



# The Pathfinder



A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb

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158 N. Fourth St.

DeKalb, IL 60115

February-March 2018

## 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.*

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

### DEADLINE

The deadline for the April/May edition of the Pathfinder is **March 18, 2018**. 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.

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

### February Theme: Love

We often find it difficult to explain Unitarian Universalism to others. Because we don't have a creed, trying to articulate our religious values and approach to religion can be daunting. Perhaps we miss the obvious. In capturing the essence of our religious tradition, someone said, "We do not need to think alike, to love alike." Someone else said that our calling is not to be like-minded. Our calling is to become like-hearted.

**February 4** – *Saving the World through Sex*  
Rev. Jenn, Worship Leader  
Jack Lazzara, Assistant

*What does our faith have to say about sex? In partnership with other traditions, Unitarian Universalism sponsors a program called Our Whole Lives. The lessons of OWL go beyond the bedroom, teaching us about what it means to be humans in loving relationship with ourselves and one another.*

**February 11** – TBA  
Kriss Olsen, Worship Leader  
Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Assistant

**February 18** – TBA  
Dave Becker, Worship Leader  
Diane Johns, Assistant

**February 25** – *The Mirror Has Two Faces: Narcissicism and Self-Love*  
Diane Johns, Worship Leader  
Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Assistant

### March Theme: Humility

Humility shares a common root with words like human, humane, humanitarian, and humus. Its Latin root, humilitas, means "grounded." Unfortunately, humility also shares a root with humiliation, which means "reduced to dirt." Humiliation is destructive. The overwhelming sense of shame that results can strip away all dignity and self-esteem. Our fear of humiliation is well placed, but let us not be confused. Humiliation says, "You are a mistake." Humility says, "I made a mistake." Humiliation, then, is the antithesis of authentic humility, which grows out of intrinsic self-worth.

**March 4** – *The Most Humble Minister Ever!*  
Rev. Jenn, Worship Leader  
Susan Dorbeck, Assistant  
*What is your greatest weakness? It is one of the "trick" questions we often hear in job interviews. But what if it is also an invitation into something deeper?*

**March 11** – TBA  
Dave Becker, Worship Leader  
Sue Willis, Assistant  
\*\* Move clocks forward one hour!

**March 18** – *All We Cannot Save*  
Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Worship Leader  
Rev. Jenn, Assistant

**March 25** – *The Mirror Has Two Faces: Humility and the Common Good*  
Diane Johns, Worship Leader  
Ed Miguel, Assistant

## CONTACTS:

INTERIM MINISTER: Rev. Jennifer Gracen ([minister@uufdekalb.org](mailto:minister@uufdekalb.org), 815-408-1079 )  
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PRESIDENT: Jack Lazzara              TREASURER: Kristina Olsen

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

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

## Gray Areas: Thoughts from the Minister

I have been grateful that the first three months of this year have themes that interact in such beautiful ways: justice, love, humility. Play with those themes a little. How do we approach justice with love and humility? When we stand for justice against the action of others, are we doing it with love for all involved? Are we building movements for justice with humility, recognizing when others should take the lead and admitting when we've done wrong? Do we hide behind artificial humility, letting it keep us from seeing how much power we have to increase love and justice in the world? How do we cultivate true humility through love of self and others? How do we bring our big UU passion for justice into our everyday, loving, intimate relationships? These questions and more have been on my mind over the last few weeks.

As some of you know, my wife teaches at Ivy Tech Community College. As a result, I'm able to take a couple classes a semester. This semester, I choose to take a Basic Automotive class and a Cultural Awareness class examining the intersection of race, discrimination, crime and justice.

It is a bit like I have stepped into a different world. As a lesbian UU minister, I tend to run in particular circles, as I imagine many of you do as well. On Facebook, I am able to make choices who I am "friends" with. On Twitter I choose who I follow. We can choose where we receive our news and what ideas we let through our filters. For many people, one of the few sources of views that don't match our ideological orientations is our interactions with family over the holidays.

Taking these classes has put me into a different cultural experience, a different circles. My classmates are future auto mechanics and future police officers. Many have never heard of Unitarian Universalism. Some aren't quite sure whether racism and sexism exist as problems in

today's world. As I listen and learn from my classmates, I have thought a lot about our values of love, justice and humility. As the only minister, one of few progressives, and, possibly, the oldest person in either class, I am bringing in and learning from perspectives that are very different. When do I speak to justice? When do I need to listen with humility? What can I learn in love? I am learning far more than the objectives listed on the syllabus.

Where are you finding justice, humility and love in your life? What lessons do the three themes have to teach you this year? I would enjoy hearing from you about your own journey over the next few weeks.

In Faith,

*Rev Jennifer Gracen*



### UUFD Staff News

#### Rev. Jenn's schedule for February and March:

- Rev. Jenn will be here in DeKalb two weekends (either Saturday-Sunday or Sunday-Monday) each month.
- In February, she'll be in town February 4-5 and 17-18.
- In March, she'll be in town March 4-5 and 17-18.
- Rev. Jenn encourages you to reach out to her if you'd like to meet or talk by phone. Her phone number is 815-408-1079.

- Office manager Beth Schewe's hours are Wed 9 - 2 and Fri 10 - 3.



## Mark Your Calendar For These UUFD Events



### February

- February 1 – Enlightenment Study Group 6 p.m. (Each Thursday)
- February 2 – Restorative Meditation 5:30 p.m. (Each Friday)
- February 4 – New Member Class 11:30 a.m. (Sanctuary)
- February 4 – Buddhist Study Group and Meditation 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month)
- February 5 – UUFD Board Meeting 6 p.m.
- February 6 – Welcoming Western Counties Meeting 7 – 8 p.m. (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month)
- February 7 – Yoga with Ed Miguel 5:15 and 7 p.m. (Each Wednesday)
- February 10 – Winter Farmers' Market with Craft and Book Sale 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- February 11 – Wiccan Study Group noon (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month)
- February 11 – Humanist Discussion Group noon (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month)
- February 11 – Ordinary Folk Musical Gathering 2 – 3:30 p.m. (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month)
- February 18 – New Member Recognition Sunday, with Cake!
- February 20 – Hope Haven Meal 6:30 p.m.
- February 24 – Welcome Essentials Pantry 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

### March

- March 4 – Bring a Friend Sunday, with Potluck after Service
- March 5 – UUFD Board Meeting 6 p.m.
- March 20 – Hope Haven Meal 6:30 p.m.
- March 24 – Spring Farmers' Market with Craft and Book Sale 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- March 31 – Welcome Essentials Pantry 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

**Stitch 'n Witch is retired as of this year. Thank you to our regulars for the last few years!**

### A Hearty Thanks for Hope Haven Meals

Thanks to all those who helped with Hope Haven meals in December and January. Special thanks to Danica Lovings for helping to organize the December meal while we were out of town. Those who helped in December (that I know about) were Danica, Chris Miguel, Sharon Blake, Sheryl Nak, Diane Johns, Beth Schewe, Kathy Clark, and Virginia Wilcox. I am pretty sure there were others that I don't know about! In January, thanks to Danica Lovings, Beth Schewe, Laura Gillberg, myself, Sharon Blake, Sheryl Nak, Bonnie Anderson, Dan Kenney, Cathy Schneider, Mary Von Zellen, and Virginia Wilcox. And a special thanks to Wayne and Betty Albrecht who made a generous charitable donation to reimburse cooks for ingredients. To be reimbursed, just give your receipt to Beth in the church office. It's wonderful to be a part of such a generous group of people!

Maylan Dunn-Kenney

# JOYS & SORROWS



Our thoughts remain with all who are recovering from illnesses at this time.



Judy Bush asks us to light a candle for her this month.

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

## Taking Stock, Looking Forward: The Future of Religious Education at UUFD

As I look back at the last six months of the RE Program, I feel a little dazed. Much has happened, and much has changed. While some of the work has been difficult, so many of you have been there to help, and I hope that we can all gaze upon the results with satisfaction. The rooms are organized, the lessons are engaging, the volunteers are faithful, and the children are thriving. I thank you all so very much.

Now it is time to search for a new Director of RE so that we can continue to thrive. Most likely, my position as Administrator will be dissolved at the end of the summer, its duties blended back into one comprehensive DRE contract. Before the Board and Ministry Council begin the search, however, we want to hear from all of the congregation. There are so many possibilities for a Religious Education program, and we need everyone's vision to help make our program the best it can be.

To that end, we have developed a Needs Assessment questionnaire to help determine the direction of RE's future at UUFD. **We urge everyone to share their thoughts**, anonymously if you so choose. The Assessment is available online at <https://uufdekalb.org/REneeds>, and you may submit your answers directly through UUFD's website. Hard copies are also available by the Rainbow Kids room, and you may return them to any of the RE Staff, Beth Schewe, or Laura Gillberg. We are collecting this data now through the month of February; **the deadline is February 28th**. Thank you so much for your continued investment in our children and our future.

Speaking of the future, we're looking forward to Spring! Our World Religions curriculum continues apace and will conclude in March. At that point, our Gardening curriculum will begin, and we can't wait to have you join us outside as we discover the wonder of helping things grow. As we create new sacred spaces in the dirt, we'll learn about:

Native Plants  
 What Food Grows Best in Our Zone  
 Maximizing & the History of the Victory Garden  
 Gardening for Body  
 Identifying Flora  
 Fairy Gardens

Organic Gardening & The Dirty Dozen  
 Seed Starting  
 Fair Trade & Sustainable Agriculture  
 Gardening for Soul  
 Zen Gardens  
 Harvest & Community

This curriculum was inspired in no small part by the beautiful success of the DeKalb County Community Gardens, a legacy of our own members. Dan Kenney and Maylan Dunn-Kenney have pledged to help guide us in our efforts, and I'm so grateful! We are rich in the wisdom and experience of this congregation. I hope you all will join us.

– Ashley Ford, RE Administrator

## Music at UUFD

CHOIR WILL BE MEETING EVERY SUNDAY MORNING UNTIL THE CHOIR FESTIVAL.

- Ed Miguel and I represented UUFD in the Beloved Community Choir for the Martin Luther King service at First Lutheran Church. It was a wonderful experience! I hope we will have a chance to do this again next year.
- Great things are coming in UUFD music world this winter/spring. Special music will be delivered by Arianna Abel in January, a choir quartet in February, and Cheryl Haines on the flute in March.
- Mark your calendars for the Midwest Crescent Choir Festival to be held April 15 at the Elgin UU. More information about the event will be in the next Pathfinder and placed in the bulletin as we get closer to the date.
- I will continue to feature rarely sung hymns for Offertory and Postlude music. The numbers of the hymns I will play will be in our order of service bulletin each week. Follow along or sing along as you wish.
- Any comments or suggestions will be listened to with respect.

– Bonnie Anderson, Music Director



# UUU Winter Market

Saturday February 10, 2018  
9am-3pm  
at the **Unitarian Universalist of DeKalb**  
158 North fourth Street  
\$1.00 admission  
Artisan Gift Market  
Live Music

**Wisconsin Cheese and Farm Fresh Eggs**  
**German, Greek, and French Bakery Items**  
**Grass Fed and Hormone Free Beef, Poultry,**  
**Pork, and Local Honey**  
**Hot Soup and Bread, Coffee, Tea, and Baked Goods**  
**A large used and collectable book sale**

For more information call the Church Office at 815-756-7089

To volunteer at the UUFD Winter Market, contact Dan Kenney (815-793-0950) or the church office.

## Book Talk

**Beau Anderson, Librarian and Archivist**

Challenge yourself! Step out of your reading interests and try something new. It's okay to have ingrained reading interests (most readers do), but to always stay within these limits prevents you from finding other books that may be of interest that you had never considered. To look for books beyond your favorite authors or subject areas might mean, for example, jumping from fiction to non-fiction titles, choosing a biographical book over a mystery book, or trying a science book over a history book. While this may prove to be somewhat tiresome task, there are various ways that books outside of your reading interests can be introduced to you. For example, a recommendation by others, a mention in an interesting lecture, sermon or article, an enticing book review, a noted book award (for example, the National Book Award), a best seller status, or an acclaimed author. Also, there is something to be said about perusing books wherever they are found. Summaries of books can generally be found on the back or the inside cover of a book. Other ways to ferret out information on a book's content can be to check the table of contents, author distinction (usually on the back or inside cover), and occasionally the reputation of the publisher. Again, there may be a tedious element in this scrounging, but it can be well worth the effort.

How can the above information be used in a small library like the UUFD library? All the above will hold true, but will be narrowed by the volumes available. Still, within the library it's easy to pass over certain subject areas that you have had little interest in, for example, Inspiration. This would mean that you would pass over books by Eckhart Tolle or Kahlil Gibran and many others. Passing over the Fiction subject area means you would not have a chance to consider books by Barbara Kingsolver, especially her *Poisonwood Bible*. Passing over the Religion subject area means that books, for example, Deepak Chopra's *God: A Story of Revelation* would not be singled out as a potential book of interest. Admittedly, there are subject areas that may not be of interest to certain readers for various reasons, such as Parenting. Still, it's very possible that at some point you will find a book in a subject area new to you that will be of interest.

There's no guarantee that looking in different subject areas will turn up new titles of interest, though eventually something will likely grab your curiosity. Once you sharpen your perusing skills you'll find other books of interest more readily than you would have never considered reading. Additionally, the above tactics will also work for those with no reading interests.

## New Enlightenment Study Group at UUFD

Arthur Shimkus is starting a UUFD study group called "Enlightenment, Self-Realization and Non-Duality: A Practical Approach." For short, the "Enlightenment Study Group."

It is currently scheduled for 6 p.m. each Thursday beginning on February 1.

The description is as follows: There is a common thread of spirituality and awareness underlying all religious traditions and also found outside of any tradition. Some have called this "The Perennial Philosophy." If a spirituality does not address the greatest of problems to the smallest of problems it should not be called spirituality. The Perennial Philosophy argues for universalism and inspired the Unitarians.

If you are interested or would like to find out more, speak with Arthur (guruisgodupasanibaba@yahoo.com).

## As the Wheel Turns

The Winter Solstice has come and gone. We survived another year and the days are getting longer. It may not seem like it, but they are. It is January and time for those yearly divinations, hot soups of peas, beans and roots. It is also time to prepare because February second will soon be upon us and there is ritual to be done. This is like early Spring cleaning. We refer to it as Imbolc, or Bridget's Day, or as the Christians call it, Candlemas. So it is time to take out the old and bring in the new. Make your Altar, cast your circle and light a fire. Take that corn doll you made last February (a symbol for St. Bridget) and cast it into the flames. This is to get rid of the old energies of 2017. Then make a new doll to bring new energies into 2018. Place all your candles, tools, robes, etc. on the Altar and bless them (or rededicate them if you prefer) so they are now charged with new energy for a new year. Look to nature to see the changes coming. See the Sun rising a little earlier each day. See the thaw present itself in the melting of ice and the free flowing of water. Gather what snow you can so you can use it as your Holy Water throughout 2018. We have passed the dark nights of the soul and it is time to cast out those old emotions that held you to your past and welcome the joys and full life that await you in a new year. This is Hestia's time, the Goddess of the family. Pray to her for domestic peace. Place a piece of bread on the Altar as an offering to her and when it dries offer it to the birds to gain her blessings. Remember, it is dark only for a while. Spring is right around the corner. Blessed Be!

— Jack Lazzara, UUFD Pagan Study Group

## A Message from the Congregational Support and Development Ministry Team

Congregational Support/Pastoral Care thanks everyone who came to the Leadership Fair and played our Leadership Bingo game. We hope you enjoyed it, and more importantly, that you met some new people and found something that caught your interest for volunteering at UUFD! There are opportunities for all!

Speaking of volunteering, Congregational Support is looking for a co-chair! Interested? Need more info? Contact me and I can fill you in.

Thanks to everyone who has signed up to help us help our friends and members as we all travel together through this life! We are here for you!

Be well, and if you're not, contact us!

Sharon Blake (sblake202@gmail.com or 815-757-2444)

## UUFD Monthly Touchstones Worship Themes

In 2017, UUFD began using Touchstones monthly worship themes. Touchstones provides UUFD -- as well as other UU churches around the country -- with a set of readings and other worship and religious education materials each month. The materials are related to a monthly theme, which guides our worship leaders as they prepare services. You can find the monthly Touchstones Journals on our website at [uufdekalb.org/touchstones](http://uufdekalb.org/touchstones). We invite you to read, reflect upon, and share your thoughts about the journal with other UUFD members and friends. We hope these monthly themed resources will enable us to have deep conversations and strengthen our spirituality and community. Hard copies of the monthly Touchstones Journal are also available next to the magazine rack just inside the entrance to UUFD.

### Touchstones 2017-18 Annual Theme: Reimagining the Common Good

Monthly themes:

July 2017: Circle of Life

August 2017: Ambiguity/Paradox

September 2017: Beauty

October 2017: Hospitality

November 2017: Faith

December 2017: Hope

January 2018: Justice

\* **February 2018: Love**

\* **March 2018: Humility**

April 2018: Transformation

May 2018: Beloved Community

June 2018: Wisdom



“Love doesn’t sit there like a stone,  
it has to be made, like bread;  
remade all of the time, made new.”  
Ursula K. Le Guin

Kneading, by Phil Roeder, April 9, 2011, (CC BY 2.0),  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tabor-roeder/5611139185>