



# UU Matters

(May-June 2017: Vol. 12 No. 3)

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 May:** Theresa Rowe will lead our service this week, "Words of & for Prayer." The living tradition Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources. This service will reflect on the "wisdom from the world's religions, which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life." Following coffee hour, we will embark upon a Cleaning Day, with pizza provided.

**14 May:** Donna Beaumont will lead this Mother's Day service, considering consider the mothering we've received and the mothering we've done

**21 May:** *Open Readings Service.* Please bring readings or music that you are inspired to share. Open Readings can be some of our most special services. The Annual Membership meeting will follow the service and coffee hour.

**28 May:** *Open Readings Service.* Please bring readings or music that you are inspired to share.

**4 June:** Flower Communion service, marking the beginning of summer, led by Donna, Beaumont Roberta Price and Theresa Rowe.

**11 June:** Gail and Mike DeVilbiss will lead will lead this music service

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

**25 June:** A volunteer is needed



Please check the MVUUF [website](#) for updates to the schedule  
& at end of May for the June schedule.

Follow us on Facebook for updates at [www.facebook.com/mtvuuf/](http://www.facebook.com/mtvuuf/)

Please join us downstairs after Sunday service for coffee and conversation.

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# Other Upcoming Events

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

**3 May**

## **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.

**7 May**

## **Cleaning Away Cobwebs Day**

Following the Sunday Service and coffee hour.  
Bring your snazziest cleaning tools. Pizza provided

**14 May**

## **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](mailto:bdcw@frontiernet.net)

**14 May**

## **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.

**17 May**

## **Open Minds Discussion Group**

Third Wednesday of the Month **6:30 p.m.**-  
Discussion in May will be led by Gail DeVilbiss  
The public is welcome.

**21 May**

## **Annual Membership Meeting and Potluck**

Following the Sunday Service and coffee hour

**23 May**

## **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](mailto:peacock.nina@gmail.com).

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## ***Board of Trustees News***

Discussion topics at the May Board meeting included that membership packets have been updated and provided to prospective new members, and new members will be welcomed at the Membership meeting. The Program Committee commends the Open Minds discussion group, and invites more people to attend.

A ***cleaning day*** is scheduled for May 7, after the coffee hour. Pizza will be provided.

### ***Annual Membership Meeting***

The annual membership meeting will follow the Sunday service and coffee hour on May 21, 2017. An agenda will be distributed before the meeting. New members will be recognized. Committee chairpeople may speak if they wish. Sign ups for committees for the upcoming fiscal year starting July 1 will be available. The budget will be reviewed, as well as proposal to make an annual or monthly contribution to UUA to support all the work they do.

### ***Potluck to follow the annual meeting***

Please bring a dish to share to the annual potluck.

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### ***Wed. May 17 6:30~ Open Minds Discussion ~Forgiveness***

The Social Justice Interest Group hosts the Open Minds discussion series to encourage exploration and discussion of social justice and related issues that are current to our everyday lives. Open Minds meets the third Wednesday of each month **at 6:30 p.m.** at the Fellowship building, We may discuss environmental, social justice, or animal welfare issues. There are no right or wrong answers, just a healthy discussion about topics that have many sides or possibly controversial. You will be energized by the lively discussions and learn from them.

Coffee and refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome. One need not be a member of the fellowship to attend, as the series is open to the public.

The May discussion on Forgiveness, led by Gail DeVilbiss, will explore all aspects of forgiveness including definitions, health benefits, and what motivates people to forgive. Attendees will review a process some use to evaluate the situation and ultimately forgive someone who has hurt or harmed them or someone close to them. Is it forgiveness if we employ other punishments as the crime warrants? Discussion will explore some recent accounts of forgiveness and consider if we are willing or could forgive the parties involved.

April's topic was the Sanctuary Movement, led by Donna Beaumont. "Sanctuary' is a word that many faith communities are engaging heavily with since Election Day, be it about making sanctuary in our places of worship or about policies that create sanctuary for undocumented people in cities and towns. For others, it signifies the kind of organizing communities are taking on to protect and defend Muslim communities, undocumented communities, LGBTQ communities, and Black Lives Matter activists. how we can show up for ourselves, our families, our neighborhoods and communities."

If you have a topic to discuss, concerning social justice, economic justice, environmental justice – or just being an informed citizen – please contact Donna or Roberta.

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Thanks to David Bullock and Susan Davis for making our lawn look tidy. Thanks to Rodney Arnold for repairing and replacing the guttering , to Terry Schwitz for fixing the kitchen sink, and Greg Gibbs for drying out the basement after leak.

### ***Thank You to Our Service Leaders in March & April:***

**March 5:** Theresa Rowe, service on "Hope."

**March 12:** Glenn Moreton, service on "Meditation and Being."

**March: 19** *Open Readings Service*, led by Roberta Price.

**March: 26** *Open Readings Service*, led by Theresa Rowe.

**April 2:** David Trotter, service on Diversity.

**April 9:** "Vonnegut on Palm Sunday," led by Melissa Webster.

**April 16:** Open Readings for Easter and Passover, led by Roberta and Theresa.

**April 23:** Madeleine Webster on "Community and Safe Spaces."

**April 30:** Gail DeVilbiss, Celebration of Spring, Earth Day, and Climate Awareness.



### ***Social Justice & UUANI Update April 9***

Bill Sasso, representing UUANI (Unitarian Universalist Advocacy Network Illinois), joined the Social Justice Interest Group meeting on April 9 to give us the opportunity to provide input as leadership considers areas of focus for UUANI activities in 2017 and building networks. The 2016 focus for UUANI was on **economic justice, racial justice, and environmental justice**. The question was raised, would we like to invite Scott Aaseng to visit us/perhaps lead or participate in a service? This, and ideas for how we might begin to network more effectively, will be addressed at future social justice interest group meeting.

MVUUF Social Justice Interest Group activities provides a meeting ground for individuals to get together to develop projects, such as the One Hope outreach, and sponsors the Open Minds forum and some Sunday services. MVUUF areas of interest over the past reflected in the Open Minds discussion topics have addressed **environmental justice and civil (minority) rights**. Discussion included the distance from the UUANI activities in Springfield and Chicago area, and from other religious/spiritual organizations in Mt Vernon area.

## **Other UU Matters**

**Considering MVUUF membership?** Please ask a Board of Trustees member for a prospective member folder, or a membership form.

## **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](mailto: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 Friday, May 19](#) for June web site updates, and by [June 24](#) for the July/August 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](http://www.mtvernonuuf.org)
3. By emailing our Fellowship: [information@mtvernonuuf.org](mailto:information@mtvernonuuf.org)

## Library Matters:

Since the beginning of the year, quite a few new books have been added to the fellowship library. Thank you to all who have given books to the library. The recent donations have been added to the LibraryThing catalog at: [www.librarything.com/catalog/MVUUF](http://www.librarything.com/catalog/MVUUF) and are on the shelves at the fellowship.

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](#)

