



UU Matters

(April 2014: Vol. 9 No. 4)

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.)

6 April: *Justice Sunday Service* presented by the Social Justice Interest Group is "Plant Seeds, Harvest Justice." Affirming respect for the interdependent web of all existence, this year's theme is "Justice is Planting a Seed." We will explore the issue of food sovereignty, food security and sustainability. Growing your own food - and having the resources and opportunity to do so - is a powerful act.

Dave Christensen's book *This Apocalyptic Century* will be available for sale

13 April: *Open Reading Service.* Please bring readings, stories, music, or artwork to share.

20 April: Debbie Czarnopys-White will coordinate a service to celebrate *Earth Day.*

27 April: The LGBT Committee will present the service.



Other Upcoming Events

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

2 April: 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.

13 April: 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

13 April: 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.

25 April: Meditation Group
-Fourth Tuesday of the Month 6:00 p.m.-
-Upstairs in the Fellowship Hall-

For those who want to learn and practice a variety of visualization, meditation and relaxation techniques. For information: Nina Peacock at peacock.nina@gmail.com.



Advancing human rights is the work of many joining hands

The UUSC Link

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee 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.*

On April 6, we observe Justice Sunday. Justice Sunday is UUSC's annual opportunity for reflection, understanding, and action in a specific area of social justice. In recent years, we have considered "justice is aid with dignity," "justice is the human right to water," and "justice is choosing compassionate consumption." This year's theme is "Justice is Planting a Seed," and the title of our service is "Plant Seeds, Harvest Justice." We will explore the issue of **food sovereignty**.

Growing your own food — and having the resources and opportunity to do so — is a powerful act. This year's Justice Sunday program invites us to learn about food security and sustainability. The program will highlight sustainable gardening models developed with human rights partners in Haiti and will offer several opportunities for learning and action.

If you are interested in finding out more before the service, check out the UUSC website and look under www.uusc.org/reflect-understand-act; read UUA's statement of conscience on ethical eating and environmental justice www.uua.org/statements/statements/185320.shtml, and the related study guide; www.uua.org/documents/washingtonoffice/ethicaleating/human_rights_ej.pdf; take a look at the UU Ministry for the Earth website uuministryforearth.org/2013-ED-Sustainable-Agriculture-Food-Systems.

Please join us April 6 to learn more. Advancing human rights is the work of many joining hands.

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*

Carbondale Author Shares Book

Dave Christensen, who visited us from Carbondale UUF, donated several copies of his book *This Apocalyptic Century* for our library and for sale to our members or interested others, with proceeds to benefit the fellowship. Christensen asks, "What kind of world do we want to leave for our children and grandchildren?" Four copies of his book are available for purchase at the Fellowship beginning Sunday, March 30.



Ostara or Equinox celebration,
March 16, 2014

Other UU Matters

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

Library Matters

Recent donations to the library have been added to the LibraryThing catalog at www.librarything.com/catalog/MVUUF and are now available on the shelves at the fellowship. Thank yous for donations over the last several months go out to David, Theresa, Debbie, and Kristy (And anyone else who may have left a donation without leaving a note--thank you.)

A gentle reminder: please returned any checked-out library materials that you are not currently using and mark them off the check-out sheet.

New titles include:

Caleb's Crossing by Geraldine Brooks (F Bro)

The Dovekeepers by Alice Hoffman (F Hof)

A Chosen Faith: an Introduction to Unitarian Universalism by John A. Buehrens (289.1 Bue)

Whose Church?: a Concise Guide to Progressive Catholicism by Daniel C. Maguire (282.09 Mag)

The Question of God: C.S. Lewis and Sigmund Freud Debate God, Love, Sex, and the Meaning of Life by Armand Nicholi (211 Nic)

Atheist Universe: the Thinking Person's Answer to Christian Fundamentalism by David Mills (322 Mil)

Leaving the Fold by Marlene Winell (248.2 Win)

Secrets of Mary Magdalene: the Untold Story of History's Most Misunderstood Woman edited by Dan Burstein (226.092 Sec)

Exploring the Northern Tradition: a Guide to the Gods, Lore, Rites, and Celebrations from the Norse, German, and Anglo-Saxon Traditions by Galina Krasskova (293 Kra)

Several new Wiccan, astrology, and witchcraft titles are found at Dewey numbers of 133.4, 133.5, and 299.

In addition, Beth has donated two uncorrected proofs of newly released titles that she received to review. They are:

Stitches: a Handbook on Meaning, Hope, and Repair by Anne Lamott (204.4 Lam)

A Religion of One's Own: a Guide to Creating a Personal Spirituality in a Secular World by Thomas Moore (204.4 Moo)



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 **Thursday, April 24** for the May 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.

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.

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