



The Pathfinder



A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb

Volume 58, Issue 3

158 N. Fourth St.

DeKalb, IL 60115

August/September 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.

(UUFDF mission statement adopted May 17, 2009)

DEADLINE

The deadline for the October/November edition of the Pathfinder is **September 17, 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 the Office Manager's mailbox in the library.

Note: Sermons in September may change once we welcome our new interim minister. Check the eNews and website for updates.

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

August Theme: Ambiguity and Paradox

Theodor W. Adorno wrote, "Intolerance of ambiguity is the mark of an authoritarian personality." So how do we cultivate tolerance for ambiguity? Maggie Duggan writes, "It means staying in uncertainty, or staying with the question, despite the discomfort of not knowing the answer, or not knowing where we're headed. It requires relinquishing control—even though a solution isn't always guaranteed—to make room for new and emerging connections to crystalize into a clear direction. It also means accepting the fact that there might be numerous ways of answering the same question, each with different but potentially positive results." For Unitarian Universalist minister Kendyl Gibbons, tolerating ambiguity is a sign of spiritual maturity.

August 6 – *Ambiguity and Paradox through the Eyes of a Physicist*

Sue Willis, Worship Leader
Jack Lazzara, Assistant

August 13 – *Thru the Looking Glass*

Jack Lazzara, Worship Leader
Forrest Brandon, Assistant

August 20 – *Embracing Uncertainty*

Diane Johns, Worship Leader
Jack Lazzara, Assistant

August 27 – *Flow and Change: An Intergenerational Service for Ingathering Sunday*

Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Worship Leader
Dave Becker, Assistant

September Theme: Beauty

Elaine Scarry writes, "when beauty enlarges our hearts, our capacity to care for what is just and true enlarges." Poet Carlton Turner writes, "what is beauty / without justice? / a hollow shell. / a shallow façade / anxiously anticipating / time's decay / exposing the space / where it's soul should be." Related to these sentiments is Thomas Troeger's assertion that, "The countercultural vision of beauty includes a prophetic perspective that employs beauty in nurturing justice and peace." Troeger makes it clear that we need a theology of beauty and that "we need preaching that contributes to the strenuous work of making meaning, imaging worlds, and creating beauty."

September 3 – *Our Labor, Our Faith*

Susan Dorbeck, Worship Leader
Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Assistant

September 10 – *Joint Worship Service at Tree of Life UU Church in McHenry, IL*

10 a.m. – brief service at UUFDF
11:45 a.m. – shared worship at Tree of Life
Forrest Brandon, Worship Leader

Ed Miguel, Assistant

September 17 – *Beauty & Imperfection*

Diane Johns, Worship Leader
Irene Faivre, Assistant

September 24 – *Beauty and the Beast*

Jack Lazzara, Worship Leader
Kriss Olsen, Assistant

CONTACTS:

OFFICE MANAGER: Beth Schewe
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Bonnie Anderson
PRESIDENT: Jack Lazzara TREASURER: Kristina Olsen
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR: Gladys Sanchez

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In case of an emergency, call the Board President Jack Lazzara or the President Elect Laura Gillberg.

Letter from the President

WELCOME TO 2017-18!

It is a new year for us here at UUFD and that means a NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES. I want to say a big 'HELLO' to everyone in the congregation. Allow me to introduce myself, I am Jack Lazzara, the New Board President for 2017-18. I bring to this important position ignorance, confusion, and performance anxiety, as well as the desire to make a positive difference. Well, at least I'm honest. Although I've never been a board president before, I've got a BS in Biology and was, among other things, a Master Optician, a bartender, warehouse laborer, phone survey taker, customer service rep., magician, writer and am a practicing Wicca. But one man is not the board. I'm supported by many experienced church members that 'have my back'. Past presidents, past treasurers, experienced office staff and members that have been here for many years.

This will be the first year the UUFD board will be without the guiding hand of Rev. Linda. I am confident we, the board, can oversee the daily operations of the church as well as take UUFD into the future. We are working closely with the Transition Team to finalize a contract with a new interim minister, and also with the many committees to be sure the RE, music program, sermons, etc. continue without interruption.

However, the board is NOT the church. YOU are the church. Just as I stepped up to fill the position as president, there are several committees that need volunteers to fill positions left open by members wanting to take a break from their years of service or moving out of the DeKalb area.

It's not as frightening as you might think to be on a committee. It's really fun and challenging to be involved in the workings of the church which you love enough to have become a member and make donations to. Join a committee and you become part of a team working together to do one thing. It's all these teams, doing their one thing, then coming together, that makes the big picture which is UUFD. If you're holding back from volunteering because of ignorance, confusion, fear or performance anxiety, remember that every one else serving on Congregational Support and Development, Lifespan Faith Development, Social Justice and Outreach, Stewardship, and Worship Committees, (even the board) are all having those same feelings. The church needs YOU. The church IS you. Remember, we're all in this together.

Blessed Be.
Jack Lazzara

It's that time again....time for the annual UUFD/CRMS school supply drive!

UUFD has been so generous and supportive of our students for all the years we've been lucky enough to have had your support!

There are two ways to donate....you can bring school supplies in and leave them in the box in the Fellowship Hall, or you can give me cash or a check and I will do the shopping for you!

In case you are out of the school supply loop, our most needed items are pencils (lots of pencils!), mechanical pencils, colored pencils, markers, paper, folders, pens, highlighters, binders and spiral notebooks, but I assure you that any school supply will find a good home with us!

Thank you again for your continued support of the students of Clinton Rosette Middle School. Our kids are lucky enough to have the right supplies, and UUFD makes a difference for our kids every year!

Thanks!!!!
Sharon Blake (sblake202@gmail.com or 815-757-2444)

UUFD Staff News

- Office manager Beth Schewe's hours are Wed 9 - 2 and Fri 10 - 3.
- We welcome Ashley Ford, our new Religious Education Administrator!



Mark Your Calendar For These UUFD Events



August

- August 2 – UUFD Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 August 2 – Yoga at 5:15 and 7 p.m. CANCELED
 August 4 – Restorative Meditation 5:30 p.m. (Every Friday)
 August 4 – Friday Deepening Group 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. (Fridays through Sept. 1)
 August 5-6 – Religious Education Lock-In
 August 6 – Buddhist Study Group and Meditation 12 – 1:30 p.m. (1st and 3rd Sundays of each month)
 August 7 – Monday Deepening Group 6:30 – 8 :30 p.m. (Mondays through Sept. 4)
 August 8 – Sanctuary and Solidarity Working Group 7 p.m.
 August 9 – Yoga at 5:15 and 7 p.m. CANCELED
 August 9 – Stitch and Witch 7:30 – 9 p.m.
 August 12 – Religious Education Volunteer Training 10 a.m.
 August 13 – Wiccan Study Group noon (2nd and 4th Sundays of each month)
 August 13 – Humanist Discussion Group noon (2nd and 4th Sundays of each month)
 August 13 – Ordinary Folk Musical Gathering 2-3:30 p.m. (2nd and 4th Sundays of each month)
 August 14 – Social Justice Meeting 7 – 8 p.m.
 All are welcome. We'll be choosing special collections for the coming year.
 August 15 – Hope Haven Meal 6:30 p.m.
 August 16 – Yoga with Ed Miguel 5:15 and 7 p.m. (Every Wednesday)
 August 17 – UU Usables Rummage Sale Set-Up 4:30 – 7 p.m.
 August 18 – UU Usables Rummage and Book Sale 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
 August 19 – UU Usables Rummage and Book Sale 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 August 24 – Beloved Community Friendship Revolution 5:30 – 7 p.m.
 August 26 – Welcome Essentials Pantry 10 a.m. – noon

September

- September 1 – Final Friday Evening Deepening Group 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
 September 2 – Brother Sun in Concert 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7)
 September 4 – Final Monday Evening Deepening Group 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
 September 6 – UUFD Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 September 10 – Joint Worship Service at Tree of Life UU Church in McHenry, IL
 10:00 a.m. – brief worship at UUFD, followed by carpool to McHenry
 11:45 a.m. – shared worship service at Tree of Life, followed by picnic
 September 13 – Stitch and Witch 7:30 – 9 p.m.
 September 19 – Hope Haven Meal 6:30 p.m.
 September 28 – Beloved Community Friendship Revolution 5:30 – 7 p.m.
 September 30 – Welcome Essentials Pantry 10 a.m. – noon

September 10: Picnic and Shared Worship Service at Tree of Life UU Church

On **Sunday, September 10**, UUFD will be heading to McHenry, IL, for a shared worship service and picnic beginning at 11:45 at Tree of Life UU Church.

We'll meet at 10 am at UUFD for a brief worship service at our usual time. Then we'll carpool to McHenry. We're excited to get to know some of our UU neighbors!

- If you would like to carpool, please get in touch with Beth in the church office.
- If you can drive, please let her know how many seats you have available in your car.
- If you are able, please bring a dessert to share! Tree of Life will provide other food and drinks.

JOYS & SORROWS



From Pam Wicking: UUFD Board and Congregation, Thank you to all those who contributed their time and talent to John's memorial service. You are a blessed church community that has supported us for over 20 years. We appreciate all of you. —Pam, Will and Hannah.



Congratulations to DeAndre Monroe, our newest UUFD member! DeAndre officially signed the membership book on July 9. Please extend a welcome when you see him.



Our thoughts are with Donna Veeneman, whose brother George died on July 14.



From Deborah Banke: Sadly my mom passed July 23rd. Thank you all for your loving support during her illness.



From Rev. Linda, Minister Emerita: Toni and I were deeply moved by all that was shared at our farewell Sunday, July 16, at UUFD. Words will never fully express the love, laughter, and tears we shared. We want to thank the UUFD Choir, Bonnie Anderson, Cymbal Singers, Terri Mann Lamb, Dorothy Coleman, Carey Boehmer, Vanstrom Dracul, Kriss Olsen and especially Diane Johns who spent countless hours preparing gifts and expressions of love that we will cherish. Knowing church life, we also want to thank those behind the scenes who helped in ways we are not aware of. Together we have accomplished so much over these years. We hope you know how much we love UUFD, how proud we are of who you are and will continue to be—a liberal, faithful, spirited congregation here in the DeKalb community. You have made, and will continue to make, a difference. May our chalice shine all through the night, and our lives fulfill the promise of peace.



Images: On July 16, UUFD said Goodbye to Rev. Linda and Toni, who retired from UUFD after 26 years of ministry and music.

Above: Cymbal UU women's musical group

Right: Worship Associate Diane Johns with Toni Tollerud, Rev. Linda, and Toni and Linda's granddaughter.

A Message from the New RE Administrator

Hello, everyone!

For those who attended the May Congregational Meeting, you know that the Board approved a new staff position for UUFD's Religious Education Program: the RE Administrator. I began on July 1st.

What does an RE Administrator do? Paperwork, organization, and **volunteer recruitment and training** (more on that in a minute!). Starting in September, I will also be teaching separate lessons on Sundays for the Bridge Builder kids (middle school and older). We will continue the "one-room schoolhouse" model through August while Gladys and I get our Fall curriculum plans in place.

Parents, we have 2 special events in August that I want you to be aware of:

1. **August 5th-6th:** We will host a "Lock-In" sleepover in the fellowship hall with movies, food, games, a pancake breakfast, and hopefully even a little shut-eye. Look for details in the eNews!
2. **August 20th and 27th:** The 27th is our Ingathering service, which is intergenerational. The children are learning a song which will be sung with the Women's Choir. There will be a special rehearsal at **9:30am** on the 20th to practice with the adults and the pianist. There may be another brief rehearsal on the 27th before service starts, so plan to come early that day as well. I am very grateful to Bonnie Anderson for coordinating this lovely opportunity for our kids to sing with the grown-ups!

Now, let's talk about volunteering with the RE Program. This has been an area that our church has struggled to organize in recent years, perhaps simply because it was never the job of any one particular person (Lifespan Faith Development, like all committees, ebbs and flows in its membership). Well, it's my job now, and I want to make it as easy and enjoyable as possible for members to devote the occasional Sunday morning to our kids.

Why do we even need volunteers? Don't we have childcare staff? Well, yes, but not always. For safety and sanity purposes, our goal is to have 2 adults present at all times to work with our younger children. That means 2 adults for Sprouts (the nursery), 2 adults for Rainbow Kids (the elementary set), and 1 adult for Bridge Builders (middle and high school). We are currently fortunate to have enough childcare workers to cover these areas *if everyone is present*. However, all of our staff gets 1 Sunday/month off, sometimes someone gets sick, or has car trouble, or a family emergency or or or... We need to build up a trained pool of volunteers who can comfortably step in and help out on the Sundays when we fall short on staff coverage. Plus, it's a wonderful way to get to know our kids and help them build connections with the church at large.

On August 12 at 10 a.m., I will host a volunteer training and orientation that will include: information on various roles to fill (based on your comfort and experience), Sunday structure and time management, curriculum, positive discipline, and much more. I value your time and will keep the session to no more than 90 minutes. This training is not required in order to volunteer, but I hope you will find it empowering!

Beginning in September, if for any reason there are not enough adults available to properly supervise RE (5 total), programming for that Sunday will be canceled, and the children may sit with their parents/guardians during the worship service. I will be working diligently to ensure that this does not happen, but won't you help me by volunteering?

Yours with the Sign-Up Sheet,
-Ashley Ford

Getting to Know a UU Maylan Dunn-Kenney

I grew up in Oklahoma and lived there until I was 49 years old. When I finished my Ph.D. at the University of Oklahoma, I was advised to have my bags packed and be ready to follow the academic job market. I wound up in DeKalb, at Northern Illinois University, knowing no one, with two large dogs and a cat in tow. I quickly concluded that I needed to get connected! Because I'd met many admirable people who were UUs, I decided to give UUFD a try. I found it through the religious page of the Daily Chronicle which used to run weekly "happenings" in the local churches. At about the same time, I discovered that a colleague was signed up for New UU classes and I went with her. Next I attended a women's retreat and a service (at the Ellwood carriage house). I signed the book. UUFD has turned out to be a perfect church home for me. I have been able to explore my spirituality, make good friends, find opportunities to serve and work for a better world, and be a part of the wider UU fellowship. It was through UUFD that I learned about the local protests against the Iraq war where I met my husband, Dan.



I grew up in a fundamentalist Christian church known as the Church of Christ. Each church was supposedly completely independent with "no creed but the Bible." However, there was an acceptable way to read the Bible, one that any thinking person would have had questions about! The Church of Christ is known for not having instrumental music (only a cappella singing), not allowing dancing, and not celebrating any of the Christian holidays (other than "the Lord's Day" as celebrated by the first century church). When I finally left that church as a young adult and let go of the guilt I felt all the time, I thought I would never again belong to a church. Unitarian Universalism has been a revelation to me! Here I am challenged to think, challenged to widen my circle of care, challenged to try new things, and challenged to live out my convictions in a meaningful way.

The Reverend Dr. William Barber has criticized those religions who make much of what the Bible says little about, and little about what the Bible says much about. That was the church in which I grew up. Today I am delighted to be in a church where we say, "We don't have to think alike to love alike."

UU Usables Rummage and Book Sale **Friday, Aug 18, from 9-6 and Saturday, Aug 19, from 9-1.**

Keep saving up those items for the UUFD Rummage and Book Sale!

- You can bring your items to the church basement anytime the building is open, or you can bring them to church Wednesday, Aug 16 from 9-2 or Thursday, Aug 17 from 4:30-7 and they can be left in the Fellowship Hall.
- We accept gently used and clean clothing, furniture, and household items. No TVs, please.
- We'll need lots of help with set up and take down for the sale. We'll be setting up Thursday, Aug 17 at 4:30 pm and take down will be at 1 pm Saturday, Aug 19. If you have an hour or two to help, it would be greatly appreciated.
- With questions or to volunteer, please contact Carey Boehmer or the church office.

Thank you!

Book Talk

Beau Anderson, Librarian and Archivist

The arrangement of books in most libraries is generally by subject. Books within that subject area may then be subdivided further by related subjects. The UUFDF library, being a small library, arranges books into about twenty subject headings from Biography to Women's Studies. The heading with the most books are shelved with the subject labeled "Inspirational." This broad heading includes books covering areas of, for example, tranquility, contemplation, self-acceptance, and search for the meaning of one's life. The books are authored by numerous individuals, some noteworthy, such as, Deepak Chopra and M. Scott Peck.

The popularity of inspirational books is not surprising. Who doesn't like to be inspired in some way? Quality of life, wisdom, and enjoyment are not automatically bestowed on one, but rather one will have to learn how to live. Many books provide insight by way of Buddhist wisdom, finding life's purpose, or perhaps calming tips for everyday living. Occasionally a book may help change a life. Here are three examples of inspirational books.

- Eckhart Tolle is a contemporary spiritual teacher and is the author of the bestselling book, *The Power of Now*. It is available in the UUFDF library along with *A New Earth: A Wakening to Your Life's Purpose*, and others. Tolle's writings have been read a number of times during our Sunday services.
- Dan Millman, author of the million-copy bestseller, *Ways of the Peaceful Warrior*, is recognized as inspiring both men and women and changing lives.
- Jack Kornfield is a Buddhist teacher, meditation master, and prolific author. His book, *After the Ecstasy, the Laundry*, insists that enlightenment exists; however, after experiencing unbound freedom and joy, oneness with the divine, and other, we are faced with translating that freedom into our imperfect lives, for example, we're faced with the laundry. Portions of this book have also been part of our Sunday services.

These books and many other inspirational books are available in the UUFDF library for checkout. As an aside, the "Inspirational" books are shelved on the bottom shelves which make perusing difficult. I plan to move this subject section to some middle shelves for easier access.

Also, the UU Useables Rummage and Booksale is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, August 18th and 19th. Donations to the Useables sale would be most welcome. Donated books really help restock the books for sale. Items can be dropped off at the church whenever the building is accessible. Questions? Please ask me.

A Note from Our New Music Director

Taking over as Music Director is very important to me. Toni built something extraordinary for this congregation, and I will do my best to continue that tradition.

A note about the Prelude and Offertory Music for services: I will find something appropriate for each service or will be playing classical music selections. These titles will usually be printed in the bulletin each week to give credit to composers.

If you have comments, requests, or suggestions, please approach me after service. I'm happy to hear what you have to say.

- Bonnie Anderson

UUFDF Choir will resume in August. Everyone is welcome in the choir!

I pledge to you my devotion as the new Music Director. This choir is an essential part of worship here. For rehearsals we will be seated facing the piano, so help with chair movements will be appreciated greatly.

August 20 we meet at 9:00. I will distribute our Service Music Schedule. We will rehearse. The CHILDREN will join us at 9:30 for a rehearsal of a women/children piece we are doing for Ingathering.

August 27 is Ingathering. Choir will be singing. We meet at 9:00. CHILDREN will join us at 9:30 for brief rehearsal of "Be with Me"

September 3 rehearsal at 9:00. We will be preparing for the Tree of Life (McHenry) joint service scheduled on September 10. We will join their choir for "Deep Peace" and "Listen to the Voices." Then alone we will do two pieces. I'll have them selected by August 20.

September 10 rehearsal at 9:15 to quickly run through the Tree of Life music. We will have a short UUFDF service then car pool to McHenry. This is will be discussed thoroughly on September 3.

September 17 - no choir (special music)

September 24 - no choir (Ordinary Folk)

Brother Sun in Concert at UUFD

Saturday, September 2

Doors open: 7 p.m.

Concert begins: 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$17 in advance and \$20 at the door

This will be one of Brother Sun's final shows as a trio before the artists move on to solo work and other projects. Join us for one of the last shows of this unforgettable group.



Advance tickets available in person at UUFD
or online at <https://dekalbcountytickets.ticketforce.com/> (online convenience fee added).