



# The Pathfinder



A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb

Volume 61, Issue 3

158 N. Fourth St.

DeKalb, IL 60115

June-July 2020

## 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.*

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

### DEADLINE

The deadline for the Aug-Sept edition of the Pathfinder is July 19. 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).

### Online Worship

For the duration of the COVID-19 crisis, UUF is holding online worship services at our usual time – Sundays at 10 a.m. We use Zoom, which is easily installed on a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Please feel free to reach out to Danica Lovings or the church office with questions. Join the service each Sunday at [uufdekalb.org/live](http://uufdekalb.org/live).

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

### June Theme: Good and Evil

Good and evil are a duality of existence. It is easy to see the evil in others while denying our own capacity for evil. Our task is to create goodness so that evil is pushed to and beyond the margins. It is to speak truth to power, to attack the sin, but not necessarily the sinner. It is to realize and respect the limits of tolerance. In the end, it is to say “Yes” to life.

### June 7 – *Good, Evil, and the Stories We Tell*

Dave Becker, Worship Leader  
Ed Miguel, Assistant

### June 14 – *Good, Evil, and the After-life*

Rev. Allen, Worship Leader  
Diane Johns, Assistant

### June 21 – Diane Johns, Worship Leader

Vanstrom Dracul, Assistant

### June 28 – *The Problem of Evil*

Dorothy Coleman, Worship Leader

### July Theme: Harmony

Native American author Tony Hillerman writes, “The Navajo word hozro ... means a sort of blend of being in harmony with one’s environment, at peace with one’s circumstances, content with the day, devoid of anger, and free from anxieties.” Our task is to find our hozro, our way of living in harmony and in beauty. Harmony is a way of walking through life.

### July 5 – Diane Johns, Worship Leader Rev. Linda Slabon, Assistant

### July 12 – *Music of the Spheres*

Rev. Allen, Worship Leader  
Ed Miguel, Assistant

### July 19 – *Living in Harmony*

Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Worship Leader

Vanstrom Dracul, Assistant

### July 26 – *Creating Balance in Our Lives*

Ed Miguel, Worship Leader  
Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Assistant

### CONTACTS:

MINISTER: Rev. Allen Harden ([minister@uufdekalb.org](mailto:minister@uufdekalb.org) or 773-288-2394)

OFFICE MANAGER: Kathryn Jones

PRESIDENT: Jenny Stamatakos

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](mailto:office@uufdekalb.org)

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

*In case of an emergency, call Board Past President Laura Gillberg, or President Jenny Stamatakos.*

# Minister's Thoughts

It is two months since I posted thoughts here – two months that none of us will forget. We have been shut down the entire time, and expect that distancing is our new normal. Although some businesses and activities will reopen soon, we do not expect physical church at UUFDF will be among them. Much of our congregation is at higher risk, and our normal church life does not readily adapt to social distancing. When we do gather, we like to gather with hugs, touches, singing, and all kinds of sharing. To be safe from ourselves, and to protect those we love, church will continue to be internet-based for a while – probably a long while.

As hard as this reality is, I must say that our Zoom services feel wonderful, and temper the pain of distancing. For me, it is heartwarming to see and hear most of you on Sunday mornings, each of us in our own little box on the screen. It reassures me when you report that you are well, and it includes me when you express difficulties. We care deeply for one another, and this simple way of staying linked keeps the bonds of our very special community strong.

This experience reminds me that community is really the essence of our church. It would be easy to find a more polished UU church service production on the internet, but it is the personal connection to those in our own Fellowship that warms our hearts, feeds our souls, and holds attacks of loneliness at bay. And so many thanks to the Worship Associates and other helpers that deliver services to us week after week. And thanks also to everyone else that is helping do the work of the church and keeping the blessings of our community vital, even as we adapt and learn to do it all in a new way.

This pandemic brings a tangle of insecurities, fears, and difficulties. For some, it is inconvenient, for others it is threatening and scary. Let us do what we can to hold each other up in these times and respond to one another's needs. Let us make sure that those of us who shelter alone are never really left alone. From what I see, you have all been doing this very well. Pandemic is a challenge, and coping with it is an important new life skill – but we also

should remember that it is not life.

Do what keeps you flourishing. We are all finding new ways to engage our interests and to use our time, ways to keep ourselves healthy and going and growing. I have a long list of things I had once relegated to doing “someday” and am now attacking and accomplishing, albeit gradually. I’m also trying to engage in regular exercise and set aside time for contemplation and spiritual work. But we all do our own thing – books, crafts, movies, nature, learning, music, gardening, cooking, home repairs. Just stay active, busy, and engaged.

I hope to offer some new opportunities for activities at UUFDF, so watch the weekly e-news. And, of course, keep coming to church – we all want to see you, we all need to see you, and some of us need to be seen. Let us continue to be wise, to be careful, and to be wary for our health and the health of others. Go forth, as always, trying to be your best self. We will persevere together.

In Faith and Love,  
Allen



## UUFDF Staff News

### Rev. Allen's schedule

- Rev. Allen will be with us (online or in-person) the 2nd (and probably 4th) Sundays of each month.
- Please contact him at [minister@uufdekalb.org](mailto:minister@uufdekalb.org) or 773-288-2394 with anything that's on your mind.

### Office schedule

- Office manager Kathryn Jones's hours are Wed 10 - 3 and Fri 10 - 3. Please contact her online or by phone only.



## Mark Your Calendar For These UUFD Events



At this point, all in-person events are canceled through the end of June, except the drive-up WE Pantry and the Hope Haven meal. 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. We hope you join UUFD board of trustees members for a COVID response Q and A after the service on June 28 to learn more.

### Ongoing Events

- Yoga w/Ed Miguel – Cancelled
- Restorative Meditation – Cancelled
- **Buddhist Study Group via Zoom** – 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays  
Zoom links are sent to everyone in the mailing list. If someone not on our mailing list would like to join us, please contact Howard Solomon.
- Ordinary Folk Musical Gathering – Cancelled
- **The Social Justice Committee** is planning an online meeting. Please reach out to Jack Reich or Virginia Wilcox to find out more or get on the social justice email list.

### June 2020

June 14 – UUFD Board Meeting via Zoom 11:45 a.m.

June 16 – Hope Haven Meal 6:30 p.m. (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday)

June 27 – Drive-Thru WE Panty 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

June 28 – COVID Procedures Q and A. Join UUFD Board Members after the church service to find out more about our procedures going forward. Things are changing quickly, but we'll answer your questions the best we can.

### July 2020

July Board Meeting – Zoom Meeting TBA

July 21 – Hope Haven Meal 6:30 p.m. (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday)

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

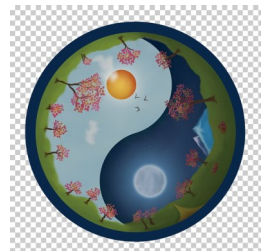
July 26 – Green Sanctuary Group 11:30 a.m.

### **Online Introduction to Unitarian Universalism and UUFD.**

Rev. Allen and others will lead a 2-3 session course that we think of as a newcomers or potential member's class. That is part of its purpose, but it can be open to anyone. We will touch on the current UU denomination, as well as theology, history, and culture of Unitarian Universalism. Also, we will look at the growth of UUFD, how we organize church, and what membership entails. If you are interested, please say so in an email to [minister@uufdekalb.org](mailto:minister@uufdekalb.org). Allen will then contact you to set up scheduling. He hopes it can occur on a weekday evening.

### **The worship theme for June is Good and Evil; for July the theme is Harmony.**

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



# JOYS & SORROWS



Thank you for all who donated so generously of your time and money to the UUFD Welcome Essentials Pantry recently. We're so please that we're able to offer a safe drive-thru (or walk-thru) Pantry during this COVID period.



It is a joy to welcome Ed Miguel, as President Elect, and Sharon Blake, as Secretary, to our UUFD board of trustees beginning in July. Thank you both for your willingness to share your talents.

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

## Hope Haven News!

Hope Haven has appreciated our efforts to continue providing meals during this challenging time. They are serving more meals than ever. Thanks to our UUFD volunteers for making the April and May meals a success. It takes a village! It requires four volunteers each month to provide a main dish for 15 each, and volunteers for the sides provide 30 servings each! Drum roll...

April Ham Dinner Volunteers: Beth Schewe (who did double duty making green bean casserole too!), Sharon Blake, Sheryl Nak provided the Ham. Jeanne Meyer and Diane Johns provided mashed sweet potatoes for 60! Maylan Dunn-Kenney and Beth Schewe provided green bean casserole. Gretchen Sigwart and Donna Veneman provided dessert. Bonnie Anderson and Charles Sigwart provided fruit and Virginia Wilcox provided bread and milk.

May Chicken Pot Pie Dinner Volunteers (at time of press): Mary Von Zellen, Beth Schewe, Danica Lovings provided the Chicken Pot Pie Main Dish. Maylan Dunn-Kenney and Sharon Blake provided the bean side dish and Gretchen Sigwart provided green salad. Dessert was provided by Sheryl Nak and Charles Sigwart, Carol Bushong provided fruit and Virginia Wilcox provided bread and milk.

## June and July Meals

The June and July Hope Haven sign-up sheets are ready. June's meal theme is Submarine Sandwiches and July's theme is Hot Dog Picnic. Thanks Sharon for the great theme suggestions!

Here are the links to the sign-up sheets:

[June Hope Haven Sign-up](#)

[July Hope Haven Sign-up](#)

As always, please call, text, or email me with any questions: 815-901-4625 and [danica855@google.com](mailto:danica855@google.com)

In loving gratitude,  
Danica Lovings

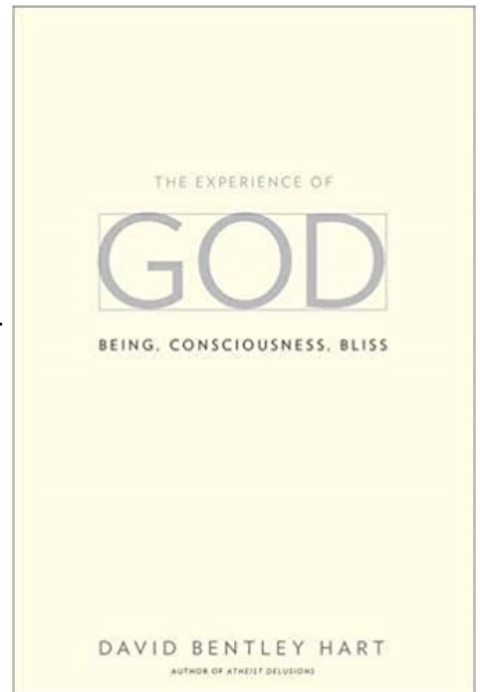
## Book Talk

Beau Anderson, UUFd Librarian and Archivist

First and foremost I would like to thank Arthur Shimkus for his donation of the book *The Experience of God: Being, Consciousness, Bliss* by David Bentley Hart. Reviews of the book found it engaging, bracing and bold. It will soon be added to the library collection in the Religion section, and can be checked out when available.

Second, I would like to propose some changes to the procedure used to place books new to the library on the shelves. As each book is added it is stamped with a special UUFd stamp showing ownership. A checkout folder and card are placed on the inside of the front cover complete with author and title. Then two additional cards are prepared, one with the author (last name first) with additional information, and the other with the title and additional information. These cards are filed away in separate file boxes, and both are in alphabetical order. Library users can use these to determine if a book is owned or in the library. Over the years, which I would estimate to be from approximately the early 1960s, this procedure has been used. However, some cards do not follow this procedure and many errors result. For example, when books are withdrawn, sometimes the card remains in the author/title files. Sometimes these cards were overlooked in adding new titles. Some cards are misplaced for various reasons. In short, a significant number of cards are out of line with the books. There is no indication that any effort was made to correct the cards overall, which admittedly would be a time-consuming effort. Another observation is that the author/title cards are seldom used. As libraries go, the UUFd library is a very small library and the books are divided into approximately twenty subject headings. Pursuing one or two related subject areas for a book or author is quite simple.

I propose the practice of creating only the circulation card for books new to the collection. The current cards can be eliminated. If there are concerns, let me know. If I don't hear of any alternate suggestions in about a month, I'll put the new procedure in practice.



### Green Sanctuary Seeking "Green Kitchen Tips"

As part of the Green Sanctuary's Green Tips and Recycling Information Guide that is in progress, it was suggested that we include a section on Green Tips for the Kitchen since the kitchen is the source of so much of our waste products.

We are sure that many of you have great tips that could be shared in this section. Please send us your ideas. You can email them to the Green Sanctuary Committee at [uufd-greensanc@googlegroups.com](mailto:uufd-greensanc@googlegroups.com).

### Local Source for Natural Meats: Arnold's Farm - Free Home Delivery in DeKalb Area

Looking for a humane local source of meat? Tom Arnold will be doing his next home delivery in DeKalb on Saturday, July 11th. Learn more at <https://arnoldsfarm.grazecart.com/>

## An Invitation to Read and Reflect

It feels like we may be at a truly pivotal moment in history. I want it to pivot toward justice and liberation but have no clear idea how to help with that work. In order to address some significant gaps in my education and understanding, I need to read. Would anyone like to join me? I'm interested in the following books to start:

- Me and White Supremacy, by Layla Saad
- So You Want to Talk About Race, by Ijeoma Oluo
- A People's History of the United States, by Howard Zinn

Drop me an email ([ashley@peregrin.org](mailto:ashley@peregrin.org)) or find me through the UUFD Internal Facebook Group if you would like to read along and discuss. I don't have the books yet, so it will be at least a week before I'm ready. And since I want to support independently owned bookstores but still want the safety and convenience of shopping online, I'm going to try [bookshop.org](http://bookshop.org). -Ashley Ford