopt policies that gives innocent individuals basic services and adopts practices that match the trajectory of other states.

I look forward to a discussion that both reflects and looks forward at these issues. I do know that we could not look forward confidently to tomorrow without community support. Thank you again to the Fellowship for continuing to be a keystone for AKIP's important work.

Respectfully and gratefully yours,

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

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.



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[Website](#)

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

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

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

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Office hours usually are:

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

Esme Danner, (she/her), Congregational Administrator

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

Esme Danner, (she/her), Music Director

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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

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