



The Pathfinder



A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb

Volume 64, Issue 2

158 N. Fourth St.

DeKalb, IL 60115

Apr-May 2023

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.

(UUFD mission statement adopted May 17, 2009)

DEADLINE

The deadline for the June edition of the Pathfinder is **May 21st**. 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.

Hybrid In-person & Online Worship

UUFD is holding in-person worship services at our usual time – Sundays at 10 a.m.

We will also share the service via Zoom. Join the service each Sunday at uufdekalb.org/live or in person. Zoom access for Sunday services begins at 9:30 a.m. and service will begin at 10:00 a.m.

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

April Theme: Grief
Special Collection DeKalb County Community Gardens

"We must know the pain of loss; because if we never knew it, we would have no compassion for others, and we would become monsters of...self-interest. The terrible pain of loss teaches humility..., has the power to soften uncaring hearts...." ~Dean Koontz

Apr 2
Ed Miguel, Worship Leader
Dorothy Coleman, Assistant

Apr 9
Rev. Julia Jones, Worship Leader
Ed Miguel, Assistant

Apr 16
Dorothy Coleman, Worship Leader
Vanstrom Dracul, Assistant

Apr 23
Kim Myers, Worship Leader
Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Assistant

Apr 30
Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Worship Leader
Kim Myers, Assistant

May Theme: Reconciliation
Special Collection Safe Passage

"Making peace with self, others & with life."

"We gather with a hunger for reconciliation."

*What is done cannot be undone.
What is done next must now be done with care.*

*We gather because we are hopeful,
Because we have visions and dreams of a
brighter future."*

~ Anne Barker
"Prayer of Reconciliation"

May 7

May 14

May 21

May 28
Congregational Meeting following a short service.

*The May worship calendar is a work in progress.
Please watch the website, Facebook, and eNews
for updates. Thanks you for your patience!*

CONTACTS:

MINISTER: Rev. Julia Jones (minister@uufdekalb.org or 301-717-8509)
OFFICE MANAGER: Kathryn Jones (**Please contact her online or by phone**)
MINISTER EMERITA: Rev Linda Slabon (revslabon@aol.com or 815-501-4788)
PRESIDENT: Kim Myers
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 Ed Miguel, or President Kim Myers.

Minister's Thoughts

Dear Friends,

The calendar and the weather forecast don't agree every day, but the consensus seems to be that Spring has indeed arrived. And what a season Spring can be for us; it offers daily opportunities to observe the miracle of new life and growth. Seasonal celebrations highlight those potentials and possibilities. They also, if we dig beneath the surface, acknowledge that with the new, there is always the need to confront that which has passed.

As I see daylily sprouts peeking up in my garden, I also see the dead stalks from last year which my interdependent self left out for insects and any other critters who might want them. As the warmth marches on, it will eventually be time to clean those old stalks up, to compost them or stuff them in a brown paper sack, allowing them to nurture new life in another stage.

Cleaning up the old way is so tempting, neat, and tidy. And yet, new life needs balance, and healthy growth needs grief, the nourishment that can only come from that which came before and has passed into shadow. Our ability to sit with that seeming contradiction, to let our grief be, can nourish the new life and the budding growth that always lies within.

Be tender with your budding selves just as you are with the world around you and know that any grief or messiness

from the past that you experience is just part of the way of love, good compost for us all.

In Faith,

Rev J



UUFD Staff News

Minister's "office" hours:

Rev. Julia will be in DeKalb Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and will be working remotely Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please feel free to email, text, or call to schedule an appointment to meet with her. Her phone number is 301-717-8509, and her email address is minister@uufdekalb.org. Please note that she is a part-time employee and therefore may not respond to e-mails immediately. For urgent pastoral care needs, please call her on her cell phone and leave a message if you do not reach her directly. Thank you.



Mark Your Calendar For These UUFD Events



We're beginning to have more in-person events, but things may still change in response to the current COVID situation. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for more updates. And please reach out to the church office to subscribe to the weekly electronic news if you haven't already done so.

Ongoing Events

Rev. Julia's Virtual Drop-in Lunch via Zoom – Tuesdays 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Yoga with Ed Miguel – Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

Craft & The Craft – Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

Restorative Meditation – Fridays 6:00 p.m.

UUFD Breakfast Club – 3rd Fridays 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Lincoln Inn

Buddhist Study Group via Zoom – 1st & 3rd Sundays 11:45 a.m.

Zoom links are sent to everyone on the Buddhist Group mailing list. If someone not on our mailing list would like to join us, please contact Howard Solomon at dochoward00001@gmail.com.

April 2023

Apr 06 – WA Book Club – 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 pm

Apr 16 – UUFD Choir Rehearsal – 8:45 a.m.

Apr 16 – UUFD Live Love – Crossing Cultural Borders Training Class – 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Apr 18 – Hope Haven Meal – 6:30 p.m.

Apr 23 – UUFD Choir Rehearsal – 8:45 a.m.

Apr 29 – Drive-thru WE Pantry – 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Apr 30 – Board Meeting – 11:45 a.m.

May 2023

May 07 – UUFD Live Love – Crossing Cultural Borders Training Class – 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

May 16 – Hope Haven Meal 6:30 p.m.

May 27 – Drive-Thru WE Panty 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

May 28 – **Congregational Meeting following a short worship service**

**** Watch the eNews and Facebook for details of May choir rehearsals, and please reach out to Music Director Elisa Woodruff if you'd like to get involved. All are welcome!**



UUFD Welcome Essentials Pantry

The Pantry is now well-established as a drive-thru pantry from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. on the last Saturday of every month. For the past several years, we served an average of 30 to 65 households each time, and we welcomed new families and individuals every time we hosted a pantry. During our highest attendance month, we served more than 90 families. As inflation soars, we're providing even more bags — a record 115 on March 25, 2023.

Your donation enables us to provide toilet paper, paper towels, sponges, laundry soap, dryer sheets, trash bags, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. We offer these household essentials in a welcoming environment that affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

All funds raised go directly to purchasing items to distribute at the pantry. All of our work is provided by volunteers, and the UU Fellowship donates space and office support as part of its outreach ministries.

The worship theme for April is Grief; for May the theme is Reconciliation.

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 and Sorrows

- We express our deepest gratitude to all the vendors, shoppers, volunteer musicians, and staffers for making our February 11th Winter Farmers' Market fundraiser a great success. Your support is a great blessing to us.
- UUFD is thrilled to welcome Gretchen and Charles Sigwart as official UUFD members! Be sure to congratulate and welcome them.
- Elisa Woodruff would like to thank everyone for the overwhelming support she's received as she has processed the loss of her cousin Luke Alvarez who passed away very suddenly Friday morning at the age of 36. As she had shared with you over the years, Luke was living with multiple acquired physical and cognitive disabilities following a botched surgery in 2018 to remove a brain tumor. Please send your thoughts/prayers to his family -- especially his parents, sister, and 7-year old daughter. Donations in his memory can be made to the Synapse House where he received therapies for his brain injury: <https://synapsehouse.org/>.
(Image: Luke during his OT at Synapse House.)



*Do you have a joy, sorrow or milestone to share?
Please email Kathryn at office@uufdekalb.org and we'll include your joy or sorrow in the next Pathfinder.*

Hope Haven News!



OUR MINISTRY IN ACTION THROUGH HOPE HAVEN MEALS

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb, along with many other congregations around the DeKalb County area, provide meals once a month to the residents and visitors of Hope Haven. Hope Haven's mission is to provide shelter, meals, & life skills programs for homeless individuals & families while preparing them for re-housing. Hope Haven will advocate for the rights of the homeless, and those at risk for becoming homeless, while working in collaboration with others to end homelessness in DeKalb County.

Why is this ministry important to us? It is a direct reflection of our first UU principle, "The inherent worth and dignity of every person."

Reflection on the First Principle:

"Reverence and respect for human nature is at the core of Unitarian Universalist (UU) faith. We believe that all the dimensions of our being carry the potential to do good. We celebrate the gifts of being human: our intelligence and capacity for observation and reason, our senses and ability to appreciate beauty, our creativity, our feelings and emotions. We cherish our bodies as well as our souls. We can use our gifts to offer love, to work for justice, to heal injury, to create pleasure for ourselves and others.

"'Just to be is a blessing. Just to live is holy,' the great twentieth-century Rabbi Abraham Heschel wrote. Unitarian Universalists affirm the inherent worth and dignity of each person as a given of faith—an unshakeable conviction calling us to self-respect and respect for others.,"

—Rev. Dr. Rebecca Ann Parker, minister, theologian, and author. This reflection is one of many in *The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide*, available from inSpirit: The UU Book and Gift Shop.

Thank you to our February and March Hope Haven Meal Volunteers!

Sharon Blake, Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Beth Schewe, Mary Von Zellen, Beth Schewe, Donna Veeneman, Gretchen Sigwart, Linda Slabon, Sheryl Nak, Toni Tollerud, Virginia Wilcox, Charles Sigwart and Gwen Gregory

We need you for the congregational meeting!
May 28, 2023
following a short worship service

Agenda items include:

- Voting on the new **UUFD Board of Trustees** members for 2023-24. We'll be voting for:
 - Treasurer
 - Member at Large
 - President Elect
- Voting on the **UUFD budget** for 2023-24.
 - We have a significant budget shortfall — and hopefully some solutions — so please watch the eNews for the treasurer's report and proposed budget.
- Voting on a **possible UUFD name change**.
 - Thanks to all of you who have participated in our conversations so far! Watch the eNews for a final poll/questionnaire before the meeting.
 - Whether we change our name or not, we're committed to creating refreshed marketing and messaging to share the gifts of our congregation with the community!

A complete agenda, budget report and supporting documents will be coming via email. If you are not yet on our mailing list, please contact Kathryn at office@uufdekab.org to be added!

* If you would like to nominate yourself or another for UUFD Board of Trustees, please contact Past President Ed Miguel.

April Hope Haven Meal News



This month we will be providing a Hope Haven Favorite: GOULASH!

This month's meal is on Tues. April 18th

This meal has been requested repeatedly by the volunteers at Hope Haven. Believe it or not, they get many more meals made with chicken than they do with beef, and this is a recipe that hardly anyone doesn't love.

Please consider signing up to contribute on this [link to the April Hope Haven sign-up sheet!](#)

As always, you can call or text Danica Lovings at 815-901-4625 with any questions or to volunteer



The UUFD Breakfast Club, (a meeting with no agenda or outcomes except good coffee, a good chat, and some emotional uplift), would like to invite you to join us on the 3rd Friday of each month from 9:30-11:00 a.m.



at Lincoln Inn, 302 Grove St., DeKalb.

And, mark your calendar for these upcoming dates:
April 21, May 19, June 16, and July 21