



UU Matters

(January 2016: Vol. 11 No. 1)

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.)

3 January: Gail DeVilbiss will lead this New Year's Fire service.

10 January: Nina Peacock will lead this service about Meditation and Labyrinth Walks.

17 January: Donna Beaumont will lead this service with focus on Martin Luther King.

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

31 January: Open Readings~. Please bring a reading song, or other sharing

7 February: Souper Bowl of Caring Service led by the Social Justice Interest Group.

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.)

1 January

New Year's Potluck

-Gather around 12:30, eat at 1:00-

Graciously hosted by Larry Sidwell at Sidwell Friends' B & B.

6 January

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.

10 January

Buddhist Meditation

- 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

10 January

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 January Meeting Open Minds Discussion Group

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

The public is welcome.

26 January

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.

Unitarian Universalist Advocacy Network of Illinois (UUANI) ***—Jan 10 Special Social Justice Interest Group meeting***

“UU’s across Illinois are coming together to work for justice, beloved community, and a healthy planet, putting our deepest values into effective action.” So announces the Unitarian Universalist Advocacy Network of Illinois (UUANI). The UUANI is a newly-formed (2013) organization of over twenty Unitarian Universalist congregations across the state of Illinois, created to be a platform for putting our UU values into action. Rev. Bill Sasso, whom many of us know through his past leadership of the Carbondale UUF, is working to expand interest and activity in this platform for social action into Southern Illinois. He will meet with our Social Justice Interest Group at our regular meeting following the service on **Sunday, January 10, 2016**, to engage in conversation in order to understand the relative priority of different social justice themes, and to better understand the ways UUANI might support the needs of congregations. Topics we might address include:

What are the top three issues about which people are concerned most deeply?

What kinds of actions are people in your fellowship most likely to get involved in (signing postcards, calling or emailing their legislators, turning out for public events, etc.)? How often are most people willing to take action?

Does your fellowship partner with any religious or community organizations?

What are some ways UUANI could help to build energy and effectiveness in your congregation?

Is there anything else you’d like to share or suggest about how we might become a more effective organization?

Please add your voice to the conversation. You need not be a regular attendee of social justice interest group to be part of this meeting. Learn more about UUANI at their website <http://uu-advocacy-illinois.org/> and please join us for this meeting.

Holiday Display

Many thanks to Paul Oakley for his generous contribution of holiday objects from various faiths, as well as thanks to other UUs who brought special objects to share, displayed at the back of the fellowship hall.



Holiday Gifts to the Community

MVUUF attendees donated caps, mittens, and socks for children to the Mt. Vernon Primary Center, and for adults to Lifeboat Alliance.

Tenth Anniversary: January

With the pews sold, the steering committee continued to consider the purchase of stackable chairs. Randy came to the meeting with pictures of chairs he favored; the committee decided to see what else might be available in other catalogs. The committee agreed to run an ad once a week for five weeks in the Sentinel featuring the Seven Principles and then evaluate the effectiveness of the ad at the close of the five week run. Glenda has assumed responsibility for hospitality, checking mail, cleaning, recycling. The bylaws committee gave an update on their progress. The group considered offering Building Your Own Theology once again.

Following this meeting, the written record becomes quite sketchy. Some very brief handwritten notes are recorded for February and April, nothing for March. If you have some records – or, sometimes even better, personal recollections – of this period, your help in filling out this story of our start would be welcome.

The Ten Years of Fellowship Bulletin Board

The “Ten Years of Fellowship” Bulletin Board is open for business! Members and friends are invited to post photos and other remembrances of our ten years together.

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

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 special beverages and shared meal.

The planning committee is compiling a list of present and former members, as well as “friends of the fellowship” who have been active even though they may not have joined as members. If you can, please suggest their names and contact information to Donna Beaumont, so folks can be invited to the May 15, 2016 service and anniversary celebration.

A small memorial board/easel to recognize members who are deceased is in the works. It would include Saribenne Evesong, Randy Farrar, and Charles Jay. We’d like to find photos and perhaps brief write ups to honor each, and hope others can help us.



Unitarian Universalists claim no statement of doctrine. We believe there is no one right way to lead a religious or spiritual life. We value each individual’s spiritual journey, and believe in reason, freedom, equality, and love. Join us as we gather in community, seeking peace and justice for all persons.

[Seven Principles of UU](#)

UUs and Diversity: People of Many Beliefs

WinterFaith, Part II [Sources of Living UU Tradition](#)

Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote seven [Principles](#), within a “living tradition” of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from sources as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience. These are the six sources our congregations affirm and promote:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.



Committee Matters: Committee co-chairpersons:

Contact committee chair via information@mtvernonuuf.org

Nominating

Vito Mastrangelo

Welcoming& Hospitality

Theresa Rowe
Glenda Eubanks
April Peyton

Building& Grounds

Terry Schwitz
Deb Czarnopys-White
Vito Mastrangelo
Susan Davis

Religious Education

Deb Czarnopys-White

Music

Angela Czapiewski
Mike DeVilbiss

Programming

Donna Beaumont
Gail DeVilbiss
Glenda Eubanks
Roberta Price
Theresa Rowe

Memorial

Deb Czarnopys-White

LGBT Concerns

Deb Czarnopys-White
Roberta Price
April Peyton
Diane Schwitz

Publications & Library

Nina Peacock
Beth Brennan, Library
Debbie Czarnopys-White,
Newspaper announcements
Marji Gibbs, Web/Newsletter

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: \[bdcw@frontiernet.net\]\(mailto:bdcw@frontiernet.net\) 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 **Monday, January 25** for the February issue. [Please email 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