



The Pathfinder



A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb

Volume 54, Issue 10

158 N. Fourth St.

DeKalb, IL 60115

Dec. 2013/Jan. 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 February edition of the Pathfinder is **January 19, 2014**.

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
Phone: 757-3131
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Sunday Services: Service 10:00 A.M. till 11:15 A.M.

December: Trust

It's all relational. As the African proverb teaches: A person is not a person without other people. How shall we "nurture our families and our spiritual lives? How is trust foundational and how do we create it? How is it broken and how do we heal it?"

December 1

No Choir

Worship Leader: Donna Veeneman

Assistant: Maylan Dunn-Kenney

Sermon: *Trusting in Life*

December 8

Choir

Worship Leader: Rev. Linda Slabon

Assistant: Elisa Woodruff

Sermon: *Trusting in Community*

December 15

Choir

Worship Leader: Frank O'Barski

Assistant: Kelly Thornburg

Sermon: *Trusting In Yourself*

December 22

Choir

Worship Leader: Rev. Linda

Assistant: Dave Becker

Sermon: *Celebration of Winter Solstice*

Intergenerational Service

December 24

Choir

Worship Leader: Rev. Linda

Assistant: Bill Lamb

Sermon: *Christmas Eve Service at 4 p.m.*

A service of Carols, Readings and Candlelight

December 29

No Choir

Worship Leader: Donna Veeneman

Assistant: TBA

Sermon: *TBA*

January: Poverty

A person can know poverty in many ways. Poverty is scarcity of physical needs, but also lack of warmth, food, sunlight, touch, and to be spiritually bereft. It is a condition of body or spirit or mind. How is it that we have come to blame people if they are poor?

January 5

No Choir

Worship Leader: Dave Becker

Assistant: Elisa Woodruff

Sermon: *Comfort The Afflicted, Afflict The Comfortable.*

January 12

No Choir

Worship Leader: Sue Willis

Assistant: Donna Veeneman

Sermon: *If You're so Rich, Why Aren't You Smart?" An exploration of how we can be materially wealthy but intellectually poor.*

January 19

Choir

Worship Leader: Rev. Linda

Assistant: Maylan Dunn-Kenney

Sermon: *Extremists for Love*

January 26

Choir

Worship Leader: Rev. Linda

Assistant: Kelly Thornburg

Sermon: *Behind the Kitchen Door*

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

The Winter 2013 edition of our UU World magazine closes with this quote: *"We are not in church to be with people who want to sing the same music, or rally for the same cause, or attend the same retreats. We are in church to learn to love better. And learning to love better can only happen when we love past our disappointments and return to a place of acceptance and affirmation. This is true in our personal lives, in our work lives, and in our church lives. It is a deep spiritual practice."* - Laila Ibrahim

Since August 2013 we've been sharing stories, talking, and considering what comes next in our life together as a religious community. Your Long Range Planning Team brought us through a process so that we might answer the questions that I have raised: "What is UUFD's strength of spirit?" and "What results do we want to create?" The LRP team final report was made available to you via email, hard copies, and at the Nov. 17 Bi-annual Congregational Meeting the LRP team presented the report. We have answered the questions and we voted to establish two capital campaigns to address some specific desires that require financial commitment. As Jeff Kowalski summed it up, "We will need to determine how our desires intersect with our commitments and our wallets."

Yes, it is one thing to dream, to envision, and to plan – it is another thing to commit your time, money and talents to create the spiritual community that we aspire to become. I fully agree with Laila Ibrahim (quote above) – it begins by each of us learning to love better.

One person who has helped us learn to love better is Dave Becker, our current

Religious Education Director. At the Nov. 17 meeting, Dave announced that he has accepted a part-time research position in accord with his work to complete his doctorate. He will not, therefore, be able to continue as the DRE at UUFD, although he will continue through the holidays and into the month of January. I share with you here the words of appreciation for Dave that I gave at the Congregational Meeting:

Our warmest thanks to Dave Becker for his service and ministry. Dave began as our Director of RE in August of 2011. He has been served in the position for only 2 years and 2 months but, in that time, Dave took our children's religious education program – which had dwindled to almost non-existent – and brought it back to life. He nurtured adult volunteers encouraging their gifts in working with our children and for the children's programs he developed curriculums, art projects, outings, and singing – all that taught and promoted UU theology and values. Dave conceived fresh ideas and led groups for a variety of events including: Community Play Day at Hopkins Park, *The 9-11 Decade of Impact: An Open Mic Experience of Healing and Peace*, and *A Multi-faith Gathering of Reflection, Dialogue, Arts and Music*, holiday tree decorating at Brookfield Zoo, walking the sacred labyrinth, *Spirit Play*, and one of my favorite events – summer garden harvest day at the minister's home. Dave's attention and inclusive support for families and children with special needs was skillful and deeply appreciated.

I have dearly enjoyed working with Dave on the development of stronger Intergenerational Sunday services, linking worship themes with the new Wonder Box stories for selected Sundays, developing the Youth and

Young Adults group (Go YAYA!), and surviving our first UUFD overnight Bridging Retreat and program that culminated in the Spring 2013 service honoring our UUFD Young Adult Bridgers. Not only did Dave do his work in Lifespan Faith Development, but during his tenure as our RE Director he served as a Worship Associate, sang in the choir as often as he could, attended the 2012 UUA General Assembly, and most recently was a dedicated partner on the Board selected Long Range & Strategic Planning Team.

Dave's patience, commitment to creating a sustainable plan for long-term program success, ability as a team-player and gentle leader, and his enthusiasm to engage the creativity of others as our DRE will be dearly missed. So as a colleague in ministry, I thank him... let us support his new opportunity for professional development and be grateful that we are not losing him as a member of our congregational home.

As we move into the winter months of 2014 may the light of Love guide us. Change comes. Disappointments come. Sorrow comes. New life comes. Let us each day return to a place of acceptance and affirmation. Let us deepen the spiritual source within. And, as we learn to love better – May we open our eyes to what is needed. May we lend our hands in support. May we give from our wealth that others may thrive – so that we might create in reality the vision of a faithful Unitarian Universalist church.

In CommUNITY.



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 will be on vacation December 28, 2013 thru January 13, 2014. She will be available beginning Tuesday, January 14.
- The Church Office will be closed on Friday, November 29, Tuesday, December 24 and Tuesday December 31.



Mark Your Calendar For These UUFD Events



November

24	Grown-Up's Table	3 to 5 p.m.
26	Evening Meditation (meets every Tuesday)	5:15 p.m.
29	Peaceful Meditation (meets every Friday)	11 a.m.

December

1	Yoga	7 p.m.
4	Board Meeting	7:30 p.m.
5	Mindfulness Meditation (meets every Thursday @ Estelle's)	10:30 a.m.
6	LFDP Potluck (meets every first Friday)	6:30 p.m.
7	Stress Relief Retreat	3 to 5 p.m.
11	Stitch 'n Witch	7:30 p.m.
12	Teach Girls Global (meets every second Thursday)	5 p.m.
14	Winter Market	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
17	UUFD supplies Hope Haven meal	
20	Game Night (meets every third Friday)	7 p.m.
24	Christmas Eve service	4 p.m.
24	Christmas Eve Open House @ Rev. Linda's	6 to 10 p.m.

January

2	Mindfulness Meditation (meets every Thursday @ Estelle's)	10:30 a.m.
3	Peaceful Meditation (meets every Friday)	11 a.m.
3	LFDP Potluck (meets every first Friday)	6:30 p.m.
7	Evening Meditation (meets every Tuesday)	5:15 p.m.
8	Board Meeting in Fellowship Hall	7:30 p.m.
8	Stitch 'n Witch in Library	7:30 p.m.
17	Game Night	7 p.m.
19	Pathways class 1 (details to follow)	
25	Welcome Café Brunch	10 a.m. to Noon

Congregational Support and Development News!

First off, mark your calendars for Saturday, December 7, from 3 to 5 p.m. We are hosting a Stress Relief Retreat, just in time for the holidays! Plan to join us for a session of Laughter Yoga and several other stress-busting activities! Light refreshments will be served. Please sign up ahead of time in the Fellowship Hall, or call Jen S. at 815-991-9348. There is a donation request of \$5/person to help defray costs. It's sure to be a really fun time, so plan to join us on December 7!

At this time of Thanksgiving, it seems totally appropriate to thank all the UUFD folks who have done such wonderful ministry with coffee hour and greeting in October, November and December. We are so lucky to have so many people who pull together every week to see to it that visitors are welcomed and that everyone can enjoy fellowship at coffee hour. Thank these people when you see them next....and, don't forget to volunteer yourself if you haven't yet! Many hands make light work, you know!

The greeters from October through the end of the year are: The Stamatakos family, Beau Anderson, Linda Matuszewski, Virginia Wilcox, The Kowalski family, Betty and Wayne Albrecht, Ed and Chris Miguel, Sharon and Melissa Blake, and of course, greeter extraordinaire...Lon Clark. Thanks to one and all! Coffee hour hosts have been Beth Schewe, Jen and Tom S, Cassandra (after having only attended twice!), Sharon Blake, Cathy Schneider, Bonnie Anderson, Mary and Jeff K, Linda Matuszewsk, Terri M/L, Glenda Cosenza and Clark Neher (hey, Clark....you did great!!!). I apologize if I missed anyone....the September page has gone missing! We thank everyone who contributes to our wonderful greeting and coffee hour program...you are appreciated! Oh, by the way, the new sign up sheet starting in January is pretty blank...help us fill it up quickly, please! Thanks again to all....Sharon Blake (sblake202@gmail.com)

JOYS & CONCERNS



To Margaret Binhackova , may you continue to recover from the car accident in November.

UUFDF members and friends send love and support to the Dave Diaz family as they face family struggles.

Thank you to Sue Willis and Frank O'Barski for the donation of the new printer and copier.



UUFDF members and friends thank the Long Range Planning team for their work and recommendations. Team members include Beth Schewe, Dorothy Coleman, Dave Becker, Tom & Jenny Stamatakos, Carey Boehmer, and Rev. Linda Slabon.

Shop at the UUFDF Winter Farmers' Market and Support Local Farmers and Artists

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb will be holding their first Winter Farmers' Market of the 2013- 2014 season. The market will be open 9am to 3pm on Saturday December 14. Admission \$1.

"This will be our largest market as we have over 35 vendors. Many of the vendors are with the market for the first time. We also have another local farmer from DeKalb County joining us this year." Dan Kenney, organizer of the event said in a media release. "Jeff Wielert of Bountiful Blessings Farm will have fresh produce, value added items, as well as fresh evergreen wreaths for sale."

In addition Montalbano Farms of Sandwich area will also be on hand promoting their CSA boxes of fresh organically grown produce. There will also be fresh grass fed hormone free beef from Hassellman Farms. In addition Scott Hassellman will also have farm fresh eggs, free range chicken, pork, sausage, locally sourced cheese, and more, all organically and humanely raised. There will also be locally raised honey.

In addition to the farmers, the market will offer over 30 artists and craft-persons from the DeKalb County area. There will be a very large variety of craft and art work items. There will also be baked goods, homemade breads, and many other delicious items to choose from.

"We have vendors offering a great variety of items for sale, from metal jewelry to crocheted items, hooked rugs, goat soap, hats, original paintings, weaving supplies, and much, much more. I can't begin to list all of the items available. It will be a great, fun market to attend." Kenney said.

In addition to all of the vendors and activity there will also be live music all day on the stage. Again a variety of local musicians will be sharing their talent from piano to steel guitar, and more.

Also, Sunflower Catering of DeKalb will be providing hot food all day. There will also be a commons area set up for people to gather, have coffee, tea, soup, or hot chocolate and talk.

"We are often complimented on the fun community atmosphere and what an enjoyable market it is. We hope people stop by and join in the fun." Kenney said. "It is a great way to experience a warm and fun community event while also supporting local artists and growers. It is important to shop local, when you buy directly from a local farmer or artist the money you spend multiplies throughout the community instead of leaving the county. It supports and helps build a strong local DeKalb County economy."

Mark your calendars for future markets on Saturday February 1st and March 22. If you would like more information contact, Dan Kenney 815-793-0950 or dkenney53@hotmail.com.



A Note From UUFD's Director of Religious Education

November 17, 2013

Dear Rev. Linda, UUFD Board, and UUFD Congregation,

I regret to inform each of you that I will no longer be able to continue as the Director of Religious Education for our congregation and am submitting my resignation. My last day will be January 31, 2014. This is a difficult decision as I truly love and enjoy serving our children, families, and youth through our growing Lifespan Faith Development programs.

I have recently been offered a Research Assistant position on a National Science Foundation grant funded project that involves a partnership between the Chicago Zoological Society, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Eden Place Nature Center. This project is critical to my dissertation research and is an exciting opportunity, however, involves a time commitment that will not enable me to maintain my current position at UUFD.

I want to thank each of you for the incredible experience I have had these past few years. I will always treasure the time that I have spent as our DRE and look forward to continuing to support our children and youth as a UUFD congregational member. I am really proud of all we have accomplished together in creating a welcoming environment for all children and nurturing their growth and faith development. I know that all of us will continue to embrace and lift this vital area of our UUFD ministry- our religious education programs for all ages and for all abilities.

Again, my deepest appreciation to each of you. It is a blessing to be on this journey with you.

In the spirit of life, love, and learning,

Dave Becker
DRE



Winter WomanSpirit 2014 Set For February

CYMBAL is providing the music for the Winter WomanSpirit conference from February 7-9.

Wisdom for the Journey: A Weekend with Sue Monk Kidd

Writer Sue Monk Kidd is one of the foremost explorers of the feminine divine and spiritual creativity for women. Come spend a weekend laughing, learning, and growing at the Winter WomanSpirit 2014. Explore your inner goddess with us!

Register today: <https://www.regonline.com/w2014>

DuPage UU Congregation
1828 Old Naperville Road
Naperville, IL

Accommodations (need to be made separately)

Hilton Lisle

3003 Corporate W. Dr

Lisle, IL 60532

630/505-0900

Code: CCMW

Call 1-800-552-2599 or access www.hiltonlisenaperville.com

Mark Your Calendars For These UU Events!

Friday Dec 6 @ 6:30 p.m. RE Potluck and Discussion

On Friday December 6 at 6:30pm we will meet to discuss LFD programs, all RE volunteers, LFDP coordinators, potential volunteers, and interested adults are invited and welcome to participate. We will complete sign-up schedule, answer questions, plan programs, and more. Children are welcome and movie will be provided while the adults are meeting. Please bring food to share for a potluck, followed by discussion.

Sunday Dec 22- Intergenerational Worship: Celebration of Winter Solstice

Our next intergenerational service is Sunday December 22 and the children will be singing in this service. Please see Dave to obtain music for extra practice at home. We will also practice during Sunday morning RE.

UUs for Social Justice

Annual Meeting is Sunday, December 1, 2013 from 2 to 5 p.m. It will be held at the Unitarian Church of Evanston at 1330 N. Ridge Ave. (in Room 3) in Evanston, IL. The church is roughly one block north of Dempster. Parking is on the west side of the church. Highlights include a "MOVE TO AMEND" workshop presented by the Task Force on Economic Justice and Homelessness. Business meeting will include financial reports, election of officers, task force reports, and more. For further information: uusj@sbcglobal.net or 773/595-4921



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DeKalb, IL 60115