



UU Matters

(December 2014: Vol. 9 No. 11)

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.)

7 December: Roberta Price will lead this service, “Why I Became UU.”

14 December: David Trotter will lead this service, “The Four Noble Truths.”

21 December: Susan Trotter will lead this service, “Jesus – Myth or Martyr: Observations on the origin of Christ.”

28 December: Donna Beaumont will facilitate this *Open Reading Service*. Please bring readings, music, or artwork to share.



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



Winter Solstice Dec 21 2004, Alaska, by Nomadic Lass
https://www.flickr.com/photos/nomadic_lass/6557451047/
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>

Other Upcoming Events

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

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

14 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.

14 December: **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

Open Minds Discussion Group will return in February

-usually the Third Wednesday of the Month 7:00 p.m.-
Discussion of current topics, led by members

Meditation Group will meet again in January

-usually the 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 resume in January, due to holiday dates

-usually the 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.

Board Meeting Highlights

Our Board agreed by consensus for MVUUF to contribute \$25.00 monthly to [Lifeboat Alliance](#), a Mt. Vernon organization that provides shelter, food and training to homeless people. A basket or container will be placed on the table in the Fellowship Hall for additional contributions along with the basket for Angels on Assignment. The Board of Trustees also scheduled a Membership meeting for November 23 to vote in support of the ordination of Paul Oakley.

Membership Vote Unanimous to Ordain Paul Oakley

Member Paul Oakley has studied and interned to become a UU minister since 2009. Congratulations on this next milestone towards UU ministry. As explained in last month's newsletter, in the UU tradition of democratic process in which "power lies with the people," the decision to ordain a UU minister is made by the membership of one or more congregations that know the minister and have experienced aspects of his ministry.

At the November 23 Membership meeting, MVUUF members voted unanimously to ordain Paul Oakley. MVUUF is the second congregation (of three congregations where Paul has served) to approve ordination. The Abraham Lincoln UU Congregation in Springfield has already done so, and the Carbondale UU Fellowship will vote at their membership meeting in January.

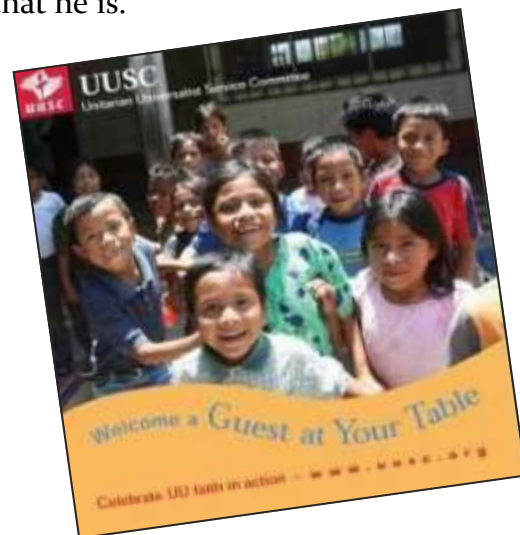
The ordination ceremony, including members and friends from the Carbondale and Springfield Fellowships as well as from Mt Vernon UUF, will be celebrated Sunday, May 31, 2015, at the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis.

MVUUF congratulates Paul on his accomplishments thus far, and hope that Paul on his path ahead may indeed "be blessed in all that he is."

Guest at Your Table

*UUSC's longest running program
since 1975*

Take home a colorful box or envelope and booklet of stories, those of our 'guests' this year. Contribute at mealtime—the cost of a meal, or a cup of coffee— over four to six weeks. Return the Guest at Your Table box or envelope in January.



MVUUF Book Group

If interested in a women's book reading group, to meet at the Fellowship or over a meal at a local eating place, please send a book title or titles to Debbie, 201-3753, bdcw@frontiernet.net, who will compile and share the list and lead discussion of how we want to proceed. *The Red Tent* by Anna Diamant could be a start to the list.



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.*

Action Updates: UUSC and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) have released a joint statement announcing the [UUSC-UUA Ebola Epidemic Relief Fund](#), established to assist health organizations in Liberia and Sierra Leone, two of the countries most devastated by the epidemic. As with previous UUSC-UUA joint relief efforts, the funds will be distributed to groups working with communities that are neglected by other relief efforts. Donations to this special relief fund will be used to support community-based partners that will address the full continuum of care by strengthening established health centers, training new health workers, focusing on rapid case detection, and tracing patient contact. **Donations can be made online or by check** to UUSC, PO Box 808, Newark, NJ 07101-0808. Please write "Ebola Relief" in the memo line to designate your gift to the UUSC-UUA Ebola Epidemic Relief Fund.

Voters in four states — Alaska, Arkansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota — and three cities in California passed binding ballot initiatives that will [raise the minimum wage](#) for more than 609,000 low-wage workers. One more state (Illinois) as well as nine counties and four cities in Wisconsin passed nonbinding referenda that call on policymakers to pass legislation that would raise wages for over 1.1 million additional workers. The success of these ballot proposals, especially in more conservative states, builds momentum for an increase in the federal minimum wage and indicates that income inequality is a growing concern across the country.

A contingent from the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) participated in the People's Climate March in New York City on September 21. There, an estimated 400,000, including 1,500 Unitarian Universalists, took to the streets to demand that the world's leaders address the crisis of climate change. In the face of this historic threat to our existence on the planet, the UUA and UUSC are joining with the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth, the Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice, and the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association in [Commit2Respond, a religious response to the crisis of climate change](#). Learn more at the Commit2Respond website.

To learn more about UUSC, take a look at the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall, 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*

New Year's Day Potluck

2015 MVUUF New Year's Day Potluck, hosted by Larry Sidwell at Sidwell Friends' B & B. Check for details on www.mtvernonuuf.org



Winter Womanspirit 2015

Healing Words: A Call to Consciousness

February 6 - 8, 2015

Mary Pierce Brosmer -sharing the story of Women Writing for a Change.

Brosmer is a writer, a feminist and a believer that women can provide healing to and for one another and ourselves. She is also a Unitarian Universalist. All her gifts were brought together when she created **Women Writing for (a) Change** in Cincinnati, Ohio. We will hear the stories of women and then have the chance to

learn the process.

Women Writing for (a) Change is both a place and a process., which has created a new paradigm: Intentional Women's Communities that can bring the blessing of healing, empowerment and freedom.

Lake Country UU Church
Hartland, WI

Find more information on registering at www.womenandreligion.org

MidAmerica Board Statement on Ferguson

The Board of Trustees of the MidAmerica Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association issued the following statement in response to the call from our MidAmerica congregations and their ministers in the greater Saint Louis area.

Our deep theology as a justice-seeking people calls upon us to engage this major civil rights work. We, the members of the MidAmerica board, are deeply committed to the work of anti-oppression, anti-racism, and multiculturalism. We stand on the side of love with the people of Ferguson as they seek justice in the case of the death of Michael Brown.

We see what is happening in Ferguson as part of a larger issue in our Region and all of America. It is about dehumanization, about racism, and about injustice. We note that we are all currently affected by the same culture of fear of difference that festers in Ferguson.

We encourage Unitarian Universalist congregations and religious leaders in the Mid-America Region to engage thoughtfully in the suggestions for action put forward by the Ferguson Response team of Saint Louis area ministers and Unitarian Universalist Association and UU Service Committee leaders.

Some resources can be found on the Standing on the Side of Love web page, www.standingonthesideoflove.org/blog/withferguson, as well as the St. Louis Standing on the Side of Love Facebook page www.facebook.com/stlstandingonthesideoflove.

Bye Bye Buying Club

The MVUUF Fair Trade Buying Club was initiated by the Social Justice Interest Group in order to offer members and friends of the fellowship an easy way to purchase Equal Exchange coffee, tea, and chocolate; and to benefit the fellowship. A modest profit from the purchases and some generous contributors have made it possible to offer the delicious coffee we enjoy at social hours at no cost to the consumers. Profits have also provided the funds to purchase paper goods used around the fellowship building.

Unfortunately, the initial interest in the buying club has not been sustained, and we've had some product from the most recent order "on the shelf" for some time. We are hoping that members and friends will take a look at product on the table at the back of the fellowship hall, and consider making a purchase. You might buy a bag of coffee for the kitchen! Or perhaps something for holiday gift giving.

So, due to lack of interest, we've decided to close up shop. This means you will be seeing a return of the empty coffee cup awaiting your contribution for your cup of coffee after services, and the Hospitality Committee will need to find another source of funding for coffee and supplies. Thanks to Gail DeVilbiss for handling the ordering and other related responsibilities for the buying club while it lasted.

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 and are now available on the shelves at the fellowship.

Committee Matters

Nominating

Vito Mastrangelo, Chair

Religious Education

Deb Czarnopys-White, Chair

Memorial

Theresa Rowe, Chair

Welcoming & Hospitality

Terry Schwitz, Co-chair

Theresa Rowe, Co-chair

Glenda Eubanks, Co-chair

Publications & Library

Nina Peacock, Chair

Building & Grounds

Greg Gibbs, Co-chair

Terry Schwitz, Co-chair

Music *

Ellen Silverman,

Co-chair

Programming

Glenda Eubanks, Co-chair

Donna Beaumont, Co-chair

LGBT

Deb Czarnopys-White, Co-chair

Contact committee chair via information@mtvernonuuuf.org

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 **Saturday, December 20** for the January issue. [Please email January 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