



The Pathfinder



A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb

Volume 54, Issue 9

158 N. Fourth St.

DeKalb, IL 60115

November 2013

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 December/January edition of the Pathfinder is **November 17, 2013**. Please note that this is the third Sunday of the month. Submissions are to be sent to the church office via email: uufdchurchoffice@aol.com 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.

Worship Theme for November: Pain & Suffering

How do pain and suffering change us? How shall we talk about that change, when it can debilitate, torment, twist, and wound us so profoundly? Does pain or suffering ennoble us? How?

November 3

Choir

Worship Leader: Dave Becker

Assistant: Sue Willis

Intergenerational Service celebrating El Dia de Los Muertos: Day of the Dead

November 10

Choir

Worship Leader: Rev. Linda Slabon

Assistant: Bill Lamb

Sermon: Sacred Sorrows – Living in the Catastrophe

November 17

NO Choir

Worship Leader: Rev. Linda

Assistant: Donna Veeneman

A brief service will be held prior to the Congregational Meeting

Sermon & Reflection: A Measure of Relief

November 24

Choir

Worship Leader: Elisa Woodruff

Assistant: TBD

Sermon: Everything's Comin' Up Roses: Reflections of a Cockeyed Optimist

Mark Your Calendars!!
Sunday, November 17
UUFD Congregational Meeting

CONTACTS:

MINISTER: Rev. Linda Slabon

OFFICE MANAGER: Bonnie Freeman

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Toni Tollerud

PRESIDENT: Sue Willis

TREASURER: Beau Anderson

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CHAIR: Dave Becker

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: uufdchurchoffice@aol.com

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

Has anyone else been as delighted as me these past Sundays? "Why?" you ask. Because, despite the early winter-type chill we've experienced in our Midwest weather, things are blooming like mad at UUFD. I've been hearing music of praise, justice, love and spirit sung by a choir of over 20 voices, and the growth in the men's section makes me giddy! The men now compliment the women's vocal sections of fabulous and stalwart singers who have supported our choir for many years. And are you aware that last week we had eighteen children and youth present in our Sunday program? Our RE program needs volunteer support! In October alone our social justice work included service at a Voluntary Action Center meal, a fundraiser hosted at UUFD for DeKalb County Community Gardens and Welcome Café & Community Kitchen, support for a Safe Passage fundraiser and vigil, Teach Girls Global Tanzania Development special event, and CROP Walk. I figure hundreds of people were touched by these events that we at UUFD support – and these are just the ones over a three week period that I know about.

How about the fact that over 50 people voted in the straw poll held at UUFD on Sunday, Oct. 20 about our aspirations for our future? A great foundation, plus ten more folks have requested to, and will yet, vote. Last chance to vote is Sunday, November 3. See Rev. Linda to add your vote. Included in this edition of the Pathfinder are the **initial results** from the Straw Poll Vote. The aspirations were organized in five areas of ministry including a separate section on building renovations. Participants received 8 stickers to vote on their top eight priorities from

the 31 aspirations: 2 green dots indicated "this is important", 3 smiley stickers indicated "I will give time", and 3 owl stickers indicated "I will give money." Your Long Range Planning Team is currently working to assess and interpret the feedback we have received. Congregational stories, coffee chats, written reflections, and the straw vote on UUFD aspirations will all contribute to the final report that will be given at the **Cong. Meeting on Nov. 17**.

Prior to the Congregational Meeting is the **UUFD Ministry Fair on November 10**. Following the service will be an opportunity to learn about UUFD ministries and sign up to get involved. If the straw poll results are any indication, I am eager to support the interest expressed in deepening our connections, our spirituality, and religious education programs and groups.

We continue to explore our identities and our place in our own lives and in our faith through the UUFD yearly theme for worship: **Me, Myself, and UU**. Your Worship Associates also focus on a monthly theme for Sunday services. November's theme is **Pain & Suffering**. *How do pain and suffering change us? How shall we talk about that change when it can debilitate, torment, twist, and wound us so profoundly? Does pain or suffering ennoble us? How?* Telling the stories of our lives is a sacred act as it reveals the deeper truths of who we are and our lives together:

A story from Dorothy Coleman, Long Range Planning Team and choir member:

What is the story? What

happened and when? Give an approximate time or year.

The glass tile wall designed and created by Helen Merritt: The year I joined UUFD, Rev. Linda told me in February that we (she and other leaders) would like to see the tiles installed asap! I worked with a group of six people, four to six hours a day for 2 ½ mos. to finish the wall. The glass tile wall was dedicated in April of 2006.

How did it (the story, people, experience, issue) affect you?

Working on the wall helped me feel intimately connected with the UUFD community and cemented by commitment to it. I also loved the opportunity to work with a local legend!

What might it mean for our whole community?

Everyone loves the wall! The stained glass tiles evoke a spiritual atmosphere found in sanctuaries of diverse religious denominations from which UU's draw inspiration. The abstract pattern of the tiles represents a universal form of spirituality that unites people with different religious beliefs, or lack thereof. The wall has a special meaning for UUFD because **it was built by its own members**. It is part of who we are.

Consider what comes next in our life together. Let us each be ready to invest in the answers to these questions: "What is UUFD's strength of spirit?" and "What results do we want to create?"

In CommUNITY.

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 Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday by appointment. Please call 815/501-4788.
- Rev. Linda has been approved for sabbatical work from November 20 thru December 3. During these two weeks, she is only available in case of a hospital emergency or a death.



Mark Your Calendar For These UUFD Events



November

1	LFDP Potluck	6:30 to 9 p.m.
2	Leadership Council	9 to 11:30 a.m.
2	Set clocks back before retiring	(2 a.m. time change)
3	Long Range Planning chat after Service	
3	Pathways II Class	6 to 8 p.m.
5	Evening Meditation (meets every Tuesday)	5:30 p.m.
5	Long Range Planning Team meeting @ Rev. Linda's	7 p.m.
6	Board of Trustees in the Library	7:30 p.m.
7	Mindfulness Meditation @ Estelle's (meets every Thursday)	10:30 a.m.
8	Peaceful Meditation (meets every Friday)	Noon
10	Leadership Council Ministry Fair after Service	
10	Pathways III (Potluck)	6:30 to 9 p.m.
12	Long Range Planning meeting @ Rev. Linda's	7 p.m.
13	Welcome Café meeting	6:30 p.m.
13	Divination and Creativity	7:30 to 9 p.m.
15	Game Night	7 to 9 p.m.
16	Welcome Café Brunch	10 a.m. to Noon
17	Congregational Meeting after Service	
17	Pathfinder articles due by noon	
19	UUFD provides Hope Haven meal	
24	Grown-Up's Table	3 to 5 p.m.

Pathways Seminar Held at UUFD This Fall

Each session is a chance to meet other UUFD folks and build relationships. In addition, you will learn more about your own spiritual quest, explore Unitarian Universalist faith traditions and find out about our church home here in DeKalb. The class is free and open to all. Children are welcome to be present nearby while we adults are in class together, OR please contact the Church Office ahead of time and we will try to arrange childcare. Call UUFD at 815-756-7089 or Rev. Slabon at 815-501-4788.

The Welcome to a Free Faith Pathways Seminar will be held on:

Pathways I – Sunday afternoon, October 27	1:30-3:30 p.m.
Pathways II – Sunday evening, November 3	6:00-8:00 p.m.
Pathways III – Saturday evening, November 10	6:30-9:00 p.m. (Potluck)

Come deepen your spirit and travel the road for a time with the spiritual seekers at UUFD. Come explore your religious odyssey. Come meet others who are on their spiritual quest. Come learn about Unitarian Universalist history, identity, and aspirations. Contact Bonnie Freeman, our Office Manager, at uufdchurchoffice@aol.com or 815-756-7089 with any questions and to request childcare.



Bread & Roses Celebrates The Season

Directed by Peggy Safford, Bread & Roses presents "Songs of the Seasons" on Sunday, November 24, 2013 at 3 p.m. The program will be at the Westminster Presbyterian Church at 830 N. Annie Glidden Road in DeKalb.

JOYS & CONCERNS



UUFDF extends hope for healing to Janelle Blake and her family as Janelle works towards her recovery.

We offer support to Bill Lamb and Terri Mann-Lamb as Bill explores changes in his work life.



We send energy and patience to Cory Parham and Kelly Thornburg as they deal with the process of returning to their home after the fire earlier this year.

UUFDF Grown-Ups' Table Offers Support and Community

Come and join The Grown-Ups' Table. Are you one of the primary caregivers of one or more children? Would you like to spend some time with people who "get it"?

Join us in the UUFDF Fellowship Hall on the last Sunday of every month from 3 to 5 p.m.! Here's the biggie: Bring your kids! Yes! It's okay! We will have the nursery room open; make sure you bring whatever entertains your children — hand-held gaming devices, toys, books, etc. It takes a village, as they say, and we'll all keep an eye on the kids while we talk about anything and everything, including our parenting woes and triumphs. This is a chance to relax (as much as possible with kids around) and get to know and share with some other people with kids at the center of their lives. Donations gratefully accepted and will go towards religious education programming and related events.

Fun Ahead: Come To Game Night

Come to our Game Night and bring your friends! We will meet in the UUFDF Fellowship Hall on the third Friday of the month from 7 to 9 p.m. Anyone and everyone ages 5 and up are welcome!

At least three games, including one for the younger crowd, will be provided, but you are welcome and encouraged to bring your own. Children are also encouraged to bring their hand-held gaming devices just in case! Please, no food and lidded drinks preferred in the interests of preserving the games. Donations accepted and will be used to purchase games to be kept here at UUFDF to ensure game night's longevity.



Mark Your Calendars For These UUFDF Religious Education Events!

****First Friday LFDP Potluck- Friday Nov.1 from 6:30 to 9 p.m.**

On Friday, Nov. 1, we will have a meeting of all children and youth RE volunteers, those interested in becoming volunteers, LFDP leadership coordinators, parents and caregivers, as well as anyone else interested in discussing RE programs for all ages. We will use this time to provide updates and orientation to new volunteers, work on the RE sign-up schedule and discuss topics of interest for program planning. Please bring food to share. A film will be provided for children present. We will have a light meal, then begin the meeting for adults and film for children. We will make this a monthly meeting, occurring the first Friday of each month, beginning Friday Nov. 1.

****November 3 - Intergenerational Service**

Our next Intergenerational Service will be on Sunday November 3, for our Day of the Dead celebration. You and your children are welcome and invited to please bring items for Altars of Remembrance. You may bring photos of family members or loved ones who have passed away and that you hold in your heart, pets or other special animals who have died and that you carry in spirit, or people from history who have had great influence on your life or conscience.

A Note From UUFD's Director of Religious Education

Our children and youth programs are a collaborative effort of our UUFD congregation and thrive through all of our contributions of time and talent. Our commitment to the growth and development of the children and youth of our community is a sacred principle inherent in the covenantal relationship we have with each other. This commitment is reflected in our UU history, in the promises we make during our Child Dedication Ceremony, and most recently, in our congregational conversations about the future of UUFD.

Over the past few weeks, many of us have voiced our dedication to lifespan faith development and religious education during coffee chats and service activities devoted to sharing our future vision with each other and forming long range planning goals for our congregation. In order to continue these conversations, we will have potluck meeting on the first Friday of each month to provide a consistent means for remaining informed, providing input, and scheduling volunteer support for our RE programs for all ages. We will begin on Friday November 1 at 6:30pm. Please bring a dish to share. Children are welcome and a film will be provided for children to watch during the meeting. This meeting is open to all RE volunteers, LFDP coordinators, parents, caregivers, and anyone interested in contributing time and talent to RE for all. Hope to see each of you there.

You may also be interested to know that there are two intergenerational services coming up. One is a Day of the Dead service on Sunday November 3. During the service, we will be creating altars of remembrance. If you would like, please bring photos of family or loved ones who have passed away that you would like to remember and these will be added to the altar. You or your children are also welcome to bring pictures of pets who have passed, or people from history who have a special place in your heart and your conscience. Children will be singing in this service.

The next intergenerational service is in December and will be a family and multigenerational celebration of winter solstice.

We will also take our annual outing to Brookfield Zoo to decorate our UUFD Holiday Tree as part of the Brookfield Zoo Community Tree trim program. We will meet at UUFD on Saturday November 23 at 9:15 and will leave by 9:30. Please register with me by Sunday November 17 so that I know how many passes we will need.

As always, I look forward to your thoughts, ideas, and contributions of time and talent. Please feel free to contact me with your questions, as well as to discuss volunteer opportunities.

In the spirit of life, love, and learning,

Dave Becker
Director of Religious Education
dpbecker@comcast.net
815-761-0433

P.S. Send me a request to join our closed Facebook group *Rainbow Kids* for ongoing updates and conversation.



Our Musical Lives RE Program Begins November 10

Glenda Cosenza has volunteered to host an RE program for students in grades 2 and up called OUR MUSICAL LIVES. We will be using the UU 7 Principles as guides for exploring and discovering popular music that we love with messages, hidden or obvious, that reflect our UU principles -- perhaps in less-than-obvious ways. The students in the class will provide the material and plan each session with me. I will act as facilitator and resource person. I envision us becoming a learning community: we'll ALL be teachers and ALL be students at different times.

The program will take place during regular RE hours (10 -11:15 a.m.) on November 10, 17, 24; and December 1. The series will continue in the Spring with projects including a performance project--perhaps song-writing and performing what we have composed; we plan to take a field trip to attend a rehearsal of a real live rock band (and/or hip hip ensemble) and watch them rehearsing and then interview them about their music-making.

This program is for UUFD RE students and any adults who care to assist. Guest participants may be included at some point as well. Rock on!



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