



UU Matters

(August—September 2014: Vol. 9 No. 8)
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.)

3 August: *Open Reading Service.* Please bring readings, music, or artwork to share.

10 August: *Open Reading Service.* Please bring readings, music, or artwork to share.

17 August: Paul Oakley will lead this service.

24 August: A volunteer is needed to host this service or readings.

31 August: *Open Reading Service.* Please bring readings, music, or artwork to share.

7 September: *Open Reading Service.* Please bring readings, music, or artwork to share.

14 September: Donna Beaumont and Theresa Rowe will lead the annual *Gathering of the Waters Ceremony.*



21 September: *Open Reading Service.* Please bring readings, music, or artwork to share.

28 September: A volunteer is needed to host this service or readings.

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

Other Upcoming Events

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

6 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:** Paul Eatherton, co-chair; Glenda Eubanks, co-chair, Terry Schwitz, co-chair; Nina Peacock, secretary; and Larry Sidwell, Treasurer.

10 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.

10 August: **Buddhist Meditation**
-Second Sunday of the 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

20 August: **Open Minds Discussion Group**
-Third Wednesday of the Month 7:00 p.m.-

Discussion of the *Move to Amend* coalition's effort to end corporate personhood and declare that money is not speech, led by Vito Mastrangelo.

22 August: **Drumming Circle**
-Fourth Friday of the Month 7:00 p.m.-
-Upstairs in the Fellowship Hall-

Join with us we gather to create to create an in-the-moment spontaneous drum circle. No previous musical experience is required. Bring your own drum or percussion instrument, or share what is available. Come and experience the ancient tradition, dynamic pulse, and healing energy of drumming with others.

26 August: **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.

Please check the MVUUF website http://mtvernonuuf.org/?page_id=11
for **September** events listings.

Open Minds

Open Minds Discussions, 3rd Wednesday, beginning in August

The Social Justice Interest Group has made a commitment to renew the Open Minds series of discussions. Beginning on **Wednesday, August 20, at 7 p.m.** at the fellowship building, the group will host a monthly meeting each third Wednesday of the month to encourage exploration and discussion of social justice and related issues. The series will be open to the public.

We will start on **August 20** with a discussion of the *Move to Amend* coalition's effort to end corporate personhood and declare that money is not speech. The discussion will be led by Vito Mastrangelo.

On **Wednesday, September 17, at 7 p.m.**, Gail DeVilbiss will present "Bag It: is your life too plastic?"

In order for this series to succeed, we need your interest, help, and participation. Topics can include areas of economic justice, environmental justice, human rights, and civil liberties; anything in accordance with our seven principles. In accordance with the fellowship policy on political activity at the fellowship, programs shall be nonpartisan. We are interested in supporting informed participation in the democratic process.

Examples of specific topics that could be presented include Green Sanctuary, ethical eating, compassionate consumption, LGBTQ issues, immigration justice, human right to water. Topics related to this year's UUSC focus area of "Plant Seeds, Harvest Justice" (food sovereignty) include genetically modified seeds, sustainable gardening methods, cooperatives and farmers' markets, use of fossil fuels in the food chain.

If you are interested in presenting an Open Minds program, please talk with Donna Beaumont or Vito Mastrangelo to schedule a date. We would be glad to help with logistics. We look forward to some interesting discussions in coming months!



MVUU Fellowship in a Circle





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.*

Mass water shutoffs in Detroit, Mich., are making news around the world. The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department has reported shutting off water to over 11,000 households in the past two months. As part of its continuing focus on the human right to water, UUSC has circulated this petition:

Water is not a luxury good. It is a basic human right due to all people, including low-income individuals and families.

As a person of conscience, I oppose water shutoffs that affect people who cannot afford to pay and whose family integrity and health are at great risk. It is morally wrong to shut off water to individuals and families, including infants, children, people living with disabilities, people who are chronically ill, and the elderly.

I respectfully call on Emergency Manager Kevyn D. Orr and Detroit Water and Sewerage Department Director Susan McCormick to immediately stop mass water shutoffs in Detroit and immediately restore water services to households at risk. I also request that they put into place protections for infants and children under six years of age, the elderly, chronically ill people, and those living with disabilities — all for whom a water shutoff is an extraordinary burden and risk to health and family

As of 7/18/14, nearly 6,000 people have signed on in protest of Detroit's mass water shutoffs, exceeding our goal of 5,000 signatures. UUSC will be delivering these signatures to Detroit's mayor, Water and Sewerage Department director, and emergency manager soon.

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*



Lawn Mowing season

Many thanks to Paul Eatherton and Eric Garcia for lawn care and planting .

Gathering of the Waters Ceremony



Remember— save water from your summer travels for the *Water Communion* on Sept. 14 when we share water and stories, marking the end of the summer season.



May 18 Celebration in Honor of Retirees

on 18 May, MVUUF marked the important milestone of retirements within the Fellowship, recognizing all those

among us who have retired or reached Social Security entitlement since organization of the Fellowship. A champagne and sparkling grape juice toast marked the occasion, along with the presentation of packets of seeds. Thank you Walter Lazenby, and Donna Beaumont, for this special celebration.



Terry Schwitz is the most recent retiree. Congratulations, Terry!

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 by **Wednesday, September 24** for the October issue. **September 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