

*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](http://www.ucofu.org)

[www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org](http://www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org)

### *Services*

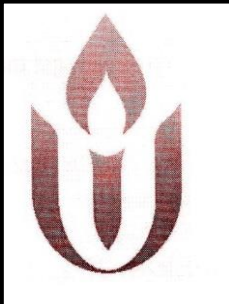
*December 3 - Katy Olson, "To Err is Human.."*

*December 10 - Jon Solinger, "Working Land"*

*December 17 - Children's Holiday Program*

*December 24 - Bob Worner*

*December 31 - Stan Carignan, "Why I'm UU" Panel*



*Photo courtesy of Norm Kolstad*

## ***December 2017 Newsletter***

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*Christmas Eve Service 4:30 p.m.*

## December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3</b> Katy Olson, "To Err is Human..." Curry Dinner Class- Ancient Religions 8:45 am Mindfulness Sitting 8:30 a.m.	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>10</b> Jon Solinger "Working Land" Class - .. Race in MN 8:45 am Mindfulness Sitting 8:30 a.m.	<b>11</b> Perham U Group @ 6:30 pm @ Stan Carignan's	<b>12 14</b> Battle Lake/Underwood U Group 3 pm @ Joanne Cress' & Luke Anderson's	<b>13</b> Alexandria U Group 7 pm @ Widseth... Office Bldg/	14	15	16
<b>17</b> Children's Holiday Program Mindfulness Sitting 8:30 am  Adult RE – Bob's class @ 8:45 am	18	<b>19</b> Fergus Falls U Group 6 pm @ Diana Ziesemer's	<b>20</b> Board of Directors 5:30 pm	21	22	23
<b>24</b> Bob Worner  <b>Christmas Eve Service, "Fall on Your Knees"</b> <b>Ellen Eastby 4:30 pm</b>	 <b>25</b>	26	27	28	29	30
<b>31</b> Stan Carignan - panel: "Why I am UU..."  Mindfulness Sitting 8:30 am						

## Cancellation/Postponement Due to Weather

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. If you do not hear a cancellation announcement, please use your best judgment on making a safe trip to church.

## December Speakers/Presenters

December 3 – Celebrant, Katy Olson, “To Err is Human, To Forgive, Divine”

December 10 – Jon Solinger, Photographer and Author of *Working Land*, addressing UU Principle 4.

December 17- Children’s Holiday Program: Recognizing St. Lucia and other Scandinavian Christmas traditions. Note: **Need adult volunteers to make flavored or saffron rolls for the children to serve for treats. If you can, contact Kris Warhol @ 218/205-1644 or [mwarhol7up@gmail.com](mailto:mwarhol7up@gmail.com) or Bonnie Albers at 218/731-5824 or [bonniebellalbers@gmail.com](mailto:bonniebellalbers@gmail.com).**

December 24 – Celebrant, Bob Worner - TBD

December 31 – Stan Carignan and panel, “Why I am UU - We Are a Pilgrim People, a Pilgrim Church.”

### Newsletter Submissions

Please submit your ideas, articles and photos to: [maryanderson8380@msn.com](mailto:maryanderson8380@msn.com).

Editing: Stephanie Sanderson

Emailing/mailling: Ellen Eastby and JoAnn Larson.

Website: Ellen Eastby

Facebook: Melody Shores & Bonnie Showers

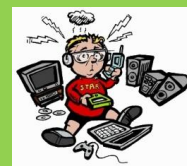
Note: Announcements sent to JoAnn Larson, Administrative Consultant for church bulletin and/or Mary Anderson for the monthly newsletter are forwarded for inclusion in the [www.ucofu.org](http://www.ucofu.org) and Facebook Page.

Facebook Page & Newsletter Standards:

- Content shall primarily promote activities occurring at the Unitarian Church of Underwood, activities that members of UCU are participating in and events in the greater Otter Tail county area that are recognized by UCU that meet the UU Principles and Living Traditions.
- Other content may include personal comments, authorized use, non-copyright photos related to UCU, Unitarian Universalism, social and environmental actions participated in by UCU members/friends.

**“Like” UCU on Facebook: see [www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org](http://www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org)**

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



**Sunday Talks now  
available via POD  
Casts!!**

**Missed a talk or want to repeat a talk,  
click on: Click on the following  
link: <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278>**

**Thank you, Ellen Eastby for making  
this happen!**

### Podcasts Appreciated!!

*"Wow. Double wow!! Thanks so much for the podcast. Easy access. Just super. (Doing cartwheels.)" Susan Groff*

*"10,000x excited about UCU podcasts. Thank you, Ellen!!" Kathy Stofer*

*"It is great to be able to hear the talks this way. Thank you." Marlys Siems*

### Notes from November Speakers/Presenters

**November 5 - Jay Johnson** talked about **"The Story of Prospect House."** Jay is a lifelong resident of Otter Tail County. As a kid, his grandparents lived in the 18-room Prospect House in Battle Lake. This was originally built by Jay's great grandfather and served as a tourist hotel from 1882-1924. After his grandparents passed away, Jay's parents moved into the house.

In the 1990's, Jay began to sort through the many things that had collected in the house, including many artifacts from the Civil War. These included 200 letters he found in a chest, 1000 postcards, his great grandfather's jacket, rifle, boots, tent etc.; 99% of the materials currently displayed were found on the property. It has taken years to sort through and identify and arrange everything.

His great grandfather, "Cap" (for Captain) enlisted in the Union army in 1862. He was a member of the Lightening Brigade Mounted Infantry, one of the first special forces of the military. They were infantry, and rode horses for rapid transit (not used in fighting). This unit used light weight saddles and had the first assault rifles – which could shoot 20 shots in a minute as compared with 2/min. with black powder muskets. He participated in Sherman's march of destruction through the South, and in the battle of Chickamauga - one of the bloodiest battles of the war with 35,000 human casualties and 10,000 horse casualties. Jay shared many other interesting facts about his grandfather.

On the first floor of the Prospect House the Civil War exhibits are displayed. The second and third floor are decorated as the rooms of the 1882 hotel. Prospect House is open to the public, in the winter Wed. – Sun. afternoons. Adults - \$8, Children - \$5. A curriculum about the Civil War has been written for 6<sup>th</sup> graders, based on the artifacts, and is used around Minnesota.

Attendance: 39

**November 12- Celebrant Bob Worner, "Thanksgiving and Hope."** Bob was born in Chicago but in 4<sup>th</sup> grade moved to Great Bend, ND. Although he'd gone through the traditions of the church community, he "didn't know anything." Then, as a college-freshman, he took a class on world religions and was introduced to the Old Testament prophets with whom he has been taken since. He referred to words of the prophet, Amos who resisted God's call. Amos, like other

prophets of old, had dark words but at the end offered hope in difficult times. Twenty-five hundred ago were as difficult as today's times. There were blessings along with the struggles. We read together words in the hymnal from the prophet Isaiah.

In the dark times today, we ask where are we going and why. We can do many things to change the world. Our calling is to do justice, love kindly, walk humbly and there we make a difference.

We look at water, a precious resource; water represents life – a trickle that runs into the river becoming a mighty stream that runs into the sea. We start as one small person that with others becomes an ever-flowing stream of righteousness. We are thirsty for life's meaning and as we change ourselves, connect with others, we gain hope to do justice, act with kindness and love. We are grateful and give thanks that this church may have changed our life and offers us hope.

Attendance: 63

**November 19 – Richard Kagan's message was on "Felonization: the Evil Fairy Tale of Immigrants."** Richard comes with personal perspectives as a Hamline University Emeritus Professor having taught East Asian studies and as the descendant of Ukrainian/Polish parents who immigrated to the United States.

There is a paradigm based on the myths of fairy tales that promotes a moral fantasy – that there are punishments with terrible endings; that the stranger is the ogre/monster and consequently, we impose our fears on the strangers among us. Further, there is a demonization of those who commit small offenses and they are turned into felonious acts with heavy consequences for the individual.

These thoughts/actions are not just recent. Felonization of offenses begin in the 1970's under Nixon, then under Clinton, "three strikes and you're out, then maximum sentencing. Now if just under suspicion, you can be taken into custody. That is what is happening primarily to minorities. The U.S. incarcerates a higher number of citizens than any other country. Persons of color are today's casualties. Money is being made by corporations running the prisons. Thus, there are contradiction between saving money and having justice. Money is spent on prisons instead of on education.

Taken together, these myths create a powerless, stateless class of people. We need new paradigms in thinking that doesn't demonize a group of people based on fairy tales. There is hope in that there are deep currents that we may not even be aware of that will bring us back to a base of liberty and justice and see the humanity of all. We as Unitarian Universalists can be/are part of making that shift happen.

Attendance: 51



**November 25 – David Grant, “The Things We Fear.”** As winter approaches, the amount of darkness/24 hours increases. As explained in *Game of Thrones*, darkness can be a metaphor for fear of things just beyond our sight, and fear of the darkness within ourselves. There is nothing scarier or more destructive than our inner selves. Fear makes us behave in irrational ways. As Franklin Roosevelt said, “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.”

What do we keep in our own fear closet? In the fear closets of those around us? And that of the nation? Winter gives us a time to reflect, and understand, and heal some of those dark places. It gives us time to explore and learn from our doubts.

When the early settlers came, they came with high ideals and hopes. A few decades later, these ideals had not been reached - often due to fear.

Abraham Lincoln founded the national celebration of Thanksgiving, and encouraged us to “follow our better angels.”

David also discussed the story of the sinking (Nov. 20, 1820) of the whale ship, the *Essex*, off the Galapagos Islands. The crew that escaped the sinking made several bad decisions – (many out of fear). Of the 20 crew members that escaped, 7 were black. None of them survived.

(*Wikipedia summary*): *Essex* was an American [whaler](#) from [Nantucket, Massachusetts](#), launched in 1799. In 1820, while under the command of Captain [George Pollard, Jr.](#), a [sperm whale](#) attacked and sank her. The sinking stranded the 20-man crew in the southern [Pacific Ocean](#) with little food and water. During the 95 days the survivors were at sea, they ate the bodies of five crewmen who had died. When that was insufficient, members of the crew drew lots to determine whom they would sacrifice so that the others could live. A total of seven crew members were [cannibalized](#) before the eight survivors were rescued. First mate [Owen Chase](#) and cabin boy [Thomas Nickerson](#) wrote accounts of their ordeal; these accounts inspired [Herman Melville](#) to write his famous novel, *Moby-Dick* (1851).

Attendance: 47

## Children’s Religious Education



New Space for Children’s Religious Education in Sverdrup Suite #300

**December 17 - Children’s Program @ Sunday Service**  
**Child Care Other Sundays**



### Some of Our Kids Preparing for December 17, Children's Program!!



(Photos courtesy of Kris Warhol)

*Join us at Children's Program at Sunday Service,  
December 17, 10:00-11:00 a.m*

#### Children's Religious Education Classes Tentative Schedule 2017-18

December 17, 10:00 -11 a.m. – Children's Program  
January 14 or 21 10:10-11 a.m. – JoAnn Larson & Alisha Piekarski  
February, 10 - 10-11 a.m. – JoAnn Larson & Alisha Piekarski  
March 11 or 18, 10:10 -11 a.m. – Tina Stone & Alisha Piekarski  
April 15, 10:10 – 11 a.m. – Jon Solinger & Alisha Piekarski  
May 20 or 27 – "Old Fashioned Sunday School Picnic" @ Phelps Mill or God's Acres

Other parents/grandparents/volunteers are welcome to assist!

*\*Child Care on non-RE Sundays 10:15 – 11:00 a.m.*

#### Adult Religious Education Classes

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month, 8:45 - 9:45 a.m.** – John Minge leading discussion from: "A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota." The book consists of 16 or 17 essays written recently by people with different racial/ethnic backgrounds with a strong connection to Minnesota, most live here. It challenges the assertion that we are as "nice" as we claim to be. "How can a place renowned for its hospitality and its progressive values have proven to be so profoundly inhospitable toward its people of color?" **For December, this class will meet December 10.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, 8:45- 9:45 a.m.** – Sandy Barnhouse leads the Ancient Religions Class. The broad question of the year is, "Did religion begin as a survival strategy, as a teaching on how to stay alive? Was earth worship a universal tendency?"

Our overall study connects us to the environmental movement and the spirituality evolving with our need to preserve the planet as a livable place.

Every other month, we'll have a book report by one of the readers who selected that subject, and on alternate months we'll have guest lectures by Tim Hunt, Richard Kagan, and (still to be found) a spokesperson for North American tribal religious beliefs; sharing what they individually know about early Hinduism, Judaism, pre-Buddhist Chinese and Japanese religion, and modern tribal practices. **For December, this class will meet December 3.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.** Stan Carignan leads Mindfulness/Quaker Quiet Time Sitting. "St. Augustine wrote in his Confessions some 1,600 years ago the now famous words, 'Our hearts are restless until they rest in You O Lord.' These words have stood the test of time and speak to us today. They state an allegorical spiritual truth that our lives only make sense in the context of our Creator and his/her creation. I too believe this to be true.

I have also come to realize that his words are also very practical and a call to action – or in this case, inaction. What if he meant it literally? What if he meant for us to stop what we are doing each day, stop working, thinking, interacting with others and rest in the presence of God?

I think his words can be understood in this way. I think our hearts are perpetually restless, agitated, preoccupied, distracted, pulled from issue to issue, concern, heartache, heartbreak, sadness, and joy. I think that is the human condition. Our society, with its fast-paced life style built upon modern communications, transportation, and the internet has only exacerbated our dilemma. We are all caught in a web of action and noise. Where can we find respite from our world and racing minds and restless hearts?

We can find it where Augustine points us – to create a time and space where we simply rest in the Lord. I think of it as simply being in the presence of the Transcendent. We find not just respite, but real peace – the peace that surpasses all understanding. What a wonderful gift of grace. All we are required to do is to accept it, come to the silence and be in the presence of the Ultimate.

Our mindfulness time at UCU is that experience, and it is a practice. We strive to take this awareness of living in the Transcendence into our everyday lives. To realize the peace of God each second and each minute of every day, in all we do, and with everyone we meet.

For the past two years we have met once a month on the third Sunday. With the recent acquisition of Sverdrup Suite 300, we now have a dedicated meditation room and **will be sitting each week at 8:30.** We understand that many groups in church will be using the Suite and we will be flexible and adjust as needed when other groups are present. For now, we would like to see how it works out. Everyone is welcome to come sit in silence. There are chairs for those who need or want them and cushions for floor sitters." *Stan Carignan*



**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month beginning October 22, 8:45 – 9:45 a.m.** Bob Worner uses the book studied by the Celebrants, *Fluent in Faith* by Jeanne Harrison Nieuwejaar. It is “A Unitarian Universalist Embrace of Religious Language.” There will be discussion of our beliefs using and redefining traditional religious language. **For December, this class will meet December 17.**

### **U Group Schedule (Small Covenant Groups Meet Monthly)**

- Alexandria U-Group: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed @ 7:00 pm @ the office building of Widseth, Smith & Nolting Office Bldg., 610 Fillmore, Alexandria: Facilitators: Lee Becker/Susan Sanford
- The Battle Lake U Group, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday @ 3:00 p.m. @ home of Joanne Cress and Luke Anderson. Facilitators: Bob Worner and Joanne Cress. When Joanne and Luke are gone for the winter, Kris Warhol will co-facilitate with Bob and the group will meet with a host to be announced.
- Fergus Falls U-Group: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues @ 6:00 pm @ Diana Zieseemer's, 934 W. Linden St., Fergus Falls. Facilitator: Jacob McKnite with Mary Worner.
- Perham U-Group: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday @ 6:00 p.m. at Stan Carignan's. Facilitator: Stan Carignan. For December, will meet Monday, December 11.

***Each group holds an empty chair for anyone who wants to come and join the group.***

To learn more or join a group, contact Luke at [luka@arvig.net](mailto:luka@arvig.net) or 218/209-7809 or Stan at [Stanley.a.carignan@gmail.com](mailto:Stanley.a.carignan@gmail.com) or 218/841-2657.

### **Stewardship Report**

**David Sanderson**, Chair of the Stewardship Committee reported that collections through fiscal year April 1- October 31, 2017 are \$26,358. That somewhat exceeds operational budget projections for that period of \$26,250.00. Thank all for your generous giving.

### **Habitat for Humanity Build Updates**

Weekly updates on the Habitat build are now on ucofu.org Facebook Page or through Habitat's Executive Director, Stan Carignan's emails.

### **Curry Dinner and Caroling December 3, 2017**



John Minge, assisted by the Perham U Group, will, for at least the 5<sup>th</sup> year, provide his curry dinner featuring authentic Indian cuisine. John came to love and learned to cook these foods

after visiting India many years ago. Following the dinner, there will be opportunity to singing songs of the season. Please join us!

**Christmas Eve Service  
December 24 @ 4:30 p.m.  
"Fall on Your Knees"**



**Celebrant, Ellen Eastby will lead a traditional Christmas eve service with readings and songs of the season.** "What in life today will cause us to fall on our knees? The answer is, 'not much.' But, isn't that something we need? Don't we need something that fills us with so much awe and wonder that our only response is to fall to our knees? Christmas can be that something for us. To recognize that a story of a child's birth has changed the world is pretty amazing. To know that the new born baby represents a chance of peace for the world - and love and hope for us all - is incredible.

May this Christmas Eve service inspire us to fall on our knees as we are filled with the spirit of Christmas. As the song says, 'Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices, O night divine, O night when Christ was born.'" *Ellen Eastby*

**Note:** This year, the special offering given during the Christmas Eve Service will, by UCU Board approval, be sent to the Pelican Rapids' Giving +Learning program to buy the books needed. This program fits UU Principles 1, 2, 3, 6 & 7.

The Giving + Learning Program of Pelican Rapids is a non-profit organization that has been helping people learn English for nearly 10 years.

This program arranges for one volunteer from the community to mentor one immigrant or non-English speaker. Appropriate educational supplies are very important for our mentors' teaching success. The Giving + Learning Program supplies books and materials to match the mentee's

skill level, tailoring the program to fit the individual. The program also offers citizenship lessons, driver's training and job skills training.

Being a refugee and coming to the United States can be a very frightening experience. The Giving + Learning Program gives everyone a safe environment to learn, not only the language, but the subtleties of what it is to be an American.

If you would like to learn more or sign up to volunteer, call Barbara Honer at 218-329-2883.

*The Work of Christmas  
When the song of angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among the brothers,  
To make music in the heart. Howard Thurman  
(#615 from Singing the Living Tradition)*



## Welcome New Members to UCU

As indicated in the November newsletter, twelve new members have recently joined the Unitarian Church of Underwood. Several were featured in the previous newsletter. Here is a little about the others. Please introduce yourselves when you encounter these folks and give them your personal welcome.

**Jon Solinger** was born in Pelican Rapids and raised on nearby Lake Lida. After finishing college in Moorhead and living in various places around Minnesota, he returned to become the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation owner of Solinger's Resort on Lake Lida. He resides there with his wife, Barbara Honer and their daughter Violet. He is also a photographer; with his most recent project, *Working Land*, he produced a travelling exhibit and photo book about rural work and life in his

Otter Tail County neighborhood. Jon and Barbara were members of the Fargo-Moorhead UU Church. During the years they spent the winter in Moorhead, but now have a year-round home on Lake Lida and are happy to be new members of the UCU. Jon is our scheduled speaker on December 10 when he'll share *Working Land*.

**Richard Kagan**, a former member and Celebrant of UCU moved 4 years ago with his wife to Connecticut. They have now returned to their home on Star Lake in Otter Tail County. Richard is anxious to once again be involved with UCU, including as a Celebrant and member of the Perham U Group. Richard has and will continue to honor us as a Sunday speaker. He is a Hamline University Professor Emeritus of East Asia Studies and is of Jewish background.



**Jacob McKnite**, relocated to Fergus Falls one year ago for a position as an Assistant County Attorney with Otter Tail County. Jacob quickly found the Unitarian Church of Underwood where he likes his comfortable spot in the back, but he has readily volunteered to be out front in several capacities. We especially love his music that he freely shares with us.



**John and Terry Shaw** - John Shaw and Terry (Snook) Shaw are both originally from Iowa. Both attended the University of Iowa in Iowa City, where they met. They dated for a couple of years in the 70's, then went their separate ways.

Terry received her Master's Degree in Jewelry Design and Metalsmithing and became a custom goldsmith and professional musician in Minneapolis. John graduated with an English degree and a minor in studio art, which qualified him to go to work as a carpenter for several years. He later went back to school at Iowa State University (Ames) and graduated with a Master of Architecture Degree. He became an architect in Iowa City.

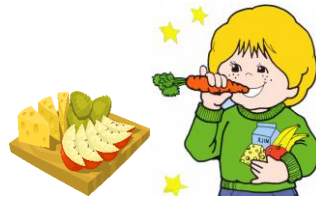
Terry married and had 2 daughters. John married and had a son and a daughter. He divorced and lived as a bachelor for a long time. Terry also divorced, went back to school, and became a HS art teacher at Hopkins High School in Minnetonka, MN for 25 years.

In 2014, John wrote Terry a letter offering to buy her a cup of coffee. John had really never forgotten about her. Terry accepted his offer; they arranged a meeting and began dating. A year (to the day) after the initial letter was sent they were married. Terry retired and sold her house in Excelsior, MN. John officially retired, and is still in the process of finishing ongoing architectural projects. They decided to move near Battle Lake after vacationing at a small fishing resort on West Lost Lake, where John and his family had vacationed for many years when he was a child. They bought a home on Round Lake and moved in full time in April of 2017. They had driven by the UU Church, were intrigued by the presence of Unitarians in Underwood, Minnesota, and decided to visit. On their first visit they felt at home.

**Shirley Spanhanks** and her husband Jerry, about three years ago relocated to Round Lake from Minneapolis. Shirley is surprised and appreciative that the Unitarian Church of Underwood is so near-by and she expects to advantage herself of the offerings. The Spanhanks are professional musicians known as “Blue Wolf Duo” and have three CD’s to their name. They spend their winters in Texas, so we’ll see them again come springtime. We’ll be looking forward to more music from the two of them.



**Greeters are always needed for Sunday services.** Please contact JoAnn Larson @ [redswilds@gmail.com](mailto:redswilds@gmail.com) or @ 218/405-0752. This is an easy and fun way to serve and to get to know other UCU members and friends.



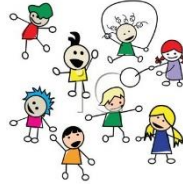
**Sign Up to Bring Treats, Set-up, Serve and Clean-up** – It is no secret that we like our treats after services so if you wish to bring some for all to enjoy, please sign the list on the kitchen counter. On your sign-up day, come ½ hour early to set out your treats, make coffee and arrange dishes, etc. Enjoy the time visiting behind the counter as you serve and clean up after. Treats for the freezer are always welcome to fill in for those Sundays when no one does sign up. On the Sundays of freezer treats, jump in to help set-up, serve and clean-up. Some of the best visiting and fun times go on in the kitchen!!



### **Technical Support Team**

Volunteers for Sunday sound and technical support now include: Ellen Eastby, Team Leader; Wally Warhol, Tere Mann, Jacob McKnite and Amy Beckman. Thank you, Tere and Wally, for your faithful service this past year and Ellen, for your years before that. It is great to have more helping so that this does not become burdensome for just one or two. Thank you all!

*Note: It is the technical team that records the Sunday talks so that they can be transferred and made available via podcasts!*



### Child Care

For Children's Religious Education Sundays once a month, the parents have agreed to rotate lesson responsibility. On non-RE Sundays, we like to provide the parents a reprieve from their children so they can enjoy the worship service knowing their children are otherwise attended to by someone within the church community.

Unfortunately, our teens are not available all non-RE Sundays to attend the children. Now with the PODCASTS, we are hoping that it may make it easier for adults to volunteer on occasion to monitor the children on a Sunday and then listen to the talk later. If you wish to help, please contact: [maryanderson8380@msn.com](mailto:maryanderson8380@msn.com) or 218/346-6638. Or if you are there that Sunday and see the need, let Mary know then.

The number of children in attendance with their parents can range from 1—6 with ages 2-12 years. The children are sung out just prior to the offertory and the attendee(s) escort them to Sverdrup Suite #300 and follow the activity format and provide the children a snack. The time goes by rapidly! Thank you – it does indeed take a village to raise our children!



Shelter and Support  
in a Spiritual Setting

## *Churches United for the Homeless*

### *Shelter Update: January - October 2017 Numbers*

73 households moved into their own homes so far this year

623 People have been sheltered this includes

116 Children

Over 61,000 meals have been served

Average Length of Stay - 32 days

Thank you to you, our donors, who made all this possible. Thank you for supporting Churches United for the Homeless.

*Come into the circle of love and justice,  
Come into the community of mercy, holiness, and health.  
Come and you shall know peace and joy. Adapted from Israel Zangwill  
(#418 Singing the Living Tradition)*



**Applications due January 31, 2018 for  
UNITARIAN CHURCH OF UNDERWOOD  
EMPOWERMENT GRANTS**



**From Kayak building for Boys & Girls Club, to POPS @ the Farmers Market to Shan Schools in Thailand, \$85,000 has been distributed in Empowerment Grants by UCU since 2007.**

The Unitarian Church of Underwood is pleased to once again offer funding for distribution of the 2018-2019 **Empowerment Grants**. These grants are made to encourage 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. 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. The deadline for grant applications is **January 31, 2018**.

**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 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 have not received previous funding will be given a higher priority for funding.
- 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 application deadline for the next funding period is January 30, 2017. If you are interested 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', that 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 selections are determined in February-March, given Board approval in March with funds distributed sometime in April.

Grant Committee members are: Deb Ferguson, Steve Nagle, Ron Roller, Stephanie Sanderson and Connie Stigen. Please contact Ron Roller at 218-770-0374 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.***

**Note:** The 2017-18 Recipients included:

- YMCA Fergus Falls Scholarship Program \$1000
- Nonviolent Peace Force (Standing Rock Conflict Resolution) \$1700
- Schools for Shan Refugees \$2000
- Pelican Rapids Multi-Cultural Center Refugees Program \$1550
- United Way Backpack Program \$500
- Fergus Falls Farmers Market POP Program \$1000
- Churches United of Fargo \$500
- Perham Kinship Kayak Project \$750
- Habitat 500 Bicycle Ride \$1000

**Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has.** *Margaret Mead*  
(#561 from Singing the Living Tradition)



## Tax Policy Proposal

To learn more about the tax debate underway in Congress and across the country, please visit the web resources provided below. To stay connected with Americans for Tax Fairness you can visit their [Facebook](#) page or follow them on Twitter @4taxfairness.

Check out UUSJ's advocacy [page](#) "Say No to Fake Tax Reform!" to get UU background on the issue, talking points and resources. Their letter-writing [toolkit](#) "Write Here! Right Now!" can be used to let officials know how our faith and values compel us to seek a more just and sustainable world.

It's important to reach out to our Senators and Representatives on important issues like tax reform. Elected officials need to hear our voices, our faithful perspectives and our ideas for a more just nation. Please reach out to your Senators and Representatives and tell them: UUJEC recommends that we strongly oppose the any tax bill that gives massive tax cuts to the wealthy and corporations that will be paid for by deep cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and education.

Stay connected with UUJEC and our webinar series through our webpage: <http://uujec.com/webinars>

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## Unitarian Church of Underwood Approved Board minutes for October 15, 2017

Board members present: Mary Anderson, David Sanderson, Norman Kolstad, Kris Warhol, Ellen Eastby, and Bob Worner. Absent: David Wass, Stan Carignan, Connie Stigen, and John Miersch. Also, present: Administrative Consultant JoAnn Larson, Lee Hamness, Tere Mann, and Tina Stone.

The Board of the Unitarian Church of Underwood was called to order at Sverdrup Suites #300 by Board President Mary Anderson at 12:15 p.m. Ellen Eastby shared a reading/meditation. The agenda was approved (Worner/Eastby). Minutes of the September 20, 2017 meeting were approved (Warhol/Sanderson).

### Reports:

*Finance Committee/Treasurer:* Tere Mann

*Speakers Committee:* Kris Warhol - two Christmas Eve services; 10:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

*Foundation/Stewardship Committee:* David Sanderson – for consideration: memorial toward MUUSJA membership.

*Program/Worship Committee:* Kris Warhol - Sverdrup Suites being used for childrens' and adults' religious education classes.

RE; mindfulness; U-Group packets for workshop.

*Community Outreach:* Kris Warhol - possible joint Thanksgiving with Sverdrup L. Church

*Facilities Committee:* Kris Warhol - completed back entrance repair, dais step, filing cabinet; roof repair in progress.

*Safety Committee:* Norman Kolstad - records retention protocols proposal by March 31, 2018.

*Sverdrup Suites:* Mary Anderson - conversion to UCU use completed.

*Membership Committee:* Mary Anderson - 11 new members in last two months.

*Communications Committee:* Mary Anderson - to meet October 25 for recordings access.

*Fall Area Workshop:* Mary Anderson - budget, schedule, participants.

#### Unfinished Business:

Efficacy of the "no guns" sign was raised by some UCU members. The issue is to be reviewed. A child care contract was approved (Eastby/Worner), to be presented to Skyler Swanson and Breanna Boomgaarden.

#### New Business:

A draft celebrants' check-off list was presented.

President Anderson announced the formation of a UCU Space Task Force, members to be named.

Hospitality teams to be established to rotate responsibilities for

Sunday treats/coffee and clean-up.

Preparations for the next five-year plan, 2018-2023, will begin in November.

The next board meeting is set for November 15, 2017 with an executive committee meeting November 8, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned by Board President Anderson at 1:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Kolstad, secretary.

**Note: For easier printing purposes, the Empowerment Grant Application is on the next page.**

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 **January 31, 2018.**

Name: ..... E-Mail: .....

Address: .....

Name of Project: .....

Description/Purpose of Project: .....

.....

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

.....

.....

.....

Project Timeline: .....

.....

How will funds be used? Please attach a sample budget: .....

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

.....

Progress Report:.....

.....

.....

.....

Follow-up Report (on completion of project): .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

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.

## Selection Criteria

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?

Grant Application Names:

Total score

Requested

Approved

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7

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



