



UU Matters

(May 2015: Vol. 10 No. 5)

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.)

3 May: Nina Peacock will lead this service on Mindfulness.

10 May: Donna Beaumont will present this service on Mother's Day. There is hardly a one of us – man or woman – who has not been mothered at some time by somebody, and who has not offered mothering. This service offers an opportunity to look back on our lives and consider the mothering we have received and the mothering we have given, taking our part in the human family.

17 May: Theresa Rowe will lead this service for the “Merry Mary Month of May.”

24 May: *Open Readings Service.* Please bring readings, music, artwork, anything you would like to share. Open Readings can be some of our most special services.

31 May: Donna Beaumont will lead the annual Flower Communion, a favorite ceremony in the Unitarian Universalist tradition and a statement of community. Please bring a flower to the Sunday service, or take one from the vase provided. Each person places his or her flower in a shared vase. At the end of the service, each person takes home a flower other than the one that he or she brought, signifying that, as no two flowers are alike, so no two people are alike, yet each makes a unique contribution.

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

Other Upcoming Events

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

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

10 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.

10 May

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

20 May

Open Minds Discussion Group

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

Sue Trotter will lead a discussion on the topic of healthcare, including viewing a video related to the discussion .

26 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.

April Board Meeting News

MVUUF and member donors sent the sum of \$850 to Emerson Unitarian Fellowship. Emerson Unitarian was very pleased and overwhelmed by our generosity.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship will hold the Annual Membership Meeting on May 17, 2015 following the Sunday Morning Service.

The 2015-16 Slate of Board Members to be presented for election are:

Continuing Member- Larry Sidwell, Treasurer

Continuing Member- Nina Peacock, Secretary

Continuing Member- Terry Schwitz

To Fill Vacant Seat- Susan Trotter

To Fill Vacant Seat- Greg Gibbs

Nominations may be made from the floor for vacant positions, prior to the voting.

Celebration of Recent Retirees and New Members

We will be honoring recent retirees with a celebration at the close of the May 17 Annual Congregation meeting, a celebration which we also enjoyed last year. New this year will be the inclusion of a celebration of new members who have joined since last May. Walter will again provide appropriate celebratory beverages.



Potluck and Labyrinth Walk

Potluck and Labyrinth Walk will follow the May 17 annual membership meeting. at Nina's home. [Contact her](#) if you need directions.

Paul Oakley UU Ministry Ordination

Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship joins the Abraham Lincoln UU Congregation and the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship in celebrating the ordination of Paul Oakley on Sunday, May 31st, 2015 at 4:00 PM at First Unitarian Church of St. Louis, 5007 Waterman Boulevard, St. Louis, MO. RSVP for the ceremony and reception is requested by May 5.



Photo by Jon Delorey

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/jonsphotos/2502305968/in/photostream/>
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/legalcode>

Tenth Anniversary of Mt Vernon UUF, Part Four

Exploration of the possibilities for a UU fellowship in Mt. Vernon continued, and on the last Wednesday evening in May 2005, the third of three public informational meetings was held. At the first two meetings, Rev. William Sasso and others from the Carbondale fellowship spoke about different aspects of Unitarian Universalism. At the third and final meeting, Dr. Angela Merkert, then Congregational Services Director of the UUA's Central Midwest District, visited and spoke.

In an effort to establish contact with and make use of UUA growth resources, Glenda Eubanks and Saribenne Evesong, members of the fledgling group at Mt. Vernon, attended a new congregations workshop; and Randy Farrar attended a congregational marketing workshop at Eliot Chapel in Kirkwood, Missouri.

According to a Chalice Lighter grant application document prepared by Rev. Sasso: The UUA-provided Percept "The Ministry Area Profile 2004" ("the Study") offers an analysis of the population living within a 25 mile radius of Mt. Vernon, Illinois. The Study suggests that the area includes approximately 354 households, including roughly 900 individuals, likely to prefer Unitarianism/Universalism as a religion.

Rev. Sasso further notes:

The challenge for the MVUUF is to identify and engage those potential Unitarian Universalists, and ultimately to offer a place of worship to those who seek a fellowship to which to belong.

Ten years later, the challenge remains.



Building Your Own Theology

Building Your Own Theology group will hold its first meeting Sunday May 31, from 11:15 – 12:45, and weekly thereafter for a total of 10 weeks. Since May 31 is also Paul Oakley's ordination in St Louis, that week will end by 12:30, for people traveling to St. Louis. Participants need to have a *Building Your Own Theology* [book](#) (Donna has several to lend) and need to read introduction and the first lesson before the first meeting. Diane Schwitz has kindly offered to facilitate on weeks that she does not have to work.

**Open
Minds**

Open Minds Healthcare Discussion

The May 20 Open Minds presentation includes a film and discussion on Healthcare, led by Sue Trotter. The Social Justice Interest Group hosts the Open Minds discussion series on the third Wednesday of each month 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. The June topic is Genetically Modified Organisms.



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.*

This year eight Unitarian Universalist organizations teamed up and created an unprecedented network of concern and action: [Commit2Respond](http://www.commit2respond.org). (UUSC, UUA, UU Ministers Association, Liberal Religious Educators Association, UU College of Social Justice, Diverse Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries, UU Ministry for Earth, UU Environmental Justice Collaboratory) Please join in at www.commit2respond.org/action for specific commitments to act.

Over the course of a month, members of our fellowship, led by the Social Justice Interest Group, brought us through a series of services, beginning on March 22 with World Water Day/ Climate Justice Sunday, and ending on April 19, with an Earth Day service, focusing on Climate Justice. We have connected with our love for Earth, reckoned with the great loss we are experiencing, reconciled with our current reality while remembering the joy of being alive, and committed ourselves to serious action to save our planet and ourselves. I hope you have found inspiration and hope in these messages.

Saving our biosphere is possible, but it will take a paradigm shift and a revolution of values to get there. Our framework is simple: to meet this challenge, we need to shift to a low carbon future, advance the human rights of affected communities, and grow the climate justice movement.

The work has only just begun. Programming on climate change and climate justice is being planned for General Assembly this year as well as an Action of Immediate Witness to galvanize support for a sustainable treaty in Paris during the United Nations Summit on Climate Change.

The road before us is long. Dismantling the current paradigm will take great intention from all of us. But it is possible. And it is necessary. Earth Day is an end, but it is also a beginning of creating a new world — together.

(Adapted from a message from the leadership of Commit2Respond 4/22/2015)

To learn more about UUSC, take a look at the *Choosing to Make A Difference* 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*



David Restivo [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Generic](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/)

Summer Water

The summer months are framed by the Flower Communion at Memorial day and the Gathering of the Waters ceremony, or Water Communion, at the end of summer. Please take a moment during your summer travels to collect water to share at summer's end.

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](#)

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

Terry Schwitz, Co-chair

Greg Gibbs, 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, May 25** for the June issue. **Please email June 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

