

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

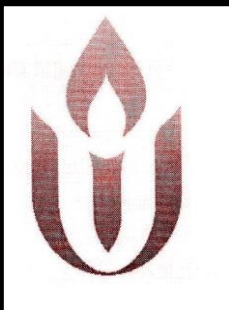
Services

January 7 - Bob
Worner, "Shadow &
Light"

January 14 - Joannie
Ellison - PR Multi-
cultural Center

January 21 - Missy
Hermes - "KKK in OT
Co."

January 28 - Karen
Terry - "OT Co. Rain
Gardens"



January 2018

Newsletter

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Editor's Note: The chalice fully lit and pictured on the front page of the December newsletter was made by our ceramic artist, Ron Graham.

January 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Bob Worner “Shadow & Light” Class - Race in MN 8:45 am Mindfulness Sitting 8:30 a.m. #300	8	9 Battle Lake/Underwood U Group 3 pm @ Joanne Cress' & Luke Anderson's	10 Space Plan Task Force 6:00 Alexandria U Group 7 pm @ Wideth... Office Bldg/	11 Perham U Group 6:30 @ Stan Carignan's	12	13
14 Joannie Ellison Class- Ancient Religions 8:45 am Mindfulness Sitting 8:30 a.m Children's RE 10-11 Speakers Committee 12 N	15	19 Fergus Falls U Group 6 pm @ Diana Ziesemer's	17 Nominating Committee 4:30 pm Strategic Plan Task Force 6:00	18	19 Finance Committee 9 am	20
21 Missy Hermes Board Meeting 12: N Mindfulness Sitting 8:30 am #300	22	23	24	25	26	27 
28 Karen Terry – Rain Gardens in OT Class – “Fluid in Faith” 8:45 am Mindfulness Sitting 8:30 am #300	29	30	31 Membership Committee 5:30 pm Empowerment Grant Applications Due!!	“I prefer winter and fall, when you feel the bone structure of the landscape – the loneliness of it, the dead feeling of winter. Something waits beneath it; the whole story doesn't show.” <i>Andrew Wyeth</i>		

January Speakers/Presenters

January 7 – Celebrant Bob Worner,” “Shadow and Light,” addressing UU Principle 1, “The inherent worth and dignity of every person.”

January 14- Joan Ellison (Multicultural Center of Pelican Rapids: “Imagine yourself getting off a plane in a foreign city with your family. You don’t know the language, the customs, or how the money system works. The food is totally different, and you don’t know where you will sleep that night. If you are on a vacation, it is an adventure will delight family and friends. If you are a refugee, it’s the beginning of the rest of your life and in most cases, you have no idea what happens next. Most new arrivals do not speak or understand English and depend on the help of strangers to get them through customs to a place of safety.

After 40 years of welcoming refugees and immigrants, of creating that place of safety, Pelican Rapids is moving into a different phase of assimilation - that of diverse peoples living and working as respected equals to create a healthy community.

Joan Ellison will speak about the changes in Pelican over the last 40 years, with special emphasis on the last year and a half. Ellison has volunteered with and written about the immigrants in Pelican Rapids since 1996. Her book *The Faces of Change* was published by the Otter Tail County Historical Society in 2007. With Sally Williams she co-wrote *Many Cultures, One Community: a Book of Stories and Recipes* in 2011. The photography and printing costs for that book were paid for in part by a grant from the Underwood Unitarian Universalist Church.”

January 21 - Missy Hermes, Education Coordinator at the Otter Tail County Museum will tell us about the KKK and history of race relations in OTC.

January 28-Karen Terry – “Rain Gardens in OTC.” Karen is an Extension Educator on Water Resource Management and Policy at the University of Minnesota, Morris Campus.

Cancellation/Postponement Due to Weather

Cancellation/Postponement Due to Weather: for weather related announcements, tune to Lakes Radio Family of Stations – 103.3, 96.5 FM and 1020, 1250 AM or online at www.lakesradio.net under “News.” You can also check the UCU website at www.ucofu.org or the Facebook page. If you do not hear a cancellation announcement, please use your best judgment on making a safe trip to church.

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

“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, etc., etc.

Happy New Year

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.

Facebook Page & Newsletter Standards:

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

Newsletter comes out on the 1st of each month



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!!**

Podcast Appreciation

Dear UCU,

"I was not able to join you in church on Sunday and was so sad to miss Jon Solinger's presentation. I was thrilled to see your link that made it possible to hear what he had to say. I am one of those people he described at the beginning of his talk who has been moved by his work. Thanks so much for making this option available to the congregation." Sarah Govig

Adult Religious Education Classes

Each Sunday of the month, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Stan Carignan leads Mindfulness/Quaker Quiet Time Sitting.

1st Sunday of the month, 8:45 - 9:45 a.m. – John Minge leading 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 uses the book studied by the Celebrants, *Fluent in Faith* by Jeanne Harrison Nieuwejaar.

Children's Religious Education



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

Tentative Schedule 2017-18

January 14 10:10-11 a.m. – JoAnn Larson & Alisha Piekarski

February, 10 - 10-11 a.m. – JoAnn Larson & Alisha Piekarski

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

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

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

Child Care Other Sundays

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. When Joanne and Luke are gone for the winter, Kris Warhol will co-facilitate with Bob and the group will meet with a host to be announced.
- Fergus Falls U-Group: 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. For December, will meet Monday, December 11.

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

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



Notes from December Programs



Celebrant, Katy Olson's talk title was: "To Err is Human, To Forgive Divine The root of "**forgive**" is the Latin word "perdonare," meaning "to give completely, without reservation. To pardon, to go beyond the accommodation to the one who harmed us." Jesus said to "love your neighbor"; "turn the other cheek." Today it is "I matter most"; "I come first." If we truly love our neighbor, our circle widens and love frays. Human connections are strengthened by self-examination and willingness to do better.

It is less about forgiveness of the other person and more about forgiveness for ourselves for healing and liberating. Katy relayed personal experiences to a time when she was able to forgive. She'd also listened to the litanies of her mother's woes and comforted her until such time as mom was done lamenting – she'd been heard.

Forgiveness does not exonerate the perpetrator but it offers the way for relief for self. You can't change the past, but you can change the future. We are all connected. We each bear responsibility for the harm that is being done. There is good and evil in each of us. Forgiveness offers a foundation for dialogue, helps build bridges, breaks the cycle of violence, sustains peace. We must recognize that there is a moral relationship between oneself and others. The question is "not why me?" But, "why them?"

Attendance: 51



Music by John Heine & Deb Wallwork

December 10 – New Member, **Jon Solinger** shared the story of producing his book, ***Working Land***, comprised of his photos and narrative. The photos give a clear view of natural world reality, the age, old relationship to land and animals and the unity of self and labor. His hope was to capture the ordinary and every day.

Jon first had an exhibit in 2015 at the Moorhead Hjemkomst Museum, display of history and arts. It led to the book project and then a traveling exhibit with Viking libraries. The project gives him a sense of the spiritual – the sense of place, of connection; the ancient relationship and bonds to land and animals; the dignity and intelligence of physical work, the interconnections.

His photos included the multi-generational Kubitz farm; the Michaels Farm with new farmer, Trent and his parents who hadn't farmed before; the Pesch's organic farm; Rocky's bait; the Anderson Farm where Keith and Edward have returned; and the Honer farm of his wife's relatives that is undergoing transition to hunting and recreational land.

On several pages of his book, Jon overlaid a photo of human activity over the topical display of the designated land for interesting affect. He also included hand drawn maps as remembered by some of his subjects from their early years. All and all, this a book of remarkable photos and stories.

Jon picked out the readings for today: "Change is unchanging" but always changing - "you can't step in the same river twice."

For more details on Jon's work or to order the book, see: www.jonsolinger.com.

Attendance: 46



December 17 – Bonnie Albers wrote the script and with the help of Kris Warhol, organized the **Children's Holiday Program** to recognize St. Lucia's Day and other Scandinavian and American Christmas season traditions.



St. Lucia was born in the 3rd century A.C.E. in Italy. She was betrothed to marry, but refused. Instead, she chose to feed the poor, and became known as the Queen of Light. Because of her choices, she was martyred and eventually became a saint.



St. Lucia's story migrated north and is celebrated in the Scandinavian countries on Dec. 13. The eldest daughter in a family begins the day by serving breakfast to her parents in bed. Today for the program, the girls were dressed in white robes, and wore crowns with LED candles and garland. They passed out special traditional treats to the congregation.



Boys have a part in the holiday celebration, also. They are “star boys”, and wear cones that have been decorated with stars. They represent Stefan – who was the stable boy in the stable where Jesus was born. In the story, Stefan told King Herod about the birth of Jesus, predicting that one day he would be more powerful than Herod. Stefan was also martyred.

Ju Tomten visited us. This is the Scandinavian version of Santa Claus. He is a farmer who gives gifts, and so our Ju Tomten (Lance Albers) shared gifts with the children.



Richard Kagan shared another tradition by handing each of the kids a card with a Chinese coin for them to keep or pass to others.

Florance Thompson noted that the sleigh and reindeer (a part of many traditions) originated in a Swedish festival that occurs in mid-January, celebrating the return of light with sleighs pulled by reindeer.

We sang several Christmas carols, and were treated to 8-year old, Violet Solinger playing on the piano, "Santa Claus is Coming to Town." The children and audience joined in on the verses. Mary Worner provided other piano accompaniment with Wally Warhol featured on the trumpet for special music.



Children included: **Precious, Lilly and Roland, Violet, Amari, Sequoia and Hart.** Mary Anderson sewed the gowns from sheets provided by Heather Czeck from the Perham Boys and Girls Thrift Store. All other production items by **Bonnie Bell and**

Kris Warhol. Thanks to all for the work you did to make this performance a pleasure and a success!!!

Many brought Scandinavian treats to serve at coffee. Photos above courtesy of Bert Whitcomb and Jon Solinger.

Attendance: 39



December 24: Bob Worner's talk was entitled, "**Holy Days.**" This time of the year (Christmas holidays) is indeed holy, in many ways. The Bible story is a metaphor for miracles. For many, this can be the favorite time of the year – with traditions, stories, family visits, and music. For others, this can be the worst time of the year – loneliness, loss, stress.

For UU's, there are many cultural ties to the holidays. Unfortunately, sometimes we miss the magic. For Christians, this time of the year can encourage generosity.

The UU faith values reason, tolerance, and compassion, which are ethical tools. However, we often miss the heart statements of "faith, hope, and love."

Four important concepts are mystery, magic, miracle, and wonder. While it is folly to abandon rationality, it is also folly to only accept things that we understand and can explain. "We live deeper than we think." (From *Fluent in Faith*, by Bernard Meland).

The Dancing Dolls were brought once again by Budd and Marguerite Andrews, to continue a long-time tradition at the Unitarian Church of Underwood. As a child, Budd had these wooden dolls made by his father for him. He then made his own that he shares with us at this time each year.

Attendance: 39

December 31 – Services cancelled due to cold temperatures and wind chill conditions.



Curry Dinner and Caroling

Held December 3, 2017

Thank you all from John Minge!

Delicious, Fun, Well Attended!!



"I appreciate the positive comments that I received for the curry dinner. I didn't do it alone, and I neglected to mention that Sunday those who were an important part of the effort. The Perham U Group helps me, one of the members, do this now as our yearly church project. So U Group members and other helpers included: Mary Anderson (set-up and clean-up), Amy Beckman (tea and food prep and help in kitchen), Stan Carignan (clean-up), Mark Jacobson (set-up and clean-up), Tim Lanz (food prep and clean-up), JoAnn Larson (when/where needed), Carole Mitchell (food prep), Terry Shaw (food prep), Cathy Stone (food prep), Joan Vorderbruggen (food prep), Mary Worner (food prep and help in kitchen and accompaniment for the carole singing). I hope that I haven't forgotten anyone! For me, this is one of those 'it's better to give than to receive' experiences." *John Minge*



Thank you, Worners!!

Thank you, Bob & Mary Worner for the annual Christmas tree. John Donohue who helped get it from the woods to the church thinks maybe next year, we put the lights on the tree in the forest and we go there to see it instead. We do so appreciate the tree sitting in the UCU front window!!

Christmas Eve Service "Fall on Your Knees"



Thank you, Ellen Eastby, readers and musicians for a beautiful Christmas Eve service once again. "Special" special music was provided by Mariann Byran, her son, Will Bryan and his fiancé, Mary (both opera singers) who sang "O Holy Night." Ron Roller was also featured along with a small choir directed by Mary Worner. Bob Worner read the Christmas story from the book of Luke. Ellen's selection of readings for this year's theme were especially inspirational. Readers included: Mary Anderson, Stephanie Sanderson, JoAnn Larson and Lee Becker. This annual

traditional service celebrating the birth of Christ sets the tone for our gatherings with family and friends and gift exchanges over these winter holidays.

The Christmas Eve offering this year will go to the Pelican Rapids' Giving +Learning program.

Covenant of Behavior

January is a time of New Year's resolutions. So, it is a good time to remind ourselves of our Covenant of Behavior that was adopted under the Safety Plan, by the UCU Board of Directors, June 17, 2015. May all who come here, come in peace and respect for the interdependent web of which we are all a part.

Covenant: The Unitarian Church of Underwood is a place of safety and integrity for each person's mind, body, and spirit. We are a supportive and nurturing faith community, honoring and respecting the rich diversity of those gathered here. Recognizing that warmth, beauty, kindness, and passion will shape us as a congregation of goodwill, generosity, and presence, we covenant to affirm and promise:

- **Honesty and authenticity in our relationships**
- **Words that are supportive and caring, not belittling or demeaning**
- **A welcoming and non-judgmental attitude**
- **To respect each person's boundaries of mind, body and spirit**
- **To listen to one another**
- **To refrain from displays of temper**
- **To honor the gifts and blessings of thought and deed.**

This is our covenant of right relationship.

Speakers Committee to Meet Sunday, January 14, 2018

Please note that the Speakers Committee will meet Sunday, January 14th, following Sunday service. This will give those who can't participate at their monthly meetings, the opportunity to contribute program ideas and other input to the Speakers Committee. The Speakers Committee currently is comprised of: Betsy Wells (Chair), Sandy Barnhouse, Diane Johnson, JoAnn Larson, Robbyn Iverson Navatto, Richard Kagan and Kris Warhol. Their work brings us outstanding programs each Sunday of the year. Members/friends are surveyed several times per year to assure that the program offerings are of quality and meet interests. We appreciate how hard the Speakers Committee works to bring us such a variety of high quality presenters and relevant topics. Thank you!!



New Task Forces Appointed

The UCU Board of Directors has recently designated two new task forces: Space Planning and 2018-2023 Strategic Planning. The Executive Team has invited a number of church members to be on each team to begin meeting during January, 2018.

The Space Planning Task Force is charged to:

1. Consider values for long term space planning:
 - Utility/practicality/efficiency
 - Environmentally friendly
 - Minimalistic for cleaning/maintaining
 - Aesthetically pleasing
 - Safety features for members and children
 - User friendly
 - Budget friendly
 - Return on Investment/adds to property value.
2. Identify space needs for the church and what needs can be met through quarters at Sverdrup Suites.
3. Invite suggestions through a brainstorming session or submitted suggestions.
4. Analyze ideas and give priority consideration to:
 - What are the cost factors?
 - What are the risk factors (i.e., safety, depletion of reserves, etc)?
 - How frequently will the space be used for this purpose/ is that cost effective?
 - What levels of effort/costs will be required to install/implement the change?
 - Maintenance required: who, how, what, when efforts are needed to maintain the change?
5. Select options that best meet the values, get cost estimates/savings estimates, determine priority order and potential implementation dates, and present plan to Board by March 21, 2018 Board meeting for Board consideration and approval and for inclusion in the 2018-23 Strategic Plan.
6. Present the plan to the membership at Annual Meeting, April 15, 2018.

The Strategic Planning Task Force is charged to:

- Review 2013-18 Strategic Plan.
- Review results/implementation of 2015 Plan to Grow Survey.
- Design/adjust 2018 Survey form for members.
- Issue new survey to members - January 30, 2018; due back by February 14, 2018.
- Review member responses to survey, other documentation and comments.
- Develop/add/change goals and objectives for 2018-2023 Goals and Objectives.
- Disseminate to committee chairs, other leads to set 2018-19 goals and objectives.

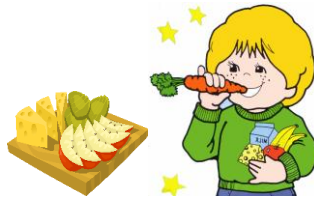
- Present to Board for approval at March 21 meeting.
- Present plan to members @ annual meeting April 15, 2018.

If you have comments/questions/suggestions, please contact: Mary Anderson @ maryanderson8380@msn.com or 218/346-6638 or a member of the task force.

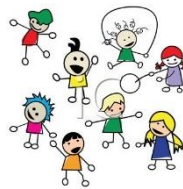
Looking to Get Involved? Get to Know Others? Be of Service in your Church Community?



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



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



Child Care

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

Now with the PODCASTS, it may be easier for adults to volunteer on occasion to monitor the children on a Sunday and then listen to the talk later. If you wish to help, please contact: Kris Warhol. Or if you are there that Sunday and see the need, let Kris know and follow the children. The number of children in attendance with their parents can range from 1—6 with ages 2-12 years. The children led out with song just prior to the offertory and the attendee(s) escort them to Sverdrup Suite #300 and follow the activity format and provide the children a snack. The time goes by rapidly! Being with kids can bring out the kid in you!!

Check out Regularly for UU Readings



www.uua.org/bookstore | [sign up for updates](#)

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

See December 2017 Newsletter for Complete Details

Application Form at end of this newsletter or available at church. Please contact Ron Roller at 218-770-0374 or at: rollerolson@gmail.com for further information and/or assistance.

“This we know. The earth does not belong to us; we belong to the earth. All things are connected like the blood which unites one family...whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons and daughters of the earth. We did not weave the web of life; we are merely a strand in it. Whatever we do to the web we do to ourselves.” ~ Chief Seattle

New Member, Joan Vorderbruggen Getting Actively Involved in Community.

(See: Battle Lake Review
November 29, 2017)

Glendalough Adds New Board Members



Submitted by Steve Nelson

With the retirement of two long-term Citizen Advisory Board members, we have two new board members to introduce, Joan Vorderbruggen and Jay Anderson. There's something about being involved with Glendalough at this level that grabs you and doesn't let you go, and you will see by their bios that our new members are already well down that path.

In May of 2016, Joan Vorderbruggen and her husband Darryl Booker moved to Battle Lake, both being drawn to the area because of their love of hiking, biking, kayaking, and spending time in nature. Joan is a licensed Architect in the state of Minnesota, and has taught architecture at NDSU and the University of Oregon. Together with Darryl, Joan runs Duet Design and Architecture from their home studio in Battle Lake.

Joan has become particularly fond of Glendalough State Park, and visits it nearly every day. Connecting to nature has become a huge part of her life, as it offers clarity, balance, a source of inspiration, and a heartfelt sense of gratitude. She is currently one of three Minnesotans trained as a Forest Therapy guide, where she assists others in a form of nature therapy that allows them to connect more deeply with the healing and restorative powers of the natural world. She is honored to be part of Glendalough's mission of providing a beautiful natural environment for people to enjoy, while still being a park that places strong values on protecting the wild and natural treasures it holds!



*Shelter and Support
in a Spiritual Setting*

Churches United for the Homeless
(218) 236-0372
1901 First Ave. North
Moorhead, MN 56560

Shelter Update:

Year to Date Moved Into Housing:

77 Households consisting of 88 adults and 32 children

Year to Date Sheltered:

Children Under the Age of 5 = 60

Ages 6-17 = 65

Adults = 471 plus 12 people over the age of 65

Christmas Message received from: Pastor Sue Koesterman
Executive Director, Churches United for the Homeless

Be Blessed. Be Giving. Be Sheltered.

This is our theme as we end 2017. We have been so blessed here at Churches United for the Homeless during 2017. Being blessed allows us to give our very best to those we serve here at the Shelter and in the Community Center. Giving our best leads to those we serve receiving what they most need: shelter, a sense of stability in the midst of crisis, and, most importantly, stable housing.

Be Blessed. Be Giving. Be Sheltered.

We've seen some incredible things happen this year! With the help of so many supporters, Churches United for the Homeless has sheltered more than 600 people in 2017. Of those, 150 were children, half under the age of 5. We also provided vital nutritional support to our neighbors who struggle with poverty. Nearly 65,000 meals have been served this year in our Community Center, and our busiest season is still ahead as of this writing.

The average length of stay in emergency shelter has decreased from about 90 days to 32 days. This year, we've been blessed to help 85 adults and 36 children move from shelter into their own homes. Many households have found affordable, stable homes after experiencing difficult life challenges.

Be Blessed. Be Giving.

Be Sheltered.

We've completed some long overdue projects and checked some items off our "wish list" this year as well - Air ducts cleaned for the first time in 40 years - Leaking skylights removed - Energy efficiency improved through window updates - Landscaping improved - Benches added in the entry way – The interior of the shelter painted - Updated signage - New (used) Van - New (used) truck. All these things make day to day life here at CUFH so much more pleasant for our guests, the community members we welcome, and the CUFH team (Who, by the way, are fantastic!!!).

Be Blessed. Be Giving. Be Sheltered.

Thank you for your prayers, your volunteer hours, your donations, and all the ways you continue to support the mission of Churches United for the Homeless! As a recent resident said, "I just want to thank Churches United for the Homeless for giving me a place to stay when no one else would help. I will always be grateful for Churches United." We here at Churches United for the Homeless will always be grateful for your support!

Be Blessed. Be Giving. Be Sheltered.

Note: Churches United for the Homeless was a UCU 2017 Empowerment Grant Awardee. As their yearly community project, The Battle Lake U Group plans to help serve lunch there one day again soon.



Dear Unitarian Church of Underwood,

Recently I've had the humbling and humorous experience of learning to play my violin in a church orchestra. Each of the pieces is a remix of a traditional song done by talented local musicians. Stretching my ability, challenging my pride, filling my schedule, it's become a good metaphor for the work of the climate justice movement. **New, and yet building on the efforts of generations.** Listening to others while bringing my own voice to a sound that involves spinning centuries of my ancestral culture into a new story.

In a similar way, at Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light we draw on the strength of the past as we build a new story. 2017 has been a year for discovering both the dark and the light. We have been organizing powerfully with great success. **Through our Movement Builder Program, we were able to elevate the voices of thousands of people of faith through phone calls, letters and petitions.** Our voices cried: Protect the Paris Accord; Don't muzzle the EPA; Give Sanctuary for our all our neighbors; Public education and healthcare are basic human rights. ***Our voices are strong and clear, calling together to protect what we love.***

In the year ahead we are going to **expand our Movement Builder Program** to support and empower faith communities across the state, continue to **build powerful interfaith collaboration**, and **bring our voices to the policy arena** to defend what we love. ***We need your support to make this happen.***

One of the things I love about Minnesota is the different energy that our seasons bring. **Read below for some of our favorite moments from each season of 2017:**

In January, over 100,000 people participated in the MN Women's March. We learned that people do show up when we are clear that what we love and value is on the line. At MNIPL we helped to harness that energy through our Be the Spark leadership development program.

During the spring, MNIPL was at the forefront organizing the [Minnesota Kid's Climate March](#), convening the Duluth People's Climate March and organizing busloads of

people for a pilgrimage to Washington DC for the People's Climate March. One of my favorite moments from our journey was when we stopped to camp near Sandusky, Ohio. 40 road weary travelers gathered around the fire as Andrea Sorum led us in a call and response: "[Everything is light](#)," we sang. And then we brought that light to the streets with 200,000 others the next day.

We kicked off the summer by hosting the premiere of [All In the Circle Documentary](#) at the Riverview Theater. We had a sold-out show and raised over \$15,000 to send youth to camp to practice and learn how to create a culture of kindness.

During the summer we also saw hate surface nationally. Locally, Anti Muslim Hate groups planned to gather at the Minnesota State Capitol. At MNIPL, we responded by building stronger relationships with our Muslim partners and hosting a Unity Iftar where over 1,000 people were served. Together, we listened as the sounds of the [Adhan or call to prayer](#) were broadcast across the city from the roof of the Cedar Cultural Center.

This fall we acted on our commitment to working at the intersection of racial justice and the climate crisis by hiring two incredible staff to work in critical areas. **Brent Murcia** has brought MNIPL's voice to the pipeline resistance movement through his leadership organizing to stop Line 3. **Bob Blake** is coordinating an effort to bring solar jobs to all, specifically working with Native communities to bring solar and employment opportunities. We are thrilled to have them on board expanding our capacity and impact in powerful ways.

As we head into the New Year we need your support to powerfully build our **Movement Builder Program**, bring the voices of people of faith to **pipeline resistance**, and **expand our Just Solar work**, creating **job opportunities and access to renewable energy** regardless of income or credit score. ***Become a sustaining donor of MNIPL today to support this vital work.***

What creative energy has been incubating in you during these dark months? **How have your years prepared you for the work ahead?** What partnerships are you cultivating? We would love to hear your stories and are eager to discover new ways that partnership can make our voices stronger. More than ever, we need your support to build just and equitable communities and resilient love in the face of hate.

On behalf of the whole MNIPL team, thanks for all you bring to this beautiful climate movement. I can't wait to write this next chapter with you in the New Year.

Sincerely,

Julia Nerbonne

Executive Director

More from Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light



Dear Unitarian Church of Underwood,

I'm Robert Blake, Solar Outreach Coordinator with MNIPL. I joined MNIPL this past summer and it's been an incredible experience. I'm an enrolled tribal member of the Red Lake Band of Ojibwe and **I believe in the power of solar to transform**

Today I'm writing to ask you to join me in financially supporting this vital work by [becoming a sustaining member](#).

At MNIPL I'm working on the ground to build solar in Red Lake because **we need to transition to clean energy in Red Lake and in MN prisons to create a pathway from prison to purpose**, because everyone deserves meaningful work. I'm part of the "Just Solar Coalition" where we are working to pressure the solar industry to integrate equity in the core of their business.

I'm thrilled to be doing this work and to be in community with each of you. I'm Catholic and my faith has gotten me through some tough times and I know that coming together will help us rise to the challenges we face. **What I particularly love about MNIPL** is that I now coordinate, to the network of hundreds of faith communities pressuring the solar industry to consider the needs of all.

Many of you are already hard at work. Thank you for your time and your financial contributions. It's been so fun to see 70 sustaining donors who are making it possible to continue [supporting the work of just solar](#).

I can't wait to meet more of you in person and continue this important work powerfully in the New Year!

Together,

Bob Blake
Solar Outreach Coordinator
robertblake@mnipl.org

P.S. **Solar is booming in Minnesota** so it's a good time to explore whether your own rooftop or your community's Energy territory, for a brief time you can take advantage of a rebate program that begins in January. Many members navigate the process. [Contact us if your faith community is interested.](#)



Woods in Winter

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

When winter winds are piercing chill,
And through the hawthorn blows the gale,
With solemn feet I tread the hill,
That overbrows the lonely vale.

O'er the bare upland, and away
Through the long reach of desert woods,
The embracing sunbeams chastely play,
And gladden these deep solitudes.

Where, twisted round the barren oak,
The summer vine in beauty clung,
And summer winds the stillness broke,
The crystal icicle is hung.

Where, from their frozen urns, mute springs
Pour out the river's gradual tide,
Shrilly the skater's iron rings,
And voices fill the woodland side.

Alas! how changed from the fair scene,
When birds sang out their mellow lay,
And winds were soft, and woods were green,
And the song ceased not with the day!

But still wild music is abroad,
Pale, desert woods! within your crowd;
And gathering winds, in hoarse accord,
Amid the vocal reeds pipe loud.

Chill airs and wintry winds! my ear
Has grown familiar with your song;

I hear it in the opening year,
I listen, and it cheers me long.

Dear Unitarian Church of Underwood,
MUUSJA is thrilled to announce that last Friday afternoon, with just a few hours remaining until the deadline, our incredible supporters put us past the finish line, and helped us meet our [crowdfunding goal on Faithify](#). In total, 86 donors made contributions ranging from \$10 to \$400, and together, we raised \$6,268 to expand MUUSJA's interfaith and statewide organizing!

This was our largest and most ambitious crowdfunding campaign to date, and its success says so much about our shared commitments to justice, and to our shared commitment to making sure that Unitarian Universalist individuals and congregations have a strong, bold, courageous moral voice in the public square in Minnesota. The fact that several of our donors live out of state, and still chose to amplify and give to our campaign, affirms that MUUSJA's work is important to UUs around the country--and that we are all deeply interconnected as we struggle together to build a just and loving world.

Thank you, beloveds, to all of you who shared this campaign via email or social media... who invited friends to contribute... who dug deep in your own pockets and gave to MUUSJA's work. We are so grateful to be in community with you, and to work together for justice.
In Faith and Solidarity,



MUUSJA
Thanks
You!

Rev. Ashley Horan
Executive Director
900 Mount Curve Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55403
651.769.3062
[**muusja1@gmail.com**](mailto:muusja1@gmail.com)

Coming Soon: Social Justice Webinars

MidAmerica UUA is partnering with the Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance ([MUUSJA](https://muusja.org)) to present a series of six social justice webinars beginning January 9, 2018. There will be one webinar on the second Tuesday of each month between January and June. MUUSJA's Executive Director Rev. Ashley Horan and Statewide Organizer Pastor Danny Givens will host.



There will also be webinars next year on covenant, building safety, dealing with disruptive behavior, congregational discernment, accessibility, and endowments. Watch for further details in next month's MidAmerica Messenger or visit <https://midamericauua.org/events/webinars>

Unitarian Church of Underwood

Approved Board minutes for November 15, 2017

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

The Board of the Unitarian Church of Underwood was called to order at the church by Board President Mary Anderson at 5:30 p.m. Kris Warhol shared a reading/meditation. The agenda was approved (Warhol/Wass). Minutes of the October 15, 2017 meeting were approved as printed (Sanderson/Worner).

Reports:

Treasurer: David Wass - facility improvements, memorials, budget on target.

Administrative Consultant/Speakers Committee: JoAnn Larson

Foundation/Stewardship Committee: David Sanderson - receipts for taxes, contacts database.

Program/Worship Committee: Kris Warhol

Community Outreach: Kris Warhol - numerous events lately.

Facilities Committee: Kris Warhol

Sverdrup Suites: David Wass - damage deposit returned, snow removal

Safety Committee: Norman Kolstad - record keeping protocols in works.

Membership Committee: Mary Anderson - 12 new members: Tim Lanz, Lorene McIntosh, Robbyn Navatto, Terry & John Shaw, Jacob McKnite, Shirley Spanhanks, Jon Solinger & Barb Honer, Amy Beckman, Marianne Bryan, Richard Kagan.

Communications Committee: Mary Anderson - Sunday talks on SoundCloud.

Fall Area Workshop: Mary Anderson - workshop evaluations; 56 in attendance; a \$500 donation will be made to MUUSJA (Worner/Sanderson).

Unfinished Business:

Ongoing payment authorized of \$15.99/month to SoundCloud for audio hosting of Sunday talks (Warhol/Sanderson). The Inclement Weather Policy was reviewed. Members of the Space Planning Task Force were named, will meet in January. A new organization chart will show the Technical Team under

the Worship Committee and Hospitality under the Membership Committee. Objections to the gun ban policy and sign were noted and discussed; no changes were recommended.

New Business:

A possible donee for the Christmas Eve offering was suggested. Work on the next UCU five-year plan (2018-2023) is starting now.

The next board meeting is set for December 20, 2017 with an Executive Committee meeting December 15, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned by Board President Anderson at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Norman Kolstad, secretary.

Unitarian Church of Underwood (UCU)
Grant Committee

Application for Empowerment Grant

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

The application deadline for the current grant cycle is **January 31, 2018.**

Name: E-Mail:

Address:

Name of Project:

Description/Purpose of Project:

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

Project Timeline:

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

Does project/funding request involve matching funds?

Progress Report:.....

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

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

Please contact Ron Roller at rollerolson@gmail.com or 1-218-495-3235 for additional information.

Selection Criteria

Unitarian Church of Underwood (UCU) Grant Period_____

Empowerment Grant Ranking Scorecard

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

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

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

C. Will project be managed by UCU member?

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

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

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

E. Will project funds be matched?

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

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

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

1
2
3
4
5
6
7

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