



UU Matters

(Jan-Feb 2017: Vol. 12 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.)

1 January: Gail DeVilbiss will lead a New Year's Fire Ceremony. Please bring a dish to share afterwards, in the potluck (again graciously hosted at Sidwell Friends' Bed and Breakfast).



8 January: Theresa Rowe will lead our service this week.

15 January: Donna Beaumont will lead an Open Readings service. Please bring readings and music to share – perhaps MLK related readings, but other topics are welcome too.

22 January: *Open Readings Service.* Please bring readings or music that you are inspired to share. Open Readings can be some of our most special services.

29 January: Mike DeVilbiss will lead this service, an "Open Music" service

5 February: The Social Justice Interest Group will lead this Souper Bowl service. Please bring canned food contributions for Angels on Assignment. A soup potluck meal will follow the service (bring soup or soup accompaniments).

Please check the MVUUF [website](#) for updates to the schedule
& at end of January for our February schedule.

Follow us on Facebook for updates at

www.facebook.com/mtvuuf/



Other Upcoming Events



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

1 January **New Year's Day Potluck Meal**

-Following the Fire Ceremony service, bring a dish, at Sidwell Friends' B&B-

4 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; Mike Miller, Co-chair; Roberta Price, Co-chair; Larry Sidwell, Treasurer, and Susan Trotter, Secretary.

8 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

8 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.

8 January **Open Minds Discussion Group**

Winter schedule: 2nd Sunday following coffee hour, bring brown bag lunch, view video followed by discussion.

Summer schedule-Third Wednesday of the Month **6:30 p.m.-**

Topic: for January is Green Burial

The public is welcome.

24 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.

January 8 Brown Bag Lunch session on Green Burial

The Social Justice Interest Group hosts the Open Minds discussion series to encourage exploration and discussion of social justice and related issues. During the winter months Open Minds will meet following the service and coffee hour on the second Sunday of the month. Bring a brown bag lunch. In the summer the schedule will return to the third Wednesday of each month at **6:30 p.m.** at the Fellowship building, The series is open to the public.

The topic for January is Green Burial, an alternative to traditional burial and cremation. The deceased is laid to rest with only biodegradable materials in a specially designated site. This practice can be used to express conservation (“green”) and spiritual values.

The December topic was "Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for our Time." presented by Gail DeVilbiss. If you have a topic to discuss, concerning social justice, economic justice, environmental justice – or just being an informed citizen – please contact Donna or Vito.

Thanks for Holiday Project Contributions

The Social Justice Interest Group set up the Christmas tree upstairs to collect hats and mittens for the Mt. Vernon Primary Center again this year. Many participants also selected tags from the "Charlie Brown" Christmas tree downstairs, to purchase the item listed on the tag for our Fellowship - ie: paper products, office supplies, cleaning items to use at MVUUF during the year.

Thank you for the donations to both holiday projects.



Thank you Gail DeVilbiss for leading the “Dia de los Muertos” service on October 30, 2016.

And Gracias....

Thanks to David Bullock and Susan Davis for projects in the Fellowship lawn, and to Terry Schwitz of the Building Committee for the quiet tasks he does that keep our Fellowship Hall running smoothly .

Thank You to Our Service Leaders in November & December:

- 13 November: Bonita Jane , "Forgiveness."
- 20 November: Donna Beaumont "Gratitude."
- 27 November: Melissa Webster, "Searching for Mary"
- 4 December Susan Trotter, on Greatness
- 11 December LGBT Committee
- 18 December Donna Beaumont, Music and readings for Advent



In her Nov 27 service, "Searching for Mary," Melissa Webster shared stories from [Looking For Mary by Beverly Donofrio](#) and from her aunt, Episcopal minister Ann Markle, who on her blog [One Wild and Precious Life](#) describes her courage to say Yes, to pre-marital motherhood, to the priesthood, and to the multiple challenges life brings.

"It's important to know that there are some things we will never be prepared for unless and until we take them on, and then we will grow into them. Like Mary, we trust the wings will appear. And more often than not, they do. And we fly."

"Though this Message was titled Searching for Mary, truly, Mary found me. Strong, fearless (or fearful but brave), determined, opinionated Mary, who will not be silenced, even today.... So for the next four weeks, we wait like she waited. We wait and trust and hope. The light will return to the world."



Winter Project: Scrapbooking

If you could enjoy reviewing photos from the first ten years of MVUUF and adding them to an album or scrapbook, a volunteer is needed to arrange the photos from 10th Anniversary bulletin board. Please see Donna or Roberta on the Programming Committee.



**Winter WomanSpirit 2017:
JUST WOMEN : JUST WORLD**
with Sister Simone Campbell
February 3rd - 5th UU Fellowship in DeKalb, IL
Saturday night concert with Emma's Revolution



Sister Simone Campbell has stood for justice and equity her entire career. In 2014 Sister Simone spoke at General Assembly and received a standing ovation for her stirring words. Come to hear what renews and sustains her; come to be inspired. At this moment of electoral change, hear what she has to say. For details and registration, go to <http://www.womenandreligion.org/>

**IN THE BLEAK AND COLD
WINTER**

By [Cynthia Landrum](#)

In the bleak and cold winter,
We gather ourselves in
To light the fire to warm our spirits,
To kindle the flame of love and hope.
-from 1/24/16 Opening Words



Chalice art doodles accompanying Rev. Cynthia Landrum's UU World article, "[Chalices, doodling, and meditation: Meditative doodling as a Unitarian Universalist spiritual practice.](#)"

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. More than 700 books are available on a variety of subjects and may be viewed

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.

Committee Matters:

Contact committee chair via information@mtvernonuuf.org

Welcoming& Hospitality

Volunteers needed

Nominating

Vito Mastrangelo

Greg Gibbs

Building& Grounds

Terry Schwitz

Religious Education

Deb Czarnopys-White

Music

Volunteers needed

Programming

Donna Beaumont

Theresa Rowe

Roberta Price

LGBT Concerns

Roberta Price, chair

Deb Czarnopys-White

Vito Mastrangelo

Diane Schwitz

Publications & Library

Nina Peacock, chair

Beth Brennan, Library

Debbie Czarnopys-White,
Newspaper

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(at)gmail.com) by [deadline of Tuesday,](#)

January 24 for February web site updates, and by **Feb 21** for the March/April issue. 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 & web links, etc.



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