



The Pathfinder



A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb

Volume 57, Issue 8

158 N. Fourth St.

DeKalb, IL 60115

February/March 2017

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 19, 2017**. 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 Pathfinder editor mailbox in the library.

THE PATHFINDER CONTACT INFO

Editor: Melissa Blake
Phone: 757-3131
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Sunday Services: Service 10:00 A.M. till 11:15 A.M.

February Theme: What does it mean to be a community of Identity?

It's one thing for a religion to offer you an identity; it's quite another for a religion to celebrate your identity. At our best, we UUs seek both. Our entire Soul Matters program is about UU identity. Each month, we lift up a unique value or human quality that our faith calls us to live and lean into. Together, our themes tell us who UUs uniquely are. But that's only half of the equation. In addition to "UU identity," there's also "your identity." And our faith communities are just as committed to that.

February 5

Rev. Linda Slabon, Worship Leader
Music Director Toni Tollerud and Bonnie Anderson, Assistants

Sermon: Find Your Power with Emma's Revolution

No Choir

February 12

Dave Becker, Worship Leader
Irene Faivre, Assistant

Intergenerational Service: Standing on the Side of Love

Choir

February 19

Rev. Linda, Worship Leader
Intern Minister Allen Harden, Assistant

Sermon: Identity Politics & Faith

Choir

February 26

Jack Lazzara, Worship Leader
Forrest Brandon, Assistant

Sermon: Now U See Me, Now U Don't

Choir

March Theme: What does it mean to be a community of Risk?

To act is to be committed, and to be committed is to be in danger.

~James Baldwin

Risk is usually associated with the dare devils and thrill seekers. The real danger, we're told, is a life of boredom. The battle is between the bland and the bold. Yet, as James Baldwin reminds us, it's not quite that simple.

March 5

Rev. Linda, Worship Leader
Ed Miguel, Assistant

Sermon: Risking = Trusting

Choir

March 12

Irene Faivre, Worship Leader
Dave Becker, Assistant

Sermon: At the Risk of...

Choir

March 19

Rev. Linda, Worship Leader
Forrest Brandon, Assistant

Sermon: The Wonder of Ouch, Um?, Oh!

Choir

March 26

Allen Harden, Worship Leader
Susan Dorbeck, Assistant

Sermon: Leaping into Faith

Choir

CONTACTS:

MINISTER: Rev. Linda Slabon

OFFICE MANAGER: Beth Schewe

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Toni Tollerud

PRESIDENT: Bill Lamb

TREASURER: Lon Clark

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CHAIR: Gladys Sanchez

Minister's Office Hours: Tuesday/Friday by appointment

Office Manager Office Hours: Wed 9 - 2 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 Rev. Slabon at 815-501-4788, the Board President Bill Lamb or the Past President Ashley Ford.

Minister's Musings

I can't seem to help it. Since the Presidential inauguration, my morning routine has shifted. Most mornings now, I get up, grab my coffee, and then watch CNN or MSNBC for about 30 minutes to an hour. It's all I can absorb. With my UU values and biases here on display, this is what I'm experiencing.

I am disheartened by the executive orders, cabinet appointments, and other actions including...denouncing journalists and the media as liars when they question him (Yes, I know there is slant and bias. We ALL have it. That's why we listen and search for truth as best we can.), support for "alternative facts", cutting the Affordable Care Act, raising the cost of mortgage insurance on homes for buyers, removing pages on climate change, civil rights, disabilities, gay rights and EVEN military family support from the White House website (google "pages cut from White House website" and be amazed), pushing the agenda to build the wall, cutting federal funds to sanctuary cities, opening CIA "black site" prisons, revoking the Red Cross' access to wartime detainees, and the talk to resume the practice of water-boarding and torture tactics. It is overwhelming and I do fear for our planet and for human rights.

I know that fear can lead to inertia and denial. We might look away to ignore the realities we face. BUT WE ARE NOT HELPLESS. I am heartened and uplifted by leaders and events that give us hope, including...

- the January 21 Women's March on Washington and sister marches that occurred all over the globe. Five hundred thousand in D.C., over 250,000 in Chicago, and thousands upon thousands more in Rockford and Springfield, IL, Rome, London, Paris, Sydney, Houston, Madison, Denver, LA, Indianapolis, on the continent of Antarctica, and more.
- Rep. Karen Bass (CA) said, "Today signals the beginning of a mass movement...I have optimism."
- Rep. John Lewis (GA), civil rights leader and a congressional representative since 1987 said, "We will NOT let hate dominate our national conversation. The vote is the most sacred tool in a democratic society. Use it. Get people out to vote, and vote like never before."
- Journalist Ed Lavandera who interviewed both an 18 year old young woman who tried to cross the border to work as a migrant farm laborer so she could feed her sick, aging parents, AND a civilian "border patrol extremist" who wants all illegal immigrants out of the U.S. This man patrols the current wall and he does think a wall will work. Ed Lavandera added, "The wall plays well in Ohio or Indiana but the wall and border issues are much more nuanced to the people who live here on the border in Arizona."
- Maylan Dunn Kenney and Dan Kenney who, as co-chairs

of UUFD's Social Justice Ministry, encourage us and invite us to:

- Read and discuss *The Third Reconstruction* by Rev. William Barber. A book discussion group will meet on Feb. 18, March 4 and 11 from 10-12 Noon at UUFD. Call the office to register.
- Take action in multiple ways such as give to UUFD Special Collections and participate in upcoming "Teach-Ins" about basic civics and citizen empowerment.
- Continue community outreach like Welcome Essentials Pantry, study Black Lives Matter, and consider coalition building with other local churches to become a "Sanctuary Church."



For me and many UUs, February has become Standing on the Side of Love month. Check out standingonthesideoflove.org.

"We shall not give up the fight.
We have only started."

In the Spirit of
Life,

UUFD Staff News

- Rev. Linda's hours are by appointment. Please call 815-501-4788.
- Office manager Beth Schewe's hours are Wed 9 - 2 and Fri 10 - 3.



Mark Your Calendar For These UUFD Events



February

| | | |
|----|--|-------------------|
| 1 | UUFD Board Meeting | 6:30 p.m. |
| 1 | Yoga with Ed Miguel (Every Wednesday) | 6:30 p.m. |
| 3 | Woman Spirit Conference begins @ UUFD | 5 p.m. |
| 3 | Restorative Meditation CANCELED | |
| 4 | Emma's Revolution in Concert @ UUFD | 8 p.m. |
| | For tickets: https://dekalbcountytickets.ticketforce.com/ | |
| 5 | Buddhist Study Group and Meditation (1 st and 3 rd Sundays) | Noon to 1:30 p.m. |
| 8 | Stitch and Witch | 7:30 to 9 p.m. |
| 10 | Restorative Meditation (Every Friday) | 5:30 p.m. |
| 11 | UUFD Winter Farmers' Market with Crafts and Book Sale | 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. |
| 12 | Nontheist Discussion Group (2 nd and 4 th Sundays) | Noon |
| 12 | Wiccan Study Group (2 nd and 4 th Sundays) | Noon |
| 12 | Ordinary Folk Musical Gathering (2 nd and 4 th Sundays) | 2 to 3:30 p.m. |
| 15 | Retired Old Ladies Clothing Exchange | 1 p.m. |
| 17 | Womyn's Spirituality Group @ 1622 Carlisle, DeKalb | 7 to 9 p.m. |
| 18 | <i>The Third Reconstruction</i> Book Discussion (Part 1) | 10 a.m. to Noon |
| 19 | Leadership Council Meeting – all UUFD leaders invited | 1:30 to 3 p.m. |
| 21 | Hope Haven Meal | 6:30 p.m. |
| 24 | UUFD Staff Party at Fanatico's | 6 p.m. |
| 25 | Welcome Essentials Pantry | 10 a.m. to Noon |
| 28 | PFLAG | 7 to 8:30 p.m. |

March

| | | |
|----|--|------------------|
| 1 | UUFD Board Meeting | 6:30 p.m. |
| 4 | <i>The Third Reconstruction</i> Book Discussion (Part 2) | 10 a.m. to Noon |
| 6 | Stitch and Witch | 7:30 to 9 p.m. |
| 11 | <i>The Third Reconstruction</i> Book Discussion (Part 3) | 10 a.m. to Noon |
| 17 | Womyn's Spirituality Group @ 1622 Carlisle, DeKalb | 7 to 9 p.m. |
| 18 | UUFD Spring Farmers' Market With Crafts and Book Sale | 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. |
| 21 | Hope Haven Meal | 6:30 p.m. |
| 25 | Welcome Essentials Pantry | 10 a.m. to Noon |



TO ALL MUSIC LOVERS!!!!

Save the date for the Annual Western Crescent Choir Festival

SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2017
4:00 pm
ELGIN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH-
ELGIN
Light Meal Served Afterwards

Come support the UUFD Choir and enjoy an afternoon of delightful singing.

JOYS & SORROWS



Please send sympathy and warm vibes to Cele Meyer, who recently experienced the deaths of two dear people: her sister Mary Ann Gillespie, of Athens, Tennessee, and her husband Al's only remaining sister, Greta Rudolph.



Our thoughts are also with Sue Willis, whose father, Clarence J. Willis, died in January at the age of 95.



Gene Desavouret and family members Scott and Marissa as they deal their dad's illness.

A Message From Member Care! (Congregational Support and Development)

We want to recognize and thank those of you who were greeters and coffee hour hosts for January and February. It is such an important job and it takes a village to do it well (and fairly)!

Our coffee hour hosts were Kristina Olsen, Nicole Berns and Shane Diebel, Mary Von Zellen, Chris Miguel (twice!), Irene Faivre (twice!), Virginia Wilcox, Sharon Blake and Vanstrom Dracul.

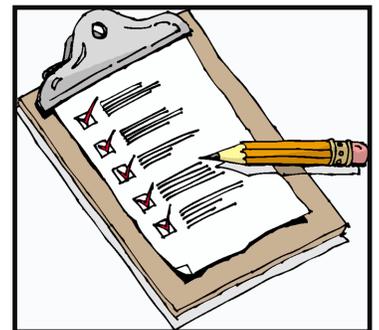
Our capable greeters were Dorothy Coleman, Wayne and Betty Albrecht (twice!), Beau Anderson, Cheryl Haines (twice!), Cathy Schneider, Virginia Wilcox, Sharon Blake and Maylan and Dan.

As you can see, many of our greeters and coffee hour hosts repeatedly contribute their time and talents. If you haven't taken a turn recently, please email me and we will find you a spot. It's always good to have 2 people per spot and that rarely happens. YOU are needed, so please respond today!

One of our goals this year for Member Care is to try to get our whole congregation to be super welcoming to visitors! Please, please, please join us in our goal. Suggestions for welcoming visitors are to introduce yourself, ask how they found us, ask them if they have any questions, invite them to coffee hour (and sit with them), introduce them to others, etc. I have read so many articles which all come to the same conclusion...people often don't return to a church after their first visit because they did not feel welcomed, or worse yet, no one talked to them! Let's be the friendly and welcoming group to visitors that we really are!

Thanks from Member Care!!!

Contact me to do your part for Sunday service support! We love our volunteers!
Sharon Blake (sblake202@gmail.com)



BOOK TALK

UUFDF Librarian and Archivist Beau Anderson

The UUFDF library receives donations of books and other media for both the book sales and for additions to the library. To be added to the library collection, a book must pass muster before being placed on the shelf. This helps insure that the titles selected for the UUFDF library are relevant to the collection and, in general, relate to Unitarian Universalism or to specific interests of church members. Recently a number of books were donated to the library and some of these were added to the library collection. The remaining books will go toward the next book sale which is in conjunction with the upcoming Winter Market on Saturday, February 11th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Three of the books added are worthy of mention. They are all similar in topic, the philosophy of religion, and will be found in the "Religions" section of the library. The books are 1) *Reason and Religious Belief: an introduction to the philosophy of religion* by Michael Peterson, et al, 2) *Philosophy of Religion: selected readings*, 3rd edition, by William L. Rowe and William J. Wainwright, and 3) *The Existence of God* by Wallace I. Matson. These books are generally categorized as academic, but may also relate to the curious and those with interest in the subject.

How is it that a layperson, lacking knowledge of religious philosophy, could become interested in one of these books? For one, the book's summary, frequently found on the inside and back cover, may prove worthy of further pursuit. From these summaries, for example, *Reason and Religious Belief* poses the questions, "Does a supreme being exist?" and "Can the existence of a good God be reconciled with evil and suffering?" The second title, the *Philosophy of Religion*, acquaints readers with the writings of some of the thinkers who have made substantial contributions to the topic, such as, St. Thomas Aquinas and Fyodor Dostoevsky. *The Existence of God* is an investigation of the reasonableness of believing that there is at least one god. These books can help clarify questions about God and religious belief. By challenging yourself in tackling one of these books, you may clarify some of your own questions or beliefs.

A MEMORIAL

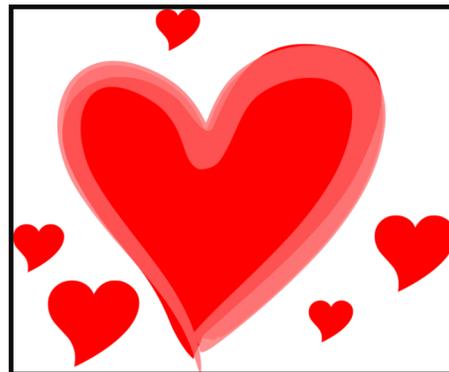
By Clarence J. Willis (father of Sue Willis), 2015

On this Memorial Day
I wonder how I will be remembered,
What people will think of me
After I have gone.

I hope they will be thankful
For the things I contributed
As an engineer,
As a poet,
As a teacher,
As a friend.

I hope they will count me
As one who was kind,
Gentle,
Cheerful,
Someone nice to be with.

But I believe
That no matter what I would hope,
No matter what people think,
I will have created my memorial
By the life I have led,
And I pray that I will leave the world
A better place because of it.



Saying Goodbye: Memories of Rev. Linda and Toni

As we prepare to bid farewell to Rev. Linda and Toni – who are retiring in summer 2017 – our UUA consultant has reminded us that one of our important duties as a congregation is to “say goodbye well.” To that end we will dedicate a portion of each Pathfinder over the next year to stories and memories of Rev. Linda and Toni.

To Rev. Linda and Toni: Surprise! With sincere gratitude and affection, we say “thank you” for your many years of service to UUFD.

From Mary von Zellen

On behalf of my mother Estelle and me, I would like to thank Linda Slabon for sharing her being and her doing with us. She’s leaving us as we move on with our congregation. The midi group shifts to the joys and responsibilities of midlife. I am impressed, even wowed, by Linda’s high minded expectations for our UUFD ministry and by her sharing of her experiences. I am charmed by Linda’s profundity of religious experience.

Linda and her partner Toni have come to the DeKalb Area Women’s Center, along with the whole UUFD choir, every holiday season to sing carols, dragging the heavy hymnals along every time. This has supported me during my tumultuous board membership at the DeKalb Area Women’s Center.

Outgoing and gregariously friendly, Linda and Toni (and the wonderful UUFD choir) remind me I’m not alone. I’ve felt totally welcomed by our serious but fun loving and easy-going conductors Toni Tollerud and Reverend Linda throughout EVERY SINGLE SONG!!! THANK YOU!!! Thank you for listening!

During difficult weeks during my tenure working at NIU we may have met not once but twice and three times. Oh you, yes, you have helped me live up to our ministry’s expectations of me and those of the rabble. Let your energies entwine with mine, guiding us through many more predicaments, some obvious and some remaining mysterious. I can never figure it out. Betwixt and between the Linda von Zellens and the Linda Saranens in my life has been a Linda Slabon, for me, minister of a lifetime.

Your friend in good graces, Mary von Zellen

***We welcome your contributions! If you have a memory of Rev. Linda or Toni you’d like to share in an upcoming issue of the Pathfinder, please contact Beth in the church office.*

Discussion Group on the UUA Common Read

All are welcome to join a discussion group on *The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear* by Reverend William Barber. The book is available from the InSpirit bookstore for \$16. (Go to <http://www.uuabookstore.org/The-Third-Reconstruction-P18034.aspx> to order your copy, especially if you like to make notes in your books!) If you would like to borrow a copy, there will be a small number available for loan. Contact Maylan (Maylan.dk@hotmail.com) about availability.

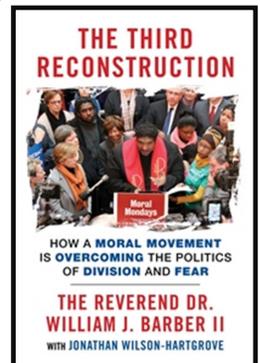
The group will meet on three Saturday mornings from 10:00 AM to Noon. The dates are:

February 18

March 4

March 11

There is no cost for participation, but please register by calling or emailing the church office (815-756-7089; office@uufdekalb.org).



Womyn's Spirituality Group

To: Spirited, Spiritual Womyn

From: Rev. Linda Slabon
815-501-4788
revslabon@aol.com

For ten+ years the women of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb coordinated a Womyn's Spirituality group that met on Friday evenings. Come join us once a month as we gather once again in community and self-discovery.

You do **not** have to be a member of UUFD to attend.

When? Fridays 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. on the following dates

Where? At 1622 Carlisle, DeKalb – unless we decide to meet elsewhere!

February 3-5 -- Special Event at UUFD: WomanSpirit Conference

For information or to register go to: <http://www.womenandreligion.org/>

February 17 -- *Dance of the Dissident Daughter* by Sue Monk Kidd

Program: Lucy S. Opening & Closing:

March 17 -- *Grandmothers of the Light (Native American teachings)*

Program: Jenny S. Opening & Closing: Barb A.



**Want to be featured and share your UU story? Contact Beth in the Church Office!
We can't wait to hear from you!!!**

