



# The Pathfinder



A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb

Volume 60, Issue 1

158 N. Fourth St.

DeKalb, IL 60115

Feb.—March 2019

## 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 April/May edition of the Pathfinder is **March 17**. 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) or hard copy left in the Office Manager's mailbox in the library.

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

### February Theme: Surrender/Letting Go

Surrender is not valued in the West. We want control while denying that there are limits to our control. In Buddhism, detachment is cultivated. It is not a failure to care, but accepting what is beyond our control. Osho writes, "Linguistically, surrender means to surrender to somebody, but religiously, surrender simply means trust, relaxing. It is an attitude rather than an act: you live through trust."

**February 3** – *Goodbye to Yesterday, Hello to Tomorrow*

Jack Lazzara, Worship Leader  
Ed Miguel, Assistant

**February 10** – *The Lamp Beside the Golden Door: Welcoming Immigrants to America*

*With guest worship leaders February Sky*  
*We will look at the treatment of various immigrant groups when they first arrived in the U.S., and consider how we, as Unitarian Universalists, can help to welcome our new neighbors from other lands.*

Diane Johns, Worship Leader  
Dorothy Coleman, Assistant

**February 17** – *Valley of the Shadow of Regret*

*We all have those moments, when we wish we had chosen differently. When do we need to let go of our regrets, or set them aside, to move forward? And when do we need to embrace them?*

Rev. Jennifer Gracen, Worship Leader  
Madeline DiNatale, Assistant

**February 24** – *Guest Speaker Jack Reich*

Ed Miguel, Worship Leader  
Vanstrom Dracul, Assistant

### March Theme: Truth

Truth. It's part of our religious search according to our fourth principle: "A free and responsible search for truth and meaning." Truth is the philosopher's quest, the scientist's North Star, the poet's muse, and the social activist's passion. For us, science and religion are both valuable and venerated tools for truth seeking. Yet we approach truth with humility, truth not TRUTH.

**March 3** – *The Triumph of Truth*

Diane Johns, Worship Leader  
Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Assistant

**March 10** – *Measure Your Life with Love*

Kriss Olsen, Worship Leader  
Ed Miguel, Assistant

**March 17** – *The Truth Is Out There*

Elisa Woodruff, Worship Leader  
Dorothy Coleman, Assistant

**March 24** – *The Invention of Lying*

*What does it mean to lie? Is lying always the moral high ground? If everyone lies how can we ever trust each other?*

Rev. Jenn Gracen, Worship Leader  
Diane Johns, Assistant

**March 31** – *The Truth of the Matter Is...*

Ed Miguel, Worship Leader  
Vanstrom Dracul, Assistant

### CONTACTS:

INTERIM MINISTER: Rev. Jennifer Gracen ([minister@uufdekalb.org](mailto:minister@uufdekalb.org), 815-408-1079)

OFFICE MANAGER: Kathryn Jones

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Bonnie Anderson

PRESIDENT: Laura Gillberg

TREASURER: Kristina Olsen

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

*In case of an emergency, call Rev. Gracen, the Board President Laura Gillberg, or the President Elect Jenny Stamatakos.*

## Gray Areas: Thoughts from the Minister

In one of my favorite shows, “The Vicar of Dibley,” a new vicar (Anglican priest) is sent to serve a small English town that fully expects a minister much like the last one they had. When their newcomer arrives, the church leadership reacts with shock: Their new minister is a woman!

Sensing their reaction, she says, “You were expecting a bloke – beard, bible, bad breath? And instead you got a babe with a bob cut and a magnificent bosom?” This is a show of what happens when you must let go of your expectations to welcome in something new. Although it took them a bit of time to get used to this unexpected change, the partnership eventually became a fruitful one.

We bring expectations into almost all new situations. We expect certain people, certain behaviors, certain outcomes. Sometimes expectations can be a clue, offering us insight on what we want in a new situation. And knowing what we expect gives us a sense of control over change. How do we move into new realities without our expectations preventing us from being open to new possibilities?

I’ve learned that it helps to acknowledge that all change comes with loss. Even change we are eagerly awaiting, like the birth of a new baby or the start of a new project, comes with losses – loss of the way things used to be, loss of idealistic visions of how things will be from now on. Recognizing that change comes with certain losses, it’s important to remember that which will not be lost. We prepare for change by having an idea what is at the

core of who we are, individually and as a community. What is our DNA, the essential parts that will not be discarded? If we know who we are and separate the essentials from non-essentials, we open ourselves up to new possibilities. We have the chance to let go of our expectations, knowing that there is a deeper truth that remains even in the midst of change.

In faith,

*Rev. Jenn Gracen*



### UUFD Staff News

#### Rev. Jenn’s schedule

- In February and March, Rev. Jenn will be here the 3rd and 4th weekends.
- Rev. Jenn encourages you to reach out to her if you’d like to meet or talk by phone: 815-408-1079.
- Office manager Kathryn Jones’s hours are Wed 9 - 2 and Fri 10 - 3.

#### Congregational Care sends out a big thank you to our December and January greeters and coffee hour hosts!

It takes a village to put on a Sunday service, and that is something that we do exceptionally well.

Our December and January greeters were Wayne and Betty Albrecht, Sharon Blake, Kevin Vancil, Cathy Schneider, and Cheryl Haines.

Our December and January coffee hour hosts were Howard Soloman, Sharon Blake, Daen Aumann and Eric Weyenberg, Bonnie and Beau Anderson, Nicole and Shane Diebel, Estelle and Mary Von Zellen (thanks so much for thinking of us, Estelle!!!!), and Kim Myers.

Many of the above people did jobs more than once. We always need more volunteers, so please check out the sheet on the table in the Fellowship Hall and do your part to support our fellow UU’s on our Sunday mornings together. You are needed and so appreciated!!!

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions!  
Sharon Blake, 815-757-2444 or [sblake202@gmail.com](mailto:sblake202@gmail.com)



## Mark Your Calendar For These UUFD Events



### February

- Feb 1 - Restorative Meditation 5:30 p.m. (Fridays)
- Feb 1 – Social Justice First Friday Film Fest 6:30 p.m.
- Feb 3 – Buddhist Study Group and Meditation 11:45 a.m. (1st & 3rd Sundays)
- Feb 6 – Yoga with Ed Miguel 5:30 p.m. & 7 p.m. (Wednesdays)
- Feb 9 – Winter Market 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Feb 10 – February Sky Performance during worship
- Feb 10 – Ordinary Folk Musical Gathering 2 – 3:30 p.m. (2nd & 4th Sundays)
- Feb 10 – Wiccan Study Group noon (2nd & 4th Sundays)
- Feb 17 – Board Meeting noon
- Feb 19 – Hope Haven Meal 6:30 p.m.
- Feb 23 – Worship Associate Retreat and Training 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

### March

- Mar 19 – Hope Haven Meal 6:30 p.m.
- Mar 23 – Buddhist Study Group Half-day Retreat 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Mar 29 – WE Pantry Bagging (See eNews for more details as the date approaches)
- Mar 30 – UUFD Welcome Essentials Pantry 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

**Save the date for UU Winter Markets!** The next market is Saturday, **February 9**. Please drop off your books for the book sale. Contact Dan Kenney if you'd like to volunteer.

There will be a **Worship Associates Retreat** on February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9 to 3 p.m. **New and first-time associates are welcome!** If you are interested in joining our Worship Associate team, please contact Ed Miguel or Rev. Jenn and fill out an application.

The **Enlightenment Study Group has been canceled** due to low attendance.

### As the Wheel Turns

Another year has come and gone. The days are now noticeably longer, we can see the coming of spring on the horizon. In the Celtic Pagan traditions this has been called IMBOLG, the Christians renamed it CANDLEMAS, the day of celebration is February 2nd.

By the turning of the wheel of the seasons we are now halfway thru winter. So it is time to say goodbye to yesterday. It is a good time to make a note of what you want to leave in the last year and toss it into the fire. It is a time to take your candles and tools to be used in the new year and bless (or recharge) them on the altar. In ancient Rome the priest of Pan would strip naked except for a goatskin girdle and run thru the streets whipping the young women to make them fertile. The women could help him on his run by running naked along with him. I don't see this catching on in Unitarian Universalist circles.

Another tradition was that if there was fine weather on February 2 there would be more winter days to come. Bad weather meant an early spring. Sounds like Ground Hog Day to me. To welcome the new spring, a young girl wearing a crown of candles would lead a parade in a festival of lights to welcome the coming spring. It also is the time to begin the spring cleaning of the house. So the housewife sings as she cleans, "Thus we banish winter, Thus we welcome spring, Say farewell to what is dead, And greet each living thing. Thus we banish winter, Thus we welcome spring."

BLESSED BE!

Jack Lazzara

# JOYS & SORROWS



Thank you again to everyone who volunteered and donated to the UUFD Welcome Essentials Pantry over the last month! We had a very cold day for the January Pantry, so our crowd was small, but friendly and very grateful to be together. It was a true joy to have the DeKalb County Community Gardens mobile food pantry on site with us that morning.



Congratulations to the Dahlal family, who hosted their son's rice feeding ceremony in UUFD's Fellowship Hall in January. Thank you to volunteers Laura, Maylan, and Howard for making this possible.



*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.*

## **The worship theme for February is Surrender/Letting Go; for March the theme is Truth.**

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!

## **HOPE HAVEN NEWS**

There are three more months of sign-up sheets on the Hope Haven clip board, so sign up early! After those three months (February, March, and April), Maylan Dun-Kenney will not be coordinating the meal anymore. If you are interested in coordinating, talk to Maylan, Jack Reich, or Dorothy Coleman. Maylan can share with you the template for making the sign-up sheets and contacts, etc.

Thanks to all the people who helped with the meals in December and January: Danika Lovings, Kim Myers, Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Sharon Blake, Sheryl Nak, Chris Miguel, Cathy Schneider, Mary Von Zellen, Virginia Wilcox, Bonnie Anderson, and Kathy Clark. Cooking for 60 people has been a challenge and without quite a few volunteers, it can't be done!

## News from the Social Justice Committee

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming social justice events:

### Sunday, January 13- Sunday, February 17

Guest at Your Table (GAYT) Fundraiser. The Guest At Your Table program, inaugurated many years ago by the UU Service Committee (UUSC), is the organization's main fundraiser. Members of our congregations are invited to take home one of the a small cardboard boxes we have distributed on the tables in the Fellowship Hall and imagine that they have invited into their home individuals from the partner social justice organizations UUSC works with in nations experiencing civic difficulties. During the fundraising period, put your loose change or place a single donation into the box or any envelope and return it to church by Sunday, February 17. Collected funds will then be sent to UUSC. For a \$40 donation, you get a year's membership in UUSC. Well worth it! UUFD has been a strong supporter of UUSC in the past and we hope to make a significant contribution this year as well.

### Friday, February 1

The FIRST of our NEW "First Friday Film Fun" Nights. We'll look at a documentary about the apparent theft of the 2016 election.

### Saturday, February 9

UUFD Farmers' Markets with Crafts, Used Books, and Baked Goods, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Always a popular community event!

### Also Saturday, February 9

Northern Illinois UU Cluster Social Justice gathering, Rockford UU, 9 a.m. (promptly) to 1p.m., ending with \$5 box lunch. Sadly, THAT'S THE SAME DAY AS OUR FARMERS' MARKET, so some of you are committed here in DeKalb. Sorry 'bout that. Have fun! We'll miss each other. If you are interested in carpooling to the event, please contact Dorothy at 815-901-4332 or dcoleman405@gmail.com.

### February 10 and March 10

The Social Justice Committee will meet at Fellowship Hall at 11:45 after coffee hour. If you have questions about our Social Justice Ministry, please contact either one of the Co-chairs, Dorothy Coleman or Jack Reich. We welcome any who would like to be part of our ongoing efforts!

### Other Announcements:

The Social Justice Ministry is forming a group to work on the **GREEN SANCTUARY accreditation process** with UUA. GREEN SANCTUARY accreditation is a formal recognition of a congregation's service and dedication to the Earth. The congregation engages in a two to three-year process of bringing congregational culture into greater alignment with environmentally aware faith and practices. UUFD is already active in many types of environmental activities, so engaging in the GREEN SANCTUARY process is a natural step for our congregation. More information is available at UUA's website (<https://www.uua.org/environment/sanctuary>). A meeting to form a Green Team to lead this process will be scheduled in the near future. If you are interested in joining the Green Team, please contact Virginia Wilcox (vlw@niu.edu).

We have recently set up a **Google Group** for our Social Justice Committee called UUFD-SJC. We will be using this group e-mail for announcements, planning, reports, and other internal discussions. If you are interested in becoming involved in our ministry and would like to follow our committee's internal communications, please contact one of the co-moderators, Jack Reich at [humanist7@gmail.com](mailto:humanist7@gmail.com) or Carey Boehmer ([tradercarey@att.net](mailto:tradercarey@att.net)) to be added to the group.

### REVISED UUFD Choir Schedule – 2019

We will have some rehearsals-only Sundays. Please do your best to attend every rehearsal date. If you can, let Bonnie know beforehand if you will be missing Service Anthem Sundays.

FEBRUARY	3	Choir	Anthem
	10	NO CHOIR	Guest Presenters February Sky
	17	Choir Rehearses	Anthem (The Gift of Love)
	24	Choir Rehearses	Church Service Anthem
MARCH	3	NO CHOIR	SMALL GROUP REHEARSAL
	10	Choir Rehearses	SMALL GROUP ANTHEM
	17	Choir Rehearses	No Anthem
	24	Choir Rehearses	Church Service Anthem
	31	NO CHOIR	
APRIL	7	Choir Rehearses	Church Service Anthem
	14	Choir Rehearses	No Anthem
	21	Choir Rehearses	Church Service Anthem [EASTER – Heaven in a Wildflower]
	28	NO CHOIR	
MAY	5	Choir Rehearses	No Anthem
	12	CHOIR REHEARSESES	Church Service Anthem

## February 10, please join us for a special worship service with folk duo February Sky!



February Sky (Phil Cooper & Susan Urban) is a folk duo who specializes in presenting music-based services at various Unitarian Universalist churches and fellowships as they travel with their music.

Susan started presenting this type of service at 2nd Unitarian Church in Chicago in the 1980s. She began presenting services for other UU churches in 1998. Phil joined Susan occasionally for these services, mostly as a backup musician. When they became a duo in 2007, he began working with Susan in creating services and started taking a more active role in presentation as well. In 2013, Phil and Susan moved to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and became full time musicians and UU service presenters. They have produced five CDs of original and traditional music.

See their website for more information: [www.februarysky.com](http://www.februarysky.com)