



# The Pathfinder



A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb

Volume 64, Issue 3

158 N. Fourth St.

DeKalb, IL 60115

Jun-Jul 2023

## 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 August edition of the Pathfinder is **July 16th**. 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).

### Hybrid In-person & Online Worship

UUFD is holding in-person worship services at our usual time – Sundays at 10 a.m.

We will also share the service via Zoom. Join the service each Sunday at [uufdekalb.org/live](https://uufdekalb.org/live) or in person. Zoom access for Sunday services begins at 9:30 a.m. and service will begin at 10:00 a.m.

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

### June Theme: Ritual

*"Bowing will be part of your daily ritual. The gesture of bowing is an exterior sign of an awesome presence you are encountering. Begin your day by bowing to the dawn. A deep bow gives witness to the truth that you are awake and ready to receive the new day. All too often we take the day rather than receive it."* Macrina Wiederkehr

**Jun 4 - You've Got a Friend**  
Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Worship Leader  
Dorothy Coleman, Assistant

**Jun 11 - "Love is love" is Not Enough for Pride 2023**  
Rev. Julia Jones, Worship Leader  
Dorothy Coleman, Assistant

**Jun 18**  
Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Worship Leader  
Vanstrom Dracul, Assistant  
*UUFD Summer Music performance*

**Jun 25**  
Dorothy Coleman, Worship Leader  
Kim Myers, Assistant  
*UUFD Summer Music performance*

### July Theme: Play

*"Experiencing a lightness of being."*

*Playfulness encourages us to open our hearts and minds to the world around us, let imagination in, and explore all the possibilities that abound.*

**Jul 2**  
Ed Miguel, Worship Leader  
Kim Myers, Assistant  
*UUFD Summer Music performance*

**Jul 9**  
Rev. Julia Jones, Worship Leader  
Diane Johns, Assistant

**Jul 16**  
Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Worship Leader  
Vanstrom Dracul, Assistant  
*UUFD Summer Music performance*

**Jul 23**  
Dorothy Coleman, Worship Leader  
Ed Miguel, Assistant

**Jul 30**  
Diane Johns, Worship Leader  
Dorothy Coleman, Assistant

### CONTACTS:

MINISTER: Rev. Julia Jones ([minister@uufdekalb.org](mailto:minister@uufdekalb.org) or 301-717-8509)  
OFFICE MANAGER: Kathryn Jones (**Please contact her online or by phone**)  
MINISTER EMERITA: Rev Linda Slabon ([revslabon@aol.com](mailto:revslabon@aol.com) or 815-501-4788)  
PRESIDENT: Kim Myers  
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](https://uufdekalb.org)

*In case of an emergency, call Board Past President Ed Miguel, or President Kim Myers.*

# Minister's Thoughts

Hello Friends!

Summer is upon us. For some that may include an adventure or two. For others it may simply mean more heat added to the usual routine. For most churches, summer shows up with a fair amount of shifting, shimmering, and shaking.

Folks' schedules change as school aged kids are released from their academic obligations and parents, grandparents, and caregivers are summoned to service as entertainers, taxi drivers, and educators. Ephemeral wonders and experiences appear for us to behold if we are present enough to notice and absorb them: lightning bugs, flowers, swimming, boating, hiking, and getting outside to soak up that Vitamin D to hold us through next winter. And even though this happens every year, usually in August church members start to wonder if church is going to be okay.

The change in routine means we don't always see the people we expect to at service. Numbers ebb and flow with shifting schedules and responsibilities. Travel keeps people away. We sometimes feel a little, well, sparse as the warm months proceed. And we start to worry. Will they come back?

I'm here to tell you, to remind you, that this is the rhythm of the church year and that even large congregations experience it. I'm also here to remind you that we will continue to be here through the shifting tides of this season and we will return to "business as (some version of) usual" come fall. Having endured through so much unpredictability and change, it feels important to give that reassurance as friends and

members come and go in this season that allows a little more fun from time to time.

I encourage you, no matter what your summer plans, to remember always that the church, our congregation, is not about this physical spot on the corner of 4th and Locust. It is about our connection and our willingness to walk together through what lies ahead. It is about our ability to use those connections to anchor ourselves and to practice love in the world by being anchors for one another always. We are here. You are here (in spirit if not in body). And none of us is alone.

In Faith,  
Rev Julia



## UUFD Staff News

### Minister's "office" hours:

Rev. Julia will be in DeKalb Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and will be working remotely Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please feel free to email, text, or call to schedule an appointment to meet with her. Her phone number is 301-717-8509, and her email address is [minister@uufdekalb.org](mailto:minister@uufdekalb.org). Please note that she is a part-time employee and therefore may not respond to e-mails immediately. For urgent pastoral care needs, please call her on her cell phone and leave a message if you do not reach her directly. Thank you.



## Mark Your Calendar For These UUFD Events



We're beginning to have more in-person events, but things may still change in response to the current COVID situation. 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.

### Ongoing Events

Rev. Julia's Virtual Drop-in Lunch via Zoom – Tuesdays 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Yoga with Ed Miguel – Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

Craft & The Craft – Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

Restorative Meditation – Fridays 6:00 p.m.

UUFD Breakfast Club – 3rd Fridays 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Lincoln Inn

Buddhist Study Group via Zoom – 1st & 3rd Sundays 11:45 a.m.

*Zoom links are sent to everyone on the Buddhist Group mailing list. If someone not on our mailing list would like to join us, please contact Howard Solomon at [dochoward00001@gmail.com](mailto:dochoward00001@gmail.com).*

### June 2023

June 3 – Rev. Julia's Ordination – 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

June 11 – UUA Update meeting – following worship service

June 20 – Hope Haven Meal – 6:30 p.m.

June 24 – Drive-thru WE Pantry – 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

June 25 – Board Meeting – 11:45 a.m.

### July 2023

July 18 – Hope Haven Meal 6:30 p.m.

July 29 – Drive-Thru WE Panty 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

July 30 – Board Meeting—To be determined



We would like to thank ALL of the volunteers that joined us in May to plant flowers in UUFD's adopted flower bed (at the corner of Locust and First) and to help out with the plant sale.

We could not have done it without you!



**The worship theme for June is Ritual; for July the theme is Play.**

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

## Spring Congregational Meeting 2023

### We Have a New Name!

Drumroll please.... At the May 2023 congregational meeting, our community voted to become the **Unitarian Universalist Congregation of DeKalb**. Thanks to all who gave ideas, shared their thoughts, and helped us make this important decision. This name change is part of a bigger push to become more visible in the community and communicate more clearly who we are and what we care about. We're in the process of submitting paperwork to the state to make our name change official (so don't start making out those checks to UUCD quite yet). Keep your eyes open for some new signs and wording soon!

### New Board Members

With Ed Miguel, Ashley Ford, and Jack Reich rotating off the board, the congregation elected Dorothy Coleman to come in as President Elect and Florence Gerlach as Member-at-Large.

We're still in need of a new Treasurer, so please reach out to the office or a board member to learn more! Ashley has kindly agreed to continue to help with bookkeeping during the transition period, but it's important for us to fill this vital role soon.

### Financial Report

The good news is that our budget deficit for the year is significantly smaller than we anticipated. The bad news is, we still expect to have about a \$10,000 shortfall this year, and again the following year.

### Here's a report from Treasurer Ashley Ford with more details.

Given that our budget shortfall was roughly \$10K less than expected, I did a detailed analysis of beginning-of-year projections against end-of-year reality. It's important to see where we raised extra and where we spent less, because our flow of assets reflects our priorities for the church. In a nutshell, we hired less staff than we had wished to, we had a lucky year for building maintenance, and our Worship Team did not bring in as many guest speakers or musicians as they might. Please contact me or Kathryn in the church office if you'd like a detailed budget report.

Consistently, 80-85% of our church's income comes from Pledges. When we face shortfalls, our tendency is to focus on Fundraising as a way to overcome them, which is understandable; everybody is giving as much as they can afford to give. However, fundraising is

only a fraction of our income: 6-8%. The money itself is very helpful, but I view Fundraising's greatest value in its potential for outreach in the community. We need to get more people invested in this church, on every level. Otherwise, our assets will continue to trend like this graph on the left.

At this rate, 2027 is looking rather dire.

So, what else can we do? The Board has done some brainstorming, but we need the whole Congregation's help. Ideas so far include:

- More Fundraising. Bring back the Gala, another Chili Cook-Off?
- Increase building usage by other groups, envision our space as a Community Center for rent, and advertise. Ed has a vision for a multi-style Yoga Center with different teachers.

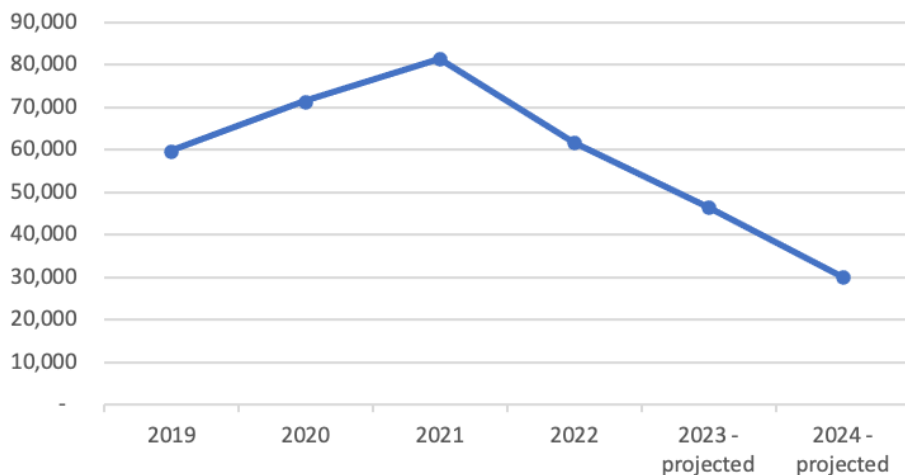
•Make digital giving easier.

•Invest a chunk of our savings in a short-term, high-yield account such as a CD.

•OUTREACH. As our Members & Friends list goes, so goes our income. An invested community is by far our greatest financial asset.

What are your ideas? Let's talk about it. We've made a strong comeback this year from the COVID-19 closure, now how can we harness that momentum?

Total Assets:





## Joys and Sorrows

On June 3, Rev. Julia was ordained at the Unitarian Society of Geneva, with UUSG and our congregation jointly sponsoring her. Congratulation to Rev. Julia on this accomplishment, and thank you to all the UU DeKalb folks who attended in person and online!



*Do you have a joy, sorrow or milestone to share?  
Please email Kathryn at [office@uufdekalb.org](mailto:office@uufdekalb.org) and we'll include your joy or sorrow in the next Pathfinder.*

## Hope Haven News!



### ***OUR MINISTRY IN ACTION THROUGH HOPE HAVEN MEALS***

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb, along with several other congregations around the DeKalb County area, provide meals once a month to the residents and guests of the Hope Haven Homeless Shelter. Hope Haven's mission is to provide shelter, meals, & life skills programs for homeless individuals & families while preparing them for re-housing. Hope Haven will advocate for the rights of the homeless, and those at risk for becoming homeless, while working in collaboration with others to end homelessness in DeKalb County.

### **Thank you to our April and May Volunteers!**

**April:** In April UUFDe volunteers provided one of Hope Haven residents' favorite meals: Goulash! This has been requested more than any other meal we've provided. Thanks to all of our April Hope Haven meal providers: **Beth Schewe, Mary Von Zellen, Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Gretchen Sigwart, Sharon Blake, Sheryl Nak, Mary Von Zellen, Bonnie Anderson, Gwen Gregory, Charles Sigwart, Rev. Linda Slabon, Toni Tollerud and Virginia Wilcox.**

Special thanks to Rev. Linda Slabon and Toni Tollerud who kicked me off the volunteer list and took both of my main dish spots. Thank you so much for the amazing reprieve! And thank you Bonnie for providing both the fruit and dessert for 30!

**May:** Thank you to the volunteers who made May's meal a success. French Onion Beef Casserole and sides, desserts and staples were provided by **Beth Schewe, Mary Von Zellen, Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Gretchen Sigwart, Sharon Blake, Sheryl Nak, Mary Von Zellen, Bonnie Anderson, Gwen Gregory, Charles Sigwart and Virginia Wilcox.** In the spirit of baseball, Bonnie once again makes a double play, providing the green salad and dressing for 60!

### **June/July Help Needed!**

With summer vacation-season in full swing, June and July are the most difficult months for us to secure volunteers for the monthly meal. At times this has meant providing an incomplete meal, with Hope Haven staff scrambling to fill the gaps. Please sign up early and often to help us meet our congregational obligation!

Dates are Tuesday, June 20th and Tuesday, July 18th - to be delivered by 6:30 PM

June meal: [June '23 Hope Haven Volunteer Sign-up](#)

July Meal: [July '23 Hope Haven Volunteer Sign-up](#)

Thank you to all who make this ministry through food possible!  
Please contact Danica Lovings via text or phone at 815.901.4625 or via email at [danica855@gmail.com](mailto:danica855@gmail.com) if you would like to learn more about volunteering.

**Calling All Performers!!**

The UUFD Choir, our pianist Bonnie Anderson, and a handful of special musical guests have done a great job of filling our sanctuary and our hearts with live music this year, but now that it's summer, some of us will be here less, and we need your help!! We are asking for volunteers to help provide musical and other performances the next three months and ask that you consider signing up for a slot!! Performing in church is a very affirming experience -- with a low time commitment and a highly appreciative and supportive audience. They want to see you succeed!!

Please see the below Google Document to sign up to share your talents. You can pick music, dance, poetry, or other performance art related to the monthly theme, the specific sermon, a social justice topic, a holiday/observance, or whatever else is on your heart. Any and all offerings are appreciated!! Please sign up with your name, contact information, and what you would like to do, and I will follow up to confirm your date(s) help you connect with the Worship Leader to iron out details.

Still not sure what to do? Just ask. I'm happy to meet with you to brainstorm or even do some light coaching to help you prepare!!

[Google Sign up Link](#)

Thank you in advance for all that you do to support the life of this congregation.

mUUsically yours,  
Elisa Woodruff, Director of Music Program



The UUFD Breakfast Club, (a meeting with no agenda or outcomes except good coffee, a good chat, and some emotional uplift), would like to invite you to join us on the 3rd Friday of each month from 9:30-11:00 a.m.  
at Lincoln Inn, 302 Grove St., DeKalb.

Mark your calendar for these upcoming dates: June 16, and July 21