



# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur



## News and Notes

3773 N. MacArthur Rd. Decatur, IL 62526 Phone: (217) 875-5442 [www.uufd.org](http://www.uufd.org)



### Upcoming services

At **10:15 a.m.**, unless otherwise noted

We offer religious education for children and child care for babies.

#### **Nov. 1: "All Souls", led by Rev. Michelle, Cara Wilson and the Religious Education program**

A multi-generational service celebrating the memories of those we have loved and lost. You may bring a photo or small memento of the person or companion animal you would like to remember.

#### **Nov. 8: "The Pope's Encyclical on the Environment" with Eric Freyfogle**

The University of Illinois law professor will explore the groundbreaking papal document.

#### **Nov. 15 "And God Said What?" With Rev. Michelle La Grave**

A reflection on how a contemporary UU theologian, the Rev. Dr. Thandaka, uses a scientific and multidisciplinary approach to balancing mind, heart, and spirit.

#### **Nov. 22: "In the Beginning ... There Was Gratitude" with Rev. Michelle La Grave**

Please join us for the annual Thanksgiving service.

#### **Nov. 29 -- "What Inspires You?" (Service Leader: Mel Weinstein)**

This is a Sunday service for us and by us. Come to discover what inspires our people through their own written words or those of others.

### Co-presidents report

THANKSGIVING. As I sat down to write the presidents' message for the newsletter, my first thought was how thankful I am for the energy and hard work being done by so many of our UUFD family. Then I realized I am writing for the November newsletter – the Thanksgiving month. Nice coincidence.

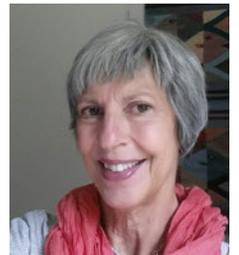
There is no way to adequately thank each person for each contribution toward the health and vitality of our Fellowship. Nevertheless, and at the risk of failing to recognize every deserving person, I want to extend our heart-felt thanks to a few folks who are working especially hard behind the scenes:

**Jennifer Sekosky** – She has been truly instrumental in the work of TWO committees, RE and Outreach. Her marketing skills, dedication and hard work on our behalf are impressive.

**Gary Brennan** – He quietly designed and placed a very nice ad in the Decatur Tribune and wants to help us keep that effort going in months to come.

**Mark Sorensen and Joyce Throneburg** – In addition to their regular duties, they have worked tirelessly to develop a whole new payroll system as part of the change from part-time to full-time ministry. We now have a large binder to help us navigate multiple bureaucracies in the future.

**Eric DeVore and Darwin Shroyer** – The repair and maintenance of our building has been a much bigger project than we expected.



(Please follow this to Page 2)

## What's up in RE

Hello there! The month of October has come to an end, and now we enter the great November. While it seems cliché to tell you to, "sit down and give thanks," I'm going to do it anyway.

I am so thankful that you, the congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur, have given the opportunity for me to be a part of your community and your families. The children here are fantastic, and I couldn't ask for a better group of kids!



For the past month, we have been focusing on different tools of our faith. We talked about several tools including a ruler and a paintbrush (and we made some really cool things to go along with it).

In November, we will be talking about Day of the Dead, Thanksgiving, and we will be doing a research project using mobile devices (so if you have a child in RE, please send them with some sort of mobile device to do research).

I have posted the November schedule on the RE room door along with my contact. My email is [ccwilson@millikin.edu](mailto:ccwilson@millikin.edu).

Please, I'm always open for adults to join us, so don't be afraid to ask!

Have a wonderful autumn!

– Cara C. Wilson



This is the time of year you can pause a moment and note that 1) autumn is a wonderful time of year and 2) we have a pretty terrific site for our spiritual home.

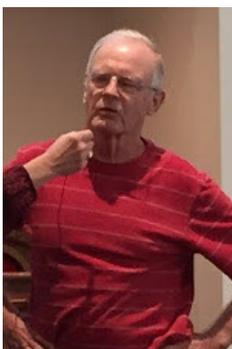
### (co-presidents report)

Eric and Darwin have met with contractors, gotten estimates, checked work progress, and managed multiple schedules to get our building back into a condition that is safe and healthy for now and the future.

**13 (or more?) people** – At least 13 Board members and Committee Chairs participated in an all-day workshop on Saturday, Oct 17. These dedicated friends gave their time on a gorgeous fall day to work with our UUA facilitator, Ray Wilson. We worked on a variety of processes to help us work with our Interim Minister toward the goals developed by 26 of our members last March.

**YOU** – Thank you for showing up, for reading the newsletter, for helping with coffee and treats, for greeting friends and visitors, for reaching out to each other in friendship and support.

With thanks (from both of us!),  
Mary



## We ARE UUFD

These photos come from our Water Communion in-gathering, a few weeks ago.

Bill Harbeck and Jennifer Raleigh shared details about their summer travels with the Fellowship.



## In Michelle's words

### *Dearest Ones,*

I am looking forward to November at UUFD and I hope you will, too, once you read this edition of the newsletter. I'll be leading four adult religious education programs (two each at two different times). The first is an invitation to gather for all those interested in social media in congregational life. Everyone,



from novice to expert, is welcome to attend. Sharing and learning together is the goal for the workshop with hope that these will lead to a creative and

vibrant social media ministry. The second is an invitation to come experience an intuitive and creative spiritual practice called soul collage. This artistic process encourages one to look deeper within and discover something about one's one life or spirit. The cards can also later be used as writing prompts for keeping a journal or other creative writing exercise. I'll be holding the workshops at two different times to experiment a bit with what schedule works best with this congregation. One time slot will be on Sunday afternoons, the other on a weeknight evening. (If neither works for you, let me know that, too!)

Another opportunity I'd like to encourage you to check out is the interim ministry video I'll be showing during the discussion time after worship on Nov. 1. Hopefully, this will help to answer some questions and clarify (at least a little?) what interim ministry is all about. I'm also excited that the Dinners for 8 program will be happening soon. Micah and I are both signed up and are looking forward to getting to know some of you better.

This year, the All Souls holiday will be on a Sunday. I've been working with Cara Wilson, your new Religious Education teacher, to plan a multi-generational service honoring loved ones who have died. You are invited to bring a photo or small memento to share. These

can be of a person or pet – whoever you would like to remember. Cara will be playing flute and the children will assist in leading worship.

With excitement,

*Rev. Michelle*

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 3-6 p.m.  
Wednesdays 2-5 p.m.

"Also by appointment"

**PLEASE NOTE:** Rev. Michelle will be taking a few days off around Thanksgiving (the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 1<sup>st</sup>). Please DO call with any pastoral emergencies. 860-539-3248

### **INTERIM MINISTRY – WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?**

Got questions? Join us for this brief film produced by the UUA. Or watch it from the comfort of your home at <http://www.uua.org/careers/ministers/interim/173977.shtml> Sunday, Nov. 1, after worship.

### **GET SOCIAL WITH SOCIAL MEDIA**

Whether you use social media a lot or haven't a clue where to begin, bring yourself along with a laptop, tablet, smartphone or other electronic device (if you have one) and we can explore together. UUFD is now on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest. Let's find out how we can make the most of this new avenue of ministry for and to each other!

Sunday, Nov. 1, at 1 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 6:30 p.m.

### **SOUL COLLAGE**

Come nurture your spirit with this intuitive and creative spiritual practice in a quiet and relaxed atmosphere. Please join us, even if you don't think of yourself as an artistic or creative person. All that's needed is an openness of spirit: no artistic talent required!

Monday, Nov. 9, at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 22, at 1 p.m.



# Our outreach at Millikin

On the pristine autumn morning of Oct. 25, we enjoyed an service at the Pilling Chapel on the Millikin University campus that brought in visitors and brought us out into the community.

Rev. Michelle gave an encapsulated "Intro to Uuism" and a homily about inspiring Unitarian and Universalist women. Christina played and sang marvelously, and the Millikin a cappella group seVen wowed us with their harmonizing and songwriting.

A hearty thanks to all who made this possible.



Many minds and hands make the Environmental Film Series come to life each year. Would you like to pitch in? Nov. 1 at noon is the next planning date, after the service. We'll aim to select the films and get the plans under way. All minds and/or hands welcome!



Meanwhile, the Humanist Discussion Group will gather meets Wednesday, Nov. 4, at 7 p.m. David Snoeyenbos will lead discussion on the theme of the book, "This Changes Everything-Capitalism vs Climate". In the book, Naomi Klein makes a compelling argument that climate change

cannot be arrested without replacing our present form of capitalism. Please join us; there's no need to read the book.



On Saturday, Nov. 7, there will be a Dinners for 8 for UUFd's members and friends. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer. You can also call Judy Thistlethwaite (429-5923) to sign up or for more information. Join us for great food and fellowship.



The Women's Book Club will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 11, at 6 p.m. at the home of

Kathy Sorensen. Bring a dish to share. The book is "Dancing Fish and Ammonites: A Memoir," by Penelope Lively. Please RSVP to

[kathysorensen1@comcast.net](mailto:kathysorensen1@comcast.net) or 620-6850.



The SCAT group (Science, Consciousness and Technology) is reading "Consciousness and the Social Brain" by Michael Graziano. This is their first foray into the subject of consciousness. The meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the Fellowship.

If interested, contact Mel Weinstein at [mel.weinstein.domehome@gmail.com](mailto:mel.weinstein.domehome@gmail.com).



## Aiding Oasis

Oasis Day Care Center has been an agency of interest for UUFD for some time. Their patrons need these and many other items: reader spectacles, nonalcoholic mouthwash, new toothbrushes, small toothpastes, sealed small aspirin and Tylenol, laundry detergents and fabric softener, hair combs and picks, socks, towels and washcloths, motel samples of conditioners and shampoos and lotions, underwear, rain gear, sleeping bags and much more. Monetary donations are welcomed as well.

You may drop items by the Oasis Day Center, 243 W. Cerro Gordo St., or place them in a plastic bag and give them to Vern Thistlethwaite for delivery. Thank you.

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“ Our shared vulnerability and imperfection nurtures and sustains our capacity for compassion. ”

– Bryan Stevenson, executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Ala. Excerpt from "Just Mercy", the UU Common Read for 2015-16. Besides advocating tirelessly for people of color and the mentally handi-capped, Stevens won U.S. Supreme Court decisions banning life imprisonment without parole sentences for children convicted of non-homicide crimes.

## Quick reminders

Our becostumed youth, will be trick or treating for UNICEF on Sunday, Nov. 1. Please bring coins or small bills that day.

Sunday, Nov. 1, is when the time changes get that hour of sleep back.

Let's keep our Capital Campaign going strong. Your contributions will keep our building sound and decrease pressures on our Trust. To make it simple, if one person will just write out a check for oh, say \$10,000, we can put this whole this to bed.

## Deep Thoughts?

Wanted: UU members and friends who would like to share something in writing that has inspired them. Last July, about a half-dozen people shared their works in the program "Voices from Within." It was one of the most popular services of the year.

We want to continue the series on Sunday, Nov. 29. What inspires you? If you have a poem, short story, poster, bumper sticker ... funny or uplifting, written by you or someone else ... please share it with us. Please e-mail or call Mel Weinstein (service leader), [mel.weinstein.domehome@gmail.com](mailto:mel.weinstein.domehome@gmail.com) or 521-9702, by deadline of Nov. 22, if you would like to participate.

## Want a laugh?

Make believe that Jeff Foxworthy was a UU – we're stealing his bit.

You might be a UU if: The money you sent to the Sierra Club last year was more than you spent on your mother at Christmas.

You might be a UU if: You think the Holy Trinity is "reduce, reuse and recycle."



Last spring's Regional Assembly had the theme of "The 'New' in the New Era," building on our MidAmerica tag line of "A New Era in Unitarian Universalism." We heard from Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt and Rev. Marlin Lavanhar. They told stories and discussed the racism we are attempting to dismantle in all aspects of our culture and the role our congregations can play in this important work.

Feedback from participants told us that a logical next theme for our 2016 Regional Assembly in St. Paul, Minnesota (April 29-May 1) would build on the New Era theme, looking at WHO we want to be as faith communities in the coming years. Who will we Unitarian Universalists need to be, to be relevant?

To get at that question, the keynote presenters will be:

The Rev. Elizabeth Nguyen, leadership development associate for Youth and Young Adults of Color at the UUA;

The Rev. Jeremy Nickel, minister of the Mission Peak UU congregation in Fremont, Calif.;

Kenny Wiley, UU World senior editor and Director of Faith Formation at Prairie UU Church in Parker, Colo.

They will present highlights of their own work as they look forward to the future of Unitarian Universalism.

And, as always at Regional Assembly, we will have worship services to inspire us and workshops to stimulate our thinking, along with plenty of opportunities to have fun with new and old UU friends.

We are currently soliciting workshop proposals for Regional Assembly. This is the web address for an application form: <https://midamericauua.org/events/regional-assembly/2503-ra-workshop-proposal-2016>. We hope to see you there!

## The birthdays

Jennifer Raleigh ..... Nov. 7  
 Terry Ankrom ..... Nov. 19  
 Barbara French ..... Nov. 29

*What: You're put out because your November birthday isn't here? You should search your soul as to why not. [newsletter@uufd.org](mailto:newsletter@uufd.org)*

## The deadline

Please have your items in by Nov. 20, either at [newsletter@uufd.org](mailto:newsletter@uufd.org) or the Newsletter mailbox in the Fellowship office.

## The "officials"

Co-Presidents: Joyce Throneburg and Mary Lovell [president@uufd.org](mailto:president@uufd.org)

Vice President: Dick Zaker  
[vice\\_president@uufd.org](mailto:vice_president@uufd.org)

Past President: Bernadette Lundeen

Treasurer: Mark Sorensen  
[treasurer@uufd.org](mailto:treasurer@uufd.org)

Secretary: Kathy Kline [secretary@uufd.org](mailto:secretary@uufd.org)

Board Members at Large: Eric DeVore, Tatiana Isakovski, Amy Stockwell

## The buck stops here

Editor Dick Zaker-[UUFdNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:UUFdNewsletter@gmail.com)

