

Unitarian Church of Underwood August, 2013 Newsletter

The Unitarian Church of Underwood is a welcoming community of diverse people where our celebration of life and common search for meaning bind us together.

Reminder: Sunday Morning Service begins at 9:30 a.m. in June, July and August

Coming Up in August

Sunday Morning Service Begins at 9:30

August 4 – Dave Simpkins – *Sinclair Lewis: The Muscular Christian*
 August 11 – Richard Kagan – *Traveling Abroad – A Minnesotan in New England*
 August 18 – Linda Friend – *Style & Grace*
 August 25 – Writers of Writing as a Spiritual Practice – *In Search of Wholeness*

Sunday Morning Meetings Begin at 8:15

August 4 – Adult RE

Help Needed – Apostle’s Build – August 3rd

UCU is part of an Apostle’s Build with Habitat for Humanity. That means we contributed money to build the house and have also agreed to work one day at the building site. Saturday, August 3rd is our day to build and we will most likely be working on the rafters. So, if you can, show up at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 3rd at the home being built behind Westridge Mall in Fergus Falls ready to work for a day. Please contact Dave McRoberts at 218-405-0730 or e-mail him at mcroberts_pd@hotmail.com (there is an underscore between s and pd) if you can help out in any way, or if you have any questions. Thanks!

Quote

“The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned.” Maya Angelou

Sunday Morning Speakers

August 4 - Dave Simpkins – *Sinclair Lewis: The Muscular Christian*

Dave will talk about the connection that Sinclair Lewis had with the Unitarian Church of Underwood through his teacher Mr. Gunderson. Dave will then go into the faith journey of Sinclair Lewis as revealed in his dairies. He will also discuss some references to Elmer Gantry who was critical of the commercialization of the church.

August 11 – Richard Kagan – *Traveling Abroad – A Minnesotan in New England*

Richard will address the Unitarian Universalist principles of:

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.

Theme: The approach to education, political policies, and learning is twofold: Exercising the muscle of listening actively, and relying on the belief that everyone wants to be liberated. The magical force is uniting the two with our basic principles without being overbearing and without being defensive or detouring the conversation.

My stay in Connecticut has made me aware of the cultural and political differences and their attending frustrations between the Midwest and New England. I will use some anecdotes to warm your imagination and then apply the lessons I have learned.

Biographical Information: After my father died when I became obsessed with trying to understand the spiritual meaning of my life. I had a Bar Mitzvah, obtained a diploma from the University of Judaism, and felt that I had to choose between becoming a medical doctor or a Rabbi. I did become a Dr. I earned a Ph.D. in East Asian History!!! And I became a lifer in the University system, leaving after 33 years as a Professor Emeritus. I moved to Fergus Falls with my wife, Anna, and joined the Unitarian Church of Underwood. It brought me back to some spiritual understanding of my life's goals and feelings. In Connecticut, I joined a reading club on religion, sat in on a seminar with Orthodox Jews, and have thought a lot about education, politics, and my life. Currently I have been nominated by the Democratic Party to run for the School Board. I am returning home to Underwood to remind myself of my life here and fall in love again with my friends.

August 18 - Linda Friend – *Style & Grace*

Linda Friend will be addressing the second UU Principle – Justice, equality and compassion in human relations.

Senior Producer Linda Friend retired from Wisconsin Public Television after 25 years, where she was awarded more than forty national and international broadcast and journalism awards, including two DuPont-Columbia Silver Batons, the Pulitzer Prize for television.

Friend earned her Master's degree in Journalism & Mass Communications at UW-Madison in May 2010. She is a Senior Instructor Edgewood College, where she teaches video production and cultural studies courses at neighborhood centers and summer sessions with the UW Education and Outreach Partnerships program.

Friend exhibits photography and video regularly in the Midwest and Madison area, including the Overture Center and University of Wisconsin galleries, and produces films that have been featured in New York City and the Wisconsin Film Festival, among other venues.

August 25 – UCU Group - Writing as a Spiritual Practice – *In Search of Wholeness*

This service is being organized by writers who participated in the UCU Group, Writing as a Spiritual Practice. The theme of the service will be *In Search of Wholeness*. The group meets every third Sunday of the month for an hour before Services start to share their spiritual writings.

Summer U Groups

There will be two U Group meetings after church this summer, on August 4 and September 8. They are being held especially for persons interested in becoming part of a U Group for the first time this fall. It will give them an opportunity to attend a session or two before committing to a U group for the up-coming year. Persons who have been a part of U Groups in the past are also very welcome to attend either or both sessions.

Deb Ferguson and Mary Worner will be the co-facilitators. The August 4 meeting will be from 10:45 to noon and the September 8 meeting from 11:45 to 1.

Quote

“Soon silence will have passed into legend. Man has turned his back on silence. Day after day he invents machines and devices that increase noise and distract humanity from the essence of life, contemplation, meditation.” Jean Arp

Party for Richard Kagan

There will be a party for Richard Kagan on Saturday, August 10th from 5 - 9 p.m. at Ron and Barb Graham's house. Come and visit with Richard and enjoy the evening. Some food provided but bring to share if you wish. Richard will be speaking to the congregation on August 11.

New Members

If you are interested in becoming a member of UCU, new member orientation and welcoming will be held in October. Please see JoAnn Larson to indicate your interest and give her your contact information

Photo Directory

The UCU Membership Committee is producing a picture directory of members and friends of the UCU. We will use our own resources to do so. You can submit a favorite recent photo or have your photo taken by Luke Anderson or Norm Kolstad either September 15, 22, or 29 following church service. We will then produce a photo membership directory for distribution and a photo board for display at church. The directories and photo board will be part of the 125 year celebration with first events scheduled for January, 2014. Authorizations for Use of Picture and Contact Information for you to complete and return and further details will be in the late August bulletins.

Our Beautiful Church

Whenever I drive through Underwood, I say to myself, "Wow, am I ever glad I'm a part of that bunch." Aren't the plantings and landscaping beautiful? And so immaculately kept? It's just a pleasure to walk up to the front doors.

Thank you **Susan Graff, David Wass, and JoAnne Larson**, for the gift you give us all summer. The main street of Underwood is made more lovely by our presence on it and I like the contribution we are making to the community's well-being. We look like we belong. And that feels good.

Steph Sanderson

Summer Read

The Unitarian Universalist Association of Churches chose the book *The New Jim Crow: Mass incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander as their Common Read for the 2012-13 year. After seeing some interest to read and discuss this book by a few members of our congregation, a Common Read was organized at UCU. Two of us read the first couple of chapters of the book and met to discuss them.

Just to fill you in, the first chapter tells about the history of black women and men in America in a way that is different from any history class most of us have ever attended. The second chapter talks about the current culture of the justice system with particular attention to race. Both of these chapters are eye opening and shocking. They left us with a feeling of “now what?” We felt our first step was to encourage others to read the book. To do that, we are creating a Summer Read.

The Summer Read gives everyone time to read the book. We will come together September 22 at 9:15 to begin to discuss the book, perhaps extending the discussion over two or three sessions. (Look for more details in the September Newsletter.) The book can be purchased at the UUA bookstore at <http://www.uuabookstore.org/>. Please read the book and join us for a discussion.

Blu-ray/DVD Player Needed

The church is in need of a Blu-ray/DVD Player. If you would like to purchase one for the church please contact Dave McRoberts at microberts_pd@hotmail.com or Ellen Eastby at eastofellen@hotmail.com. Thank you!

Links of Interest

Stand 4 Food – Made possible, in part, by a UCU Empowerment Grant
www.standforfood.wordpress.com

MidAmerica Region - Replacing Prairie Star District
www.midamericauua.org

Unitarian Church of Underwood Web Site
www.ucofu.org

SAVE THE DATE

UCU is sponsoring an Area UU Workshop "Building Stronger UU Congregations" on Saturday, November 9. Save the date letters have been sent to area UU churches and fellowships, which include UU Church of Fargo-Moorhead, Grand Forks UU Fellowship, Bismarck-Mandan UU Fellowship, Headwaters UU Fellowship (Bemidji), Northwoods UU Fellowship (Pine River), UU Fellowship of Mankato, St. Cloud UU Fellowship, St. Cloud Spirit of Life, and UU Church of Willmar. We are very excited to announce that Rev. Ian Evison, Church Life Consultant, from the newly formed MidAmerica Region will be coming to the workshop on Saturday and will be our speaker on Sunday morning. Planning for this workshop will continue over the next couple months. We will need many, many of volunteers for the day!! So, mark your calendar for November 9th and stay tuned for more details.

A Message from Rev. Bradley J. Skogen Chaplaincy Services Director, Lake Region Hospital

Lake Region Healthcare is currently seeking dayshift volunteers to work in various areas of the clinic and hospital. Some of these areas include: the Gift Shop, Same Day Surgery, and the Cancer Center. You can volunteer as much or as little as you want – the choice is yours!

Volunteering allows you to help others while utilizing skills in customer service and communication, in a healthcare setting. You will also be interacting with patients, families and friends. It's a wonderful environment to work in. All volunteers are eligible for a 10 percent discount at the Hospital Gift Shop.

Please refer to the Lake Regions Healthcare website at <http://www/lrhc.org/index.aspx> to apply. You can find the application page by clicking on the green-colored "Volunteer" link near the top of the page, or you may call Kim Smith at 218-736-8472 for more information. Thank you for your interest in serving and helping others in the community!

U-Group News!

The U-Group facilitators spent an evening together at the home of Carole Mitchell for new facilitator orientation. Our newest facilitators are Tere Mann, Bonnie Bell, and Diana Ziesemer. Other facilitators you know and love are Carole Mitchell, Diane Johnson, Connie Stigen, Mary Anderson, Bob and Mary Worner, Deb Ferguson, Ron Graham, and Steph Sanderson.

We're gearing up for the new U-Group year starting in September. **U-Group Sign-up** will be Sundays after church on August 11 and August 18. Mary Worner and Mary Anderson will assist everyone in finding the right group time and place. It'll be another great year together. Join us!

Underwood Unitarian Church Board Minutes for June 19, 2013

Board members present: Ellen Eastby, Norman Kolstad, Alisha Piekarski Mary Worner, David Sanderson, John Miersch, Mary Anderson, Dave Wass, Don Siems, and Dave McRoberts.
Absent: none. Others in attendance: Administrative Consultant JoAnn Larson, Stephanie Sanderson.

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Ellen Eastby at 6:30 p.m.
Mary Anderson offered a reading/meditation.
The agenda was approved (Wass/Sanderson).
The May 15, 2013 minutes were approved as printed (Anderson/Worner).

Reports:

Treasurer: David Wass

A motion passed to invest approximately \$20,000 of cash not needed for current obligations in a 6-month CD (Wass/McRoberts).

Administrative Consultant: JoAnn Larson

Membership Committee: JoAnn Larson

Program Committee: Mary Worner

Outreach Committee: no report

Facilities Committee: Dave McRoberts

Old business:

Stephanie Sanderson addressed the board regarding the strategic plan. It was decided to have Church Committees submit their goals and objectives this summer with an 18-month timeline and to start planning for subsequent annual goals and objectives six months prior to the start of the next fiscal year (Worner/Anderson).

Other discussions: archives, regional workshop October 12, planned giving, 125th anniversary, committee structure.

New Business:

The church interior is to be painted (Kolstad/Miersch). A new printer may be purchased, the cost not to exceed \$500 (Anderson/Sanderson). Other discussions: Board member contact information, Sasseville memorial July 16.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Norman Kolstad