



UU Matters

(June-July 2014: Vol. 9 No. 6)
The Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
~A Welcoming Congregation~
1600 Isabella, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

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 June: Mike DeVilbiss will lead this service, entitled “My Maker, My Taker.”

8 June: Donna Beaumont will lead our Flower Ceremony, also known as Flower Communion or Flower Festival, an annual ritual that celebrates beauty, human uniqueness, diversity, and community. In this ceremony, everyone in the congregation brings a flower. Each person places their flower in a shared vase. The congregation and service leader bless the flowers, and each person takes a different flower. Each person brings home a different flower than the one they brought.

15 June: *Open Reading Service.* Please bring readings, music, or artwork to share.

22 June: *Open Reading Service.* Please bring readings, music, or artwork to share.

29 June: The LGBT Committee will host this LGBT Gay Pride Service, and Potluck at the Fellowship.

6 July: A volunteer is needed to host this service or readings.

13 July: Nina Peacock will lead this service.

Please check the MVUUF website http://mtvernonuuf.org/?page_id=27
for updates to **July** service listings.

Other Upcoming Events

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

4 June & 2 July **Board of Trustees Meeting** -First Wednesday of Each Month- -6:30 p.m.-

Meeting is open to anyone interested in MVUUF business. June **Board of Trustees:** Donna Beaumont, co-chair; Nina Peacock, co-chair; Terry Schwitz, co-chair; Debbie Czarnopys-White, secretary; and Larry Sidwell, treasurer.
July Board of Trustees: Paul Eatherton, co-chair; Glenda Eubanks, co-chair, Terry Schwitz, co-chair; Nina Peacock, secretary; and Larry Sidwell, Treasurer.

8 June & 13 July: 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.

15 June & 13 July: **Buddhist Meditation** - **Third Sunday of June— (note the schedule change)** -**Second Sunday of July**- -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

29 June: **LGBT Pride Potluck Picnic** -Following Sunday Service - At the MVUUF Fellowship building and grounds

24 June & 22 July: **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.*

Here is an update on UUSC's Minimum Wage Advocacy.

On April 30, the U.S. Senate voted 55-41 in support of bringing the Harkin Minimum Wage Fairness Act (S. 2223) to the floor — unfortunately 60 votes were needed to proceed. This means that a minority in the U.S. Senate prevented a bill with majority support (both in the Senate and across the country) from moving forward.

Now that we have Senate votes on the record, we can hold legislators accountable for blocking the vote or thank them for standing with hardworking low-wage workers. UUSC has been on Capitol Hill working with our coalition partners and with our members, shoring up our Senate supporters and sending a strong message to those who were undecided or opposed. UUSC was honored to be invited to stand with low-wage workers at the White House at President Obama's press conference after the vote. Shelley Moskowitz, senior leader for public policy and advocacy, was proud to represent UUSC.

One of the biggest opponents to raising minimum wage is the National Restaurant Association (NRA), which held a large-scale lobby day earlier during the week in advance of the Senate vote. UUSC participated in a rally organized by our partner the Restaurant Opportunities Centers (ROC) United.

In addition to legislative advocacy, UUSC is using its power as a shareholder to communicate the demand for economic justice. UUSC is the lead filer on a shareholder resolution asking Darden Restaurants to fully disclose their political spending. Darden is a leader in the National Restaurant Association, which has persistently advocated for freezing the minimum wage for tipped workers at \$2.13 per hour for over 20 years! Stay tuned as this effort moves forward.

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*




Piano Donation

We are grateful for our Hamilton / Baldwin Baby Grand Piano, donated by Frieda Hoover of Carbondale, with the help of her son Steve Broker. Dave and Alan Christensen brought our congregation to their attention for the piano donation. Steve said, "We are happy to donate the piano to an organization that will utilize it for the entertainment of everyone in the congregation." Dave and his son, Alan, were immensely helpful, making the connections with the family and also with Baldwin Piano in Her-

rin, who moved the piano from the Carbondale area to our Fellowship. The Fellowship funded the transportation expense, and thanks everyone who contributed to defray part of that expense.

Changing of the Board

Thank you to Donna Beaumont and to Debbie Czarnopys-White, who gave many hours, much thought, and their hearts and creativity as MVUUF Board co-chairmen. They step down from 3 terms on the Board in July. Thank you also to co-chair Terry Schwitz, who continues on the Board, to Nina Peacock as she becomes MVUUF secretary and to Larry Sidwell, who continues as Treasurer. Congratulations to our new board co-chairs beginning July 1.: Glenda Eubanks, who is returning to the Board, and Paul Eatherton, who joins the Board for the first time.



Think
Water Ceremony

Whether the summer be wet or dry, please save water from your summer travels for the *Water Communion* in September, where we share water and stories, marking the end of the summer season of growth.

Other UU Matters

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



Library Matters

The MVUUF Library catalogue is available online at www.librarything.com/catalog/MVUUF. Recent donations to the library have been added to the LibraryThing catalog at and are now available on the shelves at the fellowship.

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 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, July 28** for the August issue. [July dates for the website may be emailed as soon as available.](#) 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

[After silence, that which comes
nearest to expressing the
inexpressible is music.
~Aldous Huxley]