

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

206 North Main Street

Underwood

Phone: 218/826-6553

Website: www.ucofu.org

www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org

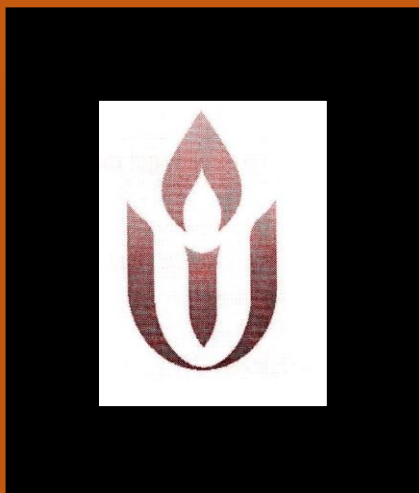
Services

*February 4 - Shannon
Smith, "Heart Last
Frontier"*

*February 11 - Panel: "Why I
am UU"*

*February 18 - Adam
Martin, "Hustle Harder," F5
Project*

*February 25 - Victoria
Creek, "How did I get Here?"*



Wally's trumpets!

Photo courtesy of Norm Kolstad

February 2018 Newsletter

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February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Habitat for Humanity Home Welcoming 12-1 pm 111 Lydia Lane Fergus Falls	2	3
4 Shannon Smith, "The Heart is the Last Frontier" Class - Race in MN 8:45 am Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 a.m. #300 Communications/Tech Team 11:45 a.m.	5	6	7	8 Perham U Group 6:30 @ Stan Carignan's	9	10 Writer's Path to Publishing 1-5 pm Roosevelt Education Center - FF
11 Stan Carignan/Panel, "Why I am UU" Class- Ancient Religions 8:45 am Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Children's RE 10:00 am SP Focus Group 11:30 am	12	13 Battle Lake/Underwood U Group 3 pm @ Joanne Cress' & Luke Anderson's	14 Alexandria U Group 7 pm @ Wideth... Office Bldg/ Finance Committee 5:30 pm	15	16	17 Someplace Safe Annual Tea MS Legacy Hall 10:30 a.m. 
18 Adam Martin, "Hustle Harder," F5 Project Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am #300 SP Focus Group 11:30 am	19	20 Fergus Falls U Group 6 pm @ Diana Ziesemer's New Member Orientation TBD	21 Board of Directors 5:30 p.m.	22	23	24
25 Victoria Creek Class – "How did I get Here?" "Fluid in Faith" 8:45 am Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am #300 SP Focus Group 11:30 am	26	27 New Member Orientation TBD	28 Strategic Planning Task Force 5:30 pm	Note: Mindfulness Sitting every Sunday beginning at 9:15 am in Sverdrup Suites #300.		

Coming in February

February 4 – Celebrant, Shannon Smith, “The Heart is the Last Frontier”: People can perceive the world differently by using their mind or using their heart; through their thoughts or through emotions. As a western culture, we have gotten very good at knowing the world through rational, linear thinking. But knowing the world around us through our hearts and holistic feeling does not come naturally for many of us. The changes introduced to us, as individuals and as a society, by ideas such as ‘follow your heart’, non-dual thinking and spiritual healing are revolutionary for many. Are these the same changes that are needed for us to truly welcome and empathize with others who are different from us?

February 11 – Stan Carignan leads UU Panel Discussion, “Why I am UU: We are a Pilgrim People, a Pilgrim Church.” Many of us at the Unitarian Church of Underwood have come from other faith groups to find a home here. Hear the stories of three of our members; Tere Mann, John Miersch, Florance Thompson; and how their spiritual journey has led them to our community."

February 18 – Adam Martin, “Hustle Harder,” F5 Project. Adam is a five-time felon turned entrepreneur who is working to change the lives of prisoners while in confinement and prepare them to break the cycle of crime and foster the reuniting of families.

F5 Project believes what happens in one’s past does not need to determine one’s future. With ongoing communication, safe and affordable housing, employment, healthy socialization and transportation, F5 helps transition citizens from confinement to a new life. Currently, F5 Project serves former offenders of Cass County, North Dakota. See: <https://www.f5project.org/>

February 25 – Victoria Creek, “An Update from The Field: How did I get here?”: an account of the travails, triumphs, and tragedies of life in OTC.

Victoria is a doctoral student at Concordia University interested in understanding how college administrations perceive the role that campus housing (may or may not) play in community college student success. She is committed to community service that has included three terms as an AmeriCorps VISTA, ten years on the Youth Advisory Council of the Workforce Area Board, and more than seven years of service to the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota. Victoria has been part of a statewide movement to bring civility to public discourse around difficult topics as a lead facilitator for the Minnesota Council of Churches Respectful Conversations Project and a



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>

Many now available to listen to!!

For your gift giving to UCU. please consider direct debit. Your gifts support and sustain the mission of UCU through Program, Facility and Community Outreach. Thank you!!

Adult Religious Education Classes

Each Sunday of the month, 9:15 – 9:45 a.m.

Stan Carignan leads Mindfulness/Quaker Quiet Time Sitting.

1st Sunday of the month, 8:45 - 9:45 a.m. –

John Minge leads discussion from: "A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota."

2nd Sunday of the month, 8:45- 9:45 a.m. –
Sandy Barnhouse leads the Ancient Religions Class.

4th Sunday of the month beginning October 22, 8:45 – 9:45 a.m. Bob Worner leads, using the book studied by the Celebrants, *Fluent in Faith* by Jeanne Harrison Nieuwejaar.

Website:

www.ucofu.org

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

See special events; photos; special music by Steve Berg & Linda Quigstad-Berg; Mikkel Thompson & Jacob McKnite's rendition of "Valsen oil Liv' composed by Tor Algrigtsen...

Children's Religious Education



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

Tentative Schedule 2017-18 10-11 a.m.

February, 11 – Leaders, JoAnn Larson & Alisha Piekarski with focus on Love: what it means, what it feels like, love of self, others, community, Earth, etc. Art work will be to decorate Valentine's cookies to serve as treats after the service. We will also enjoy a fruit snack before eating cookies. I hope your child/children can come!

March 11 or 18, 10-11 a.m. – Tina Stone & Alisha Piekarski

April 15, 10 – 11 a.m. – Jon Solinger & Alisha Piekarski

May 20 or 27 – "Old Fashioned Sunday School Picnic" @ Phelps Mill or God's Acres

**Child Care or Activity Bags Other
Sundays**

Wi-fi Now Available at UCU

**See Bulletin Board or Bulletins for
Password**

Newsletter Submissions

Please submit your ideas, articles and photos to: 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 and Facebook Page.

Newsletter comes out on the 1st of each month

Strategic Planning, 2018-2023

Information Gathering

Focus Groups: following Sunday services
on:

February 11, 18 and 25

(Details below)

Please complete and submit
Questionnaire at end of Newsletter or
Available for church pick-up

Your input is important and valued. Thank
you!!



INVITE

What it Means to be a Unitarian
Universalist

And a Member of the Unitarian Church
of Underwood

New Member Orientation

February 20 OR 27

@ Home of John & Janell Miersch or March 11
following Sunday Service

New Member Welcoming

March 4 during Sunday Services

Please join us!!

U Group Schedule (Small Covenant Groups) Meet 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
- The Battle Lake U Group, the 2nd Tuesday @ 3:00 p.m. @ home of Joanne Cress and Luke Anderson. Facilitators: Bob Worner and Joanne Cress.
- Fergus Falls U-Group: 3rd Tues @ 6:00 pm @ Diana Ziesemer's, 934 W. Linden St., Fergus Falls. Facilitator: Jacob McKnite with Mary Worner.
- Perham U-Group: 2nd Thursday @ 6:00 p.m. at Stan Carignan's. Facilitator: Stan Carignan.

February topic: Poverty

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 or 218/209-7809 or Stan at Stanley.a.carignan@gmail.com or 218/841-2657.



**Invitation to Join UCU
As a Voting Member,
Participate in New Member Orientation (see below) and New Member
Welcoming
March 4, 2018**

The Unitarian Church of Underwood has expanded in numbers over the last several years. We continue to have friends who are regularly coming through our door wondering if this is a permanent place for them. Visitors and new members often ask for further information on Unitarian Universalism and what the Unitarian Church of Underwood stands for. To help answer questions, the Membership Committee offers a New Member/UU Introduction one-hour session. John & Janell Miersch will host a gathering of new and interested members Tuesday, February 20 or 27 (depending on numbers). A light supper will be served with opportunity of getting acquainted and sharing. For those unable to make the home gathering, New Member Orientation will be held again March 11th following Sunday Service. Please contact Mary Anderson @ maryanderson8380@msn.com or 218/298-4942 to make your reservation. New member welcoming is March 4 during the Sunday service.

The meetings will be scheduled to best accommodate schedules, so new/interested members, please indicate respond and select Tuesday, February 20 at John & Janell Miersch's OR Tuesday, February 27 @ the Miersch's OR March 11, @ church following Sunday Services. Please relay your date preference to Mary Anderson @ maryanderson8380@msn.com or 218/298-4942 or Janell Miersch @ miers004@umn.edu or 218/531-1445 or 651/855-8917. **New member welcoming will be held March 4 during the Sunday service.**

To become a voting member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Underwood, you indicate your wish by signing the "silver" membership book.

The UCU Policy Statement #2 Article II Definitions B. states that: "A voting member is one who has signed the membership book and completed any of the following: has participated in an activity of the congregation in the past year, has made a recorded financial contribution since the beginning of the fiscal year, or expresses verbally, or in writing, a desire to remain a member."

We, like other UU Fellowships, have voting members; others who though not voting members, attend regularly or come for our featured speakers or other offerings; some who consider themselves members but are unable to participate; and some who come sometimes as visitors. We welcome everyone: "no single belief includes us here, no disbelief excludes us."

Strategic Planning 2018-2023 Underway



To gather input from UCU Members/Friends for the 2018-2023 Strategic Planning, focus groups will be held following Sunday church services on February 11, 18 and 25. Please plan to attend one or more sessions that will be facilitated by Strategic Planning Task Force members or others. **Prior to or following the focus gathering, please complete and return the questionnaire (end of this newsletter or available at church) to: Unitarian Church of Underwood, PO Box 58, Underwood, MN 56586 or drop off at church in the designated basket.**

The Unitarian Church of Underwood is governed by the Board of Directors with most of the tasks and offerings performed by lay-members through committees, task forces, teams or leads. The main functions of UCU under Administration are: Program, Community Outreach and Facilities' Management.

The focus groups will dialogue what you want the Unitarian Church to look like in each of the four areas over the next five years. The four areas are:

1. Organizational structures and leadership built/maintained to: manage the fiscal and human resources of the church in a manner that is inclusive, transparent, efficient and effective.
2. Program offerings to support the spiritual journeys of members by providing a broad range of opportunities for personal reflection, discussion, intellectual stimulation, artistic expression, and social interaction;
3. Community Outreach efforts to encourage and support members, affiliates, and collaborators to engage in community services, social justice efforts and environmental causes from local to world levels.
4. Facilities to assure that the church property and grounds are maintained and improved for maximum serviceability, efficiency, and longevity.

Information gathered from the focus groups and survey responses will be considered for incorporation into the long-range plan.

Your input is important and valued. Thank you!!

Strategic Planning Task Force: Luke Anderson, Facilitator; Mary Anderson, Ron Roller, Stephanie Sanderson, Connie Stigen, Betsy Wells, and Bob Worner.

Community Outreach

Habitat for Humanity

Build Complete/Home Dedication Ceremony

Thursday, February 1 from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

(Open House from 10:00-12:00)

111 Lydia Lane, Fergus Falls

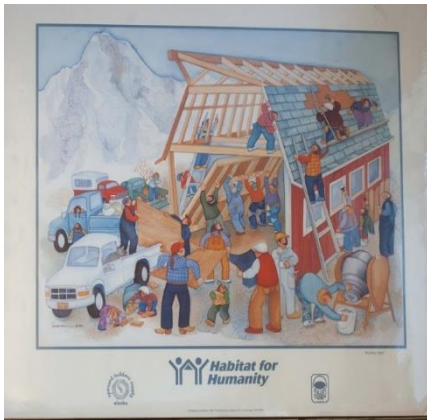


Please take this opportunity to tour the house you built and wish the new home owners: Kwende, Heather and Natasha Kiemle, a blessed life.

We will be presenting the family with a hammer, a Bible, and several quilts - you must attend to hear the history and meaning behind these gifts.

Just an FYI, we have had over 160 different volunteers who donated over 1,600 hours of labor to help to build this home.

Thank you to everyone who has stepped forward and helped us.



Stan Carignan

Executive Director

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

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF UNDERWOOD

2018 EMPOWERMENT GRANTS

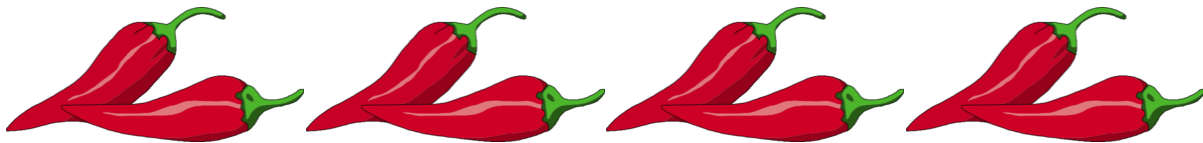
Will be announced Soon!!

Watch this Space...



For the past several years, UCU members/friends have helped serve lunch for the Someplace Safe Annual Tea Fundraiser. If you are interested in helping, please contact: Connie Stigen at dcstigen@gmail.com. Servers should be at the hall by 10:30 a.m. and should wear white tops and black bottoms. Your help is appreciated for this worthwhile event.

SAVE THESE MARCH DATES!!



Annual Chili Dinner

Friday, March 23, 2018

5-7 p.m.

Underwood Community Center

An evening with internationally acclaimed indigenous environmental activist

WINONA LA DUKE

5 PM MONDAY, MARCH 26

Legacy Hall - Fergus Falls campus

- 5** | Viewing of the film *"First Daughter and the Black Snake"*
Winona LaDuke believes Big Oil is the black snake predicted in indigenous prophecy to bring the earth's destruction.
- 6:30** | Visit the booth of **Honor the Earth**,
a Native-led environmental organization
- 7** | *"The Seventh Fire,"* Keynote address
by Winona LaDuke

*"Ojibwe prophecy speaks of a time during the seventh fire
when our people will have a choice between two paths.*

*The first path is well-worn and scorched. The second path is new and green.
It is our choice as communities and as individuals how we will proceed."*



M State cafeteria will be open for those wanting to eat on campus

Sponsored by the Minnesota State Community and Technical College
Sociology Department and the Underwood Unitarian Church

Freewill donation to support the work of Honor the Earth

RELATED APPEARANCE: The Underwood Unitarian Church will host LaDuke
at 10 .m. Sunday, March 25, in Underwood. The event is open to the public.

Learn more. EARN more. minnesota.edu



MINNESOTA STATE

Minnesota State Community and Technical College.
A member of the Minnesota State system, is an affirmative
action, equal opportunity educator and employer.



Minnesota State
Community and Technical College

Notes from January Speakers



January 7, 2018 - Bob Worner's talk was entitled **"Shadow and Light,"** and addresses UU Principle #1, and #3's "acceptance of one another."

We all have light (the capacity for good) and darkness (ability to cause harm, often unintentionally) within us. In the New Testament in a letter to the Corinthians, Paul wrote "I have the will to do good, but not the power. Who can deliver me?" The answer is – no one, except ourselves.

We need to have both the light and dark sides. With light, we grow and harvest, and see our way. Darkness provides several experiences including silence (such as sitting in a quiet place and contemplating); pain (without which we would not understand empathy nor appreciate health); and the experience of nothingness (and thereby becoming one with everything).

One of the morning's readings was #637. The refrain is:

"We forgive ourselves and each other; we begin again in love."

We will always have a dark side; but through forgiveness we can grow. Although evil is around us and is good at replicating itself, goodness comes through and is what helps us and humanity to move forward.

Attendance: 50

January 14, 2018 - Joanie Ellison's talk was titled **"Multicultural Center in Pelican Rapids."**

Joanie has been involved celebrating diversity and supporting immigrants and refugees in the Pelican Rapids area for many years.

In the 1970's Mexican men from S. Texas immigrated from to work at the Turkey Plant. After a few years, they began to bring their families to P.R. In the 1980's, refugees arrived from Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam. These were mostly sponsored by churches and volunteers taught them how to live and succeed in the U.S. The 1990's saw immigrants from Iraq and Bosnia, and more from Vietnam. In 2000, Lutheran Social Services began to settle Somali refugees in P.R.

Joanie shared the stories of 3 immigrants. The first was Izu, a master wood carver from Bosnia. Over the years, he was befriended by a group of wood carvers in the P.R. area. Now, he has many friends and gives workshops all over the country.

Second was Yusuf, who immigrated from Somalia when he was in 6th grade. Initially he was very lonely, understood little English, and had no friends. By the time he was in 8th grade, he had a summer job, and was able to send \$50/month to friends and family in Somalia. After graduating from high school, he attended and graduated from NDSU. In 2015, he became the Program Director for LSS in MN offering guidance and support to immigrants and refugees around the state.

The last was Chandra who had fled from Bhutan and lived in a refugee camp in Nepal. She and her family arrived in Fargo when she was 12. They went to Texas, hoping to find things easier, but they weren't. They decided to come to P.R., because in the refugee camps, they had heard that P.T was a good place to live.

In 1997, the P.R. community organized a clothing and household furnishing drive to benefit Bosnian Romas that had arrived in town. The donations were so generous, that they benefitted the Bosnians, other refugees and clients from Social Services. This was a pivotal moment - "when it became obvious that the community cared about everyone..."

Lutheran Social Services established a Refugee Resource Center in P.R.

Volunteers in the P.R. community supported the integration of the immigrants and local community residents. For many years, the Multicultural Committee ran furniture exchanges, "getting to know you" dinners, diversity workshops, art displays, and the International Friendship Festival.

UCU has supported several projects in the P.R. area. It donated money to buy a computer for the Multicultural Committee; purchased a copy of a language learning program for the Refugee Resource Center; assisted with production of Many Cultures, One Community, a Book of Stories and Recipes; and gave an Empowerment grant to allow it to secure a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit status.

The Refugee Center is run entirely by Somali volunteers, with donations from the Muslim community. The Multicultural Committee is participating in three projects. One is organizing “Bridging Suppers” – situations where people from different walks of life can gather to share a meal and get to know one another. Another, organized with the help of Barb Honer, is the Giving Plus Program, a one-on-one tutoring in English using volunteer English speakers. The third is bringing back the Friendship Festival, which is being organized by a diverse group of community members.

Joanie ended with: “This is neighbors working together.” There are no “poor refugees” in this mix, it’s just a bunch of people, joining each other on a project to build a better community. To paraphrase Martin Luther King Jr., community is not something we hope for, it is something that we do today.



January 21, 2018 - Missy Hermes’ talk was titled: “The KKK and History of Race Relations in Otter Tail County”. Missy has worked at the Otter Tail County Historical Society since 1991. There were still remnants of the KKK in the county, into the 90’s, although there is no activity today (as far as we know).

The KKK formed in Tennessee following the Civil War. In the 1870’s there were thousands of members nationwide. In the FF newspaper on January 8, 1872, there was a lengthy article about the local KKK – characteristics, picnics, charitable donations, etc. In 1873, there were three meetings of the KKK documented in the paper.

Their activities were tempered a bit by the passage of the 3 “KKK Acts” which included the Jim Crow laws.

In the 1890’s, 85 African Americans moved to OTC from Kentucky. In KY, there was a growing agrarian populist movement of the white aristocracy who were against blacks, Jews, Catholics, immigrants, etc. In 1920, the KKK was reborn. It spread across the South and then to the West and North. In 1921, there were 100,000 members. In 1923, there was a newspaper article about the reorganization of the KKK in OTC. Perham, home to many Catholics, did not have a local chapter. It cost \$10 to become a member; many were local businessmen. Once an area had 500 members, a cross was burned. During one month, 2 crosses were burned in FF.

Missy read a report of a large gathering of the KKK (and locals, I think) on Memorial Day of 1924. It took place on the east side of Hoot Lake. There were 8-10 tents set up for attendees of 8 counties, plus a large tent that could accommodate 350 people. During the afternoon, there were 500 cars parked in the area, and 2,600 attendees. The crowd grew to 4,000 in the evening.

At 9 p.m. the ceremony initiating 75 new members began and included the burning of a 55' cross. Opponents of the Klan included members of the American Legion and Kiwanis, who wrote letters to the newspaper.

In the later 1920's, with the advance of the Depression, KKK activities died out.

Attendance: 43

January 28, 2018 - Karen Terry, a University of Minnesota Extension Educator specializing in water resources spoke on: **"Native Plants in Public Places: Creating Healthier Communities."**

Water runs throughout all parts of our life. Only 2.5% of earth's water is fresh water. We are "drinking the same water as the dinosaurs." Water evaporates, runs off or infiltrates. As bare grounds change to hard surfaces through buildings, concrete, etc., deep infiltration into the ground decreases. With population centers, run off management has increased as collected through storm drains that has to go somewhere. But along with the water going into the septic systems, more dirt and other stuff also goes thus contributing to the pollution of lakes and rivers.

Efforts are underway to slow down run off and hold it longer in the landscape. Some ways to do that are through:

- Native plants – they have a deep root system, deter erosion and withstand climate extremes. Pollutants are removed and they provide a habitat for wild life.
- Rain gardens – reduce runoff, filter runoff and recharge ground water. A comparison study using a rain garden showed a 82% reduction over bare ground.
- Shoreline buffers and grassed swales, pollinator gardens that create habitat are some other ways to slow runoff.

Resources are available through Extension and other programs to help you establish some of these remedies on your land at www.extension.umn.edu or Karen at: kterry@umn.edu.

Attendance: 45

"Whenever I go in America, I like it when the land speaks its own language in its own regional accent." Lady Bird Johnson

Aerial Acrobatics
By Mickie Edwards



**For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace.
The mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song
And all of the trees of the fields shall clap their hands. *Isaiah 55***

Gift to UCU from Edwards Family

“Mickie Edmonds was a lifelong artist. She left us late in August of 2017. Every painting has a story, and since Mom isn’t here to tell it, I get to make up this one.

Mom found the UU’s when she first experienced heart failure a few years ago. Her health was precarious; her life at risk. After 50 years of smoking she was giving it up. Talk about a trial. You could say that Mom came to the UU’s during a time of need.

The UU’s were very welcoming. In her mature years, Mom did not much appreciate organized religion. I think over time Mom found she fit in very well with the UU principles of acceptance, inclusivity, justice and compassion, and that search for truth and meaning. I think these ideals rang true for her. Amongst the UU’s Mom made new friends, and her interest was sparked. I believe it would be fair to say that during the last stage of her life, Mom grew into the UU community and her life was richer for it.

As an artist, Mom painted things that interested her – people, events, scenes, teams, nature. She said a painting felt like family after she spent a month working on it.

After Mom passed, Dad and I discussed what painting we should give the UU’s in recognition of the community Mom experienced in their midst. Mom had already given a painting of church windows, which hangs at the head of the stairs leading to the sanctuary. There were two more church windows paintings yet in Mom’s flat files. But Dad said, ‘They’re UU’s. They might like something else.’

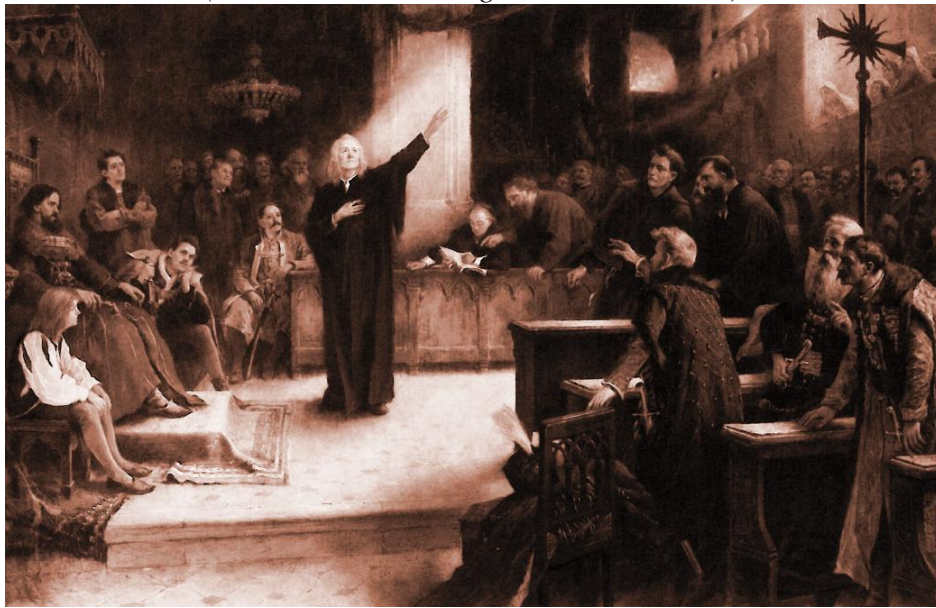
And so, I picked this. Not peace doves, ‘Aerial Acrobatics’ seems to me to be a celebration of ability, and life around us. In the corner of the painting I added a few words from Isaiah (55) that seem to fit.” *Submitted by Kelly Barrett, on behalf of Mickie’s family (Dick, Rick, Robin and Kelly)*

Note: The Unitarian Church of Underwood sincerely thanks the Edmonds family for this wonderful addition to our art collection in remembrance of one of our beloved artists.

The Edict of Torda, a landmark in religious freedom

The 450th anniversary of the Edict of Torda in 2018 marks a foundational moment for liberal religion.

(From UU World Magazine Winter 2017)



A popular nineteenth-century depiction of Transylvanian Unitarian Francis Dávid (1510–1579) at the 1568 Diet of Torda, by Aladár Körösfői-Kriesch (1896). (UUA archives)

On January 13, 2018, one of the world’s first statements of religious tolerance will have its 450th anniversary. In 1568, in the city of Torda, in what is now Romania, a religious gathering presided over by Unitarian King John Sigismund proclaimed:

“In every place the preachers shall preach and explain the Gospel each according to his understanding of it, and if the congregation like it, well. If not, no one shall compel them for their souls would not be satisfied, but they shall be permitted to keep a preacher whose teaching they approve...no one shall be reviled for his religion by anyone... and it is not permitted that anyone should threaten anyone else by imprisonment... For faith is the gift of God...”

Unitarianism was officially recognized for the first time in the history of the world in the Edict of Torda. And, that proclamation is the beginning of our legacy to be a spiritual tradition

that resists hatred, oppression, and the narrow view that there is only one way to be faithful, to be religious, to be free.

For more information, see: <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/450-edict-torda-landmark>



Thanks to up, we had a great year! 2017 Statistics:

Moved Into Housing:

78 Households consisting of 89 adults and 37 children

Number of People Sheltered: 673

Average Length of Stay: 32 Days

Number of Meals Served: 77,796

Number of Hours from Volunteers: 10,116 (This is equivalent to 6 fulltime position!)

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

BATH TOWELS, DIAPERS, COLD MEDICINE, TUMS, TWIN SIZE
BLANKETS AND SHEETS, WARM WINTER COATS

WRITER'S PATH TO PUBLISHING



Ready to get your writing out in the world, but not sure where to start? Stumped on how to know if your writing is ready for publishing, or how to connect with an agent? Get tips directly from regional authors and publishers on writing and publishing, network with other writers and brush up on your writing skills to get closer to your publishing goals.

Saturday, February 10, 1pm - 5pm

FREE!

Roosevelt Education Center

340 Friberg Ave. Fergus Falls

<p>1:00pm - 2:30pm Getting Started: The Building Blocks of Story Candace Simar</p>	<p>2:30 - 3:00pm Networking Break Make new connections with other writers!</p>	<p>3:00 - 3:45pm Reflecting on the Journey: Regional Authors' Panel Athena Kildegaard, Vernal Lind, Gerald Anderson & Candace Simar</p>
<p>4:00 - 5:00pm Finding Your Path: Publisher's Panel W. Rivers Press, Blue Cottage Agency, David Unowsky & MN Writes MN Reads</p>	<p>PLUS! 6:00 - 7:00pm Open Mic Reading Hosted by the Fergus Falls Writers Network at the Kaddatz Gallery's Studio K (111 W Lincoln Ave, Fergus Falls)</p>	<p>PLUS! One-on-one Career Consultations with David Unowsky & Krista Soukup Space is limited, consultations are \$45. Scholarships available.</p>

Registration: www.springboardforthearts.org/events



This project was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage fund. It is sponsored by Fergus Falls Public Library and Viking Library System.



Every year, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is celebrated as one of the greatest orators in US history, an ambassador for nonviolence who became perhaps the most recognizable leader of the civil rights movement. But few know the full extent of his radical vision and contributions. We recommend the following resources to honor and commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day and we think you'll find that his strategies and words speak powerfully to today's world.

The Trumpet of Conscience by Martin Luther King, Jr.

In November and December of 1967, Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered five final lectures for the renowned Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's Massey Lecture Series. Each oration found here encompasses a distinct theme and speaks prophetically to today's perils, addressing issues of poverty, racial equality, conscience and war, the mobilization of young people and nonviolence.

The Radical King Edited and introduced by Cornel West

A revealing collection that restores Dr. King as being every bit as radical as Malcolm X. Curated and introduced by Dr. Cornel West, *The Radical King* illustrates King's revolutionary vision, underscoring his identification with the poor, his unapologetic opposition to the Vietnam War, and his crusade against global imperialism. As West writes, "Although much of America did not know the radical King – and too few know today – the FBI and US government did. They called him 'the most dangerous man in America.' This book unearths a radical King that we can no longer sanitize."

Where Do We Go from Here? Chaos or Community by Martin Luther King, Jr.

In 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., isolated himself from the demands of the civil rights movement, rented a house in Jamaica with no telephone, and labored over his final manuscript. In this prophetic work, he lays out his thoughts, plans, and dreams for America's future, including the need for better jobs, higher wages, decent housing, and quality education. With a

universal message of hope that continues to resonate, King demanded an end to global suffering, asserting that humankind has the resources and technology to eradicate poverty.

www.uua.org/bookstore

Unitarian Church of Underwood Approved Board minutes for December 20, 2017

Board members present: Mary Anderson, David Sanderson, Norman Kolstad, Kris Warhol, Bob Worner, David Wass, Stan Carignan, John Miersch, and Connie Stigen. Absent: Ellen Eastby, JoAnn Larson.

The Board of the Unitarian Church of Underwood was called to order at the church by Board President Mary Anderson at 5:28 p.m. Mary Anderson shared a reading/meditation. The agenda was approved (Sanderson/Miersch). Minutes of the November 15, 2017 meeting were approved as printed (Worner/Wass).

Reports:

Treasurer: David Wass - revenue, expenses close to budget.

Speakers Committee: Kris Warhol

Foundation/Stewardship Committee: David Sanderson

Program/Worship Committee: Kris Warhol

Community Outreach: Kris Warhol

Facilities Committee: Kris Warhol

Sverdrup Suites: David Wass - blinds to be moved.

Safety Committee: Norman Kolstad - smoke detector battery replacement , record-keeping.

Membership Committee: no report

Communications Committee: Mary Anderson - Podcasts of Sunday talks appreciated.

Fall Area Workshop: Mary Anderson - completed

New task forces: Mary Anderson - Space Planning and Strategic Planning.

Unfinished Business:

An email vote approved the Christmas eve donation to go to the Pelican Rapids Giving + Learning Program. Also discussed: insufficient volunteers for Children's RE, Celebrant list check-off, and the gun ban sign.

New Business:

The Battle Lake U-Group would like to have a stewardship dinner that would also recognize the recipients of the Empowerment Grants. A proposition of having children's RE every Sunday is to be left to the Strategic Planning Task Force. The repercussions of having the board president, treasurer, and secretary all reach their term limits April 1, 2018 were discussed.

The next board meeting is set for Sunday, January 21, 2018 with an Executive Committee meeting January 19, 2018.

The meeting was adjourned by Board President Anderson at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Norman Kolstad, secretary.

**2018-2023 Strategic Planning
Member Questionnaire
(February 2018)**

UCU Mission: *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.*

In existence for over 125 years, the Unitarian Church of Underwood (UCU) now has the highest number of members and growing program offerings ever. Currently, we are in process of doing our 3rd 5-year strategic plan. Therefore, we are seeking input from you to help direct our future.

We ask you to complete and return the questionnaire below by **February 28, 2018**. The questions are designed to determine your current level of satisfaction as a member/friend of UCU and to help us define the vision for UCU in the future. Please either mail your completed survey back or drop it off at church. For additional comments, please use the back sheet or include an attachment.

Thank you on behalf of the Board of Directors and 2018-2023 Strategic Planning Task Force.

About Yourself:

Age? _____ How Long UCU Member? _____ Miles you travel one-way to UCU _____

Of the following UCU offerings, please mark all the ones in which you are currently involved:

Sunday Service

- ☐ Attend most Sundays
- ☐ Attend occasionally
- ☐ Attend seasonally
- ☐ Attend mostly for special speakers in personal areas of interest
- ☐ Unable to attend (distance, health, other factors)

Spiritual/Intellectual Studies

Adult Education

- ☐ John Minge's classes (1st Sunday of the month)
- ☐ Sandy Barnhouse's classes (2nd Sunday of the month)
- ☐ Bob Worner's classes (4th Sunday of the month)
- ☐ Weekly Mindfulness Setting
- ☐ U Groups

☐ Have Children/Grandchildren in Religious Education

Serve on:

- ☐ Board of Directors
- ☐ Speakers Committee
- ☐ Facilities Committee
- ☐ Membership Committee
- ☐ Safety Committee
- ☐ Foundation Advisory Committee
- ☐ Stewardship Committee
- ☐ Environmental Justice
- ☐ Adult or Children's Religious Education Class Leader
- ☐ Communications Committee/Technical Support
- ☐ Empowerment Grant Selection Committee
- ☐ Worship Committee
- ☐ Recent/current Task Force

Participation in Community Outreach Events

- ☐ Church Rummage Sale
- ☐ Chili Dinner
- ☐ Underwood Harvest Festival
- ☐ Roadside Clean-up
- ☐ Community Thanksgiving Event
- ☐ Habitat for Humanity
- ☐ Local/Regional/Otter Tail County Social Justice Actions _____
- ☐ Local/Regional/Otter Tail County Environmental Justice Action _____
- ☐ U Group Community Service Project
- ☐ Other UCU Activity

Other Ways I Serve:

- ☐ Celebrant
- ☐ U Group Facilitator
- ☐ Greeter
- ☐ Bring Treats/Help in Kitchen
- ☐ Service Leader
- ☐ Provide Music
- ☐ Provide Art
- ☐ Serve in program presentations
- ☐ Provide technical/media support
- ☐ Record Keeping
- ☐ Facilities Manager/Handi-person helps
- ☐ Other: _____

Would you consider yourself:

- ☐ Involved and still open/willing to do more
☐ Involved to capacity (no more time, no more interest)
☐ Waiting to be involved – ask me!! Areas of interest: _____

What do you like about the Unitarian Church of Underwood?

What would you like to see added at UCU?

What would you like to see changed at UCU?

What would you not like changed about UCU?

What areas do you see in need of improvement at UCU? _____

Do you think we are adequately staffed at UCU considering how we rely primarily upon volunteers?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No Need to consider hiring of:
 ☐ **Executive Director**
☐ **Children's Religious Education Director**
☐ **Minister**
☐ **Property Manager**
☐ **Secretarial Support**
☐ **Other:** _____

Rank the following in importance to you with 1 lowest importance and 5 highest importance:

Intellectual/Spiritual Enrichment

Emphasizing Unitarian Universalism	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Standing for UU Principles	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Mission Fulfillment	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Spiritual Studies @ church	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion

Small Group studies (U-Groups)	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Historical/Current Event Perspectives	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Supports for life challenges, rites of passages	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Personal growth	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Variety of speakers/messages	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Progressive Thinking	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Shared Values	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Freedom of conscience/own beliefs	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Opportunities for Artistic Expression	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Variety of speakers' topics/themes	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Order to service (same each Sunday)	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Musical interludes	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Children's religious education	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion

Social/Environmental Justice

Social Justice Actions	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Environmental Justice Actions	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Empowerment Grants Sufficient (\$10,000 annually)	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Empowerment Grant Insufficient	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Do Good/Make a Difference	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion

Community

Inclusive/Welcoming	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Sense of Community	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Social hour	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Sense of Intimacy	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Confidential Exchanges	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Building Interpersonal Relations	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Community Connections	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion

Church Administration/Organization/Space

Democratic Governance	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Efficient Administration/Operation	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Communications/Resources	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Visibility of church, making known	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Access to information via social media	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Structural Building Preservation,	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Modifications/space enhancements	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Growing membership numbers	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Volunteer time, money, talents	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Need for Ministerial Services	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
Need for paid Director services	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion

Overall Current Level of Satisfaction with UCU welcomes, speakers, involvement opportunities,
leadership structure with 1 lowest satisfaction and 5 highest satisfaction: 1 2 3 4 5

Other Comments: _____

Optional: Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Please return completed survey by **February 28, 2018** to: Unitarian Church of Underwood, PO 58, 206 North Main Street, Underwood, MN 56586 (envelope enclosed) or drop off in marked designated basket at church.