



UU Matters

(December 2012: Vol. 7 No. 12)

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.)

2 December: Paul Oakley will lead this service for the first Sunday of Advent, a season of waiting, expectation, and preparation. In Christian tradition it is the reflective, penitential season leading to Christmas, the joyous arrival of the Prince of Peace. In our Western consumer culture, in contrast, it is a period of parties and grand expenditure in preparation for a day of sometimes excessive gift giving. Advent is also a countdown to the return of the light with the Winter Solstice. At this service we will light the first candle of our Advent wreath. Paul's sermon will be titled, "Preparing for Peace."

9 December: The living tradition that we share as Unitarian Universalists draws from many sources. At this time of year, there is a common theme of watching and waiting for "the light." On this second Sunday of Advent, Donna Beaumont will lead a service of readings from the Christian tradition and seasonal music. We will light the second Advent candle, Peace. In observance of December 9 as the first day of Chanukah, Paul Oakley will light the Chanukiah with blessings from the Jewish tradition. This service offers an opportunity to set aside the frenzy that often accompanies this time of year and to appreciate more deeply the religious and spiritual aspects of the season.

16 December: *Shared Fellowship Service.* The shared service has become a favorite of many who attend because of the sharing and community that develops.

23 December: Times of Spirituality - An End or a Beginning?
Debbie Czarnopys White will explore a world vision of peace, nurturing and spirituality for creating a reconnection to nature and ourselves.



30 December: Gail DeVilbiss will lead the third annual New Year Fire Communion ceremony. Let us celebrate the possibility that this New Year holds! We are all invited for coffee hour at Sidwell Friends after the service.

Other Upcoming Events

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

5 December: 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; Terry Schwitz,
co-chair; Gail DeVilbiss, secretary; and Walter Lazenby, treasurer.

9 December: Buddhist Meditation
-Second Sunday of Each Month-
-9:00 a.m.-

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

9 December: 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.

No Meditation Group in December

Meditation will resume on January 23.

-Usually held Fourth Wednesday of Each Month 6:00 p.m.-
For information, check with Nina Peacock.

1 January: New Year's Day Potluck
Gather at 12:30— Eat at 1:00
Bring food, games, music and friends



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.*

Our “Guest at Your Table” program is underway. Through this UU tradition, we learn about and connect with our global family, and raise awareness and support for our shared mission. Guest at Your Table is an annual tradition in which fellowship members take home a box featuring people that UUSC has worked with recently. These people are your “guests,” and you are asked to share your blessings with them. As you give to your guests, you can learn about them by reading the [Stories of Hope](#) booklet. *Guest at Your Table* is UUSC’s longest running program, since 1975. The program now raises more than half a million dollars a year to help support UUSC’s human rights work. Every donation of \$100 or more is eligible to be matched thanks to a matching grant from the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, N.Y. You can learn more about how UUSC invests your financial contribution at the UUSC website.

Boxes and *Stories of Hope* booklets were offered as part of our service on November 18. Our gifts will be returned during the Fire Ceremony on December 30, 2012, and will be forwarded to UUSC to support its work. If you have not picked up a box and booklet, and would like to participate, see any member of the Social Justice Interest Group.



The holiday giving season is just around the corner! UUSC has updated the online store to make it easier for you to choose compassionate consumption and shop with your values in mind. We've stocked the store with new products -- including updated holiday cards, apparel, jewelry, candles, and more -- that all support UUSC's mission to advance human rights. Visit our new store at <http://shop.uusc.org/>.

To learn more about UUSC, take a look at the Opportunities for Service bulletin board, visit the UUSC website 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*

Third Annual Fire Communion Ceremony

On **December 30**, Gail DeVilbiss will lead the Third Annual Fire Communion.

The Fire Communion focuses on looking back over the year that is ending, and reflecting on what we wish to leave behind, as well as looking forward to the year that is just beginning, and reflecting on what we hope to bring into our lives. Let us celebrate the possibility that this New Year holds!

Coffee hour will be at Sidwell Friends after the December 30 service. Larry decorates the Inn for the holiday and generously invited us for a festive coffee hour.



January 2012 Second Annual Fire Communion Ceremony

Change of schedule

For those leading a service or planning a Fellowship event, please email information to Gail at: [vegaddict1 \(at\) aol.com](mailto:vegaddict1(at)aol.com) by (at the very latest) 8 p.m., on the prior Monday. Information for the Friday "church news" sections of both the Sentinel and the Register-News is sent on the Tuesday morning prior to the service or event.



Gratitude Tree

At the November 18th 'Guest at our Table' service, participants added leaves of gratitude to the Gratitude Tree in the Fellowship Hall. Please continue to add a leaf of gratitude at services in December.

The Gratitude Tree will remain in the Fellowship Hall until New Years Day.

Ring in the New Year with friends!

MVUUF will gather on January 1, 2013 for the annual New Years Day Pot Luck. Please bring a dish to share. We also need games and music to round out our gathering. If you have guests, please bring them along. Set up begins at 12:30, meal to begin at 1:00 PM. Please join in !

Other UU Matters

Newspaper Announcement Submission Guidelines

Submissions for the Friday "church news" sections of both the Sentinel and the Register-News are sent on the Tuesday morning prior to the service or event. If you are leading a service, or planning a Fellowship event, please email your information to Gail at: vegaddict1 (at) aol.com by (at the very latest) 8 p.m., on the prior Monday. 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 January edition are due by **Monday, December 26**.

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.

UU Matters is an opportunity for you to share your personal work relating to Unitarian Universalism, to the MVUUF congregation, or to liberal religious thought in general. Please consider sharing your photography, poems, short stories, "deep thoughts," favorite quotes, etc.

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 .

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
4. By emailing our Fellowship: information@mtvernonuuf.org