



# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur



## November 2020 News

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

### Our virtual services: 10:15 a.m. Sundays, *live on Zoom* – [www.uufd.org](http://www.uufd.org)

#### **Nov. 1: "A Successful Re-entry"** with Apostle Jessie R. Bates

Mr. Bates is the Presiding Apostle at Faith Community Center and the President & CEO of Jessie R.



Bates Enterprises & Jessie R. Bates Properties, LCC. He will discuss his entrepreneurial career and tell how he has developed the Decatur Transitional Housing Complex.

#### **Nov. 8: "What's Next?"** with Rev. Karen Madrone

The Sunday after the election, we will gather to absorb the new reality we

are living in, whatever that may be. With the help from UU the Vote, we will once again have resources from the larger UU world to help us contemplate life after the election.



#### **Nov. 15: "Learning How to Communicate in a Healthy Way"** with Rev. Karen Madrone

In October, there were two book discussions of the book, "Honest, Direct, Respectful" by Dennis Adams. At these discussions we learned about the styles we tend to have and how they can serve us and how they can work against us. Using Adams'

framework for "Honest, Direct, Respectful", we learned new ways to talk with each other. In this service, we will explore how UUFd can shift its culture around communication to improve long-term health.

#### **Nov. 22: "Setting a Welcome Table for All"** with Rev. Karen Madrone

On this Sunday before Thanksgiving, we will virtually set the table for all people in our Fellowship, community and the wider community of the world. We will practice what it means to be welcoming to all.

#### **Nov. 29: No service.** Keep giving thanks in your own way.



### Trivia – but certainly not trivial

Movies and food and art – oh, my! There were questions galore in the fabulous Halloween Trivia Fun Night on Oct. 24.

Our kids were kept in step throughout the evening, thanks

to our DRE, Lisa "The Cat" Coates.

Jokes and music also teamed up to keep the many partiers happy throughout. Thanks to everyone who participated!

# How interim ministry moves UUFD

Dear Fellowship community,

I am truly enjoying fall in Central Illinois! My dog, Letty, and I have taken some time to explore the walking trails in Decatur. I appreciate the tips that many of you have shared with me about this area.

I'd like to give an overview of Interim Ministry and how this is working at UUFD. Interim Ministry has five focus areas: 1) Coming to terms with history, 2) Discovering a new identity, 3) Allowing needed leadership to emerge, 4) Renewing denominational linkages, and 5) Committing to new directions in ministry. Every month for my board report, I organize the topics around these areas and then discuss worship, administration, social justice, pastoral care and my observations of the Fellowship.

Typically, in the fall of the first year of Interim Ministry, the congregation does an exercise called the "History Wall." It is an opportunity for members and friends to literally see the history of the Fellowship regarding past ministers, Directors of Religious Education,



*Rev.  
Karen  
Madrone*

membership numbers, notice times when giving increased or decreased, and talk about times when there have been conflicts and discuss how those conflicts – even ones that took place decades ago – are still affecting the congregation. This fall, I chose not to do that because I believed that it was more important to address the conflict that took place last spring that resulted in several people leaving the Fellowship. I am writing this on Oct. 23, a week after the first book discussion of "Honest, Direct, Respectful." The discussion on Oct. 17 was very healing and powerful. I anticipate that the gathering on Oct. 28 and 29 will also be productive for the larger Fellowship. In the spring, I hope we can move forward with completing the History Wall project, even if it's done in a virtual format.

Where possible, I have helped the Fellowship learn more about the larger UU

world, particularly the UU the Vote campaign. In November, we will be participating with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's "Guest At Your Table" program. I have also helped leadership at the Fellowship step into their roles and the board learn more about how to best serve the Fellowship. I am thrilled that a subset of the board is going to read the book "The Nested Bowls: The Promise and Practice of Good Governance" by Laura Park.

I also am proud of the Hospitality/Caring Committee for their work on reaching out to the community and for using their creativity and working together on the Halloween Trivia night on Oct. 24 (you are reading this after the event so I'm hoping that each of you attended and had a great time!).

If you would like to talk to me about anything at the Fellowship, or would just like to talk, call 312-248-3538 or use my Calendly link on the Fellowship website to find a time. I would love to be in conversation with you!

*Take care,  
Rev. Karen*

# Busy RE keeping up holiday pace; come share ideas

Do you have an attitude of gratitude? All November, we will be taking time to acknowledge all of the good things in our lives. I think this is especially important since we are all struggling to find light at the end of the tunnel.



**Lisa Coates**

Our Peacekeepers (Adult RE - Parenting Support) class will be held on

Thursday, Nov. 5, at 8 p.m. via Zoom. This month, we will come together to discuss handling the election results with your children and navigating holiday plans in a COVID world.

Children's RE classes will meet Sunday, Nov. 8 and 22, at 4 p.m. via Zoom. We will work on plans for a special event occurring Sunday, Nov. 22, titled, "Guest at Your Table." This will be a special intergenerational service centered around raising support for and awareness about key human rights issues.

I'm thrilled with UUFD's continued support and involvement in our RE



program. Thank you all for participating in our joint effort with the Hospitality and

Caring Committee to create such a fun family event as our Halloween Trivia Night. I'm encouraged to continue these types of virtual events after such an amazing turnout and participation.

If you have some fun ideas to share or would like the RE program to partner with your committee, please let me know.

As I look ahead to December, I'm planning for a virtual holiday pageant. We want to re-create the spirit of our beautiful in-person holiday services in a virtual setting.

RE students will be receiving December learning packets delivered to their homes. Please contact me at RE@UUFD.org for more information on RE programming. See you on Zoom!

Cindy Marschner -

Nov. 5

Jennifer Raleigh -

Nov. 7

Eric Devore - Nov. 8

Terry Ankrom -

Nov. 19



Charlie McMillin -

Nov. 23

## UUFD Community email

Remember our UUFD Community email board. Typing [uufd-community@googlegroups.com](mailto:uufd-community@googlegroups.com) into your email lets you share ideas and new events in our lives.

You could consider it a message board or a clearinghouse for some of your needs. It's another way UUFD people are trying to stay closer to UUFD people, especially in this stressful time.

Dick Zaker is Newsletter editor.  
December edition deadline: Nov. 23  
[Newsletter@uufd.org](mailto:Newsletter@uufd.org)

### ***From around the Fellowship***

Not only were several animals blessed on Sept. 20, but their human companions contributed \$150 to the Humane Society of Decatur & Macon County. Many thanks.

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Thanks to Tim Rooney for updating our church sign each week and his other

buildings and grounds work. For that matter, even if your name isn't mentioned specifically, know that the work you do for the Fellowship helps and is appreciated.

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Thanks also to those responsible for picking up sticks and trash on our

grounds and for planting 25 daffodil bulbs. We should have 300 or more flowers again next March and April. \*\*\*

Shelli Brunner would like to resume the Soul Support group. Contact her at 972-8066.



### **Our wider faith**

The Unitarian Universalist Association represents us and more than 1,000 other congregations. Its stated mission is

*"To equip congregations for health and vitality, to support and train lay and professional leaders, and to advance Unitarian Universalist values in the world."*

If you're ever needing hints on how to explain what UUism means, the UUA has an inspiring video at [UUA.org/about](http://UUA.org/about).

### ***Trivia bites***

- 1) Have we had more women or men ministers?
- 2) Name the leader of the UUFD Choir?

- 3) True or false: There is at least one accordion player in the congregation?
- 4 )What UUFD member serves on the Decatur City Council: a) Mark Sorensen b) Bill Faber c) Jen McMillin?
- 5) Who formerly held the office of Macon County

auditor: a) Amy Stockwell b) Pat Rossiter c) Eric Devore?

**Answers: 1) Five women, two men 2) Pat Rossiter 3) True; Mark Sorensen 4) b 5) a**

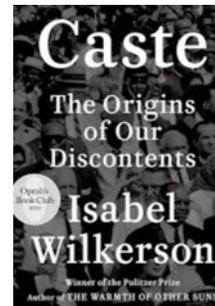
### **Book group to explore classism**

The UUFD Book Club has chosen "Caste: The origins of Our Discontents" by Isabel Wilkerson for the November meeting.

The Zoom meeting will begin at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 19, at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87963980421#success>.

In this 2020 book, Wilkerson describes the entire U.S. social structure as an unrecognized caste system. In it, whites have top status, blacks

have lowest status and other groups are in between. A reviewer For the New York Journal of Books comments that Wilkerson lays bare "the



pervasive racial hierarchy that transcends region and time".

The Thursday Book Club is open to all members and friends of UUFD.

## Many facets of Fellowship being reviewed, president reports

Dear Members and friends,

It is with sadness that we announce Mark Sorensen has tendered his resignation for his position of at large board member. Mark has brought a valued sense of experience to the board, thanks in large part to his more than 30 years of service to the Fellowship.

Mark's valuable insights and vast knowledge will be missed. Thank you, Mark, for your many years of service; the Board looks forward to continuing to work with you as a valued member of the Fellowship.

With Rev. Karen's help, the Board has been looking at the foundational documents of the Fellowship.

First, and most important, is the constitution. This document has been reviewed periodically to determine if it is relevant to present-day circumstances. Recently, a committee has been formed to accomplish this task during this fiscal year. Members of this group will

bring suggested changes to the board every other month. Discussion will take place at the monthly board meeting, and each change will be compiled into a full draft.

When the committee has completed its work, the board will present the draft document to the Fellowship members before the Congregational Meeting in the spring so that it can be voted upon at that meeting.

The second document we are looking at is the Operational Manual. The same process will take place, except that this document does not need to be voted on by the congregation. It is, however, an important document that guides the board and the congregation in how to deal with circumstances that might occur in our congregational life.

Both of these documents are available to all Fellowship members. If you would like to see these documents as they are today, please let Pat

Rossiter or Sam Yeagle know. We will email them to you as soon as possible.

We, as board members, and as members of the congregation are very aware of the extreme difficulties the last nine months have inflicted on us.

We are physically isolated from each other, but we are not emotionally, spiritually or socially distant. At least, I hope we are not.

We are organizing virtual social events and services to reach out to all our members. For instance, the Friday Happy Hours, the Women's luncheons and special events such as our Halloween Trivia Night.

These are challenging times, but we can help each other! If you need something – anything – please reach out and ask for help! There will be a hand waiting to take yours. Let's take care of ourselves and each other!

Submit items to

[eblast\\_mgrs@uufd.org](mailto:eblast_mgrs@uufd.org) by Monday of each week.

### Find us on the Internet

Facebook pages: UUFd Members & Friends, UUFd - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur, IL  
Web site: [uufd.org](http://uufd.org)



## Chance to get involved

The UUA Mid-America Region is seeking fresh voices for leadership positions to strengthen the future of the region. It has open positions for the **Board of Trustees, Camp Unistar Foundation Board of Directors, Midwest Unitarian Universalist Conference** and the **MidAmerica Nominating Committee** itself.

The region needs energetic people with diverse perspectives to fill these leadership positions. We are working to

dismantle the legacy of white supremacy in our faith in order to create a collaborative environment with people from historically marginalized communities.

Their only requirement is that the candidates must be a member of either a MidAmerica Congregation or the Church of the Larger Fellowship. If you or someone you know may be interested, please send your suggestions to:

Co-Chair Helen Dwyer, All Souls Unitarian Church in Indianapolis, Ind..  
hdwyer1492@msn.com

Co-Chair Mel Priese, Eliot Unitarian Chapel in Kirkwood, MO:

## New, internal Facebook page

We now have a second Facebook page, titled UUFD Members & Friends. It's a private group, in which we can freely exchange information about and for our Fellowship.



We'll maintain our earlier Facebook page for those people still seeking us out. We'll keep that page updated with each Sunday's service and other UUFD activities that are open to the public. We also will pass along community activities.

For those of you who didn't initially sign up for UUFD Members & Friends, please contact Dick Zaker.

**GOT IDEAS?** If you think of a subject or speaker for a UUFD service, contact [programs@UUFD.org](mailto:programs@UUFD.org)



## Keeping in contact

Consider using some down time to call or send a note to ones we don't see often:

**Mary Jo Comerford**, 37 Maple Ct., Decatur, IL 62526

**Irma Cushing**, 765 Christopher Dr., Forsyth, IL 63525, 207-242-0769, [gm.eun17@gmail.com](mailto:gm.eun17@gmail.com)

**Carolynn Devore**, 250 N. Woodlawn Ave., Decatur, 62522

**Marge Evans**, 5584 Traugher Rd., Decatur 62521

**Bobbie and Willa Hartman**, 1244 E.

Whitmer St., Decatur, 358-2347

62521 [bobbiehartman3@gmail.com](mailto:bobbiehartman3@gmail.com)

**John Hays**, Heritage Health, 1225

Woodland Dr., Mount Zion, 62549

**Deonne Orvis**, 1100 Fairview Ave., Apt. 220, Parkway Apts., Pana, 62557

**John Regan**, Hickory Point Christian Village Room 204, 565 W. Marion Ave., Forsyth 62535

**Rita Schwake**, Primrose Retirement, Room 119, 1145 W. Arbor Drive, Decatur, 62526, 791-6605

**Darwin Shroyer**, 25 Forest Knolls Estate, Decatur, 62521, 429-7776, 433-3855



# NOVEMBER

Activities on Zoom unless otherwise indicated

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
'Successful Re-entry"-Bates				Peacekeepers- 8 p.m.	Centering Time-noon Happy Hour - 5:30	
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
"What's Next"-Madrone 4 p.m. RE		Ladies lunch - 11:30 a.m.			Centering Time-noon Happy Hour - 5:30	Board- 10:30
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
Healthy Communication"-Madrone				Book Club - 8 p.m.	Centering Time-noon/ Happy Hour 5:30	
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
"Welcome Table for All"-Madrone/ 4 p.m. RE	<b>Newsletter deadline</b>				Happy Hour - 5:30	
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				
No service Thanksgiving weekend						



Fading cornflowers