



UU Matters

(July 2015: Vol. 10 No. 7)

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.)

5 July: “Independence Day: A UU View, “ will be presented by Donna Beaumont. Quite a few people who were deeply involved in the struggle for American independence belonged to Unitarian or Universalist churches. Today, as religious liberals, we are sometimes uncomfortable with public expressions of patriotism. However, we UU’s share certain religious or spiritual ideas that relate directly to the ideas expressed in our nation’s founding documents.

12 July: *Open Readings Service.* Please bring readings, music, creative endeavors, anything you would like to share. Open Readings can be some of our most special services.

19 July: Paul Oakley will lead this service on “Transforming Ourselves, Transforming the World.” When we come together as a congregation, do we come to satisfy personal needs or to change the world? Why do church?

26 July: Mike DeVillbiss will lead this service, “A Perspective on Faith and Truth.”



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

Other Upcoming Events

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

12 July

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

15 July

Open Minds Discussion Group

-Third Wednesday of the Month 7:00 p.m.-

Debbie Czarnopys-White will discuss *Shades of Green* in reference to the UU Green Sanctuary program. More details on p. 3.

27 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.

5 August

Board of Trustees Meeting

July meeting postponed to August -First Wednesday of Each Month-
-6:30 p.m.-

Meeting is open to anyone interested in MVUUF business. **Board of Trustees:** Terry Schwitz, Co-chair; Greg Gibbs, Co-chair, Susan Trotter, Co-chair; Nina Peacock, Secretary; and Larry Sidwell, Treasurer.

Social Justice Interest Group

-Usually the Second Sunday of Each Month-

-11:30 a.m. following Social Hour- Meetings will resume in August/Sept., once Building Your Own Theology finishes meeting in the time slot. If you have a concern, contact Donna, Vito, or another member of the interest group

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.

Tenth Anniversary of Mt Vernon UUF, Part Six

The nucleus of leaders that formed in June wasted no time getting started with Sunday and weekday activities at the Fellowship hall. They posted information about services and other activities on the sign outside. They held services on July 5 and July 17. In these early months, services were held every two weeks, alternately on a Sunday and a Tuesday. Services were led by the founding members with perhaps ten people in attendance, including a few children. The meetings which had been listed in the newspapers as “Unitarian Discussion Group” became “Unitarian Fellowship Meeting.”

A steering committee met on July 12; members included Shannon Green, Glenda Eubanks, Diane Schwitz, Shawn and Kelly Taylor, and Vito Mastrangelo. They planned a film series, open to the public, to be held on six Wednesdays on the topic of Religion and Mythology, beginning on July 20. Donna Beaumont, at that time living in Johnsonville, heard the announcement on WSIU radio. She decided that if she ever moved closer to Mt Vernon, she would visit the Fellowship.

Documentation is sketchy, but it appears that the Building Your Own Theology workshop began about this time. Vennie Anderson, traveling each week from the Carbondale fellowship, led the six weekly sessions. Early members were generous with time, talent, and treasure: notes from the steering committee meeting reflect that Randy Farrar provided a television and Vennie Anderson donated a VCR to the Fellowship. That spirit of generosity continues to make our Fellowship possible.

Open Minds

July Discussion on Shades of Green

The July 15 Open Minds discussion, led by Debbie Czarnopys-White, offers an introduction into creating our own workable version of the Unitarian Universalist Association’s Green Sanctuary Program. Debbie will share some ideas that our fellowship could enact, and that individuals could implement too. Discussion about creating a preliminary action plan will follow. Together we can make it doable and fun and ideally be an inspiration to others as well.

The Social Justice Interest Group hosts the Open Minds discussion series on the third Wednesday of each month **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.

Building Your Own Theology Resumes July 5

Building Your Own Theology group will resume weekly meetings Sunday July 5, from 11:15 – 12:45 in the Fellowship Hall.



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.*

This is the last “Link” I will be writing. As part of the new Justice-Building Program, UUSC has disbanded the Volunteer Network of which I have been a part as Local Representative. Here is the information I received from UUSC:

“Over the next few years, we plan on building an extensive group of national volunteers in UU congregations. To start, we have created two new congregational volunteer positions. The first, the UUSC congregational membership and events liaison, will serve as a two-way communications channel between your congregation and us. The position will be responsible for ensuring that information is shared in both directions and that UUSC programs, including Guest at Your Table and Justice Sunday, are well known to your members. The other, which we call the justice-building innovator, will be trained to help facilitate more effective justice work by your congregation, whether sponsored by your congregation itself, by UUSC, or by some other organization. Both positions can be held for up to three years at a time and require a formal application and a separate confidential reference from someone on your ministerial team. If you are interested in continuing as a volunteer leader with us or if you wish to encourage others to apply for one of these positions, you can find more details at uusc.org/justice-building.”

I hope you have found value in reading about the social justice efforts of UUSC each month. I have enjoyed sharing this information with you. Thank you for your interest in UUSC’s work, and for your support through Guest at Your Table and Justice Sunday activities. You can keep up with the changes at UUSC at the UUSC website.

To learn more about UUSC, visit the UUSC website at www.uusc.org or on Facebook.

Donna Beaumont

Donation collection at back of the Fellowship Hall for Southern Illinois LGBT Youth Center

Rainbow Café in Carbondale

[Rainbow Cafe](http://rainbowcafe.org/), a SAFE SPACE social/support group for high school age gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth in Southern Illinois, and also those youth questioning their orientation, and youth members' heterosexual friends. Rainbow Cafe meets every Friday evening from 7 – 10 p.m. More info at <http://rainbowcafe.org/>

A Note of Appreciation

The Fellowship is appreciative of Larry Sidwell, our gracious host for the Pride Day and Farewell Potluck. Celebrating at Sidwell Friends B&B added a special element to this day .

And again, thanks to Paul Eatherton for hours of lawn mowing, as the grass keeps growing and growing.



Committee Sign Ups

Committee sign up sheets for the new fiscal year are on the table in back of the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up! One need not be a member to join a committee.



If you donate to the fellowship or spend time on a project, please note this in the orange folder, to let the Board know the contributions that help the Fellowship run smoothly.

David E Christensen Books

The Fellowship has only two copies left of *This Apocalyptic Century*, donated by the author, the late Dave Christensen of Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship. These may be purchased for a donation to the Fellowship.



Gathering of the Waters

Please take a moment to collect samples of water from your travels and meaningful experiences this summer, to be used in the Gathering of the Waters Ceremony at summer's end.

Unitarian Universalists claim no statement of doctrine, and believe there is no one right way to lead a religious or spiritual life. Each individual's spiritual journey is valued.

Unitarian-Universalists believe in reason, freedom, equality, and love.

Visitors are welcome to this gathering of community, seeking peace and justice for all persons.

Have you browsed uuworld.org recently?
Sign up for email updates: www.uuworld.org/subscriptions/emailnewsletter.shtml



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.

Committee Matters: *Time to sign up for new fiscal year that begins July 1. Go ahead, try something new! Committee chairpersons through June 30 were:*

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**

Terry Schwitz, Co-chair

Greg Gibbs

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 Monday morning prior to the service or event. **If you are leading a service, or planning a Fellowship event, please email your information to Debbie at: bdcw@frontiernet.net by 8 p.m., on the prior Sunday.** 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 27** for the August issue. **Please email August 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

