



The Pathfinder



A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb

Volume 60, Issue 4

158 N. Fourth St.

DeKalb, IL 60115

Aug-Sept 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.

(UUF mission statement adopted May 17, 2009)

DEADLINE

The deadline for the October/November edition of the Pathfinder is **September 15**. 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 or hard copy left in the Office Manager's mailbox in the library.

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

August Theme: Prayer & Meditation

What is prayer for you? One way of describing its stereotypes is "gimmie," "oops," "ouch," "wow," and "thanks" (or prayers of petition, confession, intercession, praise, and gratitude.) Jack Mendelsohn wrote, "Suppose we think of it as an essential religious striving to touch truth and tap resources within and beyond ourselves." Prayer can be a compelling spiritual practice to make us more fully human.

Aug 4 – *Connection with the Universe*
Ed Miguel, Worship Leader
Dorothy Coleman, Assistant

Aug 11 – *Prayer Paths*
Dennis Johnson, Guest Worship Leader
Vanstrom Dracul, Assistant

Aug 18 – *A Heart Without Words*
Diane Johns, Worship Leader
Ed Miguel, Assistant

Aug 25 – *How Do We Pray?*
Kriss Olsen, Worship Leader
Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Assistant

September Theme: Covenant

Our congregations are not defined by creed. They are organized around a covenant. Ideally, this has two aspects: the internal covenant that are the promises that we make with each other within the congregation, and the external covenant that represents the promises that a congregation makes with the world. Because we are human, we break these promises, but we also recommit to them.

Sept 1 – *A Fateful Covenant: Grimms' The Mermaid of the Mill-Pond*
Ron Allison, Guest Speaker
Kriss Olsen, Worship Leader
Ed Miguel, Assistant

Sept 8 – *Learning to Live Our Covenant*
Maylan Dunn Kenney, Worship Leader
Dorothy Coleman, Assistant

Sept 15 –
Dorothy Coleman, Worship Leader
Ed Miguel, Assistant

Sept 22 –
Maylan Dunn Kenney, Assistant

Sept 29 – *Unconscious Covenants*
Ed Miguel, Worship Leader

CONTACTS:

INTERIM MINISTER: Rev. Jennifer Gracen (minister@uufdekalb.org, 815-408-1079)
OFFICE MANAGER: Kathryn Jones
PRESIDENT: Jenny Stamatakos

TREASURER: Ashley Ford

Office Manager Office Hours: Wed 10 - 3 and Fri 10 - 3
Church Office phone number: 815-756-7089
email: office@uufdekalb.org

Web site: uufdekalb.org

In case of an emergency, call Board Past President Laura Gillberg, or President Jenny Stamatakos.

From the UUFD Board of Trustees

Music and the Arts: Let Us Make a Joyful Noise!

On July 31st, Bonnie Anderson concluded her service as Music Director at UUFD. On behalf of the Board of Trustees (and everyone with ears to hear), we offer our heartfelt appreciation for her beautiful contributions to our worship experiences, and we wish her a tranquil retirement. Now, it is time to think about the future of music in our church.

As was discussed during the May Congregational Meeting, UUFD does not have enough in our budget to hire another Music Director this year. We do have enough to hire a Church Musician whose job would be to play piano for the prelude, hymns, offertory, and postlude in weekly worship, and the Board has voted to do so. Bonnie will use her connections to help advertise for the position, and she has graciously promised to fill in as pianist when needed.

Piano music will be covered! But what of special music, choir, guest musicians? These cherished elements bring life and color to our worship services, and it's up to us as a congregation to keep our musical traditions robust. Therefore, the Board is pleased to announce **Music and the Arts**, a new subcommittee of the Worship Team, and we need you! If you play an instrument, sing, or just have opinions on what you'd like to hear, then join us. If you have ideas for guest musicians or a song that speaks to your heart, join us. If you dream of collaborating with the Worship Team to create the perfect artistic accompaniment to highlight a sermon's theme, then please, please join us! You won't have to plan for every aspect or even every week; we want to spread the responsibility and concentrate the fun.

UUFD has so many talented, passionate, and innovative members. Let's make (or facilitate) beautiful music together! Please contact a Board Member to get involved: Laura Gillberg, Jenny Stamatakos, Tom Stamatakos, Beth Schewe, Sumiko Keay, Donna Veeneman, or Ashley Ford.

Professional Ministry at UUFD

As you may know, Rev. Jenn's last day as our official transitional minister is August 15. We are grateful for all she has done to guide UUFD during the past two years, and we wish her the best in her new ministry.

We are also excited to announce ... that we will soon have an exciting announcement!

UUFD has completed a search for 1/4 time contract minister, and the board has voted to offer the position to an excellent candidate, who has accepted our offer. We are in the process of completing contract negotiations.

Keep an eye out for an announcement in the eNews and during worship services very soon.

We're grateful for all the UUFD community has done to renew our covenant to one another during the transition period, and we are excited to see where the new stage will take us.

With love and gratitude,

The UUFD Board of Trustees

P.S. This means our September worship service schedule is subject to change. Keep an eye out for updates about the September schedule and our new minister's first day.

UUFD Staff News

Rev. Jenn's schedule

- Rev. Jenn's last day as UUFD's interim minister is August 15.
- Rev. Jenn encourages you to reach out to her if you'd like to talk before then: 815-408-1079.

Office schedule

- Office manager Kathryn Jones's hours are Wed 10 - 3 and Fri 10 - 3. *Please note the change to Wednesday hours!*



Mark Your Calendar For These UUFD Events



August 2019

August 3 – Restorative Meditation 5:30 p.m. (Fridays)
 August 4 – Buddhist Study Group and Meditation 11:45 a.m. (1st and 3rd Sundays)
 August 7 – Yoga with Ed Miguel 5:30 and 7 p.m. (Wednesdays)
 August 10 – Buddhist Study Group Retreat 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 August 11 – Social Justice Committee meeting 11:45 am (2nd Sundays)
 August 11 – Ordinary Folk Musical Gathering 2 p.m. (2nd and 4th Sundays)
 August 18 – Worship Associates meeting 11:45 a.m.
 August 20 – Hope Haven Meal 6:30 p.m. (3rd Tuesdays)
 August 24 – Board Meeting and Retreat 12 p.m.
 August 25 – Green Sanctuary Group 11:30 am (4th Sundays)

September 2019

September 8 – Social Justice Committee 11:45 a.m.
 September 17 – Hope Haven Meal 6:30 pm
 9/22 – Green Sanctuary Group 11:30 a.m.
 9/28 – UUFD Welcome Essentials Panty 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

- September board meeting TBA: See the weekly eNews for schedule updates.
- Note: The Social Justice First Friday Films are taking a hiatus. Watch the eNews for an update in September.

A Prayer for the Children by Ina J. Hughes

We pray for the children
 who sneak popsicles before supper,
 who erase holes in math workbooks,
 who can never find their shoes. And we pray for those
 who stare at photographers from behind barbed wire,
 who can't bound down the street in a new pair of sneakers,
 who never "counted potatoes,"
 who are born in places where we wouldn't be caught
 dead, who never go to the circus, who live in an X-rated
 world.

We pray for the children who bring us sticky kisses and
 fistfuls of dandelions, who hug us in a hurry and forget
 their lunch money.
 And we pray for those
 who never get dessert, who have no safe blanket to drag
 behind them,
 who watch their parents watch them die,
 who can't find bread to steal, who don't have rooms to
 clean up, whose pictures aren't on anybody's dresser,
 whose monsters are real.

We pray for the children who spend their allowance
 before Tuesday,
 who throw tantrums in the grocery store and pick at

their food,
 who like ghost stories,
 who shove dirty clothes under the bed,
 who never rinse out the tub,
 who get visits from the tooth fairy,
 who don't like to be kissed in front of the carpool,
 who squirm in church and scream in the phone,
 whose tears we sometimes laugh at and
 whose smiles can make us cry.

And we pray for those
 Whose nightmares come in the daytime,
 Who will eat anything
 Who have never seen dentist,
 Who aren't spoiled by anybody,
 Who go to bed hungry and cry themselves to sleep,
 Who live and move, but have no being

We pray for the children
 Who want to be carried and for those who must,
 Who we never give up on and for those who don't get a
 second chance.

We pray for those we smother and for those who will
 grab the hand of
 anybody kind enough to offer it.

Source: https://ccdoble.org/?wpfb_dl=365

The worship theme for August is Prayer & Meditation; for September the theme is Covenant.

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 (or pick up a copy at the table by the magazine rack) and hope it will lead to deeper discussions!

JOYS & SORROWS



We wish Rev. Jenn and Virginia all the best as they move on to new things. Thank you! We will miss you both.

*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.*

Exploring Our Monthly Theme of Prayer and Meditation *Songwriting as a Prayer*

(based on a UU World article by Kimberly French, 2007)

She was born in 1935 and raised in Louisiana to a Southern Baptist family rooted in a rural America of farming communities and small towns. Her mother was a teacher and a homemaker. Her father worked with farmers through the Department of Agriculture. It meant that they moved around a lot. She lived in a series of small rural towns, which was hard because she was shy. It made it hard to make friends, but her sister was an important source of support and companionship.

One day something remarkable happened. It was the day that a piano was delivered to her home. She did not come from a singing family, so the piano's arrival was something of a mystery. She didn't ask why, she just began playing with the piano. The sounds and songs that she made up were a source of quiet joy. Her parents didn't force her to play or practice, nor did they complain about her playing. Time at the piano became precious, a gateway to another world, a space to explore both music and herself.

She loved to play the piano and to sing. There was a freedom in doing this that she didn't experience in church. It was as if she was creating her own religion.

When she finished high school and began attending a small state college to become a teacher, she stopped singing and playing the piano. For some reason she thought that they were childish things that she had to put away in order to become an adult.

Her life was affected growing up during World War II, which the United States entered when she was six. Seeing the horror of war in newsreels and war movies, she became a peace activist. Her views were further shaped by the racism and economic injustice that she witnessed growing up in the South.

She and her husband discovered Unitarian Universalism when they began attending the UU church in Austin, Texas. When they moved to Boston in the mid-1960s, they began attending the Arlington Street Unitarian Universalist church, where she also worked for a time as the secretary. A student minister there was planning a worship service for women and invited her to help select the music for the service. Frustrated that she couldn't find many songs written by women, she stayed up late one night and sang what she wanted to say to her three daughters who were asleep upstairs. That experience became the song, "Come, Daughter."

Years later, in the 1980s she became involved in opposing U.S. policies in Central America. One evening after attending a meeting on Central American solidarity at a college, she finally arrived at home exhausted and discouraged. Walking through her house in the dark, she arrived at her piano, and started playing. Slowly a tune and words to a song emerged. Looking back she realized it wasn't composed, it was prayed into being. She doesn't even call it a song, she calls it a prayer. Each week countless Unitarian Universalist churches sing that prayer during their worship service. We know it as *Spirit of Life*, which was written by Carolyn McDade.

Source: <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/carolyn-mcdades-spirit-life?p=>

HOPE HAVEN NEWS

Thanks to all those who pitched in to cook for the folks at the emergency shelter in Hope Haven. It takes a lot to put a full meal for 60 together!

Do you have menu ideas for the Hope Haven meal? What do you like to cook? We need some new ideas. If you have a meal suggestion, send it to maylan.dk@hotmail.com.

News from the Social Justice Ministry Committee

Styrofoam Recycling at UUFD

The members of the Green Sanctuary group are collecting 'styrofoam' to bring to the Dart Container Corporation recycling site in Aurora. Dart ships the collected foam to a company that will use it to make new materials. Please follow the guidelines below for in placing foam products in the green collection bins (located inside the Locust and Fourth Street doors at UUFD):

Only foam number 6 (♻️) is accepted for recycling (coolers, cups, plates, to-go containers, foam packing blocks, egg cartons, etc.).

Rinse cups and containers to rid them of food.

No straws or lids.

No foam insulation.

No packaging peanuts.

Please contact Virginia Wilcox (vlw@niu.edu) if you have questions



News from Congregational Care!

Congregational Care thanks YOU!!!

We are very appreciative of our greeters and coffee hour hosts. Sometimes I look around at coffee hour and see everyone relaxing and in community with one another. It's a wonderful sight! We provide a ministry on Sunday mornings and are so thankful to everyone who helps contribute in one way or another. YOU are appreciated!

Recent greeters were/will be Carey B, Virginia W, Sumiko K, Sharon B., Dorothy C, Ed M, Beau A, Kim M, Donna V, Jennifer B, Elisa W, Ashley F, Ed M, and Mary VonZ.

Our coffee hour hosts to thank are Howard S, Sharon B, Kriss and Ed, Cathy S and Beth S, Emily W, Bonnie and Beau, Teri and Dave D, Elisa W, Kim M, Jen and Tom, Kathy and Lon, Mary Von Z, Vanstrom D and Beth S, Maylan and Dan, Chris M, and Donna V. We also had a nice financial donation from Wayne and Betty! Thanks to all!

Many of these folks did more than one Sunday! Make sure to thank our greeters and coffee hour hosts when you see them at church. It's a commitment, but it is also a true service that makes Sunday mornings at church a great place to be. And, it's actually pretty fun as well!



If I missed you I am truly sorry....give me a shout and I'll be sure to get you in next time!

Thanks to all!

- Sharon Blake

Zen Sitting Group DeKalb (ZSGD) is a formal ongoing Zen sitting group that began on May 9th at at UUFD. ZSGD is affiliated with the Great Plains Zen Center of Monroe, Wisconsin, and we are very grateful to UUFD for helping us house this local Zen group. Meditation sessions will occur two times per month on a variable schedule so please check the 'Zen Sitting Group DeKalb' facebook page ([zendekalb](https://www.facebook.com/zendekalb)) for times and dates. ZSGD welcomes all persons any time regardless of cultural background, religious affiliation, color, sexual or gender identity.



Photo by Annie Spratt on Unsplash