

*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](https://www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org)

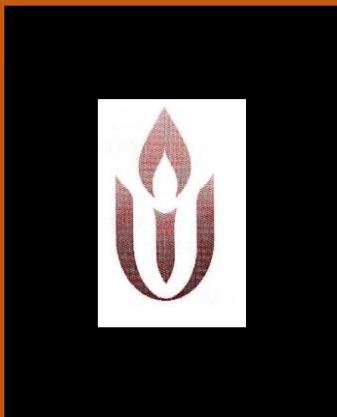
### Sunday Services 10 a.m.

February 3- Ellen Eastby,  
"The Hard, Messy Work of  
Compassion"

February 10 – Victoria Creek,  
"Depolarizing Everything"

February 17 – Rita Chamblin -  
"The Intricate Weaving"

February 24 - Maryjane  
Westra - "The Responsible  
Missionary..."



**Is THIS "justice, equity, and compassion of every person?" UU Principle 2**



Photo taken by Sherry Buckner, Speaker on November 20, at the Border Wall between El Paso, Texas and Juarez, Mexico

## ***February 2019 Newsletter***

## February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3</b> Ellen Eastby - "The Hard, Messy Work of Compassion" Adult RE 8:45 am Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Children's RE 10:00-11:15 am	<b>4</b>  AA 7 pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Record Maintenance Committee 4:00 pm @ #300  Stewardship Committee 5:30 pm @ #300	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> Victoria Creek - "Depolarizing Everything" Adult RE 8:45 am Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Children's RE 10:00-11:15 am	<b>11</b>  AA 7 pm	<b>12</b> Battle Lake/Underwood U Group 3 pm @ Sverdrup Suites #300	<b>13</b> Speakers Committee 3:00 pm @ #300 Membership Committee 5:30 pm @ #300 Alexandria U Group 7 pm @ Widseth... Office Bldg	<b>14</b> Perham U Group 6:30 @ Stan Carignan's	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Willmar Workshop – Love Reaches Out 10 am-3:30 pm  Someplace Safe annual tea fundraiser 11- 1:30
<b>17</b> Rita Chamblin - "The Intricate Weaving" Adult RE 8:45 am Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Children's RE 10:00-11:15 am	<b>18</b> Space Planning Task Force 5:30 pm @ #300  AA 7 pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Board Meeting 5:30 pm #300	<b>21</b> FF U Group 6:30 pm @ Diana Ziesemer's	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Maryjane Westra - "The Responsible Missionary..." Adult RE 8:45 am Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Children's RE 10:00-11:15 am New Member Orientation 12 n @ #300	<b>25</b>  AA 7 pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>		

## Coming in FEBRUARY

**February 3 – Celebrant Ellen Eastby, “The Hard, Messy Work of Compassion”** addressing Principles 1, 2, and 3. Floods, earthquakes, and school shootings. We easily feel compassion for the victims of incidents like these. But what about feeling compassion towards those who annoy us, or we don’t like, or we disagree with? Aren’t they too worthy of our compassion? Our first principle states that all people have inherent worth and dignity and the second requires us to use justice, equity and compassion in human relations. But living up to the ideals of our principles is often easier said than done. Ellen’s talk will focus on compassion and it is hoped that it will provide a starting point for meaningful, respectful conversation centered round heartfelt compassion for all people.

**February 10 – Victoria Creek, "Depolarizing Everything: Looking inward when I really want to look at you."** Victoria is a returning speaker who has relocated from Underwood to Fergus Falls. She teaches at Fergus Falls MnState.

**February 17 – Rita Chamblin – “The Intricate Weaving,”** addressing Principles 2 & 7. Rita will talk about how we are called from a Unitarian Universalist perspective to protect the environment in protesting Line 3. Rita is a Unitarian Universalist lay leader, who enjoys lay preaching and teaching. She leads a small group ministry online for the UUA Southern Region and is a member of the UU Trauma Response Ministry. Rita is retired from business management and financial services. She lives in Bemidji and is active in justice work.

**February 24 – Maryjane Westra – “The Responsible Missionary; Stupid Missionary Tricks.”** Maryjane and her husband, Don served in Zimbabwe as missionaries. ***Note: New Member Orientation following Sunday Services at Sverdrup Suites #300, see details below.***



### Monthly Greeting from Board President, Kris Warhol Principles & Personalities

Are you a “people person”? Curious of what others think, feel and see? Open to learning ways that differ from your point of view? In Alanon, these words are read at meetings “Principles above Personalities.” We read from our Principles and Living Traditions that navigate our relationships with each other through membership at this Church.

We do not all think alike. There is a connective force to unify us: “No single belief includes us here; no disbelief excludes us. Our celebration of life and common search for meaning bind us together.”

Relating to one another from these guidelines, harmony transforms the different places we each come from. Church is more than the space that holds us on Sunday mornings. Church resides in each of us. Church lives in in our hearts.

We all have unique voices. Church is open for your opinions. We want to listen, to know how you feel. We are here because you walked through our doors. This amazing and magical space grows on us. As it grows, we grow closer to knowing ourselves.

We are always learning to live in community; in relationship with all connections across all aspects of life. "We use different ways on our journey to come to that truth."

Take courage to open your heart. This is the exact moment to embrace love. Love can usher in the best and the worst. Love gives and forgives. Love walks with us. Love shows the way. Love is in this community. In loving, love returns us to ourselves. *Kris Warhol*

## **Speaking Truth to Power**

**By John Minge  
Board Member**

The Unitarian Church of Underwood has recently been confronted with the following issue: to what extent is it appropriate to hear comments from our pulpit that have political implications even though they were meant to be moral or spiritual—not political—statements?

Our church is driven by principles that focus on, among other things, fairness, the welfare of others, and the environment in which we live. That focus has been in play for thousands of years from spiritual leaders and prophets. It's a hallmark of religion and is not to be belittled or cast aside. That comments that are moral or spiritual (or both) in nature might be upsetting to some does not mean that they are out of place and should not be made. However, if made, they should be made civilly and with respect for those who might disagree. We cannot forfeit our right—and the age-old tradition—of speaking truth to power because of the sensitivities of those who don't agree with some—maybe much—of what they are hearing.

As Baptist minister Russ Dean said in the *Baptist News Global* on January 25, 2017, his church has called him "to practice the Quaker tradition of 'speaking truth to power'." He went on to say that, "if courage to speak freely becomes a casualty of the Age of Donald Trump, we will have lost what is most essential to and important from the progressive pulpit." Simba Mambiravana, a Zimbabwe theologian, said in *The Standard* on March 26, 2016, that "the church can either endorse the status quo or call for its reform" and that "the failure by the churches to be the voice of the voiceless is another way that the churches are passively legitimizing the status quo." We must strive to apply such principles in our progressive Unitarian Church of Underwood. We must all expect that, once in a while, we will hear something from the pulpit that makes us—individually or collectively—uncomfortable or even worse. We should welcome such challenging moments. *John Minge, UCU Board Member and Celebrant*



## Children's Religious Education

### February Schedule

<b>February 3</b>	<b>Jon Solinger</b>	<b>Ron Graham</b>	<b>UUA "Home," lesson #7</b>
<b>February 10</b>	<b>Ron Graham</b>	<b>Cedar Walters</b>	<b>Sources</b>
<b>February 17</b>	<b>Cedar Walters</b>	<b>Lillie Kaye</b>	<b>Worm Composting</b>
<b>February 24</b>	<b>Ron Graham</b>	<b>TBA (volunteer?)</b>	<b>Sources</b>

The children now have two guidelines for behavior: Respect for each other and respect for our space. After each Sunday lesson, the leaders share via email information on lessons and activities they enjoyed that Sunday. The first Sunday of the month, we use lessons from the UUA Tapestry of Faith, Creating Home. The other Sundays' lessons are created by the leaders about our church's sources and traditions. Music and dance are often part of the activities.

Some notes from what's shared between the leaders:

**January 6** – "We heard two stories of moving and creating a new home, one from the biblical story of Ruth and Naomi, and one of an orphan baby hippo in Kenya being rescued and finding a new home at a wildlife refuge.

We played a memory match card game that related to the story of Owen, the baby hippo.

Cedar brought some great music CDs that appealed to the older kids, inspiring a lively dance party at the end of the hour. Ron assisted with all activities and closed our time by leading a *This Little Light of Mine* sing-along." *Jon Solinger*

**January 13** – "We did re-cycling and how all things we use come from the Earth - our lifeboat! We made a poster showing this. Then we helped Ron recycle stuff he brought from home and sorted items into different piles for the different kinds of recyclables. We briefly talked about how recycling is processed, then how it helps save animal homes. At the end was a mini dance party." *Cedar Walters*

**January 20** – "Using Source: science & reason, we had a sheet of newsprint for the full length of the tables marked with things I needed pictures for my presentation. The children helped by using colored markers to make - campfire, sun, moon, each of the planets, stars, big dipper and at the far end, galaxies. We talked about the lunar eclipse tonight and what we would have

thought if we were sitting around a campfire 1000 years ago. Amari helped me with a blow-up earth, a half-painted ping pong ball and a yellow toy ball to understand the eclipse. They correctly guessed there were more stars than grains of sand on earth and seemed to catch some of my enthusiasm for science. A few references to Unitarians valuing science and reason. (One mom told me her daughter came back and said, "I want to be a scientist"). YES!

Then we had a healthy lunch prepared by Jo. Each got their own pair of safety glasses and we reviewed the idea that 5 miles of air is heavier than several feet of water by repeating the experiment putting a flat plastic over a glass of water and then turning it upside down over various heads. Same with a plastic bottle with a small hole in the lid. Then we talked about steam taking up 1000 times the volume of air, boiled a few drops of water in a pop can and saw it instantly crushed when put top down into a pan of cool water." *Ron Graham*

# Stay<sup>o</sup>informedED

Contact JoAnn Larson @ [redswilds@gmail.com](mailto:redswilds@gmail.com) for Sunday announcements and local media notifications.

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

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

## **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](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.

## **Newsletter Submissions due prior to Issuance the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month**

Please submit your ideas, articles and photos to:

[maryanderson8380@msn.com](mailto:maryanderson8380@msn.com) or [maryleonaanderson@gmail.com](mailto:maryleonaanderson@gmail.com)

Editing: Stephanie Sanderson

Emailing/mailing: Ellen Eastby and JoAnn Larson.

Website: Ellen Eastby

Facebook: Melody Shores

Photos courtesy of Norm Kolstad & credited others.

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

Newsletter comes out on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month via email. They are also posted at [www.ucofu.org](http://www.ucofu.org).

**Sunday Talks available via PodCasts @ [soundcloud.com/user-927528278](https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278)**

# Nurture Your Spirit ...

## U Group Schedule (Meetings 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
- Battle Lake U Group, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday @ 3:00 p.m. @ **Sverdrup Suites #300**. Facilitators: Bob Worner/ Joanne Cress.
- Fergus Falls U-Group: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday @ 6:30 pm @ Diana Ziesemer's, 934 W. Linden St., Fergus Falls. Facilitator: Jacob McKnite/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 Co-Facilitators: Kris Warhol @ [mwarhol7up@gmail.com](mailto:mwarhol7up@gmail.com) or 218/205-1644 or Shannon Smith @ [shannonsmith20@gmail.com](mailto:shannonsmith20@gmail.com)  
Or 320/630-6229

## Adult Religious Education Classes & Mindfulness Sitting

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month, 8:45 - 9:45 a.m.** – John Minge leads discussion.

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

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, 8:45 – 9:45 a.m.** – Stan Carignan will lead new class using the book, "*Seeing, Knowing, Being*" by John Greer as a text to explore what mindfulness is, how it can be achieved, and what it does for a person. Book chapter discussions followed by 20 minutes of mindfulness practice.

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, 8:45-9:45 a.m.** Bob Worner leads the discussion.

**Each Sunday of the month, other than 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays (see above): 9:15 – 9:45 a.m.,** Stan Carignan leads Mindfulness Sitting @ #300 Sverdrup Suites.



## Notes from January Speakers/Events

**January 6 – Bob Worner** titled his talk “**Camelot**,” and spoke to the 6<sup>th</sup> UU principle of “world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.”



Camelot was the setting of the legendary kingdom of King Arthur. It brings to mind a time of beauty and peace and romance. A piece of the story was the creation of the Round Table. The Round Table allowed the knights to sit as equals. There were only 2 requirements for those sitting there:

- Piety (meaning reverence and respect).
- Having shown deeds of heroism and strength in their daily lives.

The roundness is symbolic of many things. It implies that every seat is equal; that there is no “head”.

A round table (circle) can be a metaphor for life. We live in a hierarchical society; but this must change. Looking at UCU, this means recognizing that everyone has something to give and something to gain from our common body and common good.

We need circles (as opposed to the hierarchy of ladders) for several reasons:

1. Circles are expansive and inclusive
2. Ladders (representing hierarchy) are tight fisted (you have to hold on). Circles leave your hands free to hold on to others.
3. Circles have no edges or sides (therefore we don’t have to choose sides)
4. Because it is expansive, everyone can fit. We can look into each other’s eyes. Everyone is equidistant from the center.
5. Circles revolve (and therefore evolve). They invite dancing and motion and intimacy.

Podcast @ <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/how-to-warm-and-cool-our-earth-bob-worner-january-6-2019>

Attendance: 51



**January 13 – Luther Aadland, PHD** is a scientist with the DNR. He found the 7<sup>th</sup> UU Principle well fit his talk, “**Reconnecting Rivers: Webs of Life.**” Luther explained how the building of dams in the late 1800’s and 1900’s has affected native fish populations from movement between creeks, streams and rivers. Native mussels that deposit their larvae to be picked up in fish gills and then migrated to new beds have also been impacted. Mussels function to filter water.

Huge sturgeons were once common, one 128# was caught in 1874. Fish spawn in rapid waters. The Red River Basin is composed of miles of waterways. Voyageur Alexander Henry journaled details about the Basin in 1799. It covered thousands of miles.



Dam construction has altered or blocked the natural pathways taken by native fish. Dams were built near these rapids so there has been loss to biodiversity- trapping and losing some 43% or more of the native fish species.

Restoration is underway to bring back waters to their original state. The strategies include dam removal or reconnecting natural water ways. Benefits have included less drownings, healthier waters, increased native fish species, enhanced recreational activities.

Interesting fact is that sturgeons like to eat zebra mussels and can quickly rid the water of them.

Luther's ending words: "Our task must be to free ourselves from the prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty. We shall require a substantially new manner of thinking if man is to survive." *Albert Einstein*

Attendance: 48

Podcast link: <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/reconnecting-rivers-webs-of-life>

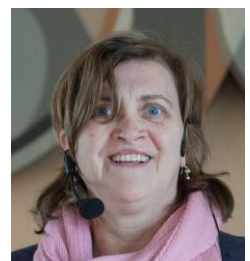


**January 20 - Sherry Bruckner, "What's happening at the US Border?"** UU Principles 1, 2, 6 & 7. Sherry Bruckner spoke about her recent trip with a group from Opening Borders to the U.S./Mexico border at El Paso/Juarez. The picture to the left is of the group in November 2018. They visited the Columban Mission Center, a detention center, a "wall" of steel slates, and the bridge between the two cities. She met several migrants and listened to their stories. One

was a mother who had traveled 27 days (1900 miles) from Guatemala with her 13-year-old daughter. Sherry asked, "Why would people do this?" Part of the answer is faith - that the life that they are seeking in the U.S. will be better than the one they left.

They visited a detention center where the 'inmates' wore uniforms of varying colors which signified how dangerous they were. The 'most dangerous' were those who had tried to enter the U.S. several times, illegally.

A recurring theme from border agents was that more staff was needed at the border – as patrol agents and as agents processing applications. Not long ago, 300 applications for asylum were processed daily; now there are only 15 processed a day.



To apply for asylum, a migrant must cross into a country at a legal entry point and ask for asylum. There is a line of migrants across a bridge that connects Juarez and El Paso. Many sleep on the bridge, for days/weeks to keep their places in line to enter the U.S.

**Bonnie Miller**, one who accompanied Sherry (both on the trip and to UCU) then spoke. In response to the question “How could mothers send their children to migrate to the U.S.?” she shared an analogy. If any of us were mothers with children in our arms in the second floor of a burning building, rather than burn, we would throw our children out with the faith that someone would catch and save them.



Bonnie also reminded us that many of the conditions that cause Central American people to leave their homes in search of better lives are caused by U.S. big business and governmental policies. We need to get to the roots of the issues in order to really solve the problems.



**Janna Lindoo** also went to the border with the group of eight. She shared a couple memories. One was meeting a Cuban, on the bridge, who had traveled through 10 countries to reach the U.S. border. The second was the director of a tutoring center in Juarez who urged and supported local parents to send their children to school; education being crucial to their future.

Attendance: 50

Podcast link @ <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/whats-happening-at-the-us-border-sherry-bruckner-january-20-2019>.

*For further information see: [www.openingborders.com](http://www.openingborders.com). Vicki Schmidt, facilitator of the border delegation immersion experience will lead another delegation to El Paso/Juarez April 27-May 4. This trip is \$790 rather than \$890 as it's a little shorter than the typical trip. Airfare is additional. Vicky usually coordinates it, so folks are arriving in El Paso at similar times. Contact: [VESCHMIDT45@msn.com](mailto:VESCHMIDT45@msn.com).*



This photo was taken by Bernice Johnson at the “exotic” McDonald’s where she eats salads on her 2019 winter trip to Costa Rica. She describes it as a “Common family pose in Costa Rico.” It is a poignant contrast to some of politically imposed attributes we are hearing today toward South American families.

**January 27 - Rene Meyer-Grimberg** shared with us thoughts about her pilgrimage to **“Transylvania – Homes, Hands and Hearts.”** The Unitarian Church was first recognized by the Edict of Torda, issued by the Transylvanian Diet under its Unitarian Prince John II Sigismund Zápolya (January 1568) and was first led by Ferenc Dávid. David was considered a heretic, imprisoned and died in the dungeon in a fortress sitting on top of a high hill that is seen and can be visited yet today.

**Rene** and her husband have been twice on pilgrimage there, learning more about early Unitarians and still practicing Unitarians. The small village in Romania inhabited by Hungarians is off the main roadways and takes hours to get to. There the visitors stayed in local homes, gathering for food, songs and conversations. The homes and churches displayed many hand-crafted and embroidered items.

Rene shared a photo she’d taken of the village one early morning, a time of village social greetings as the cows were brought together to go to pasture with a designated herder. About 40% are still subsistence farmers. Bread is baked many hours until it is black. The charcoal crust is beaten off and finally sand-papered for removal. It keeps for many days if the blackened crust is kept. A popular hard-liquor drink offered the visitors for every meal is palinka made from yellow plums. The foods tend to be fatty and the drink helps with digestion. There is a coming of age ceremony for 15-year-olds wearing hand-embroidered costumes, singing, feasting and performing traditional dances.

A common prayer paraphrased is “where there is faith, there is love; where there is love, there is peace; where there is peace, there are blessings; where there are blessings, there is God present; with God present there is no need.”

Unitarianism evolved as a result that this area was the site of numerous religions that were battling in the mid-century. They included Catholics, Orthodox Catholics, Lutherans, Calvinists and even the Moors. The idea of the Trinity was rejected, and religious freedom was sought,

keeping peace from religious politics. These Unitarians retained emphasis on Jesus but not as a deity.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unitarian\\_Church\\_of\\_Transylvania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unitarian_Church_of_Transylvania)

Podcast link @ <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/transylvania-homes-hands-and-hearts>

Attendance: 33

### **Ron's Birthday Cake (AKA Lonnie's Cake)**

**Mix: 2 cups flour, 2 cups sugar, 2 eggs (mix before adding), 2 tsp. baking soda, 1 tsp. vanilla, 1 No. 2 can crushed-pineapple including juice. Bake in 9X13" pan at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Frosting: Whip together 8 oz cream cheese, 1 1/2 cup powdered sugar, 1/2 cup butter, 1 tsp. vanilla. Top with nuts. We enjoyed!**

### **Gifts in Gratitude!**

**April 2018 – December 2018 Collections totaled \$36,191.59. This exceeded projected collections for this period to be \$34,810.48. Thank you for your generosity!! To make giving easier, sign up for automatic withdrawal. Forms are available at the church office.**  
*Stewardship Committee & Board of Directors*



### **Participate in New Member Orientation (see below) and New Member Welcoming March 3, 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. **New Member Orientation will be held February 24, following Sunday Service at Sverdrup Suites #300.**

To become a voting member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Underwood, you indicate your wish by signing the "silver" membership book. If interested in becoming a member, notify JoAnn Larson, Administrative Consultant at church or call her at 218/405-0752 or email @ [redswilds@gmail.com](mailto:redswilds@gmail.com) or Mary Anderson, Membership Committee Chair @ 218/346-6638 or [maryanderson8380@msn.com](mailto:maryanderson8380@msn.com).

**New member welcoming is March 3 during the Sunday service.** New Member Welcoming is held twice a year, the first Sunday in March and October.

**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."

**Sunday Volunteers Always Needed!!**  
**Please contact JoAnn Larson @**  
**[redswilds@gmail.com](mailto:redswilds@gmail.com) or @ 218/405-0752.**



**Greeters** are always needed for Sunday services. This is an easy and fun way to serve and to get to know other UCU members and friends as you welcome them at the front door or sanctuary entrance.

**Sign Up to Bring Treats, Set-up, Serve and Clean-up** – 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!!



#### **Willing to Host Speakers?**

If you are willing to host out-of-town speakers overnight or take them to lunch after services, or contribute in other welcoming ways, please contact Betsy Wells at 218/736-4469 or at [betsyanddougwells@gmail.com](mailto:betsyanddougwells@gmail.com).

## **Certification of Membership for UUA Congregations**

Meeting the due date of February 1, the UCU Board of Directors certified 89 members to the UUA. The Unitarian Universalist Association has changed the method of fair share assessment to pay into the Annual Program Fund so that it is no longer based on the number of certified members. It will instead be assessed at 6.75% of a congregation's certified expenditures beginning in July 2019.

### **What is the Annual Program Fund?**

Every UU congregation in our Association is asked to contribute a specific sum of money annually to the Annual Program Fund to support the congregations in our Association. The Annual Program Fund makes up the single largest source of funding for the work of the Unitarian Universalist Association. In turn, the UUA utilizes these funds to provide resources, programming and support to the congregations across the Association. Your giving makes this possible. Thank you!

### *Save these February Dates*

One of the 2018-23 Strategic Plan Goals was to build leadership within the Unitarian Church of Underwood. Below are some wonderful opportunities for doing so for those willing to step forward. If interested, please contact Board President, Kris Warhol @ 218/205-4111 or at [mwarhol7up@gmail.com](mailto:mwarhol7up@gmail.com).



Dear Unitarian Church of Underwood,

Are you interested in engaging your community more deeply around climate action? Would you like to explore ways to apply your gifts to create a more just, sustainable world?

On February 10th, we'll begin our annual leadership program, [Be the Spark](#), designed to help you build positive, creative, and committed teams to fuel energized action on climate. This year, the program will be held as a two-part series on February 10th and March 3rd, facilitated by MNIPL Directors Erin Pratt and Julia Nerbonne. [Sign up to participate here!](#)

#### **MNIPL Be the Spark! Leadership Training 2019**

**Sunday, February 10th & March 3rd**

2:00 – 7:00 pm each session

At St. Mary's Episcopal Church, St Paul, MN

Refreshments and Dinner provided

[Register here](#)



**“Love Reaches Out”**  
**Phil Lund, MidAmerica Consultant at**  
**Willmar UU Sunday Service, February 17**  
**(Workshop February 16)**

## **Love Keeps Reaching Out**

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Willmar, Minnesota, will be hosting a Love Reaches Out workshop on February 16, 2019, from 10 am to 3:30 pm Central Time.

Love Reaches Out workshops were developed by the UUA to help congregations:

- understand how the American religious landscape is changing and how UU congregations can respond to that reality,
- examine who we are as Unitarian Universalists, both in our congregations and as a faith movement, and whether we are effectively communicating this to the wider world, and
- develop a plan for getting started with your congregation or group reaching out into the community while staying grounded in your core identity or mission.

Registration depends on the size of the group attending. \$25 for 1 person, \$20 per person for 2 people, \$15 per person for groups of 3 or more. Lunch will be provided. Home hospitality is available for folks who want to arrive on Friday. For more information, contact David Moody at [davidmoody@jmsklaw.com](mailto:davidmoody@jmsklaw.com).

***Note: The UCU Board has approved reimbursement for workshop fees. Transportation and overnight expenses are the responsibility of the attendee. See Kris Warhol or register directly at the address above. The reimbursement invoice can be found at the end of the newsletter.***







**Note:** If interested in helping serve the food at the event or to make your reservation at the UCU table, please contact Kris Warhol at 218/205-1644 or [mwarhol7up@gmail.com](mailto:mwarhol7up@gmail.com). Several have volunteered to decorate a UCU table under the coordination of Melody Shores @ 952-334-5650 or [mshores@tunebeach.com](mailto:mshores@tunebeach.com).

## SAVE THESE MARCH DATES!!

**A Celebration - "Gifts in Gratitude"**

**March 3, Sunday Service 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

**"Thanksgiving Dinner" following**

The Stewardship Committee will sponsor a Sunday morning programming special event and Fellowship Dinner on March 3. We will celebrate in gratitude what we receive from and what we give to the Unitarian Church of Underwood. The service will be extended to run from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and will include the new member welcoming ceremony. It will be followed by a "thanksgiving" dinner. Please mark your calendars to attend!

### **Learn/Speak Spanish**

Barbara Honer (director of the Giving Plus Learning program in Pelican Rapids) has a wonderful opportunity for people in our community the first and third Thursday of each month. The group will learn Spanish and/or English casually through conversations at the Welcome Place, 26 W. Mill, Pelican Rapids:

- 6:00-6:30 English conversation
- 6:30-7:00 Spanish conversation

All levels are welcome to both groups. This is open to all ages.

For more information contact Barbara Honer at 218-329-2883 or [bahoner@yahoo.com](mailto:bahoner@yahoo.com).

## **And in April -** *Annual Fundraising Chili Dinner*

**Friday, April 5, 2018**

**5-7 p.m.**

**Underwood Community Center**

### **Annual Meeting**

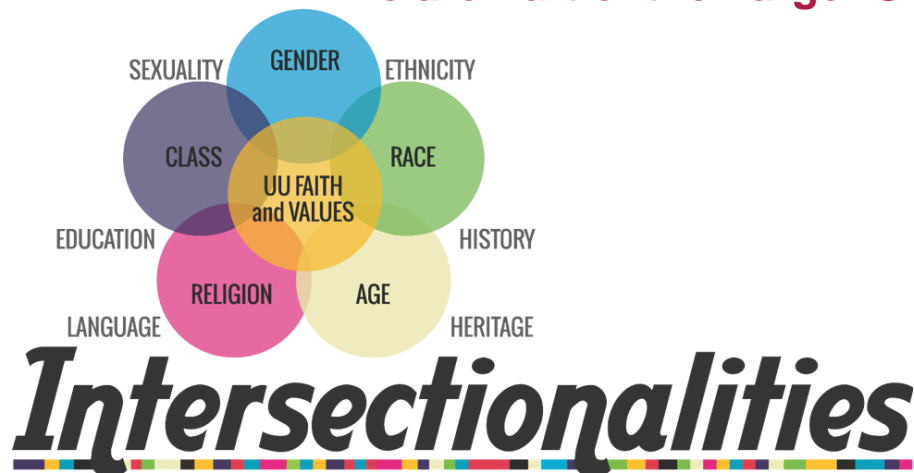
**April 14, 2019**

Because Easter falls on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of April, the traditional date of the Annual Meeting, this year the meeting will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, April 14. There will be an abbreviated service and the meeting will follow immediately thereafter with a light lunch served.

*Watch for further details ...*

## *Living our UU Principles*

**We are Part of the Larger UU**



**MidAmerica Regional Assembly 2019**

Next month's newsletter will have complete information about the 2019 MidAmerica Regional Assembly on April 5-7, 2019, including information on how to register.

[UUA.org/midamerica](http://UUA.org/midamerica).

“Intersectionalities” is the title of our April 2019 Regional Assembly in St. Louis, MO <https://www.uua.org/midamerica/ra>. The theory and word were added to feminist theory in 1989 by Professor Kimberlé Crenshaw, civil rights activist, academic, lawyer, and critical race theorist.

Some people mistakenly believe that “intersectionality” only refers to the intersection of the multiple identities that every person carries. According to Crenshaw, this is an incomplete understanding of her theory which instead addresses *how specific identities compound to disempower people due to accepted (and often unseen) systems of power at work in society*. When Crenshaw introduced the term, she had in mind black women who are often disproportionality underemployed, underpaid, abused, silenced and discriminated against in a variety of ways that society condones and then ignores (and at higher rates than their white female peers or black male peers).

Crenshaw is an exceptional speaker and teacher. If you are interested in learning more about “intersectionality,” watch Crenshaw’s Keynote Address to the Women of the World Festival in 2016 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-DW4HLgYPIA>. Many thanks to Reverend Jennifer Nordstrom, who suggests the video in her essay in the UUA Common Read, *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment*.

**Note:** If you wish to attend, **please contact President, Kris Warhol at 218/205-1644 or [mwarhol7up@gmail.com](mailto:mwarhol7up@gmail.com).**



Progressive faith is at a crossroads. Liberal pulpits ring with grand sermons about the arc that bends toward justice, and about progress "onward and upward forever." Meanwhile, the people in the pews struggle to attend to the suffering of their souls and the tragic aspects of life.

In [\*After the Good News: Progressive Faith Beyond Optimism\*](#), Nancy McDonald Ladd

issues a call for change. Speaking from a rising generation of clergy and lay leaders who formed their commitments to liberal religion at the end of the optimistic modernist age, she shows how the religious life is not characterized by endless human advancement, but by lurching movement, crisis-management, and pain. With humor and humanity, Ladd calls religious progressives to greater authenticity and truth-telling rather than blind optimism. She charts a course forward that includes reclaiming rituals of atonement and lament, and becoming more vulnerable and accountable in our relationships. She shows how, together, we might build a necessary and greater resilience among ourselves and for the generations to come.

Nancy McDonald Ladd has served as Senior Minister at River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation since 2012. Passionate about preaching, liturgy, and social justice, her first commitment is the building of relationships that sustain and challenge us to grow braver in the face of brokenness and loss. [www.uua.org/bookstore](http://www.uua.org/bookstore)



## **The Unitarian Church of Underwood Celebrates 130 Years (1889-2019)**

*It was sometimes a struggle for the Unitarian Church of Underwood to maintain as a liberal church in a conservative area and follow the UU principles. To appreciate the history of who we are and to celebrate our 130-years, we will continue to feature information on our history. A couple of especially tense years were 1945-46. Had it not been for John Gronner, living then in Topeka, Kansas and his sister, Ethel back here in Underwood trying to maneuver the politics of maintaining this church as a Unitarian Universalist church, we very well might not still have this Unitarian Universalist church with its rich history.*

*Norm Kolstad, a descendant of the founders of this church, has amassed extensive church historical documents. From hand-written correspondence, (no long-distance calls or emails), we can track the John and Ethel Gronners' concerns and actions. Below is the first of a series of that history – if you want the full story all at once, right click on: [Here is the link to the article](#). .....*

### **Church Squabbles curated by Norman Kolstad**

#### **Part 1.**

A few years ago Alice "Sally" Gronner Michener handed me a large manila envelope labeled "Correspondence relating Church Squabbles." In it were the letters written and received in 1945-46 by her father, John Gronner Jr., relating to disputes within the Free Christian Church of Underwood (now UCU). The correspondence reveals important insight into the terse

narrative in the church minutes and helps explain why the Gronner name figures prominently in the history of the church.

A little background: At that time John A. Gronner Jr. was a 42-year-old insurance executive living in Topeka, Kansas; thus, the correspondence was his connection to the events occurring in his beloved church. Twelve services had been conducted at the church in fiscal 1945 by six different ministers. Hiring a full-time minister was not possible, given the Church finances. The 1946 annual meeting had 28 members present.

Here are some excerpts (with misspellings) in chronological order:

*[Church Annual Meeting; May 1, 1945]* ....Mr. Hagen then explained that a special committee had been appointed to interview Rev. Van Dyken regarding the possibility of association with the Federated Church and called on the chairman, Mr. Sylte, for a report. Mr. Sylte reported that the results of the interview were disappointing because there was no possibility of association, but he was happy to report that Rev. Van Dyken had promised to come out for two regular services each month. Rev. Van Dyken then explained that the field at Fergus was a full-time job but he suggested that there might be a possibility of our joining one of the smaller churches near-by. Ashby, Maine and Clitherall were all mentioned. Also, Pelican Rapids and Wadena.

*[letter from Rev. Philip Petursson, United Conference of Icelandic Churches, Winnipeg to John Gronner; September 5, 1945]* ....I gather, both from what you have intimated in letters to me and from the conversations I had with the Shodins in Fergus Falls and with Gunda Hansson, that there are some people who feel no particular loyalty to Unitarianism, and would be willing to enter into an alliance with some other church. I would suggest that the church constitution be examined, and that in all meetings which concern the church, the terms of the constitution be strictly adhered to. If any changes in the constitution should be contemplated, then they should be made strictly in accordance with the terms of the constitution. And in addition to that, a complete and accurate record of every meeting that is held to decide the future of the church, should be kept so that there need never be any accusation that things were done in a way contrary to the will of the majority of the congregation.

It is the Unitarian tradition that each church is completely self-governing. Neither the A.U.A. *[American Unitarian Association]* or any other Unitarian organization claims the right to interfere in church affairs. Advice can be offered, suggestions may be made, but the final decision rests with the church itself. But it should be the duty of the church to remain loyal to its tradition of freedom and independence of judgment. It cannot remain that if it binds itself to any orthodox church body. If, therefore, there are members who feel they would be at home in some other church, it should be their duty to withdraw from the Unitarian church, instead of trying to draw the Unitarian church into an alien fellowship.

It is always unfortunate when difficulties arise within an organization, and particularly when that organization is small. I hope that the problems that now seem to be looming for the church in Underwood will not develop and that the church may go on and retain a meaningful place in the community.



*[Letter from John Gronner to Ethel Gronner; September 6, 1945]* I really wonder if those fellows fully understand the constitution of the church. I intend to stand pat and will not concede to any union with the Maine church or any other church at this time. Frankly, I wouldn't have any objection to their using the minister of the Maine church temporarily and in such a way find out how it would work out. They are certainly endeavoring to put the buggy in front of the horse by making an effort to unite before they know what they are going into.

It is my feeling that Alfred will also stand pat, and that would leave at least Art Kolstad, Haldor Moen, Gunda, Alfred, you and I, and by golly, we could put in enough money to get speakers at least twice a year. I would much rather have two of our own speakers during the year than to listen to some one that did not inspire me one bit.

....You can count on my standing pat and opposing any union. According to the constitution, my vote should count just as much as that of anyone else. If I recall correctly, the constitution states that if two or more people remain loyal then the property shall fall into their hands or the A.U.A., or something to that effect.

*[Special Board meeting; September 8, 1945]* After calling the meeting to order, the president reported that a Board meeting had been held with the Field Man from the Presbyterian Church to hear a proposal regarding joining Maine and Maplewood in hiring a minister. Motion made by Mr. Jacobson, seconded by Mr. Sylte that a Congregational meeting be called in the near future to decide the question of hiring said minister. The date set for this meeting was Fri. Sept 21.

*[letter from Raymond Bragg, minister at the First Unitarian Society, Minneapolis to Ethel Gronner; September 11, 1945]* ...Your letter of Sept. 9th presents a rare but not unknown problem. I think that you have gone about the handling of it in splendid ways.

I deeply hope that Mr. Hilton will be able to go to Underwood for the meeting on Sept. 21st. He is, as you know, regional director of the American Unitarian Association as well as secretary of the Western Unitarian Conference. He would be able to represent Unitarian interests better than anyone I can think of.

*[letter from Rev. Philip Petursson, United Conference of Icelandic Churches, Winnipeg; September 12, 1945]* ....I sympathize with you in all your troubles. You certainly have your

hands full, and I hope that in some way or another, things become straightened out satisfactorily to all concerned, but of course most particularly to the Unitarian friends in the Underwood church. I realize that it is not an easy problem to solve and particularly not when some of those on whom you have felt you could depend, do not turn out to be the pillar of strength you thought they might be. I feel sure that by this time next year, things will have become straightened out, and your chief worries will have become things of the past. In the mean-time it is necessary to struggle through. There will be difficult times, - perhaps. Some friendships may even be terminated. But the most difficult parts of any problem have a way of passing, and once again things become fairly easy for us. That, I feel sure, will be the case with the Underwood situation, and I mention it as an encouragement.

I believe, - it is my conviction, - that if the church is willing and able to raise the amount you mention in your letter as having been suggested, \$800, the A. U. A. [*American Unitarian Association*] would be ready to meet that with some support of its own to pay for the services of a Unitarian minister. One of the main difficulties, of course, is the distance that Underwood is from other Unitarian churches. However, if a man could divide his time between two churches, (something like what is suggested in connection with the Presbyterian minister) a satisfactory arrangement might be made. But - everything will await the results of your meeting on Friday, Sept. 21. I hope that some representative, Ray Bragg or Randolph Hilton or some other from the A. U. A. may be able to be present, particularly if the Presbyterian Field Man is there. In any case, I shall be greatly interested in the outcome of the meeting and would appreciate a letter.

[*Letter from John Gronner to his sister, Ethel; September 12, 1945*]: Understand me correctly, --- I am not opposed to reformed churches in general. They may differ in externals, but the spirit is of the same substance. However, this must be said, of all the reformed churches, the Presbyterian is the most fundamentalist. It comes closer to Lutheranism than any other. And since you say that the minister is very conservative, you can be reasonably sure that he is a Calvinist in his heart, (total depravity of human nature) It simply cannot be done to preach Unitarianism in one Church and Calvinism in another, unless the man is a simpleton or an opportunist of extraordinary proportion. Either case is very bad.

I have felt that something like this would happen at Underwood. I understand that you are in distress, because the church means so much to you. Do your best, that is all that can be expected! Be sure that those who are on your side are thoroughly organized. Eliminate those that are doubtful, even though you are a real minority group.

[*letter from Georg Walen (Unitarian minister at Hanska) to Ethel Gronner; September 17, 1945*] Since I last wrote to you, I have received a letter from Ray Bragg [*minister at the First Unitarian Society in Minneapolis*]. He says that he wrote to you at once, and he also wrote to Hilton [*secretary of the Western Conference*] at Chicago asking him to be present at the meeting. He says that he could go without invitation and without violating any propriety. He adds, that we



could also go but makes the remark that: "we would be on shaky ground if any member questioned our interest in the controversy."

You have a congregational form of government as **you** know. Bearing that fact in mind I think at the present state of development it would be unwise for Bragg or me to go. However, I am not entirely certain about this, since there are many sides to the **question**, **Ray** also realize **this**, **and puts it this way**: "If **you** should attend the meeting and I think that it would not be a bad thing, you ought to be prepared for a rejoinder to any question that was raised about your presence".

I shall therefore put it this way: I shall come as Secretary of the Minnesota Conference, provided **you** and your friends having **weighted all matters** carefully, are convinced that I should come, and that there is more likely-hood that I may serve your cause than there is that I may harm it. **If** thus you decide that I ought to be present, you must let me know by telephone or telegram, so that I can make the necessary preparation.

By all means do not worry too much, Ethel. If you do your duty before God and men that is sufficient. As I see it in this case, it means a very great firmness on **the part of you and your** friends. But it must be tempered with the **spirit** of love, always realizing basic issues underneath this love.

Remember I shall do what you think is best and stand ready for any service I can give you.

*[letter from John Gronner to Ethel; September 13,1945]* We will always be Unitarians in our beliefs regardless of the minister we have but just the same will also do what we can to support the church... I'm not so afraid of those that are Unitarians at heart as I am of those that don't have the sincerity to appreciate it for what it can do. For you, who has given so much of your time, thought, & tolerance toward the maintenance & advancement of the church it will be hard to think of working together with those of orthodox background but if worst comes to worst I know it can do it and always keep that spark of liberalism that is traditional with our church, glowing. Let's hope that we will be on our own again someday soon as there may be a turn towards liberalism in church again after things get back to normal again. Wish I could see more clearly what would be best for the church to follow & in that way I could be of more help but as it is I only know that we would like to remain Unitarians but that it should be up to the congregation to decide on this issue on hand.

**The saga will be continued in the next newsletter issues .....**

## **Board Minutes**

The Board did not meet in December so the January and February minutes will be in the March newsletter.

**Note: This is the form below to use when submitting for payment or reimbursement. Print, complete and give to Ron Roller, Treasurer. Paper copies of the form are available at the church office.**

[Invoice for Payment from](#)  
[Unitarian Church of Underwood](#)

To accurately account for spending, this form must be submitted to the Treasurer to request reimbursement of services or expenses incurred. *Please include a receipt of purchase, if possible.*

**Invoice for Contracted Services**

Type of Service	Dates	Amount	Payable to:	Mailing Address

**Invoice for Reimbursement/Payment for Other Expenses:**

Expense Type	Amount	Date Incurred	Committee	Payable to:

Submitters Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_