



UU Matters

(December 2015: Vol. 10 No. 12)

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.)

6 December: Roberta Price will lead this service on "Chanukah."

13 December: Donna Beaumont will lead a service of readings and music for Advent, and will light the third candle of Advent, Joy. Advent is a time of waiting and preparation for Christians. This service offers an opportunity to set aside the frenzy that can often accompany this time of year, and to appreciate more deeply the religious and spiritual aspects of the season.

20 December: Gail DeVilbiss will lead this Winter Solstice service. This week marks the fourth candle of Advent.

27 December: Sue Trotter will lead this service, "Endings and Beginnings."



*First candle
of Advent 2015 glows*

Ring in the New Year

Larry Sidwell has graciously offered to host the annual New Year's Day potluck dinner at Sidwell Friends' B & B. Gather at around 12:30, and we will eat around 1:00. Please bring a dish to share.

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

Other Upcoming Events

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

2 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:**
Greg Gibbs, Co-chair, Nina Peacock, Secretary; Terry Schwitz, Co-chair; Larry Sidwell, Treasurer, and Susan Trotter, Co-chair.

6 December -Date change **Buddhist Meditation**
- Usually the Second Sunday of Each 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

13 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.

No December Meeting **Open Minds Discussion Group**
-Generally meets Third Wednesday of the Month 7:00 p.m.-
The public is welcome.

22 December **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.

1 January **New Year's Potluck**
-Gather around 12:30, eat at 1:00-
Graciously hosted by Larry Sidwell at Sidwell Friends' B & B.

Tenth Anniversary: December

In December 2005, the founding members were busy, and full of ideas. The Steering Committee formally adopted the Mission Statement (see below) on December 6. Randy arranged to sell the pews, and identified some stacking chairs for purchase. His idea was to purchase about 30 chairs, plus some banquet tables, and put the remainder toward the roof. Newspaper advertising and brochures were the topic of further discussion. The Steering Committee identified a need for a committee to assure a welcoming and comfortable environment for the fellowship; to make sure the hall is clean, coffee is made, and supplies are available: Glenda volunteered to help organize. Shannon provided information about the grant process, and suggested a covenant or chalice group to meet monthly. Vito suggested a New Year's Day party and everyone agreed. We enjoy this tradition ten years later – thanks Vito!

The ByLaws Committee continued their work: Vito distributed the latest draft with a memo describing the remaining issues to the ByLaws Committee on December 21, 2005.

The pews were gone by mid-December, and the group met with chairs in a circle for many months. Sunday services were held each week in December except on Christmas Day. On December 11, 2005, Dr Daniel O'Connell from Eliot Chapel in Kirkwood, Mo, participated in the service. He presented "The Rock of Our Faith," (see below and on p. 4). On December 21, Vito led the Open Minds discussion group on the topic of "Intelligent Design vs. Evolution." The discussion was followed by a winter solstice celebration.

Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Mission Statement

Embracing Diversity, Welcoming Everyone

We, the members of this fellowship, agree to affirm and promote the seven principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association, and to strive to:

- enable spiritual, intellectual, ethical, and emotional growth for all ages,
- work for compassionate justice, and
- respect the interdependence of all existence

The Rock of Our Faith Presented December 11, 2005 at MVUUF by
Dr. Daniel O'Connell, Eliot Unitarian Chapel

Uniquely Unitarian Universalist	Deeds not creeds, show your work, live your faith
Here and now, not the hereafter	Reason, freedom, tolerance, love as overarching values
Education rather than instruction	Evolutionary theology, language changes
	Authenticity not authoritarianism
	Many scriptures, not one
	Saved by Love, we are made holy by character

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The Rock of Our Faith Presented December 11, 2005 at MVUUF by
Dr. Daniel O'Connell, Eliot Unitarian Chapel

We share with other religious liberals:

- No original sin, God is Love
- Unity of experience; faith & knowledge, sacred and secular
- Noncreedal, authority of conscience
- Need for religious community
- Congregational polity, democratic methods
- A spark of “divinity” or the “highest good” in every person
- A destination: an earth made fair, all her people one, we cocreate the world

***Holiday Gifts to
the Community***

Please bring caps, mittens, and socks for all ages, to collect under the tree downstairs. MVUUF will donate these locally to those in need.



***More on 10th Anniversary
Homecoming Celebration***

Planning continues for the Tenth Anniversary Homecoming celebration. The Sunday service, May 15, 2016 will include special music and be followed by our regular social hour with with special beverages and shared meal .

The committee plans to build a “loop” of photos to run during the gathering, and we need your help. If you have photos – digital or otherwise – to share, please let Susan Trotter or Gail DeVilbiss know.

The **Ten Years of Fellowship** bulletin board is nearly ready to be posted. Gather photos, news articles, and other memorabilia to place on the display. You will make it happen!

The committee would appreciate more help and ideas. Please let Donna B, Susan, or any other member of the Program Committee know how you would like to help. We'll be meeting once a month — all ideas are welcome.

UUs and Diversity: People of Many Beliefs

WinterFaith, Part I: [Sources of Living UU Beliefs](#)

Unitarian Universalists weave these traditions and identities into who they are today. The UUA web site explores a multitude of branches of beliefs. Follow the links below for expanded insight into diverse sources of UU Beliefs and readings from varied traditions.

[Atheist and Agnostic](#) UUs are pro-science, pro-reason, and pro-Evolution. We know there is no "one right answer" when it comes to belief, and we don't let that stop us from taking action for a better world.

[Buddhist](#) Buddhism and Unitarian Universalism both honor the beliefs people hold based on their own experiences and understandings. In neither tradition will anyone tell you what you *ought* to believe. Many congregations have Buddhist meditation groups; UUA has over 100 local UU *sanghas*.

[Christian](#) Most Unitarian Universalist Christians believe in God, but not the traditional God-as-Trinity that most Christian churches promote. The UU Christian God is all-loving, as our Universalist forbears taught, and a unity, as our Unitarian forebears taught. This God is too big to be contained in one person, one book, one tradition, or one time in history. To UU Christians, Jesus is an inspiration and his teachings are profound—he possesses a divine spark that is born in all of us, and can be cultivated our whole lives long.

[Earth-Centered](#) Many Unitarian Universalists draw inspiration from the cycles of seasons, the beauty and complexity of the natural world, and the intricate relationships between humans and all the other life on this planet. Some UU congregations have Modern Pagan groups within them

[Hindu](#) UUs share many values with Hinduism—most centrally, that there is a unity at the core of religious diversity. God can be experienced in many forms, with many faces, but underneath there is one ultimate reality. Like Hinduism we affirm the personal search for spiritual truth, the idea that all things are connected, and a respect for other religious paths.

[Humanist](#) Since the early 20th century, Humanism has been an influential part of continually evolving UU religious tradition. Unitarians and Universalists have always trusted in reason and affirmed the findings of science., taking the intellect seriously. UUs know, deeply, that each person is on a search for truth and meaning in life.

[Jewish](#) Many Unitarian Universalists have a connection to Judaism. Whether ethnically, culturally, or spiritually Jewish, no one needs change their beliefs or identity in order to be UU. [UUs are people of many beliefs](#), honoring each person's heritage and search for truth.

[Muslim](#) UU worship services, which draw from many sources, may include a reading from Islam's sacred traditions, a passage by a contemporary Muslim author, or a poem by a Sufi mystic like Rumi or Hafiz.



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@gmail.com) by **Sunday, December 27** for the January 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.

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.

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