



The Pathfinder



A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb

Volume 63, Issue 3

158 N. Fourth St.

DeKalb, IL 60115

Jun-July 2022

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 August edition of the Pathfinder is **July 17th**. 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.

June Theme: Prophetic Imperative *No Special Collection Jun-Aug*

The prophetic imperative is the call to justice work, the call to the repair of the world. The foundation for this was done by the Rev. Richard Gilbert in which he explored the connections between spirituality and social action. As the Hebrew prophet Micah said, we are called “to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with ... God?” Clearly, the repair of the world is a prophetic imperative.

Jun 5
Dorothy Coleman, Worship Leader
Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Assistant

Jun 12
Rev. Allen Harden, Worship Leader
Dorothy Coleman, Assistant

Jun 19
Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Worship Leader
Kim Myers, Assistant

Jun 26 – Knowing What to Believe
Ed Miguel, Worship Leader
Vanstrom Dracul, Assistant

July Theme: Circle of Life *No Special Collection Jun-Aug*

As Chief Black Elk said, “Everything the Power of the World does is done in a circle.” Yin and yang, these complementary opposites are expressed in a circle. We live in circles within circles. The rotation of the Milky Way, the solar year, the seasons, solstice and equinox, the waxing and waning of the moon, the rotation of earth that gives us night and day, and birth and death. The circle of life, our life.

Jul 3
Dorothy Coleman, Worship Leader
Ed Miguel, Assistant

Jul 10
Rev. Allen Harden, Worship Leader
Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Assistant

Jul 17
Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Worship Leader
Vanstrom Dracul, Assistant

Jul 24 – Reincarnation
Ed Miguel, Worship Leader
Kim Myers, Assistant

Jul 31
TBD, Worship Leader
Dorothy Coleman, Assistant

CONTACTS:

MINISTER: Rev. Allen Harden (minister@uufdekalb.org or 773-288-2394)
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MINISTER EMERITA: Rev Linda Slabon (revslabon@aol.com or 815-501-4788)
PRESIDENT: Ed Miguel 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 Tom Stamatakos, or President Ed Miguel.

Minister's Thoughts

This is just very hard time to be alive and caring and concerned in America. It hurts me, and I know it hurts each of you. Children and teachers murdered in the safe haven of their school in Uvalde, Texas. People out to do grocery shopping gunned down in Buffalo, New York. Shootings on our streets that crush the peace in family neighborhoods. We cannot allow these events to continue – and yet, somehow, we do. Again and again, we do.

And not just events. Partisan politics and attack ads are ratcheting up before the primaries. Women are threatened with losing control of their own reproductive decisions, once again, and other legal rights gained through earlier court decisions might also disappear in the near future. A wide cultural and political divide persists, and our government appears on the edge of yo-yoing back to the conservatives. Inflation grows and investments fall, pinching the normal consumer, while the poor stay poor and the rich continue to get richer.

So much is out of whack, and we believe, we feel in our bones, that we should be out there bringing awareness, civility, and integrity back into our nation. Can we do this? How?

My feeling is that we can, that we will, and we will make progress just by keeping on doing what we are doing, representing the beliefs we know to be right, and never giving an inch in our own lives. By continuing to represent for virtue and compassion we provide models and anchors for change.

Frederick Douglass said something to the effect that “power never concedes without a fight”. The same can be said of traditional ways of being – they will not surrender without a struggle.

Change is hard for people. Change is hard for institutions. Parts of our world are still finding their way out of tribalism and a feudal system. Our part of the world is passing out of an order rooted in industrial growth and expansion. None of these ways of life can or will prevail.

The future of humanity rests on our learning to adjust, to adapt, to reconcile our ways of life with what is safe and sustainable. People must learn humility, respect, and cooperative ways of being in order to continue without more tragedy than I can imagine. I believe that our intentions and values as Unitarian Uni-

versalists are precisely the kind of force that America needs now to compete with the forces unbridled individualism, greed, and consumerism.

Each person should be able to take the time to look inward, find purpose and reason to be, and then work to bring their values into wholeness and fruition. In many ways, that is a big part of what we are, what we bring to the table of humanity. That, and our deep connection to building and holding community, to living under the flag of empathy and caring.

This is a difficult time to be alive in America. Much going on around us hurts. But if we can persist, if we can show resilience in the face of challenge, if we can continue to call our neighbors into right relations – we will make a difference.

In love and peace,
Rev. Allen

June 12 Worship Service: *Change Hurts*

Many of us are now in a time of aging, growing older, and living into our later years. And even if we are not yet there, we are all connected to older persons and eventually will reach the status of elders ourselves. Our later years can be a time when our bodies begin to fail us and we live with new sets of difficulties. But they also can become a time for deeper reflection, spiritual growth, enhanced wisdom, and new freedoms. Let us think about aging, as it is an important piece of every fortunate lifetime. This service will also introduce age as a topic for a multi-session deepening group starting later in the month

UUFD Staff News

Minister's "office" hours:

Please feel free to email, text, or call Rev. Allen at any time. In the absence of physical gatherings, this is the main way he communicates with congregants. His phone number is 773-288-2394, and his email address is minister@uufdekab.org.

Rev. Allen plans to gradually reestablish a physical presence in DeKalb, with decisions guided by caution and continuing concern for our health and safety. Allen has been fully vaccinated since Feb 4, 2021 and is eager to meet with individuals or (very) small groups. How we do this depends on everyone's vaccination status, the latest health advisories, and the weather. Please call or text him to make arrangements if you wish to schedule an in-person visit.



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

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

Restorative Meditation – Cancelled

Buddhist Study Group via Zoom – 1st & 3rd Sundays at 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.

The Gazebo Gang, a.k.a. Ordinary Folk Musical Gathering – 2nd & 4th Sundays at 2 p.m.

June 2022

Jun 16 – Touchstones Small Group Discussion – 7:30 p.m. via Zoom

Jun 21 – Hope Haven Meal – 6:30 p.m.

Jun 25 – Drive-Thru WE Panty 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Jun 26 – Board Meeting – TBD

July 2022

Jul 17 – Board Meeting – TBD

Jul 19 – Hope Haven Meal 6:30 p.m.

Jul 21 – Touchstones Small Group Discussion – 7:30 p.m. via Zoom

Jul 30 – Drive-Thru WE Panty 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Making our Building Inviting:

It has been my observation and I have had some feedback from members that our building is not very inviting. Some of this is inherent because our building was not meant to be a church, so its shape is not what a traditional house of worship looks like. But I believe that our sanctuary is one of the most beautiful places to be for reflection, so how can we get our outside to reflect what is going on inside?

New apartments are being built right across Locust Street with possibly hundreds of apartments, many of which will overlook our building. Odds are that there may be a few like minded people moving there, who just may be interested in us if we can coax them out. Our Locust Street side of the building really does not say anything about who we are that our new neighbors can see.

I am proposing that we do something about this. As the saying goes, 'As within, so without.' How do we do that? How do we make our building look as inviting as we know that we are, and give some clues as to what is going on inside?

Think about this and let me know your thoughts. If you are interested in being a part of a committee or beautification group, let me know.

Ed

The worship theme for June is Prophetic Imperative; for July the theme is Circle of Life.

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

Hope Haven News!

UUFD, along with many other congregations around the DeKalb County area, provides meals once a month to the residents and visitors of the 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.

A Round of Applause for our April and May Meal Volunteers!

April:

In April we served a main dish of Easy Chicken Parmesan Baked Pasta, which is a family favorite and was easy to prepare. Thank you to **Sharon Blake, Rev. Linda Slabon, Sheryl Nak, Charles Sigwart, Beth Schewe, Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Toni Tollerud, Gretchen Sigwart, Virginia Wilcox, Kim Meyers, Ashley Ford and Pam Wicking** for supplying a delicious meal. An extra big thanks to the April volunteers for filling up the volunteer sheet with over a week to spare! It makes the meals go so much more smoothly.

May:

In May, the main dish was not so easy. I'd say it was a rare main dish fail on my part. I always shoot for ease with all of the dishes and the Scalloped Ham and Potatoes I thought would be easy were not quite as easy as I thought they would be. A big thanks (and apology) to **Maylan and Beth who are troopers and joined me in preparing this yummy, but time consuming dish (and Beth for even filling in for an empty fruit spot at the last minute! I will make this dish again for my family, but not for a crowd. In addition to Maylan Dunn-Kenney and Beth Schewe, thanks go to Sharon Blake (who filled two spots), Steve and Donna Veeneman, Charles Sigwart, Virginia Wilcox, Kim Meyers and Gretchen Sigwart.**



Sign up for upcoming June and July Hope Haven meals!: Filling up our volunteer spots early makes the meals go so much more smoothly with less last-minute scrambling and incomplete meals.

The May and June Hope Haven sign-up sheets are ready for volunteers and linked below:

June Meal - Tuesday, the 21st: [June 2022 Haven sign-up - Hot Dog Bar](#) - Hot Dog Bar

July Meal - Tuesday, the 19th Theme: [Zucchini Stuffing Casserole](#) (I know this one is easy because I've made it)!

If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Danica Lovings at 815-901-4625 or danica855@gmail.com.

Joys and Sorrows



- ◆ Our hearts are breaking with the families in Uvalde, Buffalo, and many other places affected by violence.
- ◆ We're happy to celebrate summer birthdays and anniversaries, including Zeke Sharp's seventh birthday in July!

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

Hope Haven Recipe Corner

This recipe was multiplied to feed a crowd for Hope Haven in May. If you'd like to try a small batch, you can follow the original recipe below!

This scalloped potatoes and ham recipe is a filling, family-pleasing dish that will help you use up any leftover ham, especially if you need to make it stretch to feed a crowd.

Scalloped Potatoes and Ham



PREP TIME 25 minutes

COOK TIME 1 hour 15 minutes

SERVINGS 6 servings

AUTHOR: Holly Nilsson @www.spendwithpennies.com

Submitted by Danica Lovings

INGREDIENTS

- 1/3 cup butter
- 1 small onion diced
- 1/3 cup flour
- 1/2 teaspoon thyme
- 3 cups milk
- 1/2 cup chicken broth
- 3 pounds white potatoes sliced about 1/8" thick
- salt and pepper to taste
- 2 cups cooked ham diced
- 1 cup sharp cheddar cheese optional

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease a 9x13" pan and set aside.
2. Cook onion and butter over medium low until onion is tender. Add thyme and flour and cook for 1-2 minutes.
3. Turn heat to low and add milk a little bit at a time whisking between each addition. The mixture will thicken but as you continue adding and whisking, it will smooth out. Stir in chicken broth, salt and pepper bring to a boil and allow to boil 1 minute.
4. Place 1/3 of the potatoes topped with 1/3 of the ham and 1/3 of the sauce. Repeat layers ending with sauce on top.
5. Bake covered for 50 minutes. Uncover and bake 25-35 minutes longer or until potatoes are tender. Add the cheese during the last 15 minutes if using.
6. Cool at least 15 minutes before serving. Garnish with parsley.

UU CLF Worthy Now Prison Ministry

From former member and friend of UUFD Patty Rieman.

I have belonged to the **UU Church of the Larger Fellowship's Worthy Now Prison Ministry Letter Writing Program** for a few years now, and I currently have two pen pals who are incarcerated. I am also about to start a third. The CLF program announced that they are in great need for more people to be pen pals with inmates. Here is a little information, but also please do contact me if you'd like to know more about my experience with this. Thanks, Patty Rieman (prieman@carthage.edu 815-758-4897).

The Worthy Now Prison Ministry is a program of the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF). The CLF is an online and by mail UU congregation, with thousands of members world-wide. Over 1,500 CLF members are experiencing incarceration and our Worthy Now Prison Ministry is a means to bring UU spirituality and emotional support to many.

You can learn more about the Worthy Now Prison ministry at our website: <https://worthynow.org>

If becoming a pen pal interests you, pen pal applications can be found here: <https://worthynow.org/pen-pals>