



UU Matters

(March 2015: Vol. 10 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.)

1 March: Theresa Rowe will coordinate this *Open Reading Service*. Please bring readings, music, and art work to share.

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

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

22 March: *Justice Sunday Service*, led by the Social Justice Interest Group.

Please check the MVUUF [website](#) for updates to **March** services.



Other Upcoming Events

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

4 March 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 March 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 March 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

18 March Open Minds Discussion Group

-Third Wednesday of the Month 7:00 p.m.-
Discussion of Composting, led by Mike DeVilbiss.

24 March 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.

27 March 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, Part Two

Following the purchase of the former Lutheran church building by Randy Farrar in December 2004, the Board of the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship agreed to support the exploration of possibilities in Mt. Vernon.

According to “A Partial History of Mt Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship” written by Rev. William Sasso, dated July 11, 2011, “a Mt. Vernon Committee was formed, consisting of Randy Farrar, Tom Robinson, Vennie Anderson, Glenda Eubanks, and Rev. Sasso. They met at the church building in Mt. Vernon, looked it over, and began to formulate plans. The District Office ordered a demographic study of the Mt. Vernon area, and the study suggested that there were potential UUs in the vicinity. The committee planned a series of three public, informational meetings to be held the last Wednesday evening of March, April, and May, as a means of gathering those who might be interested in a UU congregation. Each of the meetings attracted an attendance of about twenty-five to thirty people, and many of these people formed the initial core of the congregation.”

Reminder: Join the celebration!

As we are celebrating our tenth anniversary of the founding of the fellowship, the Program Committee would like to collect remembrances from those members who were here at the start. If you are one of those founding members, contact Donna or Glenda; we would like to hear and collect your stories.



Souper Bowl Donations

Thank you to all who responded to the Souper Bowl of Caring food collection. MVUUF gathered 213 items of food and \$13 in cash. The food was delivered by Terry Schwitz to Angels on Assignment; the cash will be added to our regular monthly contribution to the Angels.

Open Minds

Open Minds Discussion March 18

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 March, presentation and discussion is on the topic of composting, led by Mike DeVilbiss. Bring a friend. The February discussion of Genetically Modified Organisms that was cancelled by inclement weather is rescheduled for June.

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.

January Board Meeting Highlights

We are excited about Paul Oakley's Ordination in May in St. Louis. The Board thanks Debbie Czarnopys-White, who will represent MVUUF on Paul Oakley's Ordination planning committee, along with Kurt DeWeese of Springfield UU and Mariam Link-Mullison from Carbondale's UU. The MVUUF Board authorized funds for our Fellowship's share of Ordination expenses.

MVUUF Book Group

Plans are proceeding for the first book group gathering in the latter half of March to discuss "*The Red Tent*", by Anna Diamant. To make the time as inclusive as possible, if you're interested to attend, please indicate which day or days of the week would work best. Also indicating a time would be useful. We'll share information received and arrive at the best mutually agreeable time possible. Please respond with an email to Debbie at bdcw@frontiernet.net or call her cell at [618-201-3753](tel:618-201-3753).



Building Your Own Theology Sunday Meetings

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



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.*

On March 22, we observe Justice Sunday. Justice Sunday is UUSC's annual opportunity for reflection, understanding, and action in a specific area of social justice. In recent years, we have considered aid with dignity, food sustainability, and workers' rights. This year's theme is "Climate Justice," and focuses on the human right to water in the face of climate change. Communities throughout the world are facing threats to their water supplies as a result of climate change. UUSC is coordinating its efforts in this focus area with the larger Commit2Respond initiative. Please join us on March 22 to learn more. Advancing human rights is the work of many joining hands.

To learn more about UUSC, take a look at the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall, visit the UUSC website at 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*



Spirit

Ideas

Life

News

Blogs

Have you browsed uuworld.org recently?

Sign up for email updates: www.uuworld.org/subscriptions/emailnewsletter.shtml

*MidAmerica Region is building
a new era in Unitarian Universalism,
where UUs visibly live our faith,
create connections, grow our membership, and
welcome all persons who share our UU values.*

Who We Are in MidAmerica: By the Numbers

by Nancy Heege, UU Congregational Life Consultant

Note: "Who We Are" is a monthly series of articles introducing who we are as the Mid-America Region of the UUA.

For those of you who like numbers, here is an introduction to the region. MidAmerica Region is made up of 186 UU congregations [affiliated with the UUA] spread across 13 states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. There are several other small congregations not yet affiliated.



Of our 186 affiliated congregations, 89 are served by full time ministers [one or more ministers]; 37 by part time ministers; and 60 congregations [about one-third] are lay led. Many of our congregations are also served by full and part time religious educators, administrators, membership professionals, music professionals, social justice coordinators, and others.

When our congregations certified their adult membership last year, the region totaled 29,216 members. This year, the total adult membership is 29,044, a drop of less than 1%. The number of children and youth dropped also from last year, from 10,005 to 9,888, a decline of 1.2%.

Of our 186 affiliated congregations, 4 are over 750 adult members and 6 are between 500 and 749 adult members. More than a quarter of our adult members are members of those ten congregations. Twenty four congregations are between 250 and 499 adult members; and 24 are between 150 and 249 adult members. One hundred twenty eight congregations [nearly 70% of our affiliated congregations] have fewer than 150 adult members.

So there you have it.

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 at and are now available on the shelves at the fellowship.

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

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 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 **Monday, March 23** for the April 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.

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
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