



The Pathfinder



A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb

Volume 55, Issue 5

158 N. Fourth St.

DeKalb, IL 60115

June/July 2014

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 20, 2014**. 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
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Sunday Services: Service 10:00 A.M. till 11:15 A.M.

June Theme: Communal Play - There is playing alone and there is playing together. How do we learn to have and share fun? What does having fun mean for us as we age? When is competition in play together fun? When is it not? How is our play being shaped by technology and online games? How has play shaped your soul?

July Theme: Communal Love - In our culture, we often think of "love" as "falling in love" - that magic feeling between two people. But "falling in love" is a very, very short percentage of our lives. How instead might we think of the love we have known throughout our lives in the communities we have been a part of? What makes a community a loving one? How do we sustain a loving community in a church? How do each of love from our own spiritual understanding?

June 1

No Choir
Worship Leader: Maylan Dunn-Kenney
Assistant: Bill Lamb
Sermon: Communal Flow

June 8

No Choir
Worship Leader: Dave Becker
Assistant: Donna Veeneman
Sermon: Playing for Life

June 15

No Choir
Worship Leader: Sue Willis
Assistant: Frank O'Barski
Sermon: (Father's Day): Fathers and Play: A Joyful Appreciation

June 22

No Choir
Worship Leader: Elisa Woodruff
Assistant: Maylan Dunn-Kenney
Sermon: Who's Life is it Anyway?: The World According to Improv

June 29

No Choir
Worship Leader: Rev. Linda Slabon
Assistant: Elisa Woodruff
Sermon: Papa Taught Me! Creativity's Calling.

July 6

No Choir
Worship Leader: Rev. Linda
Assistant: Donna Veeneman
Sermon: Love of Country

July 13

No Choir
Worship Leader: Bill Lamb
Assistant: Frank O'Barski
Sermon: God as Love: Humanist's Approach to Love

July 20

No Choir
Worship Leader: Rev. Linda
Assistant: Sue Willis
Sermon: Spiritual Identity in Community

July 27

No Choir
Worship Leader: Maylan Dunn-Kenney
Assistant: Elisa Woodruff
Sermon: Loving Kindness

CONTACTS:

MINISTER: Rev. Linda Slabon
OFFICE MANAGER: Bonnie Freeman
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Toni Tollerud
PRESIDENT: Sue Willis
TREASURER: Beau Anderson
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CHAIR: Gladys Sanchez

Minister's Office Hours: Tuesday/Friday by appointment
Office Manager Office Hours: Tuesday 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Church Office phone number: 815-756-7089
email: office@uufdekalb.org Web site: uufdekalb.org

In case of an emergency, call Rev. Slabon at 756-1088, the Board President Sue Willis or the Past President Dan Kenney.

Minister's Musings

The June/July Musings are the report I gave at the Congregational Meeting on May 18, 2014. I invited those present to send me comments about the goals I have developed. Please send me your comments as well!

I've been thinking hard about my goals as minister. I have developed 3 goals that relate to the Alban Institute's (a research based institute focusing on church dynamics and statistics) article on managing change in congregations. UUFD is YOUR church. How we work together is essential to the life and future of this congregation.

Promise and Peril: Understanding and Managing Change and Conflict in Congregations (Alban, 2009)

Worship is the primary expression not only of a congregation's theology but also of its *culture*. Even something as simple as adding a contemporary worship service represents a "disruption of ritual" which can be unsettling to established members of the congregation. While such changes often need to happen to attract and retain newer members, they must be done in ways that are respectful of the sensibilities of existing congregational members.

Goal 1: Establish an alternate evening spiritual experience once (or twice) per month.

Religious Tone & Elements: Meditative, poetic, less words, no sermon, music, emotion-based, mystical, utilizing the same themes as Sunday services & Religious Education.

Structure is the mechanism by which a congregation allo-

cates power and authority. While a move from established "committees" to a "team ministry model" may indeed be indicated, those who have chaired committees and done the "work of the church" for decades may themselves feel disempowered and disrespected by what seems a simple structural change.

See Handout – UUFD Structural Diagram. I have seen UUFD through 4 different structural models.

Goal 2: Develop a clear, consistent Stewardship Ministry at UUFD that supports the power of generosity.

Strategy: Meet regularly with Stewardship Ministry lay leaders, Capital Campaign members, and Board Representatives to develop a Stewardship Plan that supports a comprehensive annual pledge campaign, and work with the Board to address the 2013 Long Range Plan goals on Stewardship: The Board will create a more sustainable fundraising system.

The Board will develop a multi-year staffing plan that anticipates future needs.

Brave Souls: UUs Pledge Over the Edge is an opportunity to be bold for our Unitarian Universalist faith!

UUs who are demonstrating exceptional stewardship will rappel over the edge of the Rhode Island Convention Center at General Assembly 2014 to convey the audacity of our movement and the power of generosity. A display of your "Brave Pledges" will be a main feature of this special event.

Brave Pledges are promises to increase generosity in the larger UU world. Your Brave Pledge could be to increase your pledge to your congregation, to volunteer for a social justice project, or to make a new gift to support a UU project you are excited about. Be creative with your time, talent, or treasure!

Process is the way in which a congregation goes about its ministry and work, including how it does change. Even beyond *what* changes are made, congregational members seem most concerned about *how* the change is done. Congregational leaders, particularly those who come in from the outside, have to *earn the right* to make change. And change is far more likely to be accepted when it is done *with* people rather than *to* people.

Goal 3: Develop a regular online, interactive presence on the UUFD website and Facebook page.

Process: Having already met with Melissa Blake about blogs, next steps include to consult with Will Ireland and Dorothy Coleman about the technology and how to set this up. An opportunity to talk together about spirituality, transformation, and the changes that impact us.

In CommUUNITY,

Rev. Linda

UUFD Staff News

- Bonnie's hours are Tuesday 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. and Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.
- Rev. Linda's hours are by appointment. Please call 815/501-4788.
- Rev. Linda will be on vacation through June 16. She will be back at UUFD on June 17. In case of an emergency, please contact Sue Willis, Board President, or a member of the Board of Trustees.



Mark Your Calendar For These UUFD Events



May

29	Mindfulness Meditation (meets every Thursday @ Estelle's)	10:30 a.m.
30	Peaceful Meditation (meets every Friday)	11 a.m.
31	Welcome Café and Community Kitchen	10 a.m. to Noon

June

4	Board Meeting	7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
11	Stitch & Witch	7:30 to 9 p.m.
28	Welcome Café and Community Kitchen	10 a.m. to Noon
29	Leadership Council meets @ UUFD. Please bring food to share.	12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
29	GrownUps Table	3 to 5 p.m.

July

1	Ministry Council meets @ Rev. Linda's	6 p.m.
9	Stitch & Witch	7:30 to 9 p.m.
11	Lifespan Faith Development Potluck @ UUFD	6:30 p.m.
20	Worship & Music Leaders & Choir Picnic @ Rev. Linda's	5 p.m.
26	Welcome Café and Community Kitchen	10 a.m. to Noon
27	GrownUps Table	3 to 5 p.m.

LVI Seeks Volunteers

Literacy Volunteers of Illinois is seeking men and women who are compassionate, non-judgmental and interested in making a difference in the lives of young men who are incarcerated. Almost all of these young men are behind academically and many have learning disabilities. They do well, even flourish, under one-to-one tutoring from a caring adult. Jump Start is a program offered by LVI, a not-for-profit statewide organization committed to developing and supporting volunteer literacy programs.

If you'd like more information, see the LVI Web site at www.lvillinois.org or contact the LVI office at 312-857-1582.



DeKalb County Shoe Share

Shoes will be collected through June 7 at local schools, Haish Gym (DeKalb Park District), Genoa Fitness Center, Kishwaukee Family YMCA, Sandwich City Hall and the DeKalb County Health Department. For more information, contact Christel Springmire, Solid Waste Coordinator at 815-748-2408 or visit www.dekalbcountyhealthdepartment.org. Their goal is collect 2,000 pairs of shoes and distribute them prior to the new school year.



JOYS & CONCERNS



Rev. Linda sends a final BIG THANKS SO MUCH to everyone who contributed to the Creating Community Gala this year. We couldn't have done it without your dessert & silent auction contributions, live music by Dan Becker & the Tourists (Jeff Kowalski, drummer extraordinaire and bar manager), food and decor by Terri Mann-Lamb of Sunn Flower Gourmet fame, Diane Johns & Jeanne Meyer who were dessert auction dynamos, Gladys Sanchez who led the children's programs, Frank O'Barski who handled licenses, and Toni Tollerud & Linda Matuszewski who handled all the ticket and money collection and distribution! Finally to all the set-up and clean-up folks, especially Carey Boehmer... THANKS SO MUCH! We brought in over \$8,000 at the Gala and after all expenses and our contribution to DCCG for \$658, we had a nice profit as well. YOU ARE THE BEST!!



We send love, light and energy to those in our congregation facing medical tests or treatments including Theresa Karales, Terri Mann-Lamb, Danica Lovings, Judy Bush and Jenny Stamatakos.



For those at UUFD retiring from NIU or contemplating retirement, we hope you settle into your new adventures with joy and support: Toni Tollerud, Jeff Kowalski, Diane Johns, Susan Dorbeck and Julie Lamb...hats off to you!!



With joy we welcome Kristina Olsen and Mike & Annemarie Clifford to membership at UUFD. Greet them and get to know them!



Rev. Linda extends deep appreciation to exiting Board members Dan Kenney, who served in the President track of 3 years, and to Cathy Schneider, who served for 2 years as Secretary. You have given us the most precious gift of your time and talents. Thank you for all you have contributed to UUFD.

Following an excellent Congregational Meeting, we welcome new UUFD Board of Trustee members: Frank O'Barski, President Elect -- Beth Schewe, Secretary -- Susan Dorbeck, 2 year at-large member -- Lindsay Andrews, 1 year at-large member.

President's Ponderings: A Year In Review

As I look back on my year as President of the Board of Trustees at UUFD, I see a year filled with joy, sorrow, excitement and gratitude. Let me tell you some of the ways I am grateful for the past year:

First, I would like to express my thanks to this year's Past President, Dan Kenney. If there's a worthwhile cause in DeKalb that Dan's not involved in, I don't know what it is! He is quiet but untiring, and without his help and guidance I could not have done my job nearly as well.

Second, I would like to express my thanks to Reverend Linda. As always, she has provided gentle guidance and deep wisdom at the times I needed it most (which were not always the times I wanted it!). Her dedication to UUFD and to each one of you is something I hope to be able to mirror, however faintly, now and in the future.

Third, I would like to express my thanks to Bonnie Freeman. Although her position is very part-time, she devotes an enormous amount of energy and talent to keeping UUFD running. I depended on her for many things, and she was always cheerful, while getting the job done in the most professional manner.

Fourth, I would like to express my thanks to the rest of our professional staff and to the other Board members. I am a very small part of what happens at UUFD; it would not be what it is without all of you.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to all of you, members and friends. You are the heart, soul, and energy of UUFD. You came through at lightning speed when we wanted to buy a new piano. You watched Dee and Gladys speak of their struggles to make ends meet, and created an entire Non-Perishables Pantry in short order. You are there not only on Sunday mornings, but on Saturday markets, on the days before the gala, preparing for the choir festival, and everything else that goes on at UUFD. You stay late after church to put chairs back in place and clean up after coffee hour; you come early to set up for service. You bring flowers. You sing, teach our children, and give of your time and your money. You are UUFD.

It is true that we still have some financial challenges; the challenges the Fellowship faces are a reflection of the challenges we all face at home. I will not dwell on these now; you know what our needs are.

Thank you all for a wonderful year!

Sue Willis



Make A Bowl To Fight Hunger

Nori Duncan would really like it if you'd send her a bowl. Or two. Or three.

Duncan is organizing an Empty Bowls social justice project for the Unitarian Universalist Association's 2014 General Assembly, June 25–29 in Providence, R.I.

It's pretty simple. Duncan, a retired art librarian from Brown University, is asking people to send her handcrafted (or simply handpainted) bowls for sale at GA to raise money for two Rhode Island organizations that work on issues of hunger and homelessness.

Housing First R.I. operates permanent housing for more than 200 formerly homeless people and their families, and provides outreach to hundreds more. McAuley House provides meals and other services for people who are homeless or struggling to get by, including those who live with addiction, mental illness, and poverty. It provides a hot lunch five days a week and offers arts and crafts activities and other programming.

Both organizations are directed by members of First Unitarian Church of Providence. The Rev. Mary Margaret Earl, a community minister with First Unitarian, is associate director of McAuley Ministries. Daniel Kubas-Meyer is executive director of Riverwood Mental Health Services, the agency that created Housing First R.I.

Duncan hopes to raise thousands of dollars for these two organizations through the 2014 GA social justice project. Much of that money will come from the Sunday morning collection at GA. But the bowls are an important part of fundraising for these groups as well.

Duncan hopes to have several hundred bowls to sell in the Empty Bowls booth in the GA exhibition hall. But first she needs the bowls. "We want bowls from anyone who wants to donate them," she said. "They don't even have to come to GA. We'd love it if individuals would make bowls and send them. And we're hoping that groups of people will get together and make bowls." The bowls, which can be made of anything—ceramics, wood, metal, paper—symbolize a lack of adequate food for many people.

Already she has a few dozen bowls. Some are ceramic and others are more unusual. "I have several that are knitted, as well as some papier-mâché ones," she said. "Whatever material people want to use is fine." The bowls should be about the size of a soup or cereal bowl, she said. "Otherwise people will have trouble taking them home from GA."

She said she's willing to travel 50 miles from Providence to pick up bowls. "I recently picked up 30, mostly decorated by children."

And if people don't want to make bowls themselves, they can patronize an artist, she said, or get them from a ceramic studio and decorate them. The bowls will be sold for a suggested donation. Many will be professional quality, she said. There will probably also be a raffle for a grand prize bowl.

Duncan says she took on the Empty Bowls project because, "I like the challenge of explaining the project. And the fact that it's something a whole lot of people can participate in, and something that will make a difference in the world. We're also really looking forward to talking to people at our booth."

Ann Boyd of Bristol, R.I., a member of First Unitarian of Providence, wanted to make bowls for the project, but had never worked in ceramics. Then her sister sent her a recipe for papier-mâché. She tried it. "The results were really beautiful," she said. Now she has gotten her church women's group involved. "We're producing bowls like crazy. Working with other people is energizing. At the same time we feel a sense of social justice."

John Hartom, an art teacher in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., developed the Empty Bowls idea with his wife, Lisa Blackburn, in 1990 as a fundraiser for a local food drive. It has since spread internationally. Three UUA General Assemblies have included Empty Bowl events, in 1997, 1998, and 2002.

If you'd like to send bowls to Duncan, contact her first at nori.duncan@gmail.com. If you plan to send them later or bring them to GA, let her know they're coming so she can plan for them.

**The above article was taken from uuworld.org.*

Got something on your mind? We'd love to hear it! Email mel-low1422@aol.com today and stay tuned to next month's Pathfinder for more exciting UUFD announcements and events!



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