



# UU Matters

(February 2015: Vol. 10 No. 2)

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 February:** A simple prayer led by a seminary intern at Spring Valley Presbyterian church in Columbia, S.C. -“Lord, Even as we enjoy the Super Bowl Football game, let us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat” – in 1990 inspired a youth led movement to help hungry people around the world. Join us for this *Souper Bowl of Caring* service, led by the Social Justice Interest group, on the topic of food insecurity.

Please bring canned/dry goods to be distributed locally. A soup potluck will follow the service– bring soup or sides to accompany soup.

**8 February:** *Open Reading Service*, a volunteer is needed for opening and closing music. Please bring readings, music, and art work to share.

**15 February:** Roberta Price will lead this service, “Standing on the Side of Love.”

**22 February:** Dave Trotter will lead this service, continuing with Buddhist topics, on “The Ten Perfections.”

Please check the MVUUF [website](#)



for updates to February services.

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# Other Upcoming Events

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

**4 February**

## **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:** Paul Eatherton, Co-chair; Glenda Eubanks, Co-chair, Terry Schwitz, Co-chair; Nina Peacock, Secretary; and Larry Sidwell, Treasurer.

**8 February**

## **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 February**

## **Buddhist Meditation**

-Second Sunday of the 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)

**18 February**

## **Open Minds Discussion Group**

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

Discussion of Genetically Modified Organisms, led by members.

**24 February**

## **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).

**27 February**

## **Drumming Circle**

-Fourth Friday of the Month 7:00 p.m.-  
-Upstairs in the Fellowship Hall-

Join with us we gather to create to create an in-the-moment spontaneous drum circle. No previous musical experience is required. Bring your own drum or percussion instrument, or share what is available. Come and experience the ancient tradition, dynamic pulse, and healing energy of drumming with others.

## ***Tenth Anniversary of Mt Vernon UUF***

In late 2004, Randall S. "Randy" Farrar, a Mt. Vernon businessman, philanthropist, and Unitarian Universalist who had been attending the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship in Carbondale, Illinois, for several years, decided to "bring Unitarianism back to Mt. Vernon."

(The Mt Vernon Universalist Church existed from about 1880 to 1925, and met in what is presently the Elks Club.)

Randy purchased the former Faith Lutheran Church, located at 1600 Isabella Avenue in Mt. Vernon, in December 2004. A small group from the Carbondale fellowship began planning meetings in January 2005, and informational meetings open to the public began in March, 2005. A core group began to form, and regular meetings and services have been held since that time as the Mount Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

Sadly, Randy Farrar passed away in July 2006, but his memory lives on as the founding member of our fellowship. Other names that appear in early records include Dennis Arnold, Shannon Green, Adam Stone, Vito Mastrangelo, Beth Brennan, Paul Oakley, Walter Lazenby, Glenda Eubanks, Vicki Doetsch, Nina Peacock, Diane Schwitz, Saribenne Evesong, and Kelly and Shawn Taylor.

This year – 2015 – marks the tenth anniversary of the activities that led to the Fellowship we now appreciate and enjoy. All year long, we will bring you reminders of landmarks along the way to the first congregational meeting which was held in May 2006. The plan is to hold a significant celebration in May 2016 to mark that occasion.

A study group – *Building Your Own Theology* – was held during these formative days, led by Vennie Anderson from the Carbondale fellowship. We would like to offer it again this year, as part of the celebration. If you are interested, please let Donna or Glenda know.

If you are one of those founding members, we would like to hear and collect your stories. Again, let Donna or Glenda know how you would like to participate. This will be fun!

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](#)



# Open Minds

## *Open Minds Discussion Returns*

The Social Justice Interest Group hosts the Open Minds discussion series as a monthly meeting on the third Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the fellowship building, to encourage exploration and discussion of social justice and related issues. The series is open to the public.

For February, presentation and discussion is on the topic of Genetically Modified Organisms. Bring a friend.

If you are interested in presenting an Open Minds program, please talk with Donna Beaumont or Vito Mastrangelo to schedule a date. We are glad to help with logistics. We are interested in supporting informed participation in the democratic process.

## *Dec. Board Meeting Highlights*

The Board reaffirmed the [MVUUF Facebook group](#) purpose— for the board members and committees to make announcements to its members, and to highlight local activities in which members of the Fellowship may be involved. Board members and several others were designated to approve posts that are submitted. Please join the Facebook group if you are so inclined. The piano was repaired and tuned.

## *New Year's Fire Ceremony*



Thank you to Gail DeVilbiss for ringing in the new year with a special Fire Ceremony, weaving together themes of 108 Bells, New Year in Japan, Prayer for ourselves, others and all being from Thich Nhat Hahn, and 'Feeding the Raven.'





*Advancing human rights is the work of many joining hands*

## *The UUSC Link*

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is an independent human rights organization, supported through the volunteer efforts and financial gifts of its members and supporters, and linked to UU congregations through local representatives. The four focus areas of its work include: *Rights in Humanitarian Crises; Civil Liberties; Economic Justice; and Environmental Justice.*

Thanks to each of you who contributed to UUSC through our *Guest at Your Table* program. Because you chose to make a difference, Mt Vernon UUF was able to send a gift of \$200 to UUSC.

\$20 supports advocacy tools for the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United's Food Movement campaign against the National Restaurant Association.

\$100 provides one month of art supplies for 10 children in the art-therapy program at the Association for the Promotion of Integral Family Healthcare (APROSIFA) in Haiti.

\$200 pays for the development of awareness-raising tools for the Tanzania Gender Networking Program's project to increase citizen participation, especially by marginalized women.

You make it possible. Thank you.

To learn more about UUSC, take a look at the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall, visit the UUSC website at [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org) or on Facebook, attend a meeting of the Social Justice Interest Group each second Sunday after social hour, and watch this space at *UUMatters*.

Donna Beaumont, *UUSC Local Representative*

## *Building Your Own Theology*

The Programming committee is checking for interest in the [Building Your Own Theology](#) program, a ten-week discovery group, possibly for this spring. Some of our Fellowship have been through the course, early in the life of our fellowship. If interested let Glenda, Donna, or Roberta know.

### *MVUUF Book Group*

If interested in a women's book reading group, to meet at the Fellowship or over a meal at a local eating place, please contact Debbie, 201-3753, [bdcw@frontiernet.net](mailto:bdcw@frontiernet.net). *The Red Tent* by Anna Diamant will be the first book.

**Thank you** to Larry Sidwell for hosting the MVUUF New Year's Day Potuck at Sidwell Friends' Bed and Breakfast.

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## 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](http://www.librarything.com/catalog/MVUUF) . Recent donations to the library have been added to the LibraryThing catalog at and are now available on the shelves at the fellowship.

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## Committee Matters

### Nominating

Vito Mastrangelo, Chair

### Religious Education

Deb Czarnopys-White, Chair

### Memorial

Theresa Rowe, Chair

### Welcoming & Hospitality

Terry Schwitz, Co-chair

Theresa Rowe, Co-chair

Glenda Eubanks, Co-chair

### Publications & Library

Nina Peacock, Chair

### Building & Grounds

Greg Gibbs, Co-chair

Terry Schwitz, Co-chair

### Music \*

Ellen Silverman,

Co-chair

### Programming

Glenda Eubanks, Co-chair

Donna Beaumont, Co-chair

### LGBT

Deb Czarnopys-White, Co-chair

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

## Newspaper Announcement Guidelines

Submissions for the Friday "church news" sections of both the Sentinel and the Register-News are sent on the Tuesday morning prior to the service or event. **If you are leading a service, or planning a Fellowship event, please email your information to Gail at: [vegaddict@aol.com](mailto:vegaddict@aol.com) by (at the very latest) 8 a.m., on the prior Monday.** 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 **Monday, February 23** for the March issue. **Please email March 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.

*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, etc.

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## 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](http://www.mtvernonuuf.org)
  3. By emailing our Fellowship: [information@mtvernonuuf.org](mailto:information@mtvernonuuf.org)
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