



# The Pathfinder



A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb

Volume 60, Issue 2

158 N. Fourth St.

DeKalb, IL 60115

April-May 2019

## OUR MISSION

*Together as a religious community, we put our liberal faith in action, striving to nurture our families and our spiritual lives, protect the earth, eliminate poverty, and stop oppression, while offering love and hope for all.*

*(UUFDF mission statement adopted May 17, 2009)*

### DEADLINE

The deadline for the June/July edition of the Pathfinder is **May 19**. Please note that this is the third Sunday of the month. Submissions are to be sent to the church office via email: [office@uufdekalb.org](mailto:office@uufdekalb.org) or hard copy left in the Office Manager's mailbox in the library.

**Save the date!**

### Congregational Meeting

following a short worship service on Sunday, **May 19**.

## Sunday Services: Service 10:00 A.M. till 11:15 A.M.

### April Theme: Salvation/Wholeness

In our tradition, salvation is understood as wholeness and health. In seeking wholeness, we are attempting to complete our life before death ends it. Parker Palmer suggests that a primary problem in our age is people living divided lives. Revealing, claiming, and nurturing our hidden wholeness is our life's work, the path to salvation in this life.

**April 7 – Redeeming Love**  
Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Worship Leader

**April 14 – Embracing Brokenness**  
Diane Johns, Worship Leader  
Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Assistant

**April 21 – Easter: Wholely Sacred**  
*What does wholeness and salvation mean for Unitarian Univesalists? What is sacred in our lives, and in our world? This service includes our annual communion service.*  
Rev. Jenn, Worship Leader  
Ed Miguel, Assistant

**April 28 – Special performance with Sven Hansen and Aboud Agha, Lutist**  
Ed Miguel, Worship Leader  
Dorothy Coleman, Assistant

### May Theme: Mystery

Our lives are not merely a series of questions to be answered or problems to be solved, but mysteries to be lived. As Annie Dillard reminds us (Buddha-like), "We wake, if ever at all, to mystery." The capacity to value mystery is enhanced by awareness; by a sense of awe, wonder, and gratitude at the reality of being alive and being a witness to existence.

**May 5 – The Gift of Mystery**  
Diane Johns, Worship Leader  
Vanstrom Dracul, Assistant

**May 12 – Flower Communion: The Mystery of Connection**  
Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Worship Leader  
Ed Miguel, Assistant

**May 19 – Short Worship followed by Congregational Meeting**  
Ed Miguel, Worship Leader  
Rev. Jenn, Assistant

**May 26 – Sight of Stars: The Life of Vincent Van Gogh**  
*What insights can Van Gogh offer us into curiosity and mystery? What is the greatest "what if" in his life?*  
Rev. Jenn, Worship Leader

### CONTACTS:

INTERIM MINISTER: Rev. Jennifer Gracen ([minister@uufdekalb.org](mailto:minister@uufdekalb.org), 815-408-1079)  
OFFICE MANAGER: Kathryn Jones  
PRESIDENT: Laura Gillberg  
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Bonnie Anderson  
TREASURER: Kristina Olsen

Office Manager Office Hours: Wed 9 - 2 and Fri 10 - 3  
Church Office phone number: 815-756-7089  
email: [office@uufdekalb.org](mailto:office@uufdekalb.org)

Web site: [uufdekalb.org](http://uufdekalb.org)

*In case of an emergency, call Rev. Gracen, the Board President Laura Gillberg, or the President Elect Jenny Stamatakos.*

## Gray Areas: Thoughts from the Minister

It is Canvas Season! Canvas season gives us an opportunity to consider and celebrate what it is that we love and value about the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb. Since I first came to the Fellowship a little over a year and a half ago, I have discovered so much to value about this place: its people, its traditions, its spirit.

Each year's budget gives us the chance to think about who we are and who we want to be as we move into the future together. Budgets are a moral document. As congregations and as individuals we have certain financial resources we've been entrusted to use well. How we choose to allocate those resources is a statement about what it is we value, what matters to us. Here at UUFD, for instance, we have made statements that our location matters to us. Every year, part of our budget goes to maintaining our building. We value having a place to come together, to worship together. We have made statements that care for the community is important to us. We dedicate part of our space and part of our funds to our social justice efforts. This congregation has a significant investment in our children. We have at least five staff positions in Religious Education. This congregation also has a long and positive relationship with professional clergy, and as a result we put a portion of the budget into making professional ministry possible here.

What else do you see that we value here? What do you value? Over these next few weeks we will have the opportunity to talk about what is important to us.

During our canvas you have a chance to make a statement about what you value, personally and as part of this worshipping community. Do you support the work that this congregation does? Has it been of value in your life? In the life of the community?

I look forward to continuing the work together!

In faith,

*Rev. Jenn Gracen*



### UUFD Staff News

#### Rev. Jenn's schedule

- Rev. Jenn will be in town in April 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, April 28<sup>th</sup>, and May 18-19<sup>th</sup> and 25-26<sup>th</sup>.
- Rev. Jenn encourages you to reach out to her if you'd like to meet or talk by phone: 815-408-1079.

#### Office schedule

- Office manager Kathryn Jones's hours are Wed 9 - 2 and Fri 10 - 3.

### "Bless the Hands that Made It"

As I left the kitchen at Hope Haven last evening, after checking to make sure dinner was assembled, the woman setting up to serve thanked me and added, "Bless the hands that made it." ...just one of the satisfactions of providing a meal for the emergency shelter once a month. After coordinating the meal for the last few years, I think it's time to give others a chance. I am working on a checklist of tasks and looking for people who would coordinate the meal one or more times a year. Please call or email the office if you are interested.

Many thanks to those who shared their time, talents, and food during the last two months, many of you more than once: Carrie Williams, Kim Myers, Bonnie Anderson, Beth Schewe, Mary Von Zellen, Sharon Blake, Sheryl Nak, Kathy Clark, Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Diane Johns, Virginia Wilcox, Cathy Schneider, Ashley Ford, and Gretchen Sigwart. What a crew! - Maylan Dunn-Kenney



## Mark Your Calendar For These UUFD Events



### April

April 3 – Yoga with Ed Miguel 5:30 p.m. & 7 p.m. (Wednesdays)  
 April 5 - Restorative Meditation 5:30 p.m. (Fridays)  
 April 5 – Social Justice First Friday Film Fest 6:30 p.m. (1st Fridays)  
 April 7 – Buddhist Study Group and Meditation 11:45 a.m. (1st & 3rd Sundays)  
 April 14 – Ordinary Folk Musical Gathering 2 – 3:30 p.m. (2nd & 4th Sundays)  
 April 16 – Hope Haven Meal 6:30 p.m.  
 April 21 – UUFD Board Meeting noon  
 April 28 – Ministerial Transition Meeting noon'

### May

May 18 – UUFD Gala!  
 May 19 – Congregational Meeting following a short service  
 May 21 – Hope Haven Meal 6:30 p.m.  
 May 25 – UUFD Welcome Essentials Pantry 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

**Save the date for UUFD Spring Gala fundraiser!** We'll be having a chili cook-off and dancing on May 18 from 6 to 9 p.m. And don't forget about our famous dessert and silent auction! For tickets, to volunteer, or to contribute to the chili cook-off or auction, contact Kriss Olsen at [nuriel42@yahoo.com](mailto:nuriel42@yahoo.com) or 815-323-9925.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children.

**Calling all chili chefs!** Bring your traditional, vegetarian, or vegan chili. All chili chefs will receive a free ticket to the Gala. Prizes will be awarded for best chili, hottest chili, people's choice, and others. Entries should provide 1-2 gallons of chili so that all guests can sample each entry. Contract Kriss Olsen to sign up ([nuriel42@yahoo.com](mailto:nuriel42@yahoo.com) or 815-323-9925).

### Choir Schedule

April 7 Choir Rehearses, Choir does service anthem  
 April 14 Choir Rehearses NO ANTHEM  
 April 21 Choir Rehearses, Choir does service anthem  
 April 28 NO CHOIR NO ANTHEM

May 5 Choir Rehearses NO ANTHEM  
 May 12 Choir Rehearses Flower Sunday, Choir does service anthem

Choir is then on leave until further notice. It has been a great privilege to serve these dedicated singers.

— Bonnie Anderson

### The worship theme for April is Salvation/Wholeness; for May the theme is Mystery.

The worship leaders will use these themes to guide their services throughout the month. We encourage you to take a look at the Touchstones Journal on our website at [uufdekalb.org/touchstones](http://uufdekalb.org/touchstones) (or pick up a copy at the table by the magazine rack) and hope it will lead to deeper discussions!

# JOYS & SORROWS



On March 5 a beloved member of our Fellowship, Jack Lazzara passed away. Jack's family was with him during his time of transition and they have appreciated your love of him. We commemorated his life with a memorial service on March 9. Jack has been involved in this Fellowship for years, including as a board member and a worship leader. Jack has shared his humor, with faith and his love with this Fellowship. He will be deeply missed.

*Do you have a joy, sorrow, or milestone to share with the congregation?  
Contact the church office and we will share it in the eNews and Pathfinder.*

## Eulogy for Jack Lazzara

Jack lived a life of humor and compassion. He worked to provide joy and love to everyone in his life. Jack was born July 18, 1958 to Angelo and Mary Carmen Lazzara. Jack was the joyously welcomed middle child of the family. His oldest sister Lucy and his youngest sister Lydia were each about two and a half years away from him.

Jack was a happy engaging child from birth, the close-knit family supported Jack's interest in magic, which started in childhood. Now, many of us who flirt with magic as children quickly give it up, not so for Jack. The older he got the more interested he became. A big part of the draw for him was the experiencing of seeing delight and surprise in other people's eyes.

Jack's love of entertaining people and his draw to creativity showed up through his school years, in high school he was always in the thespians, in drama and band. It was also in high school he met Cheryl, the mother of his three children, Steve, David and Heather.

Jack attended University and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biology at the University of Indiana, Bloomington, after he graduated he became a Nationally Certified Master Optician, but his real love remained in magic. He became a professional stage magician under the name 'Cerlin the Wizard'. Jack also connected with a deep faith in Wicca and a little later in his life he found his spiritual home here at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

Jack started getting sick in his thirties. When his kidneys failed he got a transplant. A later infection caused the loss of the kidney. Jack spent the second half of his life in varied states of health and the last twenty years on dialysis.

Everyone who knows Jack has stories of Jack's sense of humor and his compassion. Jack's sister Lucy says, "As sick as he was most of his life he thought of other people first and then himself. Jack had a strong backbone to put up with his health issues and he had a funny bone that got him through any situation." Jack's mix of creativity, humor and compassion showed up in everything he did. Taking his love of magic Jack regularly went to the hospital, to the children's Cancer ward to perform magic tricks for the kids. This wasn't something he talked about a lot, Jack just did things like this, sharing his love of magic with others. He used his illness as a gift that allowed him to be present for others in deep ways.

When his mother was sick Jack moved in with her to help care for her. Even though he was sick himself Jack provided his mother with care and humor. He used to take her up to see Lucy at the hospital and at one point they were both invited to a party. Jack found himself a chair that had a balloon tied to it. He sat quietly in the chair, eventually people noticed that Jack had written on the balloon, "I'm only here for the cake."

Jack has been a writer. And in 2008 Jack published his first and last novel. It's called Captain Valliant. It seems very fitting that Jack would write a book about a Vampire who got bored with his life in Chicago after 200 years so he donned a cape and mask and took a bite out of crime.

Jack was also a teacher. Here at the Fellowship he regularly shared his wisdom with us as one of our worship leaders. He also taught students at the NIU wiccan group how to lead a solstice service. As a member of the board of directors he helped lead this congregation through one of its most significant times of transition.

Jack's life shined like a light in so very many lives. And though he is gone we know he will continue to shine on in our hearts.

## From the UFD Social Justice Ministry Committee

We continue with committee meetings AT CHURCH after coffee hour every 2nd Sunday. In April that's 4/14, in May, 5/12, and in June, 6/9.

- Come on out for the First Friday Film Festival - a social justice-themed movie every month + discussion; you won't regret coming!
- And bring in your already-read magazines (and even books) for our Social Justice literature exchange, a new presence in our Fellowship Hall.
- We're entitled to TWO DELEGATES to the Regional Assembly in St. Louis (April 5-7) and General Assembly (June 19-23 in Spokane) Is anyone interested?

*A message from Social Justice Committee co-chair and longtime member Jack Reich:*

*Hi, All! It's becoming increasingly evident that the time we have to "solve" the climate crisis and allow for the survival of humans on the earth is growing short, indeed. If you have opinions on this, please come to our next Social Justice Committee meeting, at church, after coffee hour, April 14, and let's discuss it! - Jack Reich*

### Join us, as well, for two upcoming special events:

- **Immigration Discussion with Maylan Dunn-Kenny.** You are invited to participate in a discussion of issues related to immigration in the U.S. led by Maylan Dunn-Kenny. The discussion will be from 1:00 to 2:30 AM on Saturday, March 30th at UFD. To prepare for the discussion, please become familiar with these three reports:
  - ◇ A Dozen Facts about Immigration from the Brookings Institute  
[https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/ImmigrationFacts\\_Web\\_1008\\_540pm.pdf](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/ImmigrationFacts_Web_1008_540pm.pdf)
  - ◇ Five Facts about Illegal Immigration from Pew Research  
<https://pewrsr.ch/2Sh6aeu>
  - ◇ Welcoming Our Neighbors (UUA)  
<http://tinyurl.com/qtu3q6>

This is the first of a series of social justice discussion groups being planned by our Social Justice Committee. All preparatory readings for the discussions will be available for viewing online. If you are willing to be a discussion facilitator for a social justice topic that interests you, please contact [socialjustice@uufdekab.org](mailto:socialjustice@uufdekab.org).

- In celebration of Earth Day (Monday, April 22, 2019), The Social Justice & Outreach Committee is organizing a "Protect the Earth" Trash Pick-Up Event on the preceding Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Our UFD Earth Protectors will pick up trash along Peace Road starting from Lincoln Highway and heading south to the Tollway entrance. The City of DeKalb is providing us with on-loan security vests and free trash bags, and ties, but we ask volunteers to bring their own gloves. Please join our team of volunteers by filling out a liability waiver form (required by the city), soon to be available on the Social Justice Table in our Fellowship Hall. The deadline for submitting waivers is April 14. Children are welcome to join, but must be accompanied by a parent. Volunteers are asked to meet at UFD at 10 a.m. to collect their security vests and trash bags, and then carpool to locations along Peace Road. Volunteers are also welcome to bring publicity signs identifying our UFD Earth Day Team that can be posted along the road while we work. The City picks up our trash bags after we are done. Hope you will be able to join us!!

## Thanks from Congregational Care and an urgent plea for Sunday support!

A big shout out to everyone who helped us organize the after memorial service lunch for Jack Lazzara. We were able to put on a nice luncheon and it was much appreciated by both his family and the people in attendance. UFD can pull together and get important things done!!

And, speaking of pulling together, our greeter and coffee hour list is pretty empty for the rest of spring. Please contact us or sign up at church to help out in this very important part of Sunday morning ministry.

Thank you to the following March and April volunteers....you are appreciated! Greeters, so far, are Kevin Vancil, Sumiko K, Eric W and Dawn A and coffee hour hosts so far are Kriss and Ed, Donna V, Sharon B and Nicole and Shane.

We've got a lot of Sundays to fill, so please do your part and sign up. If you are not sure about doing it, we can pair you up with someone who can show you the ropes!

Contact us with any congregational care questions, needs or concerns!  
We're here for you!

Sharon Blake and Florence Gerlach  
([sblake202@gmail.com](mailto:sblake202@gmail.com)) or call or text me at 815-757-2444)

Looking forward to getting that list completely filled!



**UU Jokes: In honor of Jack Lazzara and in honor of April Fools' Day**

(From: <http://www.firstunitariantoronto.org/what-is-unitarianism/uu-humour>)

Q. What is a Unitarian Universalist?

A. Someone who believes in life before death.

A. Someone who faces all questions with an open mouth.

\*\*\*

Q: How many Unitarians does it take to change a light bulb?

A: We choose not to make a statement either in favour of or against the need for a light bulb. However, if in your own journey, you have found that light bulbs work for you, that is wonderful. You are invited to write a poem or compose a modern dance about your personal relationship with your light bulb. Present it next month at our annual Light Bulb Sunday Service, in which we will explore a number of light bulb traditions, including incandescent, fluorescent, 3-way, long-life, and tinted, all of which are equally valid paths to luminescence.

\*\*\*

A UU is told "I hear you deny the divinity of Christ." "That's not true!" said the UU, "We don't deny the divinity of anyone."