

Newsletter December 2019

*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.*

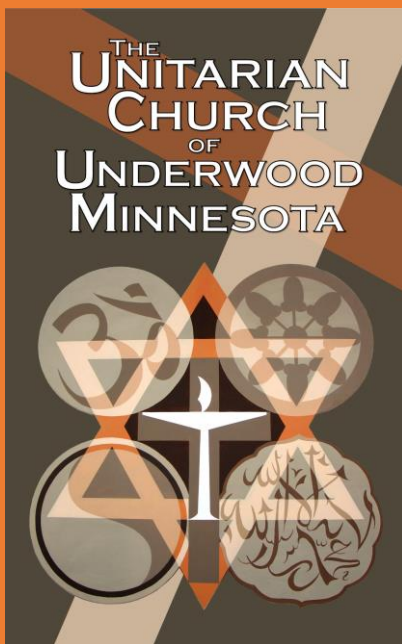
Unitarian Church of Underwood

PO Box 58, 206 North Main Street
Underwood

Phone: 218/826-6553

Website: www.ucofu.org

www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org



Sunday Services 10 a.m.

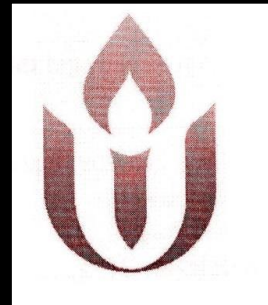
December 1, Falcon Gott, "A Falcon's Journey"

December 8, Larry Peterson,
"Breaking Barriers: Harvesting
LGBTQ Stories..."


December 15, Kyle Richards, LRHC
CEO, Holistic Medicine

December 22, UCU Community
Celebration T

December 29, Bob Worner, "Three
Wise Men and Many More Women"



December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Falcon Gott, "A Falcon's Journey" Children's RE 10-11 am #300 Mindfulness Sitting 9:15-9:45 am #300	2 AA 7 PM	3	4	5	6	7
8 Larry Peterson, "Breaking Barriers..." Curry Dinner 9:45 am Children's RE 10-11 am #300 Mindfulness Sitting 9:15-9:45 am #300	9 AA 7 PM	10 Battle Lake/Underwood U Group @ Bergs @ 3:30 p.m.	11 Alexandria U- Group: 2 nd Wed @ 7:00 pm @ Widseth, Smith & Nolting Office Bldg., Nominating Committee 10 am @ Susan Groff's	12 Perham U Group @ Stan Carignan's 6:30 p.m.	13	14
15 Kyle Richards LRHC CEO, Holistic Medicine Adult RE 8:45- 9:45 am. Children's RE 10-11 am #300 Mindfulness Sitting 9:15-9:45 am #300	16 AA 7 PM	17	18 Board of Directors Meeting 5:30 pm	19 Fergus Falls U Group @ Diana Ziesemer's @ 6:30 p.m.	20	21
22 Community Celebration Adult RE 8:45- 9:45 am. Children's RE 10-11 am #300 Mindfulness Sitting 9:15-9:45 am #300	23 AA 7 PM	24 Christmas Eve Service @ 4:30 pm	25	26	27	28
29 Bob Worner "Three Wise Men, Many More Women" Children's RE 10-11 am #300 Mindfulness Sitting 9:15-9:45 am #300	30 AA 7 PM	31 Party at Roller Olson's 4 pm on				

StayⁱⁿformED

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

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

Contact Mary Anderson @218/346-6638 or maryanderson8380@msn.com for Sunday announcements. Contact Kris Warhol @ 218/205-1644 or mwarhol7up@gmail.com for local media notifications.

U Group Schedule (Meetings Monthly)

- Alexandria U-Group: 2nd Wed @ 7:00 pm @ the office building of Widseth, Smith & Nolting Office Bldg., 610 Fillmore, Alexandria: Facilitators: Lee Becker/Susan Sanford
- Battle Lake U Group, the 2nd Tuesday @ 3:00 p.m. home of Steve & Linda Berg Facilitators: Bob Worner/Kris Warhol.
- Fergus Falls U-Group: 3rd Thursday @ 6:30 pm @ Diana Ziesemer's, 934 W. Linden St., Fergus Falls. Facilitator: Melody Shores.
- Perham U-Group: 2nd Thursday @ 6:30 p.m. @ Stan Carignan's. Facilitator: Stan Carignan.

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

To learn more or join a group, contact Lead Facilitator:
Shannon Smith @ shannonsmith20@gmail.com
Or 320/630-6229

Cancellation/Postponement Due to Weather

Cancellation/Postponement Due to Weather: for weather rated announcements, tune to Lakes Radio Family of Stations – 103.3, 96.5 FM and 1020, 1250 AM. You can also check the UCU website at 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.

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/mailling: Ellen Eastby and Mary Anderson

Website: Ellen Eastby

Facebook: Melody Shores

Photos courtesy of Norm Kolstad & credited others.

Credited Articles

Note: Send Announcements for church bulletin and monthly newsletter to Mary Anderson
[@maryanderson8380@msn.com](mailto:maryanderson8380@msn.com). She forwards 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.

Adult Religious Education Classes 8-45-9:45 a.m. & Mindfulness Sitting 9:15-9:45 a.m.

3rd Sunday of the month, 8:45 – 9:45 a.m. – Ellen Eastby will lead a discussion using the book, *White Fragility* by Robin Diangelo.

4th Sunday of the month, 8:45-9:45 a.m. Bob Worner leads the discussion completing the book, *Unbelievable* by Jon Shelby Spong.

Each Sunday of the month, 9:15 – 9:45 a.m., Stan Carignan leads Mindfulness Sitting @ #300 Sverdrup Suites.

Speakers Coming in December

December 1 - Falcon Gott, "A Falcon's Journey"

telling his personal story of how he found his way back to the Native American culture. A story that stretches from his youth, to the present day, from growing up learning and knowing very little about the Native American culture, to finding himself creating short films and photographs that address important messages and themes within "Indian Country".



Falcon Gott is a photographer and filmmaker.

Over the past handful of years, Falcon's work has focused on Native American representation. Projects that range from *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women*, renowned Native American artists, to documenting the lifestyle of a Medicine Man, Falcon hopes to continue this momentum so that his work can serve as a means to learn about contemporary Native American culture.

December 8 - Larry Peterson, "Breaking Barriers: Harvesting LGBTQ Stories from the Northern Plains, Three Journeys" evokes the challenges and triumphs of this pioneer generation in their own words. These three interviews are part of the Red River Rainbow Seniors ongoing oral history project to gather the history of older LGBTQ people and their non-LGBTQ allies in North Dakota and Northern Minnesota in their own words. Prairie Public Radio's excerpts from some of the over 90 interviews are available at the podcast (<https://news.prairiepublic.org/programs/breaking-barriers>).

Larry Peterson is a long-time gay rights activist who coordinates the "Breaking Barriers" oral history project. He is a member of the Fargo-Moorhead Unitarian-Universalist congregation and a Professor Emeritus of History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies at North Dakota State University.

Note: Plan to stay for the Curry Dinner & Carols following the service.

December 15 - Kyle Richards, Lake Region Health Center Chief Executive Officer, will speak on a holistic approach to medicine: incorporating worth and dignity for every person. An evolving approach to medicine is aimed at taking the whole person in to account not only medically but also with the mind, body and spirit. The person-centered approaches include complimentary therapies such as the aromatherapy, massage therapy, labyrinth meditation, and other approaches that the person may want involved in their care while incorporating traditional practices. Medicine is continuing to bring Eastern and Western practices together for a better healthcare outcome and taking every person for who they are where they.

Mr. Richards has 20 years of experience improving clinical quality and patient satisfaction, successfully facilitating health care integration.

December 22 - UCU Community Celebration. Together we will celebrate the season. Diane Johnson is coordinating writers' presentations of stories, poems, and/or readings. Betsy Wells is coordinating the musicians. The kids will be sharing a song, and the famous dancing dolls will join us. Contact Betsy or Diane if you would like to share a piece:

December 29 – Bob Worner, “Three Wise Men and Many More Women.” Principle #1, “The inherent worth and dignity of every person,” and from Living Traditions: “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.”



Monthly Greeting from Board President, Kris Warhol

What is your Vision? What are your core values? What is your current ministry? We do not act in a state of emergency. This is an organic process. In what we are doing clearly articulates Vision followed by careful execution of goals, we continue to grow organically. We need to foster experiments and embrace failure. Repetition is static. Innovation requires us to learn new responses to changing conditions instead of repeating the past.

As we grow, we will be tempted to do more. Every time there are more people, money, resources, the pressure will be strong to add more programming and complexity to this organization. Resist this. Be ok with now. This is an organic process. Forcing forward momentum backfires. To reach more people we need to be doing less. By doing a few things well and creating steps not programs, will help more people grow faster.

Pay attention to the ripples for a while. Step back and ask yourself what brings you to this Church? What is your vision? Core values? Current ministry? How are you executing your goals? What are your goals to this community and Church?

Where we are at is exactly where we are. We have a budding children's religious education program that is very exciting. It is growing in numbers. After a recent conversation we are welcoming in two children ages 5 and 7 this Sunday whose family is new to our Church and are from Fergus Falls.

Like-minded people are finding us on our website and Facebook page and liking both for what they see us” being.”

We are heading into the busiest time of the year. Take a moment to be grateful that Unitarians accomplish what they set their minds to. We are small in numbers yet powerful in changing the world once we set our minds. It is Vision. It is Core Values. It is Ministry.

Community; fellowship with others that hold common values. The sharing of attitudes, interests and goals. We emulate community in the spirit of Unitarianism. This is true ministry commonly shared.

Kris Warhol November 26, 2019



Children's Religious Education

On November 3, Violet, Louise and Lorelei were led by Kris Warhol and Shannon Smith assisting. We talked about how we feel peaceful and worked from lessons, "In Our Hands." Violet read the declaration of Children Rights'. Shannon had visited the United Nations and thoroughly explained the reasons we have a representative from the United States on behalf of Human Rights. We made cards, ate popcorn and enjoyed having Shannon as our plus one.

The second Sunday, Wally & Kris Warhol led three children continuing the lesson from "In Our Hands" with the message on Circles and Belonging. We talked about how we feel being part of our circle and then we colored three bears that wore the badge of Being, Doing, Thinking.



Wally taught the children to sing "There's No one in the World Like Me." We thank our friend, Vivian Napoli for assisting along with Kris Warhol.

Another Sunday, Melody Shores and Bonnie Albers led the children in discussion of the various descriptions of Spirituality that people believe in: how it connects us to something larger than ourselves and to a larger purpose. Then we discussed how there is a variety of symbolism for "spirit" and many ways to express it. We expressed Spirit in sound and movement and played the song, *Many and Great*, using recorders, chime-balls and drum. We drew patterns representing Spirit (water, wind, fire, rain, lightning) and etched those patterns on foil-covered tins, "spirit boxes" that they get to keep to put things in that remind them that they are not alone.

The last Sunday, Jon Solinger and Robbyn Navatto led with Amari, Violet, Reese and Lorelei in attendance. After our opening words, we used lesson 13 from the UUA Creating Home. We heard the story of The Empty Pot, in which an ancient emperor found a successor by testing the honesty and perseverance of the children of his land.

The children decorated paper dolls (or gingerbread cookie people) that represent themselves and their special gifts and talents they can share with our congregation and the world, while talking about what kind of things they do best. After snacks, we went back to church.

Looking for willing volunteers so if you are willing to assist on a Sunday with Children's Religious Education, please contact: Kris Warhol @ mwarhol7up@gmail.com or at 218/205-1644.

U Groups

"This church has a small group ministry (SGM) with our covenant groups that we call "U Groups" that meet once a month in Fergus Falls, Alexandria, Perham and Battle Lake/Underwood. Each group holds an empty chair for anyone to join. Here we reflect together on the selected topic, share our thoughts, build trust, intimacy and support with and for each other. If interested, please see Shannon Smith or the U Group Facilitator. The schedule is listed in the monthly newsletters." Shannon Smith @ shannon.smith20@gmail.com or telephone: 320/630-6229.

Everyone Share Treats and Kitchen Coordination

As you are aware, the social hour and after-service treats are a large part of the community building that occurs following Sunday service and are enjoyed by members, friends and visitors. This past year one designated person from the Membership Committee (all of them volunteers) has been making coffee, getting people to sign up to bring treats and staying late to clean up. Thank you to all who have contributed treats to eat on Sunday or for the freezer.



Using practices of some other churches that we've learned about, beginning in January 2020 the UCU Membership Committee will be providing the alphabetic lists of members/friends to assume responsibilities for 3 months to bring treats/set-up/serve/clean-up. Training and instructions will be provided. We will schedule the snow-birds and summer friends to help in summer months. We will have one coordinator per quarter who will ensure everything is covered but who will not have to do all the work. There will be options for members and friends who cannot help in the kitchen. We are also open to any suggestions to keep the treats coming! Watch for more details to find out where your name falls on the listings!

Please email your questions, comments or further suggestions to: Mary Anderson maryanderson8380@msn.com or Janell Miersch miers004@umn.edu. *Membership Committee: Mary Anderson, Chair; John & Janell Miersch, Bonnie Showers, Mary Worner with the help of Alison Francis.*

Watch for Coming Sunday Point Person(s) Teams

New Teams are being formed to help assist and provide directions for Sunday mornings. It will include the Openers/Closers, Greeters, Service Leaders and other individuals who prepare readiness for our church's gathering together. Contact Katy Olson 218/495-3235 or katyjolson@gmail.com,

Notes from November Speakers



November 3 - Ken Pentel spoke on "A glimpse of the Past, a Snapshot of the Present, a Vision for the Future." Podcast link @ <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/a-glimpse-of-the-past-a-snapshot-of-the-present-a-vision-for-the-future>

Attendance: 45



November 10, Rev. Stefan Jonasson,
Podcast link @ <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/bread-circuses-stefan-jonasson-nov-10-2019>

Attendance: 52



November 17, Bob Worner, "Unitarianism as Religion Light." Podcast link @ <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/leading-the-way-bob-worner-november-17-2019>



Attendance: 46

November 24 – Liz Kappuola, Executive Director of MAHUBE-OTWA, "Caring for our Neighbor(s)"

Podcast link @ <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/caring-for-our-neighbor-liz-kappuola>

Attendance: 41

Celebration of the Life of Elizabeth Eriksson Sweder 1936-2019

(From Celebration Program, November 23, 2019)

*To live content with small means;
To seek elegance rather than luxury,
And refinement rather than fashion;
To be worthy, not respectable, and wealthy, not rich;
To study hard, think quietly, talk gently, act frankly;
To listen to stars and birds, to babies and sages, with open heart;
To bear all cheerfully, do all bravely, await occasion, hurry never,
In a word, to let the spiritual, unbidden, and unconscious,
Grow up through the common.
This should be one's symphony. William Henry Channing*



Upcoming Events in December

Curry & Carols

December 8



Following the Sunday service, John Minge, assisted by others, will, for the 7th 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, 2019 4:30 p.m.

"Noticing Angels."

Angels. They are integral to the Christmas story. The angel Gabriel first appeared to Mary to tell her she that she would bear a son. It is an angel who brings the news of Jesus' birth to the shepherds watching their flocks of sheep in the fields. Angels are found in our modern times too. Most of us know at least one child that has been dressed in a white robe with a halo of tinsel adorning their head while playing an angel in the church Christmas program. We have angels watching over us from their place at the tops of our Christmas trees. Angels are found in almost any form of Christmas decoration you can imagine. And, there are angels among us. Angels that bestow unto us, grace and compassion in our day to day lives. On Christmas Eve, Ellen Eastby will deliver a message of hope, as she talks about the joy of noticing the angels in our lives. Everyone is welcome. Come as you are.

The Special Christmas Eve special collection will go to two programs of MAHUBE-OTWA: Emergency Needs – Helps people with emergencies that don't fit within our programs – they range from extra diapers for a family to paying for emergency car repairs or hotel stays or helping a senior get a tree removed before it fell on her roof.

Upward Mobility Incentives – As families increase their incomes on their way out of poverty, they experience a "benefit cliff effect" in which they lose more food support, or health insurance, or rent assistance than the amount their income has increased. Often, they quit the job because they can't afford to keep it. We cannot replace the full cost of the benefit they lose as they work to increase their incomes, but this fund allows us to support them with special incentives related

to the goals they're working on as motivational support. If they continue on the path, their incomes will increase more than the benefits they lose and they will move out of poverty, but there is a period where, due to state and federal policy, they have a temporary setback. Examples for these funds include a child's birthday cake or a family pizza outing or new work shoes or school supplies or a lawn mower. *Submitted by Ellen Eastby.*

SAVE the DATE! Holiday Party
December 31st
@ Roller-Olson's

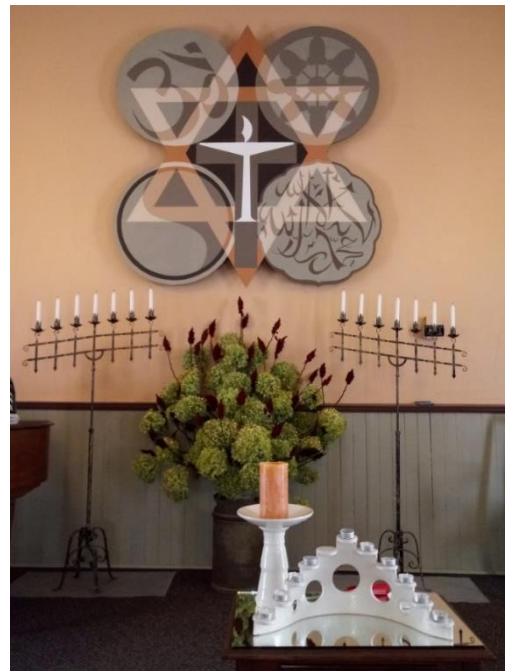
Beginning at 4 p.m. with bonfire, plan on fun in the snow, great food, and music, convivial company, with potluck at 6 p.m. – all to bring back the sun!



See you then. *Hosts: Katy, Ron, Cedar, Chris, Hart, Hera, Hazen, and Ally*

A "Self-Confession"

In the fall over the past several years, Mikkell Thompson has decorated the chancel with a fall floral arrangement. For a container, he used the large wicker (woven) basket belonging to his mother, Florance Thompson. To hold the water and the flowers, he always placed inside the Chinese blue and white umbrella stand he'd had for over 30 years. When it came to the arrangement this year, Mikkell found his containers had disappeared. Instead, he had to use an old milk-can he found on hand. Out of concern, anxiety, agitation and frustration, seeking that they be found, he sent an email to the church ucofu email. Mary Anderson saw it and promptly forwarded it to Susan Groff, Janitor. Susan called upon Kris Warhol and Ron Graham to help search the premises. They had no luck finding the items.



Mary came to church and looked around herself to see if she could spot these items. Again, no luck. Later she and Susan Groff were talking about what might have happened to the basket and vase. Susan said she was going to look to see if she had a picture of last year's display that we might post and speculated that maybe it had gotten mixed in with the garage sale stuff. It was only then that Mary had an "aha" moment and shouted, "I HAVE THEM!" Susan looked at her in astonishment and waited for an explanation.

What happened is that the Sunday after the June garage sale that Mary hadn't made it to, she looked in the #300 garage to see what items were left. Sitting there was a basket that she grabbed, leaving a \$30 check for her purchase. It wasn't until she got it home that she discovered

a tall deft blue vase inside. She promptly added both to her home décor. In fact, she used them as great places to hide treats from the grandkids.

Even as she read Mikkel's email and was first talking to Susan, it didn't register that these were the objects Mikkel was looking for. Finally, it dawned and her foggy brain lit with amazement and then, talk about embarrassment! The next morning Mary emailed Mikkel to confess her transgression. She offered to "promptly return them! Unless you'd want me to continue to 'store them at my house when not in use.'" She'd made Susan promise to just say "the vases have been found." However, it makes too good a story not to tell a few "who need to know."



She signed her message to Mikkel, "Apoplectic, Appalling, Apologetic, Appealing Mary Anderson."

Lesson learned: 1) Don't assume others are to blame until you sort the facts and acknowledge your own behaviors. 2) Seek from yourself and others adherence to UU Principles 1-7 with emphasis on "compassion," "free & responsible search for truth," and "conscience"! *Mary Anderson with the permission of Mikkel Thompson & Susan Groff*

Yup, that's the basket that is at Mary's house!

Living Out Our UU Principles

Unitarian Church of Underwood

Empowerment Grant

Application Time!

Applications Due January 31, 2020

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF UNDERWOOD EMPOWERMENT GRANT APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

From Kayak building for Boys & Girls Club, to POPS @ the Farmers Market to Shan Schools in Thailand, \$95,000 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 2020-21 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, 2020**.

Criteria for 'Empowerment Grant' requests:

- Must be proposed by Unitarian Church of Underwood (UCU) members.

- 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).
- Must address one of the seven Unitarian Universalist principles.
- Must be non-discriminatory.
 - Projects will not provide direct services to individuals or families - the project may help area charities and non-profits that provide direct services.
 - 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.
 - The project being funded must be under the direction of an approved, not for profit (501c-3) organization.
 - Projects/groups that have not received previous funding will be given a higher priority for funding.
 - 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 31, 2020**. If you are interested in pursuing an 'Empowerment Grant' you need to fill out the application here, or on-line @ 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.

"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)*

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 for further information and/or assistance.

The application form is at the end of the newsletter for you to print or you can pick one up at church.

Habitat for Humanity Needs Volunteers

"Our build at 109 Lydia Lane in Fergus Falls is moving along slow, but sure. We need more Tuesday and Thursday volunteers. We start at 9 a.m. and go until about 3 p.m. There are only a couple of people who help from day to day. We have about 2/3rds of the house to side yet - and they are the south and west facing sides - the warm sides when we get sun! Please consider volunteering during the week if you have time. 'Mr. Consistent,' Tim Lanz is pictured hard at work siding. Thanks again for your help in building affordable housing in Fergus Falls."

Stan Carignan
Executive Director

Paul Shol
Community Outreach Coordinator
Fergus Falls Area Habitat for Humanity Affiliate, Inc.
421 W. Fir Ave.
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
(o) 218-736-2905
(c) 218-841-2657
www.fergushabitat.org
fergushabitat@gmail.com



Invest in Solar for Red Lake Nation

MNIPL staff member Bob Blake of Red Lake Nation has an inspiring vision for his tribe: to transition the community's fossil fuel use to 100% renewable sources of energy, distributed on a microgrid that is owned by Tribal members. Community members are invited to financially invest in this project, where your contribution will be paid back with interest. Investments can range from \$2,000 - \$10,000 with a five-year payback and 2.5% interest annually. [Learn more and invest in this amazing project here.](#)

Climate movement --- the younger generations

Locally and across the country, youth are organizing the next major #ClimateStrike for Friday, **December 6th**, and they're calling on people of all ages to participate. As the 2020 election season starts heating up, this is our chance to show politicians that supporting anything short of serious climate action is unacceptable. The youth and young adult leaders from Fridays for Future and the Sunrise Movement are calling on us to strike again on November 29th and/or December 6th, and to begin preparing for the biggest ever strike, April 22-24th, 2020. Find an event near you by looking at the [Fridays for Future map](#) and [Sunrise Movement strike information](#) page.

Citizens Climate Lobby November speakers were the two students from Harvard who

founded Students for Carbon Dividends, which is growing exponentially on college campuses. Both of them are Republicans, but they have ignited 100 campus groups across the country with equal Republican and Democratic support for carbon fee and dividend legislation. Kiera, who is President Emeritus of the Harvard Republican Club, recently testified at a congressional hearing alongside Republican pollster Frank Luntz. Over the summer, she spoke about carbon dividends at the Teen Vogue Summit: "There are many climate-oriented groups rallying around the problem, but Students for Carbon Dividends is rallying around the solution." If you want to watch this call, you can always go to citizensclimatelobby.org and scroll down to the bottom where it says monthly speakers and actions.



Among other wonders of our lives, we are alive with one another, we walk here in the light of this unlikely world that isn't ours for long. May we spend generously the time we are given. May we enact our responsibilities as thoroughly as we enjoy our pleasures. May we see with clarity, may we seek a vision that serves all beings, may we honor the mystery surpassing our sight, and may we hold in our hands the gift of good work and bear it forth whole, as we were borne forth by a power we praise to this one Earth, this homeland of all we love. "A Prayer among Friends," by John Daniel, from the collection Of Earth

See full Congregational Accompaniment Project for Asylum Seekers Handbook for Congregations Fall 2019 @ <https://www.uusc.org/>

We are Part of the Larger UU



SAVE THE DATE FOR REGIONAL ASSEMBLY 2020



Regional Assembly 2020 will be held at **The Unitarian Universalist Church, Rockford, Illinois on Saturday, April 18, 2020**. Our keynote speaker will be Taquienna Boston, Special Advisor to the UUA President for Institutional Inclusion, Equity, and Change. The day will feature worship, the annual business meeting, lunch, keynote presentation, and select workshops. The annual business meeting and keynote speaker will be live streamed for those who cannot attend. On Friday evening, April 17, The UU Church in Rockford will graciously host an evening gathering for those in town. **Registration opens January 2020.**

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF UNDERWOOD BOARD OF DIRECTORS Approved MINUTES October 16, 2019, BOARD MEETING

Board members present: Darryl Booker, Allison Francis, John Minge, Ron Roller, Bob Worner, Shannon Smith, Kris Warhol, and Tim Lanz

Board members absent: Connie Stigen and Bonnie Showers

Others present: Mary Worner was present early in the meeting for a short while.

The meeting was called to order at 5:25 P.M. by Board President Kris Warhol.

1. A motion to approve the proposed agenda was passed after the addition under "Old Business" of the unfilled administrative/clerical position. (Darryl/Shannon)
2. Kris announce that Bonnie Showers has resigned from the Board.

3. A motion to approve the minutes for the September 2019 board meeting was passed after a correction was proposed. (Ron/Bob). The correction was that Ron did not recommend that 501(c)(3) status be applied for. Ron reported that he had spoken with CPA Pickett about the question of whether to apply for federal tax-exempt status. Ron was told that, as a religious organization, the Church is automatically tax-exempt and that 501(c)(3) status need not be sought.
4. Mary Worner, speaking only in her own behalf, told the Board that she has found a 2018 chart that showed three coordinator positions in the Church administrative hierarchy. She wasn't sure if that was a proposal or if that was in fact already part of our organizational structure. Each coordinator has multiple Church committees to track and report on. Mary wanted to make sure that the Board was aware of the fact that all three coordinator positions are presently being filled by Kris Warhol. There was also some discussion as to whether or not those coordinator positions should be filled by Board members. Mary submitted a brief written statement. No action was taken.
5. Treasurer's Report: Ron Roller presented a three-page financial report that goes through September of 2019. He reported that the Johnson & Johnson stock had been sold for more than \$12,000 and that the proceeds have gone (or will soon go) into the foundation/endowment. He said that the Church should have letterhead stationary. He also reported that a donation had been received from a friend of the Church. Ron will send a thank you to the donor. Ron repeated that there is no need to apply for 501(c)(3) status. He was told that both by CPA Pickett and by the UUA. He said that it would probably cost about \$1000 to apply for such status. However, he isn't sure if the fact that we have an endowment fund within a foundation might not make a difference. He's going to seek information regarding that concern.
6. Putting Money into the Endowment Fund: It has been recommended by the Stewardship Committee that we put \$200,000 into the endowment fund. There was considerable discussion of this proposal and some discomfort regarding such a sizable commitment. One concern is the amount itself. There was also discussion regarding how much of that money could be spent in a year. The amount varies a little bit but is limited to about 5% per year. That percentage is meant to maintain the size of the endowment after taking inflation into account. Ron indicated that once in the endowment, the principal would be pretty much out of reach in perpetuity. Darryl made a motion to put \$150,000 into the endowment now and an additional \$10,000 into the fund in each of the next five years. The deferred contributions would not be binding on the Board if, in any of those subsequent years, the Board changed its mind regarding any or all of said subsequent annual contributions. This motion had not been seconded by the time that the decision was made to end the discussion of this topic and to resume it at the next Board meeting. No action was taken.
7. Facilities Committee: Darryl and Kris emphasized the need to keep the path from the exit at the east end of the church building clear at all times—all the way to an area where cars can be reached. There are safety concerns if that exit and the path that leads from it are blocked. The Facilities Committee will be asked to make sure that this requirement is adhered to.

8. Board Training: The Board members who attended the recent Board training spoke highly of it. Many good suggestions were made by the presenter. One thing that the training highlighted is the need to monitor closely our efforts to meet the goals that we've set for ourselves in the current Five-Year Plan.
9. The Unfilled Administration/Clerical Position: This discussion revolved around the recent special Board meeting that focused on this position and how to proceed to fill it. (Several non-board members were also in attendance at this meeting.) Written statements were received from some congregation members. Those statements will be emailed out to Board members. There was good and lengthy discussion regarding what the Church needs and how to proceed. Katy Olson had a fairly detailed proposal and a description of what needs to be done to make the Sunday morning services go well—with volunteers. Ron said that he'd follow up on this. It was also suggested that we need to rework the job description for the job to be filled and to consider offering a higher wage. Allison said that she'd like each Board member to read all of the written submissions and to identify his/her three or four top elements for the job. No action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 28th day of October 2019.

John Minge, Secretary

Note: See next page for Empowerment Grant Application

Unitarian Church of Underwood

2020-21 Empowerment Grant Application

The application deadline for the current grant cycle is **January 31, 2020.**

(Please add more information on additional sheet(s) if needed)

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Telephone: _____ 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 to Ron Roller with six (6) copies. Please contact Ron Roller at rollerolson@gmail.com or 218-495-3235 for additional information.

