



# UU Matters

(August 2012: Vol. 7 No. 8 )

The Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

~A Welcoming Congregation~

1600 Isabella, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864 (618) 241-9644

## Sunday Morning Service Schedule

(All Sunday morning services are held at 10:00 a.m. at the Fellowship building and are open to the public. If you are interested in leading a service or delivering a sermon, please use the Service Sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary.)

**29 July:** *Open Readings Service.* Please bring readings, stories, music, or artwork to share. No need to sign up in advance. The Fellowship is looking forward to what you choose to share with us.

**5 August:** Paul Oakley will lead the service exploring some of the lessons he learned in chaplaincy and how they can be applied to our lives and spiritual development in the midst of all the other stuff we always have going on. Paul spent last summer in chaplaincy training at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis MO and has received an offer to spend an entire year beginning this September in chaplaincy praxis and training at Christian Hospital in North County - St. Louis.

**12 August:** Debbie Czarnopys-White will lead the service about *The Shaman Within*, tracing the origins and history of shamanism and how it is practiced in many countries around the world. It will share the varied beliefs of many cultures and the purpose of a shaman, which is to help bridge gaps and heal wounds of physical and nonphysical realities.

**19 August:** *Shared Service.* The shared service is an open reading service with a minimal structure. If you have music, art, a special reading, thought or poem to share, please do! Shared services have come to life with a diverse group participating. Selections will be available on August 5 and August 12. Please join us.

**26 August:** Donna Beaumont will lead the *Mingling of the Waters* at this service.



# Other Upcoming Events

(All Upcoming Events, held at the Fellowship Building, are open to the public.)

**1 August:** Board of Trustees Meeting  
-First Wednesday of Each Month-  
-6:30 p.m.-

Meeting is open to anyone interested in MVUUF business. **Board of Trustees:** Donna Beaumont, co-chair; Debbie Czarnopys-White, co-chair; Sam Smith, co-chair; Gail DeVilbiss, secretary; and Walter Lazenby, treasurer.

**3 August:** Drum Circle  
-First Friday of Each Month-  
-7:00 p.m.-

Bring a drum or other percussion instrument to play at this relaxed and informal drum circle, or simply come to listen and enjoy the good vibrations.

**12 August:** Buddhist Meditation  
-Second Sunday of Each Month-  
-9:00 a.m.-

Buddhist meditation group meets downstairs. One need not be Buddhist to attend.

**12 August:** Social Justice Interest Group  
-Second Sunday of Each Month-  
-11:30 a.m. following Social Hour-

Learn about, discuss, and take action on social justice concerns-- issues that affect local, national, and global communities. Our group seeks projects and issues to take action on as individuals, as a group, and/or as a congregation.

**22 August:** Meditation Group  
-Fourth Wednesday of Each Month 6:00 p.m.-  
For information, check with Nina Peacock.

A member will lead the group in a meditation activity.

## Call to Action for Marriage Equality

MVUUF is a Welcoming Congregation, inclusive of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. On the heels of the 3rd annual MVUUF Pride Picnic, in an affront to efforts toward same sex marriage equality, the Jefferson County Board passed a non-binding [resolution](#) at their June 25 meeting, declaring marriage “a sacred institution between one man and one woman.” The resolution passed 12-1, with one abstention.

Along with several letters sent from individual UUs to the editors of the Mt. Vernon newspapers and to the County Board, the MVUUF Board, LGBT Task Force, and Social Justice Interest Group sent a [letter](#) to the Jefferson County Board asking them to rescind the resolution. The small-town situation and text of the letter were featured on the national *Standing on the Side of Love* UU blog: [www.standingonthesideoflove.org/blog/emerging-congregation-speaks-out-on-marriage-equality/](http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/blog/emerging-congregation-speaks-out-on-marriage-equality/)

Eleven MVUUF attendees joined a July 23 demonstration organized by a local citizen, where around 60 people with signs and banners peacefully protested Jefferson County's anti-marriage equality resolution. They encountered no counter protest or violence. Vito Mastrangelo addressed the County Board during the public comments time. Paul Oakley was interviewed by both TV and newspapers.

The issue may be on the agenda for the next Board meeting, and a second protest is being planned for the next County Board meeting, which takes place on the fourth Monday evening of August: Aug 27. Details have been shared by the community organizer on the public Facebook event ‘Peaceful Protest!!! Picnic for Pride.’

Links to news coverage of the protest:

[WSIL Channel 3 TV](#), Marion IL

[KFVS 12 TV](#), Cape Girardeau MO

[The Southern Illinoisan](#), a regional newspaper

[The Mt. Vernon Register-News](#),

The Mt. Vernon Sentinel ran a story, but does not have a website.

More details in Paul's [blog](#).

MVUUF was represented by eleven attendees, including Donna Beaumont, Paul Oakley, Diane Schwitz, Teresa Rowe, Mike DeVilbiss and Gail DeVilbiss. Photo by the Rev. Sonja Ingebritsen, Church of the Good Shepherd, United Church of Christ, Carbondale IL.



## Mingling of the Waters

As summer flows onward, take time to prepare for the Mingling of the Waters, which will be celebrated at the end of summer on August 26. Please gather small samples of water from your travels or special events or places to bring to our water ceremony at summer's end. Enjoy the season!



*Advancing human rights is the work of many joining hands*

## *The UUSC Link*

**The UUSC is an independent human rights organization, supported by the volunteer efforts and financial gifts of its members and supporters, and linked to UU congregations through local representatives. The four focus areas of its work include: *Rights in Humanitarian Crises; Civil Liberties; Economic Justice; and Environmental Justice.***

July 24, 2012, is the three year anniversary of the last increase in the Federal Minimum Wage. UUSC is part of a national coalition of faith, labor, business, and community groups asking supporters to support the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2012. It is hoped that the bill, sponsored by Rep. George Miller (D-CA), will be introduced on July 24, 2012 (I am writing this on July 23, so will have to wait and see!)

The real value of the minimum wage today buys less than it did in 1956. In addition, workers who rely on tips haven't seen an increase in their wages since 1991. The required pay for tipped workers, excluding tips, has been stuck at \$2.13 per hour for 21 years. And, the federal minimum wage doesn't automatically rise with inflation.

Rep. Miller's Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2012 will increase the minimum wage in three 85-cent steps, over three years, from \$7.25 to \$9.80 per hour. The rate will then be indexed to inflation each year thereafter. In addition, the legislation will increase the required cash wage for tipped workers in annual 85 cent increases, from today's \$2.13 per hour until the tip credit reaches 70 percent of the regular minimum wage.

For more information about Rep. Miller and facts on the minimum wage, go to <http://democrats.edworkforce.house.gov/issue/fair-minimum-wage-act-2012>. For more information about how you can support this legislation, go to the UUSC website.

**To learn more about UUSC, take a look at the Opportunities for Service bulletin board, visit the UUSC website [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org) or Facebook, attend a meeting of the Social Justice Interest Group each second Sunday after social hour, and watch this space at *UUMatters*.**

*Donna Beaumont, UUSC Local Representative*

**Carbondale AIDS Walk Volunteers** Volunteers are needed to help organize the Southern Illinois AIDS Walk being held on Thursday, Nov. 29. Proceeds benefit the purchase of grocery store gift cards for 150 low-income households impacted by HIV / AIDS in the 19 southern-most counties of Illinois. For more information, please contact Wally Paynter at [wallypaynter@aol.com](mailto:wallypaynter@aol.com) or 812-480-0204.



## *Thank you ~ Merci ~ Gracias ~*

Take a peek in the ***Donation log book*** to appreciate contributions made by our fellow UUs

Members and friends donate items to the fellowship, in the form of time, talent, or treasure. Please consider recording your donations in the new log book in the back of the sanctuary (left anonymous if you prefer), to help us get a realistic picture of what it takes to operate. If you clean, shovel snow, conduct a service, or buy supplies, please take time to record it in the log.

## Committee Matters

Final committees members list will be posted on **Sunday, August 5th**. This will include everyone who has signed up on the lists in the Fellowship Hall as of **July 29**. Please sign up for a committee to contribute your talents and expertise, or initial to continue on same committee.

## Other UU Matters

### Newspaper Announcement Submission Guidelines

Submissions for the Friday "church news" sections of both the Sentinel and the Register-News are due on the Wednesday morning prior to the service or event. If you are leading a service, or planning a Fellowship event, please email your information, for the time being, to Gail at: vegaddict1 (at) aol.com by (at the very latest) 8 a.m., on the prior Wednesday. It need not be complicated--a few sentences would be fine. (Also, please let Gail know if you do not wish for your name to be included in the press release.) Many new attendees have told us that they found MVUUF through these articles in the newspaper, so this is an important way to let people know what is happening.

### Newsletter Submission Guidelines

Please email submissions for *UU Matters* to marji.gibbs(at)gmail.com. Submissions for the August edition are due by **Tuesday, August 28**.

If you are leading a service or speaking in a service, please submit the title, date, and synopsis of your service/sermon. If you are coordinating a special meeting or event that is open to the public, please submit the date and description of the event.

**Considering MVUUF membership?** Please ask a Board of Trustees member for a prospective member folder, or a membership form.



### Treasury Matters

Financial contributions may be made in the round bowl on the back table in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to mail a contribution, please mail to: MVUUF, 1600 Isabella, Mt. Vernon, IL, 62864. Please make checks payable to MVUUF. If you would like your offering to be used for a specific purpose, please clearly mark that purpose on the memo line on your check or on the envelope in which you place your offering.

### Library Matters

The MVUUF Library catalogue is available online. The catalog can be accessed at [www.librarything.com/catalog/MVUUF](http://www.librarything.com/catalog/MVUUF).

## Contact Information

For more information about the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship or to be added to our mailing list, please contact us in one of the following ways:

1. By Mail: The Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1600 Isabella Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
2. By Phone: (618) 241-9644. Please leave a voice mail message.
3. By visiting our website: [www.mtvernonuuf.org](http://www.mtvernonuuf.org)
4. By emailing our Fellowship: [information@mtvernonuuf.org](mailto:information@mtvernonuuf.org)