



UU Matters

(October 2014: Vol. 9 No. 9)
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 fellowship hall.)

2 November: *Open Reading Service.* Please bring readings, music, or artwork to share. Theresa Rowe will coordinate this service of open readings.

9 November: Mike DeVilbiss will lead this service, “Can the Bible be Recycled?”

16 November: Paul Oakley will lead this service.

23 November: *Guest at Your Table Service* led by the Social Justice Interest Group.

30 November: *World AIDS Day* service by the LGBT committee, led by Debbie Czarnopys-White.



Please check the MVUUF [website](#) for updates to **November** services.

Other Upcoming Events

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

5 November **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.

9 November: **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.

9 November: **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

19 November: **Open Minds Discussion Group**
-Third Wednesday of the Month 7:00 p.m.-
Discussion of food ethics, led by Gail DeVilbiss.

23 November: **Potluck**
-Following *Guest at Your Table* Sunday Service-

25 November: **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.

Drumming Circle will return in January, due to holiday dates
-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.



Congratulations to Paul Oakley on his milestone towards UU ministry

Member and friend Paul Oakley completed his program of ministerial formation, became a candidate for Unitarian Universalist ministry in Spring 2012, and was admitted to fellowship by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee in September 2014. This completes a journey he started in July 2009 when he began studies at Meadville Lombard Theological School. Mt Vernon UUF sponsored Paul in his effort, and he received additional letters of support from members of the fellowship.

Paul entered Meadville Lombard, one of only two UU seminaries, during a period of significant change at the seminary, and his passage was marked by some unexpected setbacks. In addition to coursework at the seminary, Paul completed two ministerial internships – at Carbondale and Springfield UU congregations – and two periods of Clinical Pastoral Education, working in chaplaincy settings at Barnes Jewish Hospital and Christian Hospital, both in St Louis. It was during his extended time in St Louis that Paul formed a close relationship with Central Reform Jewish Congregation. Paul developed an interest in chaplaincy work as a result of his hospital experiences, but he is most drawn to fulltime work in UU parish ministry.

The next step on the journey is ordination. In the UU tradition of democratic process in which “power lies with the people,” the decision to ordain is made by the membership of one or more congregations that know the minister and have experienced aspects of his ministry.

Paul’s ordination will involve the decision of his home congregation, MVUUF, and both of his internship congregations. Therefore, Paul will be submitting a request to the MVUUF Board of Trustees to call a congregational meeting to vote on his request to be ordained. He is hopeful that this meeting could be scheduled before the end of the year. The actual act of ordination, including friends and members from the Carbondale and Springfield churches as well as those from Mt Vernon, could be celebrated in the Spring of 2015 in St Louis, a central point geographically for all involved.

It is not every UU congregation that has the privilege to ordain a minister. We have a rare opportunity at MVUUF, particularly as an emerging fellowship, to be part of the life of the UUA in the credentialing and ordination process of our friend and member.



Gratitude for Helping Hands in All Seasons

Thank you to the cleaning crew on October 10: Donna Beaumont, Glenda Eubanks, Roberta Price and Angela Czapiewski. Also thanks to the aerial artists — that is, chandelier cleaners— this summer: Nina, Larry, Donna and Glenda. Lights are sparkling. Gratitude to Terry Schwitz, with his ever-vigilant eyes on the building. Thank you Vito Mastrangelo for maintenance of fire extinguishers. Many, many thanks to Paul Eatherton and Eric Garcia for lawn care , planting, and leaf management through the growing season.



MVUUF Book Group

It was suggested that a women's book reading group be formed, using books that are recommended by our UU Fellowship women. We can decide later if we just want to make a list as a resource, or if we want to select a book that all interested can read and meet to discuss. A book discussion could be held at the Fellowship or over a meal at a local eating place.

Anyone interested is invited to send a book title or titles to Debbie, 201-3753, bdcw@frontiernet.net, who will compile and share the list. We'll collectively discuss how we want to proceed. *The Red Tent* by Anna Diamant has been mentioned as a start to the list.

Building

Your Own Theology

The Programming committee is checking for interest in [Building Your Own Theology](#) program, a ten-week discovery group. Some of our Fellowship have been through the course, early in the life of our fellowship. According to the introduction, the course can be condensed or expanded as needed. If interested let Glenda, Donna, or Roberta know.

Community Event

Nov. 8:

Fair Trade Show at First United Methodist Church, 1133 Broadway, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. November 8. **Plowsharing Crafts** of St. Louis brings a large variety of crafts, coffee, packaged food items, jewelry, clothing, scarves, Christmas items, baskets, toys, books and many other items that are made all over the world. Proceeds go directly to the people who make the crafts to help them make a living for their families. Admission is free.

Open Minds

Open Minds Discussions, 3rd Wednesday

The Social Justice Interest Group hosts the Open Minds discussion series as a monthly meeting on the third Wednesday **at 7 p.m.** at the fellowship building, to encourage exploration and discussion of social justice and related issues. The series is open to the public.

On **November 19**, Gail DeVilbiss will lead a discussion on **Food Ethics**, and we'll have an Ethical Eating potluck after the November 23 service.

If you are interested in presenting an Open Minds program, please talk with Donna Beaumont or Vito Mastrangelo to schedule a date. We are glad to help with logistics. We are interested in supporting informed participation in the democratic process.

November 23
Potluck
following the Guest at
your Table service.

We look forward to some interesting discussions in coming sessions!



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 November 23, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, the Social Justice Interest Group will continue a UUSC tradition, Guest at Your Table. 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. Information about how UUSC uses your contributions will be found on the display table at the back of fellowship hall during the program.

This year’s guests include:

- Nancy Vilce and Marie Obethe Moise, from the Association for the Promotion of Integral Family Healthcare in Haiti
- Don Mario Pérez, from the Café Orgánico Marcala, a coffee-farm cooperative in Honduras that partners with Equal Exchange
- Chrisantus Mwandishi, from the SoilFarm Multi-Culture Group in Kenya

Guest at Your Table is UUSC’s longest running program, since 1975. The program raises more than half a million dollars a year to help support UUSC’s human rights work. Every individual or family donation of \$125 or more is eligible to be matched thanks to a matching grant from the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, N.Y.

Contribution envelopes and boxes, and Stories of Hope booklets will be offered as part of our service on November 23. Our gifts will be returned during the first service in 2015, and will be forwarded to UUSC to support its work.

A special feature of the kickoff of Guest at Your Table this year will be a potluck following the service on November 23. Mark your calendar so you won’t miss this opportunity for good food and great fellowship.

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*

MVUUF Policy on Political Activity at the Fellowship

Approved by the MVUUF Board of Trustees on June 5, 2013

The Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (Fellowship) both respects the separation of church and state, and affirms and promotes the right of conscience and use of the democratic process within our larger society. These two commitments can sometimes seem at odds. The Board of Trustees of the Fellowship actively encourages nonpartisan programs and events that support informed participation in the democratic process. However, some activities are partisan and therefore not appropriate at the Fellowship. These include:

Political Fundraising. No fundraising for a political party or candidate will be permitted within Fellowship property.

Political Endorsements. Neither the Fellowship nor its lay or professional leadership speaking in the capacity of such leadership will endorse an announced or potential candidate for office, or a political party.

Political Donations. The Fellowship will not make donations or loans to political campaigns, parties, or candidates. The resources and facilities will not be used on behalf of a political campaign or candidate.

Political Advertising or Signage. Signs or other advertising for candidates or political parties will not be posted on Fellowship property. No Fellowship communication – the order of service, bulletin, UUMatters, or any other Fellowship publication – will include advertising for or endorsement of a political party or candidate for office.

Targeted Voter Registration or Election Support Activities. Any voter registration drive or “get out the vote” effort undertaken by the Fellowship or group(s) within the Fellowship must not be partisan.

Political Labor. The Fellowship will not organize groups to work for any political campaign or candidate.

Distribution of Partisan Political Materials. There will be no distribution of partisan political materials on the Fellowship property.

The Fellowship building shall not be used for any purpose inconsistent with the Fellowship’s tax-exempt status.

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 **Thursday, November 20** for the December issue. [Please email December dates for the website 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