

Spirituality and Nature, facilitated by Terry Fortman
Wednesdays at 7:00 P.M., March 12, 26, and April 9

The hope is that the class will give participants an opportunity to think about their perception of the relationship between nature and spirituality. This will be accomplished by reading and discussing selections from relevant authors. As time permits, these will include, but not be limited to Emerson, Muir, Thoreau, and Leopold. At the beginning of the class, participants will be asked to write a paragraph defining their personal perception of how nature may relate to spirituality; at the end of the class, they will be asked to write a second assessment.

Grief and Loss Support Group, facilitated by Rev. Richard Roberts
Thursdays, March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 24, and May 1

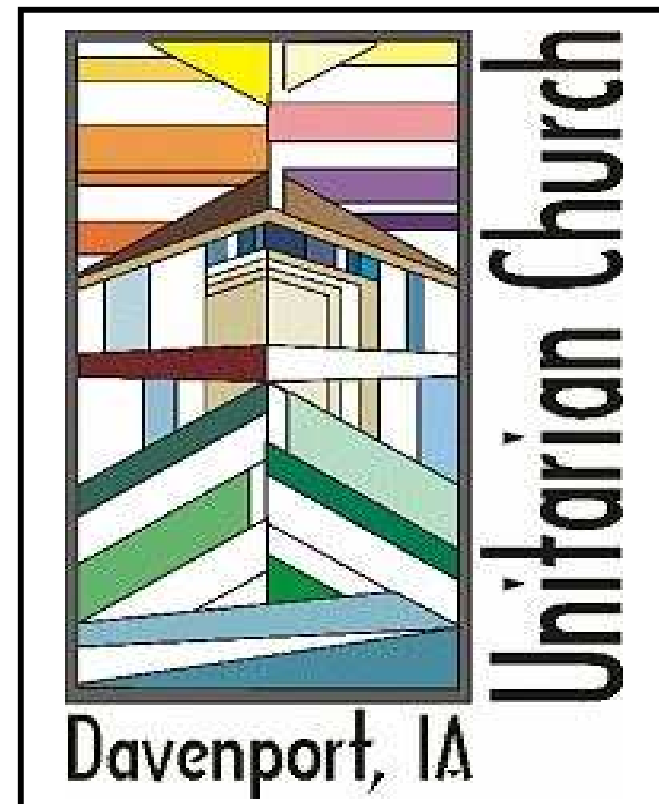
Engaging our Theological Diversity, facilitated by Sandra Evers
Wednesdays at 7:00 P.M., April 9, 16, 23, and 30
"Engaging Our Theological Diversity"

The value of "diversity of theological views" on the one hand and "unity as a community" on the other. What are the dynamics of these two values within our congregation and Unitarian-Universalism? This discussion class is an opportunity to share and listen about how we can engage our theological diversity and become a stronger community while doing so. Discussion is based on readings from "Engaging Our Theological Diversity," a report issued in 2005 by The Commission on Appraisal of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Creativity Muscle II, facilitated by Dee Eberle and Heidi Brandt
Wednesdays at 7:00 P.M., May 7, 14, and 21
This Is Your Life – Using play, journaling and photography to discover your inner creative self. You will need to bring a notepad, your favorite pen and a camera if you have one. This class will take you on a journey of self- discovery and give you an opportunity to exercise your creative muscle. No experience, special talents or skills are necessary, just an open mind and the willingness to play. A fee of \$5 for photo supplies will be collected at the first class meeting.
Dee Oberle, writer and photographer
Heidi Brandt, graphic designer and photographer
For more information contact Dee Oberle, dee@the-oberles.net
Or call (563) 355-7567

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

WINTER AND SPRING 2008



ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION WINTER AND SPRING 2008

Learning and Yearning: Preparing for Peace,

facilitated by Patti VanSandt

Sundays at 10:00 A.M., January 6, 13, 20, 27

It's about sharing our visions, hopes, for ourselves individually, our church, community, state, nation and world. The dialogue will be spiritually-grounded, transformative, congregational, community-circle-based work. It's about building community and energy in the congregation—even across generations—by sharing and exploring our vision and inspirations. It's about building bridges across barriers of race, class, sexual orientation and other differences. It's about raising the profile/presence of the congregation in the community, potentially leading to growth. Our circle will explore individually, and as a group why you're passionate about your chosen issue(s), and why it's an important issue for Unitarian Universalism. Our goal is to provide a community space to authentically explore how systemic power, privilege and oppression impact the issue. Who are the most affected by the issue that are active; act as allies and take leadership from them? **Mother Theresa once said, "If there is no peace it is because we have forgotten that we are in relation to each other."**

Engaging the Bible in a Gendered World,

facilitated by Kathy Bowman

Wednesdays at 7:00 P.M., January 16, 23, 30

Feminist Interpretation of Classic Hebrew Scriptures--We will be reading three essays from a the text **Engaging the Bible in a Gendered World.** The Genesis story, the story of Abraham and Sarah, the story of Ruth, and images of marriage will be investigated from a feminist point of view. Pick up the essay at church on the Sunday before the Wednesday night class, read it at your leisure, and come prepared to discuss or listen. You do not have to attend every session. Part of our investigation will be actually reading portions of the texts with a feminist lens. A great way to begin to read the Bible in a way that can make sense in the 21st Century.

Reason and Reverence,

facilitated by John Dunsheath

Wednesdays at 7:00 P.M., February 6, 13, 20, 27

William Murray, well known humanist and UU minister, has developed a model for what he calls "The Religion for the Future." He calls it "Humanist Religious Naturalism" and it combines the great story of science along with humanism's emphasis on the human element. Where it differs from secular humanism is the role of reverence, a feeling of respect and awe, that can save us from ourselves. In this four part class, we will examine where this religion came from, its value to us now, and its potential for the future.

Centering Prayer,

facilitated by Rev. Roger Butts and Sister Catherine Cleary

Every Wednesday in February and March at 6:30 P.M.

Centering Prayer is a method of prayer, which prepares us to receive the gift of God's presence, traditionally called contemplative prayer. It consists of responding to the Spirit by consenting to God's presence and action within. It furthers the development of contemplative prayer by quieting our faculties to cooperate with the gift of God's presence. Centering Prayer facilitates the movement from more active modes of prayer - verbal, mental or affective prayer - into a receptive prayer of resting in God. It emphasizes prayer as a personal relationship with God. At the same time, it is a discipline to foster and serve this relationship by a regular, daily practice of prayer.

Theology and Literature: Saints and Villains

by Denise Giardina, facilitated by Nancy Huse

Wednesdays at 7:00 P.M., March 5 and 19, and April 2

The group will read a novel about Dietrich Bonhoeffer that Annie Dillard called a masterpiece. It's a terrific characterization of Bonhoeffer from early adulthood until his death, carefully based on documents but reading as a rich story of conscience and friendship. We'll experience Dietrich's awkwardness as a student at Union Theological Seminary in New York, his immersion in his wealthy and talented family, and his gradual awakening to a mission that finally made him a very reluctant martyr. Giardina specifies which characters are imagined, and tells us why in an interesting epilogue. Some of the questions we can take up include the tension between faith and action, the power of words, and the closeness of Bonhoeffer's daily life to the way we live ourselves. Books are available at the church office. Read 1/3 of the novel for the first session.