



The Pathfinder



A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb

Volume 61, Issue 4

158 N. Fourth St.

DeKalb, IL 60115

August-September 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.

(UUFDF mission statement adopted May 17, 2009)

DEADLINE

The deadline for the Oct-Nov edition of the Pathfinder is Sept 20. 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.

Online Worship

For the duration of the COVID-19 crisis, UUFDF 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. Join the service each Sunday at uufdekalb.org/live.

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

August Theme: Creation

Creation is an ongoing process. Our world and the universe continue to unfold. We acknowledge that we are co-creators with Earth. Our seventh principle calls us to respect the interdependent web. Our sixth source invites to see the circle of life as sacred and to value and nurture nature, given the imminent threat of climate change. Creation invokes compassion and requires our creativity.

August 2 – Our Own Sacred

Where do you find what is sacred to you? When do you feel connected, a part of something larger than you?
Rev. Allen, Worship Leader
Diane Johns, Assistant

August 9 – In A Beginning: Genesis Reimagined and Retold

Dave Becker, Worship Leader
Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Assistant

August 16 – The Fire of Creation

Ed Miguel, Worship Leader

August 23 – The Work of Our Hands

Diane Johns, Worship Leader
Ed Miguel, Assistant

August 30 – Perpetual Creation

Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Worship Leader
Vanstrom Dracul, Assistant

September Theme: Worth & Dignity

Sept 6 – The Work of Our Hearts
Diane Johns, Worship Leader

Sept 13 – An Ingathering Service

In my background, the Sunday after Labor Day marked the beginning of a new church year. Everyone was back from summers away, either in body or spirit, and we would renew our shared commitment to life as a church community. We will do some of this, even though travel has been rare, and summer was indistinguishable from other months during pandemic. But I will try to set an agenda and ignite our engagement, as individuals and as a congregation, in our world. The election is less than two months away, and we should each seek to influence the moral path of our nation's future. We are facing redefinitions of race and ethnic relations, our role in policing in our nation, and our role in cooperating in the world. There is too much to discuss, but we shall start.

Rev. Allen, Worship Leader
Ed Miguel, Assistant

Sept 20 – Ordinary People

Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Worship Leader
Diane Johns, Assistant

Sept 27 – Worth and Dignity WD'40

Ed Miguel, Worship Leader
Vanstrom Dracul, Assistant

CONTACTS:

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

OFFICE MANAGER: Kathryn Jones

PRESIDENT: Tom 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

Web site: uufdekalb.org

In case of an emergency, call Board Past President Jenny Stamatakos, or President Tom Stamatakos.

Minister's Thoughts

Four months and counting. This is how long we've been zooming on Sundays for our UUFD worship services. Given the circumstances, these internet-based gatherings have been wonderful. The worship associates really stepped up their game to bring us thoughtful and stimulating services, and those with tech skills have made it work. Thanks, we are all grateful.

The time for Joys and Concerns is the new centerpiece in our online worship. When we gathered in the Sanctuary, it would usually entail a few persons sharing important life changes. In our new way of doing church, this is the time for each of us to check-in with the whole congregation. It is so important that we continue to meet and talk – so we can nurture and maintain our shared church community during this time of social distancing. I am thrilled to hear each of your voices every Sunday, and to gain a few insights into how you are and how you are experiencing this time apart.

We don't know how long this will continue, but our best guess is that Sunday morning worship will stay online for many months yet. This is a continuing act of love, as we protect one another from exposure to coronavirus. As I write this, I eagerly anticipate our first in-person gathering (Rotary Park, Saturday, July 25). As nice as I expect it will be to see some of you, I also fear the frustration of not being able to touch or become too close. And it feels like a UU sacrilege for us to gather without sharing food and refreshment. This is an experiment, and we hope that we can start a move towards actual small gatherings and programs in the near future.

Continuing our UUFD connections through the pandemic is valuable, and an important point of connection and belongingness for many of us. I worry about those needs and desires we might not be reaching. It can be hard in this time of separation to engage in deeper discussions, or to engage with others in a

meaningful way. I encourage any of you to call another – someone you might not call in normal circumstances – both to keep your relationships charged and to find or offer meaningful support.

I also would like to form some ongoing small groups, where 6 to 10 people would meet at a regularly scheduled time to share discussion. These could be themed discussions on topics of shared interest, book reading groups, or groups facilitated and led by a wise elder (or younger).

If you have interest in engaging in something like this, please reply to me at 773-288-2394 or at minister@uufdeklab.org.

In faith and love, and patiently awaiting the time we can assemble,

Allen



UUFD 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 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, most in-person events are canceled through the end of September, 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.

Ongoing Events

- Yoga w/Ed Miguel – Resuming in a limited way. Please reach out to Ed for details.
- Restorative Meditation – Canceled
- **Buddhist Study Group via Zoom** – 1st & 3rd 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 – 2nd & 4th Sundays. Please contact Howard Solomon for the zoom link.
- **The Social Justice Committee** is planning an online meeting. Please reach out to Jack Reich to find out more or get on the social justice email list.

August 2020

August 23 – Board Meeting – Zoom Meeting 11:45 a.m.

August 9 – Social Justice Committee meeting – The committee is hoping to meet via zoom. Contact Jack Reich for details.

August 18 – Hope Haven Meal 6:30 p.m. (3rd Tuesdays)

August 23 – Green Sanctuary Group – Canceled

August 29 – Drive-thru WE Pantry 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

September 2020

September Board Meeting – Zoom Meeting TBA

September 13 – Social Justice Committee – The committee is hoping to meet via zoom. Contact Jack Reich for details.

September 15 – Hope Haven Meal 6:30 p.m.

September 26 – Drive-Thru WE Pantry 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

September 27 – 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@uufdekab.org. Allen will then contact you to set up scheduling. He hopes it can occur on a weekday evening.

The worship theme for August is Creation; for September the theme is Worth & Dignity.

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 (or pick up a copy at the table by the magazine rack) and hope it will lead to deeper discussions!

JOYS & SORROWS



We hold in our hearts the UUFD members and friends who have surgeries coming up this month, as well as the many people in our world affected by COVID-19.

*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.*

Year End Treasurer's Report

Final Budget Report for the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year

The Fiscal Year for the church's Operating Budget runs from July 1st - June 30th. The full final budget report for FY20 has been uploaded to the "files" section of the UUFD Internal Facebook Group. We had a strong year financially, and I am so grateful to everyone at UUFD for your generous giving and faithful stewardship of resources.

Short version? We finished the year in the black! The Board was even able to give some Staff bonuses to help our employees through these difficult times. Here are highlights from the final analysis:

Percentage of projected income realized: 92%
 Percentage of projected expenses realized: 87%
 Actual income: \$76,259
 Actual expenses (including bonuses): \$70,645
 Final surplus: \$5,614

Way to go, everyone!

Our projections for the upcoming year aren't quite as bright; there is an estimated shortfall of \$793 at this time. Not too bad, and I am optimistic that we will weather the storms ahead with the same love and generosity that have always kept the church going. If you have any questions or would like your own copy of the full report, please email me at ashley@peregrin.org.

Wishing you all health, safety, and peace,
 Ashley Ford, Treasurer

Cookbook Fundraiser

Hey, Grown-ups! Time to catch up! The kids have already submitted their recipes and now we want yours as well for a UUFD Cookbook! Please email your recipes (along with any fun UUFD related notes/stories) to jenlandltom@comcast.net with the subject UUFD Cookbook NO LATER than Sept. 1st!

Kids, we would love to get some new art for our cookbook from you, too! Feel free to mail it to the office or email it to the same address!

Thank you all!

Thank you to all of our Hope Haven Heroes!

Without all our fabulous volunteers, UUFD would not be able to be a proud contributor to Hope Haven's need for monthly meals from local organizations. I'd like to acknowledge the volunteers who provided food in June and July.

June volunteers: Sheryl Nak, Sharon Blake and Danica Lovings provided the main dish of Submarine Sandwiches. Bonnie Anderson, Gretchen Sigwart, Beth Schewe, Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Ashley Ford, Charles Sigwart, Mary Von Zellen and Danica Lovings provided the sides. Thank you Charles for stepping in and doing double duty!

July volunteers: Maylan-Dunn Kenney and Danica Lovings provided the main dish for the Hot Dog picnic themed meal and supplied cooked hotdogs and buns and condiments. Sides were provided by Sharon Blake, Sheryl Nak, Charles Sigwart, Bonnie Anderson, Mary Von Zellen, Beth Schewe and Virginia Wilcox. And thank you to Gretchen Sigwart who did double duty!

We couldn't have pulled it off without all of your contributions. That said, over the past three months we have not had enough volunteers to provide all of the needed dishes for a complete meal. Many of us have filled two and even three of the volunteer slots. It doesn't seem coincidental that this aligned with the onset of Covid and our state's restrictions. We are looking for ideas for attracting new volunteers who haven't volunteered before, or for those who have in the past to consider doing so again. Do we feel this challenge is related to concerns about Covid? Is it the financial aspect? Is it a time concern? It would be terrific if we could address our recent volunteer shortage and improve our participation in the coming months so the work doesn't fall on the shoulders of a few.

Please share your ideas, questions and/or concerns! Email or call Danica Lovings at danica855@gmail.com or at 815-901-4625. And thank you!

Reverend Allen's Upcoming Sunday Services

August 2, *Our Own Sacred*

Where do you find what is sacred to you? When do you feel connected, a part of something larger than you? Do you feel something transcendent – maybe energy, spirit, or being? These are questions we all face when we turn inward in our personal search for truth and meaning. I believe that our answers to at least one of these questions frames your religious perspective and helps bring purpose and understanding to your life. I also worry that the disruptions brought by pandemic might have disrupted your ability to stay in relation with your own sacred.

In this service, I will talk about my vision about how our collective relation to these questions is a creative process that helps us form a moral and religious order.

More importantly, I will have each of us join into smaller groups to discuss something related to how we view one of the following:

- What you see and hold as sacred in this life? [and/or]
- When do you feel connected to something larger than you? [and/or]
- Do you feel something transcendent – energy, spirit, or being – in life?

and:

- Are we able to hold our focus and stay connected to that which gives us purpose during this time of pandemic and distancing?

September 13, *An Ingathering Service*

In my background, the Sunday after Labor Day marked the beginning of a new church year. Everyone was back from summers away, either in body or spirit, and we would renew our shared commitment to life as a church community. We will do some of this, even though travel has been rare, and summer was indistinguishable from other months during pandemic. But I will try to set an agenda and ignite our engagement, as individuals and as a congregation, in our world. The election is less than two months away, and we should each seek to influence the moral path of our nation's future. We are facing redefinitions of race and ethnic relations, our role in policing in our nation, and our role in cooperating in the world. There is too much to discuss, but we shall start.

From the Touchstones Journal, August 2020 Theme: Creation

What Song? by Rev. Victoria Safford

What if there were a universe, a cosmos, that began in shining blackness, out of nothing, out of fire, out of a single, silent breath, and into it came billions and billions of stars, stars beyond imagining, and near one of them a world, a blue-green world so beautiful that learned clergymen could not even speak about it cogently, and brilliant scientists in trying to describe it began to sound like poets, with their physics, with their mathematics, their empirical, impressionistic musing?

What if there were a universe in which a world was born out of a smallish star, and into that world (at some point) flew red-winged blackbirds, and into it swam sperm whales, and into it came crocuses, and wind to lift the tiniest hairs on naked arms in spring when you run out to the mailbox, and into it at some point came onions, out of soil, and came Mount Everest, and also the coyote we've been seeing in the woods about a mile from here, just after sunrise in these mornings when the moon is full? (The very scent of him makes his brother, our dog, insane with fear and joy and ancient inbred memory.) Into that world came animals and elements and plants, and imagination, the mind, and the mind's eye. If such a universe existed and you noticed it, what would you do? What song would come out of your mouth, what prayer, what praises, what sacred offering, what whirling dance, what religion, and what reverential gesture would you make to greet that world, every single day that you were in it?

Source: <http://archive.uuworld.org/2003/03/calltoworship.html>
