

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.

Unitarian Church of Underwood

PO Box 58, 206 North Main Street

Underwood

Phone: 218/826-6553

Website: www.ucofu.org

www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org

Sunday Services
August 5 - Ellen
Eastby - Phelps
Mill

August 12 - Rev.
Roger Parks

August 19 - Dave
Hage

August 26 -
Marianne Byran



Floral Arrangement Provided by Bev Parker
Photos Courtesy of Norm Kolstad

August 2018

Newsletter

August 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Ellen Eastby – Celebration of Nature & Flower Ceremony @ Phelps Mill Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Children's RE 10:00-11:15 am	6 AA 7 pm	7	8 Record Keeping Committee 8:30 pm @ #300 Speakers Committee 8:30 am	9	10	11
12 Rev. Roger Parks – “Letting Our Light Shine” Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Children's RE 10:00-11:15 am	13 AA 7 pm	14 Battle Lake U Group 3 pm @ Joanne Cress' & Luke Anderson's	15 Board Meeting 5:30 pm @ #300	16	17	18
19 Dave Hage – “The News is Back” Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Children's RE 10:00-11:15 am	20 AA 7 pm	21	22	23	24	25
26 Concert Pianist, Marianne Byran Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Children's RE 10:00-11:15 am	27 AA 7 pm	28	29	30	31 Garage Sale - Repeat 9 am – 4 pm Sverdrup #300 Garage	



Sunday Programs

August 5 – Ellen Eastby – “Breath of the Soul.” Phelps Mill Outdoor Service with Flower Ceremony (bring flowers!). Inspired by the words of Eleanora Duse, Ellen will speak about nature being the breath of the soul: “If the sight of the blue skies fills you with joy, if a blade of grass springing up in the fields has power to move you, if the simple things of nature have a message that you understand, rejoice, for your soul is alive.”

Children’s Religious Education will participate in the flower ceremony and then, with their leaders, tour the mill to learn about early settlers and milling. There will be a potluck following the service so also bring a dish to share.

August 12 – Rev. Roger Parks, “Letting Our Light Shine,” the second of his three-part series with the theme, “This Little Light.” In his first talk in June, Roger addressed the issues of discovering the inner light. The second talk will be on sharing that light in our relationships. The series will complete with his third talk on September 16, “Becoming a Lighthouse for the World” - how we can join others in being the light for the world.

August 19 – Dave Hage, Star Tribune Editor, “The News is Back.” More people are buying newspapers, more are watching television news, some organizations are actually hiring again. Why? Because news organizations are playing a crucial role again in the age of Trump: They are investigating his conflicts of interest, they are pulling the curtain back on secret policy decisions in the Administration – in short, they are holding the government accountable and doing just what journalists are supposed to do in a democracy. And yet the country is as divided as ever.

So, what’s “real news” and what’s “fake news?” Dave will describe how a newsroom actually operates; how most reporters don’t try to inject bias into their work; all the various quality and accuracy controls that journalists work with every day.

August 26 – New Member, Marianne Byran has provided us special music but will expand her selections and this date give us a **piano concert!**



August 5-September 9 Children's Religious Education Schedule

August 5	Cedar Walters	Ron Graham		Flowers & Flour @ Phelps Mill
August 12	Ron Graham	Helper		Church Home Principles & Sources
August 19	Robbyn Navatto	Ron Graham		
August 26	Richard Kagan	Ron Graham		Chalice & Symbol
Sat., Sept 1				Underwood Harvest Festival Parade????
September 2	Cedar Walters	Ron Graham		UUA home lesson #4
September 9	Kris Warhol	Helper		God's Work, Our Hands with Sverdrup Lutheran Church

Children's Dedication Service



Delabre and Walter families with Ellen Eastby
Photos courtesy of Bert Whitcomb

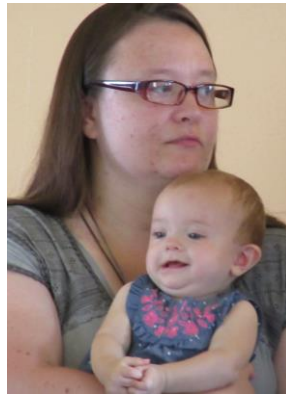


During the July 8th Sunday service, Ellen Eastby led a lovely ceremony to dedicate children of Molly & Josh Delabre: Lorelei Jayne, Louise Ann, and Mabel Diane; and Hera, the daughter of Chris & Cedar Walters and granddaughter of Katy Olson & Ron Roller. The congregation affirmed: "As we contemplate the miracle of birth, as we renew in our hearts a sense of wonder and joy, may we be stirred to a fresh awareness of the sacredness of life and of the divine

promise of childhood. May we so live that our children may acquire our best virtues and leave behind our worst failings. May we pass on the light of kindness, courage, compassion and the questing spirit, and may that light burn more brightly in these children than it has in us."



Louise with sisters, Sophia & Chloe



Mabel with mom, Molly



Lorelei with dad, Josh



Delabre Children: Charlie, Louise, Sophia & Emma



Cedar Walters with Hera

Stay^oinformED

Website:
www.ucofu.org

“Like” UCU on Facebook: see
www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org

Wi-fi Now Available at UCU
**See Bulletin Board or Bulletins for
Password**

To be included to regularly receive
weekly church reports and monthly
newsletters, please contact Ellen Eastby
@ eastofellen@hotmail.com

Contact JoAnn Larson @ redswilds@gmail.com
for Sunday announcements and local media
notifications.

**Sunday Talks available via POD
Casts @ soundcloud.com/user-927528278**

**Newsletter Submissions due prior to
Issuance the 1st of each month**
Please submit your ideas, articles and photos to:
maryanderson8380@msn.com.
Editing: Stephanie Sanderson
Emailing/ mailing: Ellen Eastby and JoAnn Larson.
Website: Ellen Eastby
Facebook: Melody Shores
Photos courtesy of Norm Kolstad & credited
others.

Note: Announcements sent to JoAnn Larson,
Administrative Consultant for church bulletin
and/or Mary Anderson for the monthly newsletter
are forwarded for inclusion in the www.ucofu.org
and Facebook Page.

Newsletter comes out on the 1st of each month via
email. They are also posted at www.ucofu.org.

Nurture Your Spirit ...

Summer U Group Schedule

- Alexandria U-Group will head for the home of Jami and Dan Gaither in Shevlin, MN outside Bemidji for a get together/camp out on August 11th. The U Group did an Alexandria Habitat for Humanity Work Day on July 9 for their community project. Facilitators: Lee Becker/Susan Sanford
- The Battle Lake U Group will continue to meet as usual on the 2nd Tuesday @ 3:00 p.m. @ home of Joanne Cress and Luke Anderson, 846 Lake Shore Drive, Battle Lake. They plan to serve lunch August 21 @ Churches United Shelter in Moorhead. Their church project is to put metal labels on the kitchen cabinets sometime soon. Facilitators: Bob Worner and Joanne Cress.
- **The Fergus Falls and Perham U Groups will resume meetings in September.**



Bonnie Bell Albers & Jacob McKnite

Adult Religious Education Classes will resume in September
Mindfulness Sitting - Each Sunday of the month, 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. led by Stan Carignan

New Mindfulness Class will also begin in September on the 3rd Sunday

“This coming fall, we will offer unstructured quiet time on the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Sundays. On the 3rd Sunday, our RE Sunday, we will use the book *"Seeing, Knowing, Being"* by John Greer as a text to explore what mindfulness is, how it can be achieved, and what it does for a person. We will discuss a couple of chapters each month, followed by 20 minutes of mindfulness practice. These texts have been purchased by the church and are available to anyone who desires to participate.” *Stan Carignan*

Notes from July Speakers/Presenters



July 1 – Peggy Maxwell shared with us her “**Insights from Bhutan.**” Recently, Peggy traveled to Bhutan with Rimpoche Zasoche, from the Phoenix, AZ area with whom and where Peggy has studied/learned about Buddhist teachings. Rimpoche sums up Buddhist philosophy in 9 words:

- Calm your mind.
- Do no harm.
- Do your best.

Peggy began her presentation by referring to Anthony Bourdain’s show, *Parts Unknown*. The last episode was set in Bhutan. One message of the show was, “It is therapeutic to think of death a couple minutes a day,” reminding us how fleeting life can be. She also mentioned an interesting conundrum in Bhutan concerning meat consumption. While meat consumption is up, the government/people are conflicted as to whether to allow the construction of large slaughter houses in the country. However, it is OK for meat to be imported.

Peggy’s journey to Bhutan began in the capital city of Thimphu. Its population is 100,000, but they have no stoplights. She fell in love with the architecture and visited a school that taught traditional architecture and cultural arts. A plaque listed the values of equality, lifelong learning, enterprise, dignity of labor, and integrity.

In 1953, Bhutan became a constitutional monarchy. An interesting facet of the country is that women inherit the family property, and husbands move in with their wife’s families.

There are stupas, large and small, all over the country. A *stupa* (Sanskrit: "heap") is a mound-like or hemispherical structure containing relics (śarīra - typically the remains of *Buddhist* monks or nuns) that is used as a place of meditation and prayer. Often, there are prayer wheels and/or prayer flags nearby. With both, prayers are spread into the world.

A final hike was to the Tiger’s Nest, a Buddhist monastery. The hike of 5.2 miles takes people from an elevation of 8500 ft. to 10,330 ft. Gorgeous views, and prayer flags and prayer wheels are everywhere.

Link to Podcast: <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/bhutan-peggy-maxwell-july-1-2018>

Attendance: 63



July 8 – Celebrant Bob Worner’s message centered on: “The Beginning and the End” as it relates to UU Principle #7. There are four questions that we contemplate over our lifetimes:

- 1) Where do I come from?
- 2) Where am I going?
- 3) Who am I?
- 4) Why are we here?

We have religious and scientific answers to the first question. From Genesis: “Let there be Light”; from the book of John: “In the beginning was the word...light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it.” Science gives us the “Big Bang” theory with the creation dating back 13.7 billion years with life 3.5-9 million years ago. Early man from 300,000-600,000 years ago – a second in universe time.

Most religions teach that there is some kind of “after life” – be it heaven/hell, absorption into the earth/divine or nirvana. There are many threats that could end us sooner than with the loss of the sun 300+ billion years away.

Who are we? This church has been kept alive well beyond a church’s life expectancy of 75 years. As individuals we are looking for connections, ties. Our church is a community now with four generations continuing to contribute.

Where are we going? We act on our principles. We tell our stories. We continue through those actions and through our stories of our history. We are part of the “interdependent web of all existence” (UU Principle # 7).

Today’s Podcast at: <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/the-beginning-and-the-end-july-8-2018>

Attendance: 69 (many of whom were members of the Delabre family here to celebrate dedication of the children).



July 15 – Chris Hsylop, “Do Two Rights Make a Wrong?” Chris still follows his former Peace Corp pledge to be sent where needed; be of service to the needs of the country; share your experience. Chris now serves with the United Nations, residing with his family in Myanmar.

We are familiar with Myanmar (formerly Burma) through accounts of Nobel peace prize winner and now leader, Aung San Suu Kyi and have heard news reports of the persecution of the Rohingya people:

800,000 who have fled to Bangladesh. They were attacked by an Islamic insurgency group and the Myanmar military intervened. Myanmar is in the early stages of democracy and fearful of returning to military control. They have had a 61-year civil war and have difficult race relations.

From the Myanmar perspective: This is just one of many problems. The attack by a terror group is a threat to the majority of Buddhist citizens. The Rohingya people do not have legal citizenship. They see the military that intervened as responsible and up to their “dirty stuff again.” Their answer is that this is an internal problem so let it be; don’t help the military destabilize their new government.

From the media’s and analysts’ perspective: Under human rights, this should be regarded as ethnic cleaning. There was a disproportionate response with the military’s burning and bulldozing of villages.

From an international perspective: The Civilian government (not the military) is responsible for control. Yes, this is an internal issue, but it needs to be resolved for human rights and through education and political compromise.

Myanmars’ reaction: “Are you crazy?” This needs to be looked at in the long game. Your complaints make weaker, our leader, Aung San Suu Kyi. If we are seen to support Muslims, she will lose the election.

International reaction: “Are you crazy?” If Aung san suu kyi doesn’t answer, your democracy will break down.

They each may have a perspective that makes sense to them, but neither is entirely correct. What does it mean to be right? It is seen in 0 sum terms - deal now or fail vs. leave alone because if we deal now, we will fail. Consequently, both fail. There is no space to build trust, consensus, compromise.

In response to audience questions: The Rohingya people moved back and forth across the borders for 600-700 years. Under the law, they are not citizens of Myanmar so have no legal rights. But shouldn’t they have basic human rights just because they are residents of a country.

Do we prolong the problem when we offer aide and supports? Or does our heart speak first to act rather than take a long time before acting? We want to do something now to feel good. “Do no harm.” The test for humanitarian aid is not political but rather consideration for the needs and health of the individual in distress.

Compromise is viewed as a “naughty word.” What can we learn to help resolve the two rights: Look at the other’s point of view; listen, don’t argue.

We crave certainty. We think we are right, so we own and defend our position. This closes the space to compromise. Hate does not resolve hate. Only love can do that.

Listen to the podcast at: <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/do-two-rights-make-a-wrong-chris-hyslop-july-15-2018>



Special music was provided by Kari Hyslop and daughters, Coco & Emma Hyslop with appreciation shown for Emma from their little cousin.

_Attendance: 71 (Many friends and family of the Hyslops from Swan Lake).



July 22 – Celebrant, Ellen Eastby shared with us about her experiences at the **UUA General Assembly** held in Kansas City. She said that it was fun, exhausting, and she met wonderful people everywhere.

(GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. General Assembly 2018 (June 20-24) took place in Kansas City, MO, with many online offerings.

Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates. (Note: Per our certified member count, UCU is designated two certified delegates).

Ellen encouraged us to view 3 videos that were made at the assembly:

#1 recommendation - Ware Lecture - Brittany Packnett - <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2018/ware>

#2 recommendation - President's Report - <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2018/business/iii/presidents-report>

#3 recommendation - Sunday Morning Worship - <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2018/worship/sunday>

Ellen found the business meetings very interesting. She shared 3 issues/ changes that were addressed:

1. The 2 Youth Trustees will now have full Board member voting rights.
2. The words of the living tradition #2 have been changed to "Words and deeds of prophetic people (formerly 'women and men') which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and transforming power of love"
3. Gender neutral terms of they/their will replace his/her, he/she, etc.

Three AIWs (Action of Immediate Witness) were brought to the assembly and passed:

1. End Prisons for Profit: Dismantle Predatory Medical Care Practices (Ellen helped to gather signatures to get this on the ballot)
2. End Family Separation and Detention of Asylum Seekers and Abolish ICE
3. We Are All Related: Solidarity NOW with Indigenous Water Protectors

The theme of the assembly was “All Are Called”; dismantling white supremacy. The President acknowledged that people of color have felt discrimination in treatment and hiring by UUA. The current times are challenging, and often painful. We are partners – from the UUA to districts to congregations.

On Thursday, the UUA heard that some people from the Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, KS (conservative; anti LGBT) were planning to come to protest UU beliefs. Ellen decided to join about 50 UU’s who were going to counter demonstrate. Five to six people from the Baptist Church showed up, carrying signs. UU’s sang and shared messages of peace and love. Eventually the number of UU’s swelled to 120+. The Westboro folks left after 30 minutes.

Ellen shared a video of UUA President, Susan Frederick-Gray’s address wherein she told the story of the “perfect heart.” A heart that has been given away is more perfect than a heart with no give-aways.

Thank you, Ellen for representing us and sharing your experiences with us.

To listen to the Podcast, click: <https://soundcloud.com/user-927529289/general-assembly-ellen-eastbyjuly22-2018>.

Attendance: 48



July 29 - Jim Laine, Professor of Religious Studies at Macalester College, talked to us about the precepts of the book he’s authored: ***MetaReligion: The Authority that Makes Religious Tolerance Possible***; a history on how cultures organized and managed for a common political community.

Jim relayed that in 1820, Thomas Jefferson had sliced up the New Testament with a razor cutting out the words, “miracles” and “divinity.” Jefferson was an unorthodox thinking Episcopalian. Although Jefferson’s Bible was not published, it has been preserved.

At the time of our founding, 95% were Protestants who strongly believed in the separation of church and state. Some had experienced oppression. Within the Protestants, there were a number of sects, but it was taken for granted that they held a common value – freedom of religion.

In 1820 on the other side of the world lived Raja Ram Mohan Roy, who was a reformer for a socio-religious movement in India. Both Jefferson and Roy had been influenced by Unitarians toward a more progressive religious outlook.

The 17th century was a blood bath among the religions. The 18th century was a step forward for intellectuals to address/reduce the intolerance of religion.

However, even if we think ourselves progressive in acceptance, there is a smug intellectual dishonesty when we talk of religious tolerance. We still have criteria by which we judge religions, “as long as...” In our minds, they can go so far but can’t cross certain lines. So, even as we profess our tolerance, we are still intolerant if....

Religion plays a key role in politics and power in that it helps “create worlds” based on beliefs and faith. The term Jim uses is “meta-religion,” which he defines as how each empire or nation came up with a basis for organizing and managing multiple religions in a common political community.

This need to create a common society is, since 2016, in crisis. There is no common set of principles and values or assumptions that we are even a Christian culture with common values. It was noted that other religions addressed tolerance over the centuries, so Christians didn’t stand alone on the idea.

We can’t remain content with individualism – each seeking our own path. We must engage in hard work across the divides. The highest court of appeal is how does society invest together on a common set of values.

Attendance: 42

Podcast at: <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/metareligion-the-authority-that-makes-religious-tolerance-possible-jim-laine-july-29-2018>.



Stewardship

Attendance January-June 2018 averaged 47/Sunday with a high of 83 and low of 27. Your attendance is appreciated!!

Collections first quarter of 2018 Fiscal Year (April 1-June 30) = \$9,448. This amount fell somewhat short of the collections needed of \$11,603 for the quarter’s budget projection. Please keep that in mind as you continue to give through the ebb and flow of what you, yourself are given. Your giving is appreciated!!

"Giving is not primarily an obligation, nor a duty and certainly not a burden. Generosity is an opportunity to make real our connection to others and to that which is larger than ourselves. Generosity is one of the important ways we participate in the Spirit of Life...

Generosity and most spirituality grow out of a sense of gratitude. Generosity to this church supports a community of caring, compassion and hope with a ministry that goes deep both within and beyond our walls..." *(As excerpted from the writing of the Annual Fund Drive Brochure written by Rev. Thomas Disrud, Associate Minister, Unitarian Church of Portland. See: congregationalstewardship.blogs.uua.org/spiritual-giving/give-until-it-feels-good/)*

We, at the Unitarian Church of Underwood, do much, we care much, we give much. Thank you!

Know Your UCU Board of Directors



John Minge, Darryl Booker, Bob Worner, John Miersch, Kris Warhol, Connie Stigen, Dave Sanderson, Ron Roller

Absent: Stan Carignan & Shannon Smith

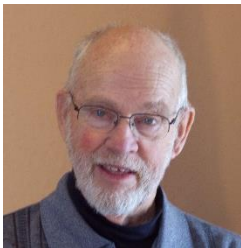
Photos Courtesy of Norm Kolstad

Effective with the 2018 Annual Meeting, the Board composition changed with several new members and new officers. At the June Board meeting, Past President, Mary Anderson did a power point presentation for Board orientation. Mary was assisted by Norm Kolstad who did a demonstration on using google.docs, where most of our records are now stored on-line. The Board of Directors thank Mary Anderson for the huge amount of work in maintaining and revising the UCU Policy and Procedures Manual and Norm Kolstad for the huge amount of work in maintaining and updating the churches historical and administrative records in electronic storage files using google.docs. Board Member, Bob Worner expressed awe at what is now available for UCU governance and administrative purposes.

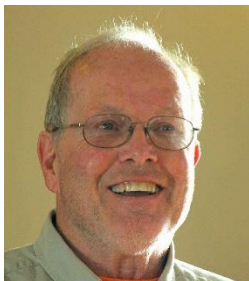
To keep up on who's who on the Board of Directors, we present to you:



Kris Warhol, President: Kris joined UCU sometime in 1998 with her husband, Wally. Shortly thereafter, Kris was hired part-time as the first UCU Administrative Consultant. She served under that contract until 2010. Kris is now serving her second term 3-year term on the Board. As Administrative Consultant, Kris took on and did much. She continues to take on a lot as a Battle Lake U Group Facilitator, member of the Speakers Committee, Stewardship Committee, Foundation Advisory Committee, Safety Committee. She also acts as a Service Leader, Greeter, and Co-Coordinator for Children's Religious Education. She and Wally have now volunteered to act as lead Co-Facilitators for the U Groups. In her spare time, Kris is an artist and a couple of her works are displayed in the lower level.



Bob Worner, Vice President: Bob and his wife, Mary joined UCU years ago. Bob has served in many capacities over the years, but we know him best as our wise elder who has delivered talks to us several times over the course of each year. We can have many speakers from the outside, but it is only Bob who knows UCU well enough to build our spirits when needed and admonish us when necessary. Looking to the future in hopes of diminishing his role, Bob was instrumental in creating the Celebrant role that he and seven others now fill. In addition to his current role as VP, Bob is acting as Community Outreach Coordinator. He is co-facilitator of the Battle Lake U Group and Adult Religious Education leader for the 4th Sunday offerings.



John Minge, Secretary: John has been a member of UCU since about 2007 and was grabbed for the Board shortly thereafter. He served as Board Secretary during his two terms. John has now agreed to again serve on the Board and again assume the position of Secretary. At the same time, John volunteered to lead an Adult Education class and he's been doing it each year since. John is one of the eight celebrants. He's also been a participant since its inception in the Perham U Group. We know and relish that John loves to cook, especially for crowds. He is now famous for his annual December curry dinner and as chief cook and organizer of the annual community chili dinner. In his modest way, John says his fame "has not reached much beyond Underwood." John is also a builder and we see his work in the lower level cabinets below the T.V. He's in process of building 7 kayaks for the Perham Kinship Program (where he may soon be famous with the girls and boys there).

Ron Roller, Treasurer: Long time member, Ron Roller and his wife, Katy Olson were actively involved over the years with the Children's RE program when their own children, Cedar Walters and Hazen Roller-Olson were growing up. Cedar is now a mother herself to Hart and Heran. Grandpa Ron often accompanies his grandchildren to church activities. Ron was Board President for several years and one of the founders of the Empowerment Grant program. He continues to chair the Empowerment Grant Application



Committee. Ron helped keep the books for UCU for many years, which behoves him well as he now acts as Board Treasurer. On occasion, Ron also shares special music with us. Ron is an avid gardener, had a produce/floral business for 10 years back in the 80s-90s. He loves cycling and plans on riding about 1500 miles this year.

New Board Members – (beside old-timers, John Minge and Ron Roller above):



Darryl Booker and his wife, Joan Vorderbruggen moved to Battle Lake in 2016, joining the Unitarian Church in 2017. Darryl, currently a professor of architecture at North Dakota State University and a licensed architect for 36 years, will soon be retired from both. Given his expertise, it is no coincidence that Darryl has been targeted to serve on the Space Planning Task Force and on the Facilities Committee. A college professor of Darryl's once told his students – "there are two groups you never want to work for – your family and/or your church." Darryl is finding out that we at UCU aren't just church, we are also family! Tough stuff!



Shannon Smith has been a member of UCU since 2013. Shannon is one of the eight celebrants and speaks once a year inspiring us to deep thinking. Prior to her recent retirement, Shannon worked as a civil engineer, specializing in water resources and hydrologic engineering. She worked with the USDA-NRCS as a conservation engineer in Fergus Falls, and with other private and governmental agencies. Now with more time, Shannon is hoping to continue working on development of her faith, community and breadth of knowledge.

Continuing to serve on the Board:



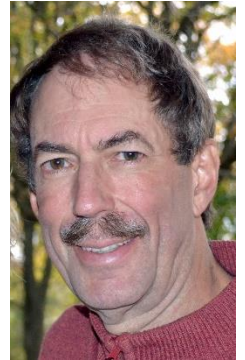
Stan Carignan, a member of UCU since 2014. Stan is the Executive Director of the Fergus Falls Habitat for Humanity and lines up many from UCU, other churches and organizations to participate in Habitat builds. Stan leads Mindfulness Sitting each Sunday and is looking forward to leading an adult education class beginning in the fall on Mindfulness using the book, "Seeing, Knowing, Being" by John Greer. He also serves on the Foundation Advisory Committee. Stan is an avid biker participating in the Habitat 500. He is a Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve with 37 years of military service.



John Miersch joined UCU with his wife, Janell in 2011 after their active involvement in UU churches at St. Paul and White 01Bear Lake, MN as well as UU churches in Wisconsin. John served as Vice President of the Board from 2013-14 and as President from 2014-15. John likes to fish, read, volunteer, travel and make beer. He is also a writer and sometimes shares with us his humor through his writings. Beside serving as a Board

member, John also acts as service leader, greeter and on the Membership Committee.

Dave Sanderson, a retired physician, who with his wife, Stephanie, have been UCU members since 2006. Dave served as Vice President from 2015-2017. He currently serves as chair of the Stewardship Committee and the Foundation Advisory and as a member of the Safety Committee. Dave is a hunter, a fisherman, a biker, a bow man and active in several other organizations.



Connie Stigen joined UCU sometime in 2008. She jokes she has always been “Unitarian,” but just didn’t know it. She is grateful to finally find a community where she continues to learn and grow spiritually and intellectually. Connie is a past co-lead Facilitator for the U Groups and continues to participate in the Fergus Falls U Group. Connie is on the Foundation Advisory Committee and the Empowerment Grant Application Committee.

We appreciate the time given and decision making of our Unitarian Church of Underwood’s Board of Directors!

Help Heal the World!

Habitat 500



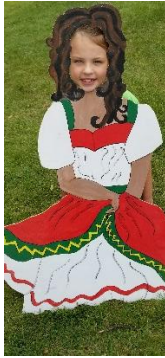
Paul Shol & Stan Carignan

Habitat’s Executive Director and UCU Member, Stan Carignan, along with Paul Shol, Habitat’s Community Outreach Director completed the 500-mile bike ride to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity. This is Stan’s 3rd ride in the past three years. The Unitarian Church of Underwood

has also provided for the 3rd year in a row an Empowerment Grant for the Habitat 500. They were joined 109 other riders from around the state. Stan & Paul were pleased to meet their fundraising goal of \$10,000 just before they left for the ride. Thank you to all the supporters!

See the Daily Journal story here: [Habitat 500 article](#).

Friendship Festival



Violet in Disguise



Festival Mariachi Band



Love Resists!

Photos courtesy of Barb Honer

After a lapse of 7 years, the Multi-Cultural Committee of Pelican Rapids and other community volunteers resumed the Friendship Festival celebrating the diversity of their town with their many Norwegians, Somalians, Hispanics and Bosnians, other nationalities and cultures. The Tickwood String Band (Doug & Betsy Wells & Ron Roller & Katy Olson), along with Somalian and Native Dancers and a Mariachi Band were part of the entertainment. There was a variety of food provided by local restaurants and food trucks. Activities for the many children included a bouncing hut, face painting and pinata busting. The last was overseen by Barb Honer and Violet. Barb was part of the planning committee. It was good to see several in attendance at the Festival from the UCU.

UCU's Garage Sale Proceeds to Honor the Earth



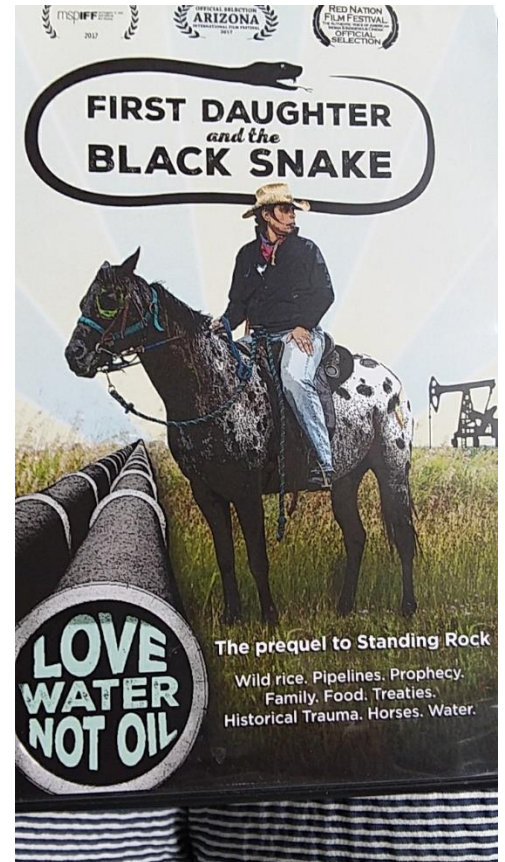
From the proceeds of the church rummage sale in June, Kris Warhol delivered to Winona LaDuke (picture at left) for *Honor the Earth* a check for \$500.00. UCU participates annually in the Underwood All-City-Wide Rummage Sale. Because of the extent of donations made in June for the rummage sale, Kris is running a 2nd garage sale on Friday, August 31 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Sverdrup Suites #300's garage.

The Mission of *Honor the Earth* is to create awareness and support for Native environmental issues and to develop needed financial and political resources for the survival of sustainable Native communities.

As this newsletter goes out, Winona and relatives of the Dakota's and Anishinaabeg's have launched their 6th Annual "Love Water Not Oil Tour" in the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe territory. There they will ride against the current of the oil along the proposed Enbridge Line3 route for over 200 miles. They remain vigilant to protect our land.

Sometime this fall as follow-up to Winona's earlier presentation this year at UCU, the documentary, *First Daughter and the Black Snake* will be featured at the church. For more information, see: http://www.honorearth.org/sandpiper_line_3_corridor

http://www.honorearth.org/line_3_factsheet.



Literacy Tutors Needed in the Underwood Public Schools and Other School Districts

Experience life-changing growth. Become a Minnesota Reading Corps or Minnesota Math Corps tutor.

Would you or someone you know love to help area children grow their reading or math skills, succeed in school and get extra support? You can be trained to succeed as a tutor with Minnesota Reading Corps or Minnesota Math Corps. Last year, Minnesota Reading Corps and Minnesota Math Corps provided direct tutoring to over 45,000 children in more than 900 schools across the state, and we are currently hiring for openings this August.

You'll be part of a student's progress – in their test scores, in their other school work and in their eyes as they light up with the satisfaction of knowing they can do it. No child wants to stand out because they can't learn as quickly as other kids. We're helping more kids catch up and soar on their own. And you can be part of it.

In addition to our extensive paid training, tutors receive on-site support from specially trained school mentors. Tutors are paid a living allowance and are eligible for an education award of up to \$5,920 and federal student loan forbearance. Tutors 55 or older may gift the award to a child or grandchild.

Apply online at www.minnesotareadingcorps.org or www.minnesotamathcorps.org.

Make your shopping count for Shan Schools!

Dear UCU Friend,

If you shop through Amazon, please go to AmazonSmile for your purchases and designate Schools for Shan Refugees as your charity of choice, which means that Amazon will donate a small percentage of each of your purchases to our charity for the Shan. The charity supports the education of Shan children and youth, and are programs are wonderfully successful. You can use this link to get started:

smile.amazon.com/ch/80-0284986.

This is a photo of a Shan youth accompanied by his family at his vocational school graduation.



Many thanks!

Bernice Johnson, President
Schools for Shan Refugees

LOVE
RESISTS

As the deeply racist and oppressive nature of the current administration continues to reveal itself and we see our country returning more and more to overt and often violent methods of disempowering people of color and other vulnerable communities, we can find the strength to remain steadfast in our resistance by reinvesting in solidarity.

Ever faithful in our commitment to building Beloved Community, we must keep our hearts, eyes, and ears open to the guidance and needs of those most at risk. Love Resists the racism that is tearing apart our shared community. And we know we must be courageous in our resistance.

[To renew courage and sustain commitment, we've compiled stories, resources and actions on the Love Resists blog.](#) Check them out; we hope they can provide the support and encouragement so needed to stay the course in this work.

www.loveresists.org

Love Resists is a joint campaign by the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Environmental Justice

*Submitted by Janell Miersch, UCU Connector with MNIPL and
Co-Coordinator of Citizens Climate Lobby.*

CONNECTION

Write to Water Protectors in Jail

At the 2018 UUA General Assembly, an [Action of Immediate Witness](#) was passed affirming “solidarity with Water Protectors, including defendants, inmates, and their loved ones” and a commitment “to extend relationships of solidarity with Water Protectors, leveraging our spiritual, financial, human, and infrastructural resources in support of Water Protectors, especially those who face ongoing charges and prison sentences, and their loved ones.” To support UUs in carrying out this Action of Immediate Witness, here is information from the [Water Protector Legal Collective](#) website about four Indigenous Water Protectors facing federal charges. Be sure to bookmark their website and regularly check for updates.

INSPIRATION

Winona LaDuke's speech after PUC Line 3 decision

In a powerful speech ([view here](#)) following the approval of a route for the Enbridge Line 3 pipeline by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, Winona LaDuke calls on Water Protectors to come to Minnesota to protect the water [against Line 3](#), saying “What I will tell you is we are not backing down. We are here, we will stand here because we have been here for 10,000 years. We're the home team, and we're not going anywhere.”

News from Citizens Climate Lobby (a national nonpartisan, nonprofit group of citizens working to support climate protection www.citizensclimatelobby.org)

The [Market Choice Act](#) was introduced by two Republican Representatives on July 23, 2018. The Market Choice Act would put a price on carbon and use most of the revenue to invest in infrastructure projects. The carbon price would begin at \$24 per ton of emissions, and it would increase 2 percent above inflation annually. 75% of the revenue would go into a trust fund. Of

that, 70 percent of the revenue would go to infrastructure, 10% would go as block grants to states to help households under 150% of the poverty line deal with increased costs, and the remainder would go to a variety of 15 additional programs aimed at infrastructure, energy assistance, adaptation, and energy research and development.

This innovative approach to carbon pricing was introduced by Republican Representatives Carlos Curbelo (FL) and Brian Fitzpatrick (PA). It represents a huge step forward in the conversation around carbon pricing. While this is not the fee and dividend style bill Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) ultimately hopes to see in Congress, this is an important moment. For nine years, CCL volunteers have said that Republicans can and will support a price on carbon, and yesterday they did. Through our methods of respectful, persistent engagement with our legislators, Citizens' Climate Lobby volunteers across the country made yesterday possible. Our local CCL group recently got Rep. Colin Peterson to agree to join the bipartisan CCL efforts.

Congress recently passed the anti-carbon tax resolution. Some CCL volunteers are disappointed that it passed, and some are pleased by the declining support for it. While it might seem that the reappearance and passage of this resolution is a case of the same old circumstances, the circumstances around carbon pricing in the U.S. House of Representatives are advancing meaningfully right now.

If you are interested in learning more about CCL, please join the Fergus Falls group which meets 7-8:30 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month at Beth Monke's house: 1000 Mt. Faith Avenue, Fergus Falls

Save the Dates!!

Community Project with Sverdrup & Tingvold Lutheran Churches

"God's work - Our hands."

September 9, 2018



Kris Warhol and helper(s) will escort the UCU Children over to Sverdrup Suites to participate in the God's Work, Our Hands annual community project during the Children's RE Hour.

Social Justice Workshop

"Outreach in Challenging Times"

St. Cloud Unitarian Church

October 13, 2018

10-3 p.m.

With Guest Speaker Danny Givens, MUUSJA, speaking at their Sunday service on October 14.

Note: Members from the St. Cloud Unitarian Church attended the UCU 2017 Fall Workshop and now they have stepped forward to host in 2018. Hopefully, many UCU members and friends can attend to show our support and commitment to our fellow UU church and to social and environmental justice actions. Contact Judy Foster @ jfoster58@charter.net or Mary Anderson @ maryanderson8380@msn.com.

Take Time to Have Fun!!



September 9, 2:30 p.m. - Dalton Opera House (109 Summit)

October 6, 7 p.m. – Fergus Falls Eagles Aerie (120 S Peck)

Music in the Woods at Erhard-Hills

Saturdays, 3-5 p.m.



Carole Mitchell and Cindy Johnson sponsor these concerts by professional musicians because they believe the arts are life-sustaining. Please be generous in the donation boxes, in which all proceeds go to the artists.

Bring your friends, we are family friendly. For your comfort, bring a folding chair and BYOB if you wish. NO RSVP, just drive on in: 33928 County Highway 27. We never cancel unless it's the end of the world. In the spirit of community, simple snacks/food to share are most welcome.

Provided: filtered drinking water, tableware, electricity (crockpots) and a clean biffy on-site. For more information, contact Carole @ 218/205.4828 or cmcarolemitchell@gmail.com.



August 11 -- Dave & Jon are back with OSCAR-HELEN, a wide variety of favorites & original tunes.

AUGUST 25 -- The Tickwood String Band returns for the 6th year! Always enjoyable, come hear heartfelt story tunes from American folklore.



House Concert **Acoustic Folk by R Mark Fogelson**

R Mark Fogelson will perform a house concert at Ron and Barbara Graham's house on Friday, October 5, from 7 – 9. Reserve your spot by contacting Ron Graham preferably at universeron@hotmail.com or 218-739-5669. More information at <http://www.rmarkmusic.com/>.

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF UNDERWOOD **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Approved MINUTES—JUNE 20, 2018 BOARD MEETING

Board members present: Kris Warhol, David Sanderson, Connie Stigen, Bob Worner, John Miersch, Ron Roller, Daryl Booker, and John Minge. Board members absent: Shannon Smith and Stan Carignan. Others in attendance: Mary Anderson and Norman Kolstad

The Meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by Board President Kris Warhol.

1. Kris opened with a reading of “Dignity and Worth” by Louis McGee.
2. Agenda: The proposed agenda for this meeting was approved. (Ron/John Miersch.)
3. Minutes of the May 16, 2018, Board Meeting were approved. (Dave/John Miersch.)
4. A combined presentation regarding “Google Docs” and “Board Orientation” was made by Norman Kolstad and Mary Anderson. Mary opened the presentation with a description of the content of the packet that was passed out at the beginning of the Board Meeting. Norm then talked about finding the Church Manual and many other Church documents online at Google Docs. He indicated that, while the documents are viewable at that site, the password that would enable someone to make changes to the documents would not be made generally available.
5. Program Committee Report. Kris made this brief program report. Among other things, she indicated that the Program Committee is having good success in getting Sunday morning speakers.
6. Treasurer’s Report. Ron passed out and went over a balance sheet as of May 31, 2018, as well as an income and expense report that showed year-to-date information through May 21, 2018.

7. Audit. Norm reported that the internal Church audit had been completed and that it did not show any problems.

8. Stewardship Committee and Foundation Committee Reports. Dave gave this combined report. The Stewardship Committee has not met since the last Board Meeting. There was nothing to report to the Board regarding the Foundation.

9. Outreach Committee Report. Bob said that there was nothing to report regarding the activities of the Outreach Committee.

10. Facilities Committee Report. Daryl reported that the Facilities Committee has been quite active in the past month. The handrail work has been completed. An easel was donated to the Church by Daryl and Joan. Katie Olson will be donating a “white board”. There are some leaky windows to be repaired. Kitchen cabinet labels are to be done soon. The carpet has been cleaned. Some touch-up painting in the Church is necessary. A battery-powered light at the podium has been suggested. (Some think that we already have such a light.) One of the units at Sverdrup Suites has had its porch paneled and looks really good. The biggest topic of discussion regarding facilities was chairs. Some new chairs are being considered. Some think that the old wooden chairs should be saved and are still mostly safe to be used. There is no money budgeted for the purpose of purchasing new chairs. Daryl made the point that any new chairs to be purchased should be fitted to their intended use. Some types of chairs work well for some purposes and some for other purposes. The discussion regarding chairs included the point (made by Connie and others) that some businesses are moving away from the traditionally high use of chairs, preferring standing more in some situations.

11. Sverdrup Suites Committee Report. A written report was presented. Sue Groff has indicated that she’d like to see the other three units at Sverdrup Suites have the same paneling done as was done to the one that Daryl mentioned—see paragraph 10, above.

12. Safety Committee Report. Dave reported that some changes are being made to the “safety plan”. Connie asked about the security of the Church’s website. It was moved and seconded that the Church not use live trees at Christmas time. (John Miersch/Dave) A motion to amend the original motion was then made. (Ron/Bob) The motion to amend would allow for the use of unlighted Christmas trees. This motion to amend passed. The motion as amended then was voted on and passed.

13. Policy and Procedure Manual Revisions. Several suggested revisions to the Policy and Procedure Manual were printed on the backside of the sheet with the Agenda. The suggestions were compiled by Mary Anderson based on comments that she received from various Church committees and from some individual Church members. A motion to adopt those revisions was made and passed. (Ron/Daryl)

14. Membership Committee Report. John Miersch said that there was nothing to report.

15. Communications Committee Report. There was no Communications Committee Report.

16. Space Planning Committee Report. Daryl reported that the Space Planning Committee met in May. It is reviewing and considering three issues: a proposed sidewalk that goes directly to the city sidewalk from Sverdrup Suites, a second exit out of the Church sanctuary, and the possibility

that the Church building be physically connected to Sverdrup Suites. The third item is not pressing and would be quite complicated. Daryl did suggest that the Church might be interested in acquiring the residence to the north of the Church building and that that possibility—if it is a possibility—could have a bearing on whether or not to make a physical connection with Sverdrup Suites.

17. NEW BUSINESS: Children's Religious Education (RE) and Programming. It has been requested of the Board that it authorize a one-year pilot program regarding Children's RE. No action was taken on this request as no one was aware of anything that has been done or was being done or was being considered regarding Children's RE that would have the effect of restricting or prohibiting what was being suggested. (One or two of the Board members present thought that this requested action was part of the revisions that were acted on earlier in the meeting—see paragraph 13, above.)

18. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Administrative Consultant. Kris stated that Joan Larson liked the idea of attending Board Meetings on a quarterly basis. No formal action was taken regarding this issue. The meeting was adjourned at about 7:15 p.m.

Dated: July 16, 2018.

/s/ John Minge_____

John Minge, Secretary