



## Unitarian Church of Underwood December 2014 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.*

### Coming up in December

**December 7 – Stephanie Sanderson, “The Bible as History of Human Moral and Psychological Development”**

**December 14 - Doris Issendorf, drummer followed by Curry & Caroling (Curry dinner provided by John Minge and helpers).**

**December 21 – Winter Celebration with music and song, Betsy Wells**

**December 24 – Christmas Eve Service – Ellen Eastby**

**December 28 – Norm Kolstad and Kris Warhol narrating the pictorial history of UCU’s 125 years.**

***Note: Prior to beginning of service at 10:20 a.m., there will be issued a “Call to Gather” to alert folks to assemble in the sanctuary so that the service can start promptly.***

### Upcoming Religious Education

1<sup>st</sup> Sun.: Discussion of Emerson’s Essays 9:15 AM

3<sup>rd</sup> Sun.: Writing as a Spiritual Practice 9:15 AM

4<sup>th</sup> Sun.: Bible Study 9:15 AM

**December 14** –The next Children's RE is Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> 10:30 AM. And the Children's RE is participating in the **Dec. 21st** service by singing Jingle Bells and Silent Night.

**Other Meetings: Note:** AA Meets every Monday evening @ 7 p.m. at UCU

### Cancellation/Postponement Due to Weather

For weather related announcements, tune to Lakes Radio Family of Stations – 103.3, 96.5 FM and 1020, 1250 AM or online at [www.lakesradio.net](http://www.lakesradio.net) under “News.” You can also check the UCU website at [www.ucofu.org](http://www.ucofu.org) or the facebook page.

## **More about December Programs**

**December 7 – Stephanie Sanderson, “The Bible as History of Human Moral and Psychological Development.”** We will consider several sources of our UU tradition, including: 1) the direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and openness to the forces which create and uphold life, 2) the words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love and, 3) the wisdom from the world’s religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life. Stephanie will use the Bible to review the developmental history of humanity over several thousand years.

In the Biblical creation story, the lovely and poetic tale about our beginnings here on earth, we are told that we were made in the image of God. What is clear to most of us is that over the expanse of human history we have in fact made god in our own image. As our cognitive capacities have expanded, and our understanding of the nature of existence has increased, so the concept of god has evolved. The stage theory of moral development proposed by Lawrence Kohlberg, and the cognitive stages of development observed by Swiss psychologist, Jean Piaget, together with a little help from William James, Sigmund Freud, and Abraham Maslow, will provide the framework.

**December 14 –Doris Issendorf, Drummer.** People are welcome to bring their drums; there will be audience participation. Then, after the service, “Come one, come all to the third Annual Curry Dinner to be followed by Christmas caroling in the church basement.” Those who are interested in helping with food prep should let John Minge know. He can be reached at (218) 298-1199.

**December 21 – Winter Celebration in Music and Song.** Betsy Wells has contacted several UCU members who will share their talents. If you have not been contacted but would like to be involved, let Betsy know. Kids will sing a couple of tunes, and hopefully, Budd's dancing dolls will join us.

**December 28 - Norm Kolstad and Kris Warhol - Narration of UCU’s 125th Year in the Underwood Community with Historical Pictures.** Between the two of them, Kris and Norm researched, inquired and assembled many historical pictures into a slide show depicting the history of the Unitarian Church of Underwood over our 125 years. It was shown at the Harvest Festival Open House and is a good way to end our 125<sup>th</sup> year of celebration as we reflect on our past, celebrate the present and look forward to the next years.

## **Christmas Eve Service**

**December 24, 5 p.m.**

Come share the peace and joy of Christmas during a Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 at the Unitarian Church of Underwood. Led by Ellen Eastby, we will listen to Christmas music performed by many of our outstanding musicians, sing hymns of the season, hear Christmas readings, and commune together in the light of candles. All are welcome.

## One Small Face

With mounds of greenery, the  
Brightest ornaments, we bring high  
Summer to our rooms, as if to spite  
The somberness of winter come.

In time of want, when life is  
Boarding up against the next uncertain  
Spring, we celebrate and  
Give of what we have away.  
All creatures bend to rules, even the  
Stars constrained.

There is a blessed madness in the  
Human need to go against the  
Grain of cold and scarcity.

We make a holiday, the rituals varied  
As the hopes of humanity.

The reasons as obscure as ancient  
Solar festivals, as clear as  
Joy on one small face.

*Margaret Starkey*

#663 Singing the Living Tradition



Kids RE December 2011

## The Month That Was

### **November 2 – Greg Wagner, Economic Development Planner, West Central Initiative. “A Snapshot Perspective on the Current and Emerging West Central Minnesota Economy.”**

Basically, economic development’s purpose is to empower individuals and communities to make good things happen. Data helps form the context but using aged data and forecasts are right until they are wrong. WCI uses data from the Department of and Economic Development, USDA, other foundations.

Otter Tail County has been consistently growing but there are fewer births, fewer coming and more going. The “Silver Tsunami (65+) will be a huge factor until 2040, It now takes 3.3 workers for each 1 on social security.

The weekly average for earnings in OT Co. is \$672/week. Four major industries provide 76% of employment: Education and health, trade, transportation and utilities, manufacturing, leisure and hospitality. Agriculture is not included. Unemployment in West Central MN buffered from the national average at 6.9% in 2009; now 5-5.5%.

Economic development formerly concentrated on attraction, retention, expansion to bring in jobs. Now the focus on people. The emerging trends are to hire skilled and unskilled workers. Perham is an example by bringing in 60 workers from a number of countries under a special program. Then the issue became housing – not enough so the Perham workers are housed in Wadena and bused to Perham. Cost of utilities and broadband access are also two current concerns.

Young people want livability/aesthetics/amenities- walk or bike and not as auto dependent. Top 10 jobs are truck drivers, nurses, carpenters, assemblers, welders, construction, accounts/auditors, machinists – only a few require a 4 year degree.

Health care and social pay \$653/average week, manufacturing - \$784, Retail/trade - \$429, accommodations/food service - \$226/week. Cost to meet basic needs: 2 adults both working/2children - \$1150/week, 2 adults, 1 working, 1 child – need \$744/week (day care big cost for 2 working parents), 1 adult working/1 child – need \$845/week.

Why not higher wages? Businesses operate on tight profit margins so low wages. 17 of 20 employers do not pay the average of \$845/week. OT County as of August- unemployment was at 3.5%. In 2013, poverty at 10.5%, Fergus Falls 12% live in poverty.

Bob Worner asked what effect the state of the Kirkbride would have. Wagner said it would be a boon to the economy. This area is kind of an arts niche. Great things could happen. “I hope it works out.”

Steph questioned the county funding the travel of these workers from the Wadena hotel to Perham and if that money couldn’t have been used for local workers. The rumor is that too

many local applicants/workers fail the drug test, a liability issue with all the machinery used by KLN.

**November 9 - Joseph DeMasi** returned to UCU today with his twin brother, **John** to share a program entitled “Living in a World of Kindness”. Their message, shared in narrative and songs centered around building a world of inclusiveness for all people, including those with disabilities.

Their own experience of working with kids with disabilities began in high school with Camp Anchor where they shared music with the kids, and developed a radio show with them. There they met Chris Burke, a young man with Down’s syndrome who became the star of the TV show, Life Goes On, Chris’ success was due to factors that contribute to everyone’s success:

- his parents and friends believed and supported him in his aspirations
- he believed in himself
- he worked hard and never gave up.

John pointed out some of the changes he/we have seen in our lifetime as far as opportunities and treatment of people with disabilities. Fifty years ago, people with disabilities lived in institutions, for the most part. Today, they are included and integrated into society. The world is a better place when everyone can be given opportunities to live up to their potential. We are all a “celebration of life and love”. We are responsible for these changes in attitude – If we want to change the world, we need to change ourselves and work for changes within our daily world.

**November 16 - Bob Worner** spoke on “**An Attitude of Gratitude, A Thanksgiving Message,” UU Principle # 7**

This is early for the holiday, but it is never too early to give thanks. Black Friday has become as important as Thanksgiving. Stores open earlier and earlier, some at five on Thanksgiving Day. When the Pilgrims had Thanksgiving, the Native Americans taught them what plants they could eat, and introduced them to CORN!

We are thankful for family, for life, for this church. Some are in pain for a recent loss, a career loss or lost dreams. But it is your life and there has never been another like it.

For 47 years, I have had diabetes, but I live in a warm house, on a beautiful lake and with Mary, waking with gratitude, even on difficult days. For those who I once noted their foibles, I now am grateful. I have “The Attitude of Gratitude” for this planet that renews itself; for example, a recent program on beavers showed how their building dams and felling trees benefits the land.

We have been honoring veterans of late. When we get into patriotism, this sometimes means we are headed to war. We have had no invasive force, 9 11 notwithstanding. There is much to honor about our country: Our freedom of worship – above all favors Uus; public education system even with its flaws. We have the best doctors and health care even though it is not available to all.

Robert Ingersoll (1833-1899), the great agnostic, has 12 volumes of his talks. He fought in the Civil War for the Union. His enemies were in the church because after all, he was an agnostic. At his death, his enemies could not find a negative a negative thing or any scandal in his home life. He lived even better than he spoke. He stood for Women's Rights, equal pay for equal work. (Women at that time were meant primarily for child-bearing.) He opposed the death penalty. He kept an open drawer with money and people could take what they needed. Ingersoll opposed religion; he believed it was behind wars.

"Happiness is the only good, now, here and forever." – The most famous Ingersoll quote Bob gave us a moment of silence when we were to think – or even say what we are thankful for.

**November 23 – The Furry & Independent Web, Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Mahon and her Golden Retriever, Emma.** Emma sat comfortably but in her "ever ready" position as Liz talked about "embracing" the 7<sup>th</sup> Principle "the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." Biologist E.O. Wilson talked about the healing bond between humans with other species and that the connection between human beings to other animals is a subconscious seeking. There have been scientific studies that show that having a dog around humans can lower blood pressure, lessen anxiety and loneliness. "Dogs know our language, we don't know theirs."

Emma is not a service dog. Her role is to comfort people, most of whom are undergoing some kind of therapy. She, with Liz, visit people (patients, family, and staff) in the Cancer Center, hospital, and Mill St. residence.

Liz got her when Emma was 7 weeks old. She is now 6. Pet Partners of America provided training curriculum and provide the certification testing that they must pass every 2 years. The best therapy dog breeds are golden retriever and labs. Personality characteristics that are important include: calm temperament, being predictable in situations, and obedience. Training occurs in a variety of environments so that the dog learns how to be aware and respond consistently. Emma is intuitive - and responds to whomever in the room needs her.

**November 30 – November 30, 2014 - Bob Worner spoke on Marks of Spiritual Growth, UU Principle # 3.** (The Hunts scheduled for today were unable to make it so Bob filled in. For 20 years he was pastor with the United Methodist Church. He took three leaves. He wondered how does one evaluate such a job: number in the congregation? Baptisms? Retreats? The frustration was how to assess spiritual growth, how was one to know?

Learn to live with conflict and uncertainty, and looking inside one's self for his own signs of spiritual growth. Some markers are the scars - of risk, trying to expand your humanity. Some might be wounds not put on us by others. Some seem to spend their lives making life miserable for someone else – they succeed, and in doing so, make their own life miserable also. Spiritual growth includes pain. If you are going to grow spiritually, find beauty. Wrinkles are a part of aging. Laughter that brings tears is healing. Laughter after a flood or hurricane heals.

A woman was married just days before her husband went to war, and he never came back. She lived her life alone. When asked if she didn't miss having someone to share the pains of life, she said "No, it was hard to have no one to share laughter." Laughter can be deep and healing. The lines you get from laughter are evidence of joy.

Open your eyes, your ears, your hearts, your spirit and your life. Bob used quotes from Matthew Fox and Bishop John Shelby Spong.

We enjoyed a potluck of Thanksgiving leftovers following service.

### **Community Thanksgiving Event**

The Unitarian Church of Underwood joined other Underwood Churches for our 4<sup>th</sup> annual community Thanksgiving celebration event on Wednesday evening, November 26. Dave McRoberts acts for us to coordinate UCU with Maine Presbyterian Church, Tingvold and Sverdrup Lutheran Churches for this now traditional happening. Members of the community shared stories of gratitude and there were offerings of special music with treats following the program. The offering will be given to the Underwood Fire & Rescue.

### **Harvest of Gratitude**

Once more the fields have ripened to harvest,  
And the fruitful earth has fulfilled the promise of spring.  
The work of those who labor has been rewarded: They have  
Sown and reaped, planted and gathered.  
How rich and beautiful is the bounty gathered: The golden  
Grain and clustered corn, the grapes of purple and green,  
The crimson apples and yellow pears, and all the colors of  
Orchard and garden, vineyard and field.  
Season follows after season, after winter the spring, after  
Summer the harvest-laden autumn.  
From bud to blossom, from flower to fruit, from seed to bud  
Again, the beauty of earth unfolds.  
From the harvest of the soil we are given occasion to garner a  
Harvest of the heart and mind:  
A harvest of resolve to be careful stewards of all life's gifts and  
Opportunities.  
A harvest of reverence for the wondrous power and life at work in  
Things that grow and in the soul.  
A harvest of gratitude for every good which we enjoy, and of  
Fellowship  
For all who are sustained by earth's beauty.

*Percival Chubb on Thanksgiving*

## Volunteer with Sheltering Churches Project

In October, Lisa Lipari, Churches United for the Homeless spoke of the needs of the homeless. There is an opportunity to help the Fargo Host Churches in their collaborative efforts to provide overflow sheltering for people who are homeless. The training schedule for volunteering is below. For more information, see: <http://shelteringchurches.wordpress.com/train/> or [www.fmhomeless.org](http://www.fmhomeless.org).

### Sheltering Churches Project Volunteer Training

Area churches and emergency shelters will again collaborate to provide overflow sheltering for people who are homeless beginning **Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>**. Training is required for anyone who plans to help provide temporary sheltering in a church site. Please attend one of the training sessions to make this an effective sheltering project. Refer to the list below to find a training date that fits your schedule.



#### Training Schedule for the 2014-2015 Season:

|                  |          |                               |
|------------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| Saturday, Oct 11 | 1-3 p.m. | First United Methodist Church |
| Thursday, Oct 16 | 7-9 p.m. | First United Methodist Church |
| Saturday, Nov 8  | 1-3 p.m. | First United Methodist Church |
| Thursday, Nov 13 | 7-9 p.m. | First United Methodist Church |
| Saturday, Dec 13 | 1-3 p.m. | First United Methodist Church |
| Thursday, Dec 18 | 7-9 p.m. | First United Methodist Church |
| Saturday, Jan 10 | 1-3 p.m. | First United Methodist Church |
| Thursday, Jan 15 | 7-9 p.m. | First United Methodist Church |
| Saturday, Feb 7  | 1-3 p.m. | First United Methodist Church |
| Thursday, Feb 19 | 7-9 p.m. | First United Methodist Church |
| Saturday, Mar 14 | 1-3 p.m. | First United Methodist Church |
| Thursday, Mar 19 | 7-9 p.m. | First United Methodist Church |

**Training Location:** All training is held at First United Methodist Church at 906 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South in Fargo, North Dakota.

#### Training Agenda:

- \*Establishing relationships and communicating effectively with guests
- \*How volunteers run a host site at the church
- \*Distribution of a Volunteer Training Manual for reference

*This community effort is coordinated by Central Cities Ministries  
and partners of the FM Coalition for Homeless Persons.*

<http://shelteringchurches.wordpress.com/train/>

[www.fmhomeless.org](http://www.fmhomeless.org)

**The Red Cottage**  
**A Memoir**  
**By Elizabeth Sweder**

**Liz Sweder has spent the past four years writing her Memoir that was recently published. Liz, herself, extracted the following from her Memoir and is generously sharing it with us.**

**Christmas at the Big House**

The winter of 1940 and 41, when I was four and a half, the Armistice Day blizzard began the longest winter of my childhood. Following that record breaking storm, there would still be six weeks of good sledding before Christmas. My cousin Mary, a fearless daredevil who was almost nine, joined us for Christmas that year at my grandfather's Victorian home that we called "The Big House," across the street from Roosevelt Park. Mary came on a Greyhound bus from Ames, Iowa, while her parents went to a teachers' convention in Philadelphia.

Mary loved adventure and excitement. We pulled our sleds to the top of the big sliding hill between Mt. Faith and Summit Avenues, and skated on Lake Alice near the center of town, where a small warming house appeared out of nowhere each winter. Inside, a wood stove radiated heat as we put our skates on and tightened the laces, or came inside to warm our hands and feet. The door swung open and banged shut continuously as skaters hurried in and out on a battered wooden ramp. The din of shouting voices and clattering skates, mixed with the smell of smoke and damp wool, filled the small room. Skate blades clomping across the soft pine floor for years had scarred the wood almost to shreds. Steam rose from puddles of melting snow around the stove as people of all ages sat on wooden benches against the walls, adults helping children with their skates.

Mary was tiny but assertive. One day when I tried to enter the warming house, mean older boys held the door shut from inside. Desperate for warmth, my aching hands and feet stiff with cold, I started to cry. Mary saw what was happening and rushed to my rescue with righteous determination. "Hey!" she shouted at the barricaded door. "Open that door right now or I'm getting my Uncle Jim!"

It was a hollow threat, but the bullies must have felt chagrined when they opened the door and saw a petite little girl threatening them. After resting by the wood stove long enough to warm ourselves, we circled the rink one last time. Then we trudged home to sit on the black, cast iron filigree register in the front hall, where warm air from a huge coal furnace in the basement thawed our hands and feet.

The spicy smell of ginger cookies, almond-flavored spritz, and anise cookies tasting like licorice, whet my appetite as the grownups prepared for our Christmas Eve Smorgasbord. Cookies were the traditional dessert, and my favorite part of the huge spread.

When my grandfather was around children at Christmas, his formal manner melted away. He played checkers, cribbage and other games with the grandchildren, handed out Christmas candy from his pockets, and always gave us generous presents, whether he could afford them or not. That year he gave Katherine and me dark blue velvet dresses with white organdy pinafores trimmed in eyelet lace. We had our picture taken wearing the dresses, arm in arm on the porch of the Big House.

In response to the elegant dresses, Mother heaved a sigh. Wary of such extravagance while the Depression continued on, she wondered how Grandpa could pay his bill at Norby's Department Store, and was probably thinking about other things we needed more than velvet dresses. Perhaps Grandpa

was remembering Christmas in Sweden many years ago. I can imagine him wanting to re-create the magical kind of Christmas he would have loved as a boy, and looked forward to all year. After the Smorgasbord we fairly danced with excitement, barely containing our impatience to open the gifts.

The Christmas tree with its pungent scent of fresh spruce reached almost to the ten-foot ceiling of the living room, with just enough space left for the star on top. Although many ornate glass ornaments had survived Daddy's childhood, Mother encouraged us kids to make decorations, usually chains of colored construction paper, or cranberries and popcorn strung on heavy thread. Mary remembered for the rest of her life that my Grandpa Leonard gave her a gift of an inlaid wooden ruler. She loved and kept it for many years. She always thought of my Grandfather as a thoughtful old gentleman who went out of his way to make sure that a child away from home on Christmas would feel included. The last thing we did before bedtime was to hang our stockings from the fireplace mantle for Santa to fill.

On Christmas morning, Katherine and I rushed downstairs and found on the hearth two black walnut doll beds, complete with mattresses sewn from pillow ticking, with sheets, blankets and pillows. That was the year I understood without anyone telling me that my parents were Santa. I had seen that pillow ticking before! I recognized Mother's sewing and Daddy's craftsmanship with wood. But Katherine, who was six, was more interested in reading or playing outdoors. I don't remember my sister ever playing with dolls, but I loved putting mine to bed at night. Years later my daughters played with the black walnut doll beds, which have now been passed down to my granddaughters, one of whom has long since graduated from college. - Elizabeth Sweder, December 2014

**Thank you, Liz, for this offering. To order copies of her complete Memoir, please contact Liz at [redcottage memoir@gmail.com](mailto:redcottage memoir@gmail.com).**

### **For your Holiday Celebrations:**



**Party Plans, watercolor by Mickie Edmonds**

**Applications due February 15, 2015 for  
UNITARIAN CHURCH OF UNDERWOOD  
EMPOWERMENT GRANTS**

The Unitarian Church of Underwood is pleased to once again offer funding for a new program that distributes 'Empowerment Grants'. These grants will be made for the purpose of encouraging church members to develop projects that will have a positive effect on our communities at large. These projects may be related to any number of social or environmental issues, including poverty, education, ecology, alternative energy, & nutrition, to name a few. The projects may be of varying time and cost, but all will be initiated and managed by the requesting applicant(s). This is an excellent opportunity for church members to make an impact on an issue they feel strongly about in the community around them.

Starting in 2007, we have given over \$55,000 to a wide variety of charitable organizations. Recent recipients include Habitat for Humanity, Underwood School 3-4 year old programs, the Nonviolent Peaceforce, Schools for Thai Refugees, the Fergus Falls Food Shelf, and the Kinship program. The new deadline for grants is February 15, 2015.

**Criteria for 'Empowerment Grant' requests:**

- 1) Must be proposed by Unitarian Church of Underwood (UCU) members
- 2) Must be compatible with the UCU mission/vision statement. (The Unitarian Church of Underwood is a welcoming community of diverse people who gather to reflect, to find refuge, spiritual renewal and intellectual growth, to improve our understanding of the world, to build bridges towards peace and understanding, and to improve lives and opportunities across our communities.)
- 3) Must address one of the seven Unitarian Universalist principles
- 4) Must be non-discriminatory
- 5) Projects will not provide direct services to individuals or families - the project may help area charities and non-profits that provide direct services
- 6) Requests may be for total funding or may be for matching funds  
Note: Matching fund requests will be given priority. The rationale for this criterion is to double the impact of UCU initiatives and also to encourage members to get involved with issues and work at raising funds.  
Example: The chili dinner raises \$1,000 for the senior nutrition program. This \$1,000 could be matched by an additional \$1,000, thus giving the nutrition program \$2,000
- 7) The project being funded must be under the direction of an approved, not for profit (501c-3) organization.
- 8) Projects/groups that are funded must wait two years before applying for another grant or additional grants.
- 9) All grant recipients must agree to/sign an 'Empowerment Grant' contract. This includes progress reports and final report as per contract.

The next funding cycle will be for twelve months. The deadline for the next funding period is February 15th, 2015. If you are interesting in pursuing an 'Empowerment Grant' you need to fill

out the application at the end of the Newsletter or pick up one at church. The application must include a timeline for your project and a specific budget for the cost of the project. Please make six copies of your application for review. It would also be a good idea to talk to a member of the 'grant committee', which will be accepting applications.

The committee will review all applications and recommend or not recommend project requests to the church board of directors. The review criteria are also included at the end of the Newsletter.

Grant Committee members are Deb Ferguson, Steve Nagle, Ron Roller, Stephanie Sanderson and Connie Stigen. Please contact Ron Roller at 218-495-3235 or at: [rollerolson@gmail.com](mailto:rollerolson@gmail.com) for further information and/or assistance.

*The application form is at the end of this Newsletter or you can pick one up at church.*

### **Ferguson Response**

"Rev. Peter Morales, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) has issued a statement regarding the events happening in Ferguson MO. You can find his statement at: <http://www.uua.org/news/pressroom/pressreleases/299350.shtml>"

#### WE GIVE THANKS THIS DAY

For the expanding grandeur of Creation, worlds known and unknown, galaxies  
Beyond galaxies, filling us with awe and challenging our imaginations:

*We give thanks this day.*

For the fragile planet earth, its times and tides, its sunsets and seasons;

*We give thanks this day.*

For the joy of human life, its wonders and surprises, its hopes and  
Achievements:

*We give thanks this day.*

For our human community, our common past and future hope, our oneness  
Transcending all separation, our capacity to work for peace and justice in the

Midst of hostility and oppression:

*We give thanks this day.*

For high hopes and noble causes, for faith without fanaticism, for  
Understanding of views not shared:

*We give thanks this day.*

For all who have labored and suffered for a fairer world, who have lived so that  
Others might live in dignity and freedom:

*We give thanks this day.*

For human liberty and sacred rites, for opportunities to change and grow, to  
Affirm and choose;

*We give thanks this day. We pray that we may live not by our fears by our  
Hopes, not by our works but by our deeds.*

O. Eugene Pickett

## U Groups

U Group facilitators meet each month to review U Group business such as service projects. They also review the lesson to ensure consistency in leading the groups and address any concerns regarding the topics. If you wish to join a U Group, you are welcome at any time. Just contact Connie Stigen at [dcstigen@gmail.com](mailto:dcstigen@gmail.com) or phone: 218/731-1445 or Tere Mann at [teremann@gmail.com](mailto:teremann@gmail.com) or phone: 218/205-1064 or 303/641-7381. Each U Group has a chair empty at each meeting to symbolize the welcome for a new member.

- **Battle Lake Afternoon Group** – 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning at 2:45 p.m. co-facilitated by Bob Worner and Joanne Cress or Kris Warhol at the home of Ross and Mary Larson
- **Fergus Falls/Underwood Evening Group** – 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7-9 p.m. co-facilitated by Diane Johnson and Carole Mitchell at the home of Sandy Barnhouse (corner of Highways 1 and 35)
- **Fergus Falls Afternoon Group** – the 3rd Thursday of each month from 4:30-6:30 p.m. co-facilitated by Tere Mann and Bonnie (Bell) Albers at the home of Diana Ziesemer
- **Perham Afternoon Group** – the 2nd Thursday of each month co-facilitated by Mary Anderson and Mary Worner at the home of Mary Anderson. **Note: The Perham U Group will meet Wednesday, December 10 instead of Thursday this month.**

### November Topic: Attending to Soul

“The philosophy of six thousand years has not searched the chambers...of the soul  
A human is a stream whose source is hidden.  
Our being is descending into us from we know not whence...  
We live in succession, in division, in parts, in particles.  
Meantime within us is the soul of the whole; the wise silence; the universal beauty,  
To which every part and particle is equally related; the eternal ONE...  
The things we now esteem fixed shall, one by one, detach themselves like ripe fruit  
From our experience and fall. The wind shall blow them none knows whither...  
The soul looketh steadily forwards, creating a world before her, leaving worlds behind her.  
The soul knows only the soul; the web of events is the flowing robe in which she is clothed.”  
Ralph Waldo Emerson

## Unitarian Church of Underwood Board Minutes for October 26, 2014

Board members present: Ellen Eastby, Norman Kolstad, Kris Warhol, Mary Worner, Alisha Piekarski, Mary Anderson, John Miersch, David Wass, David Sanderson, and Don Siems. Absent: none. Also present: Administrative Consultant JoAnn Larson.

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Ellen Eastby at 12:18 p.m.

Alisha Piekarski shared a reading/meditation.

The agenda was approved (Anderson/Sanderson).

The minutes of the September 17, 2014 meeting were approved as printed (Miersch/Warhol).

Reports:

Treasurer: David Wass

Administrative Consultant: JoAnn Larson

Program Committee: Mary Worner

Outreach Committee: no report

Facilities Committee: John Miersch

The Facilities Committee was directed to purchase a dishwasher within 2 weeks, with a price ceiling of \$1000 (Anderson/Sanderson).

Membership Committee: Mary Anderson

Mary Anderson was recognized and thanked by board consensus for her work on the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations

Celebrants: no report

Foundation Advisory Committee: David Sanderson

Old Business: discussed roles and responsibilities, policies, God's Work Our Hands program, and reviewed the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

New Business: discussed list of possible U-Group projects and snow removal.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Kolstad, secy.

**Unitarian Church of Underwood (UCU)  
Grant Committee  
Application for Empowerment Grant  
(please add more information on additional sheet(s) if needed)**

**The application deadline for the current grant cycle is February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Name.....

Address.....

E-mail.....

Name of Project.....

**Description/Purpose of Project**

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.....  
.....

**How does project relate to mission/principles of the UCU?**

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**Project Timeline**

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**How will funds be used...please attach a sample budget?**

Does project/funding request involve matching funds? .....

**Progress Report**

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**Follow-up Report (on completion of project)**

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**Submit with six (6) copies.**

Please contact Ron Roller at [rollerolson@gmail.com](mailto:rollerolson@gmail.com) or 1-218-495-3235 for additional information.

**Unitarian Church of Underwood (UCU)      Grant Period \_\_\_\_\_**

## **Empowerment Grant Ranking Scorecard**

**A. Is the project proposed by a UCU member?** *If no, the grant does not meet criteria for consideration.*

**B. Does the project address one or more of the 7 Unitarian principles?** *If no, the grant does not meet criteria for consideration.*

*If yes, assign points between 1-3. 3=high correlation to UU principles, 2= medium correlation to principles, 1= low correlation to UU principles*

**C. Will project be managed by UCU member?**

*If yes, assign points between 0-2. 2=100% managed by UCU member with high level of member involvement, 1=managed by other entity but has some UCU participation, 0= no UCU member involvement.*

**D. Is the project non-discriminatory and inclusive?** *If no, the grant does not meet criteria for consideration.*

*If yes, assign points between 1-2. 2=highly inclusive and non-discriminatory, 1=somewhat inclusive and non-discriminatory*

**E. Will project funds be matched?**

*If yes, assign 1 pt. If no, assign 0 pt.*

**F. Does the project provide direct services to individuals or families.**

*If yes, the grant does not meet criteria for consideration.*

| <u>Grant Application Names:</u> | <u>Total score</u> | <u>Requested</u> | <u>Approved</u> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

***Note: The highest point score can be 8, the lowest point score can be 2.***

