



UU Matters

(December 2013: Vol. 8 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.)

1 December: Debbie Czarnopys-White will lead this service about celebrating the events of the season, and the lighting of the first Advent candle, Hope.

8 December: Nina Peacock will lead this service, including lighting of the second Advent candle, Peace.

15 December: *Open Reading Service*, led by Theresa Rowe and Alma Petry, including lighting the third Advent candle, Joy. If you have a poem or reading, perhaps an excerpt from a favorite book, a special selection of music, a piece of artwork or creative work you have made, please share with us.

22 December: Donna Beaumont will lead a service of readings and music for Advent, and will light the fourth candle of Advent, Love. Advent is a time of waiting and preparation for Christians. This service offers an opportunity to set aside the frenzy that can often accompany this time of year, and to appreciate more deeply the religious and spiritual aspects of the season.

29 December: Mike DeVillbiss will lead this service focused on Year's End.

5 January: Gail DeVillbiss will lead this service for the New Year. *Guest at Your Table* contributions will be collected.

Other Upcoming Events

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

4 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; Nina Peacock, co-chair; Terry Schwitz, co-chair;
Debbie Czarnopys-White, secretary; and Larry Sidwell, treasurer.

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

Buddhist meditation group meets downstairs. One need not be Buddhist to attend.
For more information: Debbie Czarnopys-White bdcw@frontiernet.net

8 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.

Resumes in January: Meditation Group
-Fourth Tuesday of the Month 6:00 p.m.-
For information, check with Nina Peacock.

1 January : Annual New Years Potluck
-at Sidwell Friends Bed and Breakfast-
-12:30 p.m., meal at 1:00 p.m.-
Bring a dish to share, and feel free to bring along guests.



Advancing human rights is the work of many joining hands

The UUSC Link

The UUSC is an independent human rights organization, supported through 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.*

Emergency Relief Fund for Philippines

Typhoon Haiyan has had a devastating impact in the Philippines. UUSC has activated emergency response efforts using close ties in the region and launched a joint emergency relief fund with the UUA. Thousands of families are at acute risk because of geography, ethnicity, religion, or other factors that create barriers to accessing help. UUSC has a distinctive role to play even as other organizations spring into action. The focus will be on those survivors most likely to fall through the cracks of traditional rescue and relief efforts. UUSC has a long history of work and solidarity with the Philippines. We will work directly with our established partners on the ground in the areas most affected by the typhoon. Checks may be sent to: UUSC-UUA Joint Philippines Typhoon Haiyan Relief, PO Box 808, Newark, NJ 07101-0808.

Or go to <http://actnow.uusc.org/site/R?i=J9s3nREKOYrHN73qyYGZEg>

Recovery in Haiti

Long after the spotlight goes out, the tasks of recovery go on. The House Foreign Affairs Committee conducted the first hearing in years on oversight of U.S. aid to Haiti on October 9. The Assessing Progress in Haiti Act now has full bipartisan support and strong language that sets a high standard for just recovery and thorough oversight of how aid money is spent. UUSC will keep a close eye in coming months as the bill is redrafted and reintroduced for voting. UUSC is proud to have kept recovery in Haiti a priority for Congress and thankful for all our supporters who helped to strengthen our voice.

UUSC's action and advocacy work goes on to raise the minimum wage, protect the rights of asylum seekers and torture survivors, advance the human right to water, and pass the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. If you have not yet picked up your Guest at Your Table materials to support these activities, you've still got time. And, thank you!

To learn more about UUSC, take a look at the *Into Action* bulletin board, visit the UUSC website at www.uusc.org or on 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*

November 2013

Guest at Your Table

Guest at Your Table is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's longest running program, and now raises more than half a million dollars a year to support UUSC's human rights work.

Guest at Your Table is an annual tradition in which fellowship members take home a booklet featuring people that UUSC has worked with recently. These people are your "guests," and you are asked to share your financial blessings with them. As you give to your guests, you can learn about them by reading the [Stories of Hope](#) booklet.

Every individual or family 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. Last year MVUUF sent a contribution of more than \$300.

Contribution envelopes and boxes, and Stories of Hope booklets were offered as part of our service on November 24. Our gifts will be returned during the January 5, 2014 Sunday service and will be forwarded to UUSC to support its work.



Enriching MVUUF Library

Thanks to David Jeter for recent donations to the MVUUF library.

The time is always ripe for browsing the library.



New Year's Day Potluck

MVUUF will gather on January 1, 2014 at Sidwell Friends B & B, 1812 E Richview Rd. for the annual New Years Day Pot Luck. Bring a dish to share. If you have guests, please bring them along. Set up begins at 12:30, meal to begin at 1:00 PM.

Join in to ring in the New Year!



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In our library :

MVUUF was fortunate to receive visit from Dave Christensen of Carbondale UUF, who presented the service *Religions Roots, Now and Future* on November tenth. [Dave's books](#) are available in the MVUUF library:

www.librarything.com/catalog/MVUUF&deepsearch=christensen

Phone No More

The telephone number for MVUUF will no longer be active. Please contact the Fellowship via email or postal mail.



On the fracking front

The Department of Natural Resources recently published its proposed fracking regulations, and they don't go nearly far enough to make fracking safe. DNR has scheduled five Public Hearings, and a Public Comment period will run until Jan. 3.

Public Hearings will be held at Rend Lake College on Tuesday, Dec. 3, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (doors open 5:30 p.m.). There are also public hearings in Chicago (Nov. 26), Effingham (Dec. 5), Decatur (Dec. 17), and Carbondale (Dec. 19). For more information on the Public Hearings and Public Comments, please visit Southern Illinoisans Against Fracturing our Environment (SAFE) website: www.dontfractureillinois.net/ .

Please let your voice be heard. Post your comments. Visit <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/OilandGas/Pages/OnlineCommentSubmittalForm.aspx> to post comments directly on the DNR website. For more info or for help with writing comments, please visit www.dontfractureillinois.net .

A coalition of antifracking groups has also created a new website, and each day until Jan. 3, the website will post a new suggested comment that you can ask to be submitted on your behalf. The comment is easily customized, and you can choose to send it in by email or hard copy or both: <http://www.ilagainstfracking.org/> . Thank you

Other UU Matters

Newspaper Announcement 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@aol.com by (at the very latest) 8 a.m., on the prior Monday. A few sentences is fine. 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 Guidelines

Please email submissions for *UU Matters* to [marji.gibbs\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:marji.gibbs(at)gmail.com) by **Monday, December 23** for the January issue. If you are leading a service or speaking in a service, please send title, date, and description 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 visiting our website: www.mtvernonuuf.org
3. By emailing our Fellowship: information@mtvernonuuf.org