



# UU Matters

(July-August 2017: Vol. 12 No. 4)

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.)

**2 July:** “Independence Day: A UU View, “ will be presented by Donna Beaumont. A number of 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 religious or spiritual ideas that relate directly to the ideas expressed in our nation’s founding documents.

**9 July:** Theresa Rowe will lead this service.

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

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

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



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

(Services with no designated leader will be Open Readings.)

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# Other Upcoming Events

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

## **5 July**                      **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.

## **9 July**                      **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)

## **9 July**                      **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.

## **19 July**                      **Open Minds Discussion Group**

Third Wednesday of the Month **6:30 p.m.**- The public is welcome.

**July topic:** Guest speaker Jenny O'Daniel from Lifeboat Alliance, the Mt. Vernon area shelter helping the homeless.

**August topic:** Guest speaker Ann Bothe from Angels on Assignment, the ministry of the First United Methodist Church which provides assistance rent, food, & utilities for Jefferson County residents as well as through its Thrift store.

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

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

Funds may be allocated for developing a Winterfaith program exploring world religious practices if there is interest. Please let Board members know if you would be interested.

## ***Annual Membership Meeting***

At the annual membership meeting on May 21, 2017 the budget was reviewed, and a proposal accepted to make an annual \$600 contribution to UUA for the coming year, to support all the work UUA does. Discussion about outreach, and that the newspaper announcements are a significant means of outreach that does not cost.

Committee reports were presented. Sign ups for committees for the upcoming fiscal year starting July 1 will be available, and everyone is encouraged to sign up again, or try a new committee. See back page for list of committees.

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## ***Welcome to New Members June 18, 2017***



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## ***Wed. July 19 6:30~ Open Minds Discussion***

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, animal welfare issues or other topics that have many sides or possibly controversial. There are no right or wrong answers.

The July 19 Guest speaker is Jenny O'Daniel from Lifeboat Alliance, Mt. Vernon area shelter helping the homeless. The August 16 Guest speaker is Ann Bothe from Angels on Assignment, the ministry of the First United Methodist Church which provides assistance rent, food, & utilities for Jefferson County residents as well as through its Thrift store.

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

Open Minds

## Facebook Updates

Please note that MTVUUF will continue the [Organization Facebook page](#) for MTVUUF started last summer for announcements and dates. Facebook has given us a checkmark that verifies that it is indeed our page. Please Like this new page, if you've not yet had the chance. When searching, the six-letter MTVUUF is used because another group already was using the 5-letter abbreviation.

Since Facebook has changed and evolved in the time since our old group page was created in 2009, after July 1, 2017 the old 'group' page will be archived and we will go forward with the Organization page (linked above). People who previously joined the open Group are invited (via note at top of page) to follow <https://www.facebook.com/mtvuuf>.

The Organization page will be supplemented by a closed Group page for regular attendees, for 1) communication among committees about the running of the fellowship 2) for discussions of interest, such as might be continued from coffee hour.

This arrangement of Facebook pages aligns MTVUUF with recommendations by UUA.

## The Space Within

Thirty spokes share the wheel's hub;  
It is the center hole that makes it useful.  
Shape clay into a vessel;  
It is the space within that makes it useful.  
Cut doors and windows for a room;  
It is the holes that make it useful.  
Therefore profit comes from what is there;  
Usefulness from what is not there.

Lao-Tsu

~Mo-Tsu

#600, *Singing the Living Tradition*, copyright 1993, UUA

## Flower Communion

What a gathering—the purple  
tongues of iris licking out  
at spikes of lupine, the orange  
crepe skirts of poppies lifting  
over buttercup and daisy.

Who can be grim  
in the face of such abundance?  
There is nothing to compare,  
no need for beauty to compete.

The voluptuous rhododendron  
and the plain grass  
are equally filled with themselves,  
equally declare the miracles  
of color and form.

This is what community looks like—  
this vibrant jostle, stem by stem  
declaring the marvelous joining.  
This is the face of communion,  
the incarnation once more  
gracefully resurrected from winter.

Hold these things together  
in your sight—purple, crimson,  
magenta, blue. You will  
be feasting on this long after  
the flowers are gone.

~[Lynn Ungar](#)

Reprinted with permission from The Rev. Dr. Lynn Ungar, minister for lifespan learning and editor of *Quest for the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Larger Fellowship*, an online congregation for isolated religious liberals.



**A great thanks** to everyone working quietly behind the scenes to make our services interesting and meaningful, and to make our building pleasant.

Special thanks to Mike Miller and Sean for their labor and handiwork with cutting torch to remove the partition that had been left on the floor downstairs for several years. **M**any thanks to Terry Schwitz for the new light in the kitchen. **T**hanks to David Bullock and Susan Davis for making our lawn tidy. **T**hanks to Greg Gibbs for drying out the basement after flooding

### ***Thank You to Our Service Leaders in May & June:***

**May 7:** Theresa Rowe, Theresa , "[Words of & for Prayer](#)." draws from many sources. "wisdom from the world's religions, which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life."

**May 14** Donna Beaumont, Mother's Day service, considering the mothering we've received and the mothering we've done, including the [sermon by Forrest Church, 2005](#), "How My Mother Saved Me from the Bomb", and [Prayer for all who Mother by Victoria Weinstein](#). ["The Lanyard" by Billy Collins](#)

**May 21**—Roberta Price, leading Open Readings

**May 28** *Open Readings Service* for Memorial Day, led by Theresa Rowe.

**June 4:** Lovely annual *Flower Communion*, led by Donna Beaumont, Roberta Price & Theresa Rowe.

**June 11:** Music service, led by Gail and Mike DeVilbiss.

**June 18:** Open Readings.

**June 25:** Diane Schwitz, Debbie Czarnopys-White, and Roberta Price, LGBT service.



## **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.

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## Committee Matters:

Contact committee chair via [information@mtvernonuuf.org](mailto:information@mtvernonuuf.org)

### Welcoming& Hospitality

Volunteers needed

### Nominating

Greg Gibbs

### Building& Grounds

Rodney Arnold

Susan Davis

Terry Schwitz

### Religious Education

Deb Czarnopys-White

Roberta Price

### Music

Volunteers needed

### Programming

Donna Beaumont

Gail DeVilbiss

Roberta Price

Theresa Rowe

### LGBT Concerns

Roberta Price, chair

Deb Czarnopys-White

### Publications & Library

Beth Brennan, Library

Debbie Czarnopys-White,

Newspaper

Marji Gibbs, Web/Newsletter

Glenn Moreton, Facebook

## 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 online catalog at: [www.librarything.com/catalog/MVUUF](http://www.librarything.com/catalog/MVUUF) and are on the shelves at the fellowship.



## 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* and *the website* to [marji.gibbs\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:marji.gibbs(at)gmail.com) by **early deadline of Monday, July 17** for August web site updates, and by **Friday August 25** for the Sept updates. 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.

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](#)

IN A WORLD  
WITH SO MUCH  
UNCERTAINTY  
AND DESPAIR,



WE NEED A RELIGION  
THAT TEACHES OUR  
HEARTS TO HOPE, AND  
OUR HANDS TO CARE.

IAMUU.NET  
FB.COM/IAMUUPAGE

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[HTTP://WWW.UUA.ORG/WORSHIP/WORDS/READING/WE-NEED-RELIGION](http://www.uua.org/worship/words/reading/we-need-religion)



**Mt. Vernon  
Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship**

*An Emerging UUA Congregation  
and a Welcoming Fellowship*

**Sunday Morning Services  
Begin at 10:00 A.M.**

*Everyone is Welcome!*

## 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)