

The Unitarian Church of Underwood is a welcoming community of diverse people where our celebration of life and common search for meaning bind us together.

Unitarian Church of Underwood

PO Box 58, 206 North Main Street

Underwood

Phone: 218/826-6553

Website: www.ucofu.org

www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org

Sunday Services 10 a.m.

January 6 - Bob Worner,
"How to Warm and Cool Our
Earth"

January 13 - Luther Aadland,
"Reconnecting Rivers: Webs
of Life"

January 20 - - Sherry
Bruckner, "What's happening
at the US Border?"

January 27 - Rene Meyer-
Grinberg on her travel to
Transylvania



Children's RE Program Players, 2018

January 2019 Newsletter

January 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Happy New Year!!	2	3	4	5
6 Bob Worner "How to Warm and Cool Our Earth" Adult RE 8:45 am Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Children's RE 10:00-11:15 am	7 AA 7 pm	8 Battle Lake/Underwood U Group 3 pm @ Joanne Cress'	9 Speakers Committee 3:30 pm @ #300 Stewardship Committee 5:30 @ #300 Alexandria U Group 7 pm @ Widseth... Office Bldg	10 Perham U Group 6:30 @ Stan Carignan's	11	12
13 Luther Aadland - "Reconnecting Rivers: Webs of Life" Adult RE 8:45 am Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Children's RE 10:00-11:15 am	14 AA 7 pm	15	16 Board Meeting 5:30 pm @ #300	17 FF U Group 6:30 pm @ Diana Ziesemer's	18	19
20 - Sherry Bruckner, "What's happening at the US Border?" Adult RE 8:45 am Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Children's RE 10:00-11:15 am	21 AA 7 pm	22	23 Space Planning Task Force 5:30 pm #300	24	25	26
27 Rene Meyer-Grinberg, Trip to Transylvania Adult RE 8:45 am Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Children's RE 10:00-11:15 am	28 AA 7 pm	29	30	31 **	** Empowerment Grant Applications Due January 31 See December newsletter for form or get one at church.	

Coming in January

January 6 – Bob Worner, “How to Warm and Cool Our Earth” addressing UU Principle #7: *“Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.”*



January 13 – Luther Aadland, “Reconnecting Rivers: Webs of Life,” also addressing UU Principle #7. Rivers are networks that connect ecosystems and provide habitat for a tremendous diversity of aquatic life. By constructing thousands of dams and other barriers, humanity has fragmented this web of life and caused depletion, extirpation, and extinction of fish, mussels, and other organisms. Freshwater extinction rates are dire and estimated to be five times those in terrestrial landscapes but, through barrier removal, we have been able to restore critical connections and help to bring back rare species, biodiversity and ecosystem health. Local and national examples will be shared. Like rivers, humanity cannot live in isolation. “Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together, all things connect.”....*Chief Seattle*

Luther has worked as a river scientist for the Minnesota DNR since 1987. His career has been oriented towards understanding and restoring river ecosystems.



January 20 - Sherry Bruckner, “What’s happening at the US Border?” UU Principles 1, 2, 6 & 7.

In October 2018, Sherry Bruckner joined a travel delegation through Abriendo Fronteras-Opening Borders. The group traveled to El Paso, Texas and Juarez, Mexico to better understand what is happening at the U.S./Mexico border. They shared meals and space with asylum seekers, met with U.S. border patrol and a human rights attorney, visited a migrant work center and a detention center, and met

many people who give their lives to loving our neighbors.

Abriendos Fronteras- Opening Borders has a two fold emphasis on opening borders of our minds, and thinking in new ways about people of other cultures.

Note: Sherry shares the above picture that she took at the border wall.

January 27 - Rene Meyer-Grinberg will share with us her experience of traveling to Transylvania, the early home of Unitarianism.



Monthly Greeting from Board President, Kris Warhol

We are grateful for religious belonging in this caring and concerned community. We provide a deep human need that we all seek. We are all about building church, building worship, creating fellowship as we grow.

"Our human compassion binds us to the other not in pity or patronizing but as human beings who have learnt how to turn our common suffering into hope for the future." Nelson Mandela

Experience this new year as one filled with gratitude; simply as a gift to serve out our faith. The entirety of being "churched" is not only in ministering; it is both fellowship and fun. This isn't time for a casual faith. This faith requires greater commitment and generosity. We need to practice love as our foundation. We invite you to show up and contribute in meaningful ways. It is together that we minister.

We say we are committed to justice, compassion, and equity in human relations. Where will our work, our places, our gifts help build community? Our faith is calling more from us currently. We are called to be leaders. Within these spaces and as our hearts spread the love, gratitude follows.

We are grateful to our board, to JoAnn, to the Celebrants, committee members, U Group Facilitators, and to you our members. We are grateful for your time, your talents, your financial contributions paying to keep the doors open.

We invite you to show us and experience this new year as one filled with love. Come be inspired. Come be grateful. Come be loved. *MK Warhol*



Children's Religious Education

After preparing with Bonnie Albers and other helpers, the children did a fantastic job in presenting their annual Christmas program. There are more pictures with the description further below on the December 16 Sunday program.



Thanks to Ron Graham and Susan Groff who took some time to organize the Children's RE space. It is hard to remember to put stuff away when we are having so much fun! Susan and Ron also created a secret hide-away for the kids at church. If invited, check it out. They were assisted in their effort with advice from Sandy Barnhouse and curtain sewing by Mary Anderson.

Children's RE parents provided wonderful treats for fellowship time after the Children's program. As always **Many, Many THANKS** to parents/grandparents for bringing your kids and to all who volunteer to lead Children's Religious Education or help out in other ways!! If others out there wish to volunteer to help with Children's RE, contact Mary Anderson @ maryanderson8380@msn.com or 218/346-6638 or Kris Warhol @ mwarhol7up@gmail.com or 218/205-1644. Mary Anderson/Kris Warhol – Children's Religious Education Coordinators.

January Children's Religious Education Schedule

January 6	Jon Solinger	Ron Graham	UUA "Home," lesson #7
January 13	Ron Graham	Lillie Kaye	UU Sources
January 20	Ron Graham	TBD	" "
January 27	Ron Graham	TBD	" "

Empowerment Grant Application Time! Applications Due January 31, 2019

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF UNDERWOOD EMPOWERMENT GRANT APPLICATION NOW OPEN
The Unitarian Church of Underwood is pleased to once again offer funding of the 2019-2020 Empowerment Grants. These grants are made to encourage church members to develop projects that will have a positive effect on our communities at large. These projects may be related to any number of social or environmental issues, including poverty, education, ecology, alternative energy, & nutrition. The projects may be of varying time and cost, but all will be initiated and managed by the requesting applicant(s). This is an excellent opportunity for church members to make an impact on an issue they feel strongly about in the community around them. The deadline for grant applications is **January 31, 2019**.

For full details, please see the December Newsletter (available at www.ucofu.org or pick up an application form at church. Submit completed application with six (6) copies. Please contact Ron Roller at rollerolson@gmail.com or 218-495-3235 for additional information.

StayⁱⁿformED

To be included to regularly receive weekly church reports and monthly newsletters, or to remove your name from the list, please contact Ellen Eastby @ eastofellen@hotmail.com

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

Contact JoAnn Larson @ redswilds@gmail.com for Sunday announcements and local media notifications.

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

**Website:
www.ucofu.org**

Newsletter Submissions due prior to Issuance the 1st of each month

Please submit your ideas, articles and photos to: maryanderson8380@msn.com or maryleonaanderson@gmail.com

Editing: Stephanie Sanderson

Emailing/mailling: 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 and Facebook Page.

Newsletter comes out on the 1st of each month via email. They are also posted at www.ucofu.org.

Nurture Your Spirit ...

U Group Schedule (Meetings Monthly)

- Alexandria U-Group: 2nd Wed @ 7:00 pm @ the office building of Widseth, Smith & Nolting Office Bldg., 610 Fillmore, Alexandria: Facilitators: Lee Becker/Susan Sanford
- Battle Lake U Group, the 2nd Tuesday @ 3:00 p.m. @ home of Joanne Cress and Luke Anderson. Facilitators: Bob Worner/Joanne Cress.
- Fergus Falls U-Group: 3rd 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. alternating between homes of Stan Carignan or Mary Anderson. 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 or 218/205-1644 or Shannon Smith @ shannonsmith20@gmail.com Or 320/630-6229

Adult Religious Education Classes & Mindfulness Sitting

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

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

3rd 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. Chapter discussions, followed by 20 minutes of mindfulness practice.

4th Sunday of the month, 8:45-9:45 a.m. Bob Worner leads the discussion.

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

THANK YOU!!

John Minge for the delicious and plentiful curry dinner. There are left-overs so look forward to upcoming after service treats!

Bonnie Bell for writing, directing and moderating the annual Children's Christmas Program!!

Bob & Mary Worner for the beautiful, live Christmas tree!

Ellen Eastby for planning and presenting the awesome, inspiring Christmas Eve Service!!

All those who make every Sunday and all other days special to **members and friends** of the Unitarian Church of Underwood!!

Notes from December Speakers/Events



December 2 - The featured speaker was **Naomi Schliesman** with her talk on **"Home and Places/Spaces."**

Naomi spoke of her journey as an artist and coming back home to Fergus Falls. She comes from a family of "makers and laborers and givers." Her first-grade teacher still has her sketch book from when at six she was already doing 3-D art. Illness, death and space have shaped who she is as an artist. She learned from her family how to surround ourselves with art daily.

After her formal schooling, Naomi had an internship in Vermont where she shared time and space with people from around the world. She has been to Scotland, the Isle of Harris where she participated in the harvesting of peat building pyramids of peat, hearing the Gaelic language spoken, watching the transport of the dog in the trunk – seeing creators and communities and cultural differences.

She visited Amsterdam observing the architecture, museums, street art.

She collaborated with Joan Mikkelson in Nebraska City, Nebraska working with students at a school for the blind building a big boot with the inside portraying the student's telling of the journey of Lewis and Clark.

She came to Kirkbride where once everyone was important. That helped build in her greater awareness of mental health and working in collaboration with community. She with others, found ways to give children a voice with "Paint the Kirkbride," holding art classes for kids. Kids today with all the technology are losing hand/eye coordination that builds critical thinking.

Her art reflects home, pyramids, growth, color. Her current exhibit is *Silver Lining 2018*. She works with many other artists in and through the community. Just yesterday there was a celebration "Over the River" in Fergus Falls with many artists coming together, sharing in and with the community. At least 367 people participated.

She credits her grandmother for learning to care for others, her grandfather for his furniture making, her mother for her fashion interests, her father for his carpentry, still helping her with her builds and installations. And her daughter, Zara who has already had three exhibitions and sold a painting. A year ago, Zara lost her speech and had some balance issues, but they are working together using music, painting, drawing and Zara is improving.

Kindness has a ripple effect. We need to show little acts of kindness daily.

See: www.naomischliesman.org

Podcast at: <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/home-and-placesspaces-naomischliesman-december-2-2018>

Attendance: 55

Kirkbride



Kaddatz for Kids




December 9 – Bob Worner’s message, **“The Gifts We Bring”** was based on UU principle #3. Bob began by describing an experience when he was asked to speak at the memorial service of a man he did not know very well; they had visited while their daughters played ball in school. However, Bob realized that he was a scientist at NDSU. He studied wheat and was a part of the “green revolution” – development of crops that could feed a growing world.

By holding on to and developing these gifts of the spirit, we can give to the world in many arenas:

- Galatians 5: 22-23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law.”

Attendance: 47



Bonnie told the congregation of her trepidation to be one of the first teachers in these precious young lives to talk about one of the most famous human beings that lived, Jesus, and do it from her Unitarian Universalist perspective. Using the Jefferson Bible and our hymnal, *Singing in the Living Tradition*, Bonnie found the story to share with the children.

This famous man, Jesus changed the course of history and spoke a message including the golden rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you". From the stories of the Old Testament to the stories of Jesus in the New Testament, we have a kinder, gentler, example of how to be human. Jesus said "Truly, truly I say to you, whatever you do to one of the least of my brethren, you do to me." Matthew 25:40.

Now the ubiquitous holiday, Christmas is part and parcel of our culture and has blanketed many geographic areas around the world. What Christmas has become is the celebration of children and family. Each family remembers the precious nature of the newborn and the care and love needed to enable a child to live a full life of opportunity and love and joy.

Bonnie also reflected how the circumstance of Jesus' birth are likened to refugee families traveling today, no doubt with babies born along the way. She also reminded us that Jesus' family was "blended family": Joseph would be regarded as a step-dad. It reminds us that it doesn't matter who is mom or dad in your life, but more importantly that you have committed loving adults in a child's life.

During the lessons in preparation of the program, she'd imagined with the children Mary's full belly on the route to Bethlehem to be registered by the government, walking and riding perhaps on the donkey now and again. They imagined having no place to stay when baby Jesus was to be born until the Innkeeper shared his stable. They shared stories of what a stable is and what the inside of a stable would contain and how the family could be comforted by the animals when the baby Jesus was born. They pretended in class to be these animals practicing their moves and sounds.



During the service we sang "Jesus Our Brother" that spoke from the perspectives of the donkey, the cow, the sheep, and the dove - how they helped the



baby be welcomed and comforted. This song helped us remember the interdependent web of existence. We cannot survive alone but only in a symbiotic way with the larger whole of the planet. We are one whole.

Next, we sang "We Three Kings of Orient Are" telling the story of the wise men who visited Jesus following the star of Bethlehem to find him. Wise(wo)men of the ages were



portrayed by Kris Warhol, Bob Worner and Richard Kagan. They shared wisdom notes with the kids and congregation and a collection of children's books for the church library.

To encourage everyone to share the message of the service, we concluded with singing, "Go Tell it on the Mountain." Share the good news, share the celebration of family.

We ended with Mary Worner playing "Let It Be A Dance" to accompany the children and Budd Andrews playing with Budd's own hand made dancing dolls, a true Christmas tradition at the Underwood Unitarian Church!



Attendance: 61

No podcast this date. *Note: Photos courtesy of Jon Solinger*

December 23 Katy Olson's talk was "Witnessing for Peace, Oaxaca, NAFTA, and Corn" in which she shared the experiences she had on an 8-day trip to Oaxaca, Mexico that was sponsored by a program called Witness for Peace. She and several others worked and ate and talked with a number of people around the area (mostly small farmers) who are working to maintain sustainable, earth (and people) friendly lifestyles and practices.

According to their website: "Witness for Peace Midwest works at the grassroots level to promote awareness and activism regarding U.S. policies in Latin America through delegations, speaker tours, and local events and actions. With our partners in Latin America, we seek to build peace, justice, and sustainable economies for all people."

Katy began by describing some of the ill effects that NAFTA, and other international policies, have had on the Mexican people. Jobs have been lost; the poverty rate has increased; small farmers have been displaced; there have been struggles against corporate and transnational agricultural, mining, and manufacturing operations.

She explained that Oaxaca is the birthplace of cultivated corn. It has been grown for at least 2500 years and has been integral in their culture and nutrition. There are ~130 different varieties of corn. Things

changed with the invasion by the Spanish – land and forests were destroyed as resources were extracted. Some of the resources went to build the 18 ornate cathedrals in the Oaxaca area. The future of diverse types of corn is in danger from companies such as Monsanto who would like to have a monopoly (and monoculture) of corn.

The operations Katy interacted with had several goals in common – preserving the local culture, farming sustainably, improving the health of the land and the people, adapting to climate change which has interfered with predictable rain patterns. One site was a center for developing ‘human scaled appropriate technology for rural Mexican communities’ – healthier cooking stoves, vermiculture, making buildings earthquake proof, and aquaculture.

Katy provided a packet of additional information and resource materials.

Attendance: 43

Podcast at: <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/katy-olson-december-23-2018-witnessing-for-peace-oaxaca-nafta-corn>

December 24 – Ellen Eastby led the **Christmas Eve service**, giving a brief message, **“The Weary World Rejoices – A Message of Hope.”** Traditional caroles were sung with accompaniment by Mary Worner. Readings were given by Lee Hamness, Lee Becker, Stephanie Sanderson and Mary Anderson. Shannon Smith, Steve Berg and Linda Quistad-Berg provided special music. The collection taken will go to The Welcome Place in Pelican Rapids. About 40 members and friends attended. This annual, traditional Christmas Eve service is one we look forward to in making our Christmas celebrations even more meaningful.



December 30 - Local hip-hop artist, Kevin Hutchinson talked about “A Musical Journey on Hip Hop & More.” Kevin was a New Yorker who moved to Minnesota where he has learned what the rural, Midwest is about – that includes tractor pulls with Chuck Adelsman. He thought about relocating but has been offered a job at Lake Region and will be moving soon from Underwood to Fergus Falls.

Kevin is a master of all trades but primarily a musician. He was a quiet child and has learned over the years to use his tools to build his musical trade. He has used his Diabetes to gain intelligence, wisdom, understanding, insight. He has had time alone to think, reassess, become a bright ray of sunshine to others and embrace change. It is “just me,” so he has found family in community. He realized that his musical talent is a spiritual gift to be shared with others. If that is just one person, that is ok.

He told the story of being on tour in a Russian town where he and his Russian friend encountered a woman homeless who said she’d never before seen a “Black, American person.” Her hug and kiss of Kevin was to her “worth more than gold.” Afterward, some minutes of

silence elapsed between Kevin and his friend who realized that they'd been told as kids in the same playground, "don't play together." But now we can cherish the old and embrace new teachings.

Kevin shared the poem he's written, "We've Come a Long Way." To listen to Kevin's talk and his full poem, click on the podcast at: <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/a-musical-journey-on-hip-hop-and-more>.

Attendance: 29

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.

Behind the Scenes

Calling themselves, the "G-Team," Susan Groff & Ron Graham tackle many projects unbeknownst to the rest of us. They clean, they repair, they arrange. And they tackle many other improvements, like finishing the sunporch in the Suites. Here is Susan shampooing the lower level carpeting and the results of their cleaning and re-organizing the Children's Religious Education room with the help of Sandy Barnhouse. If you spot them or other invisible volunteers, snap a picture and send so we can give them due credit. It is all much appreciated!!





"I choose love and light. I make mistakes and fail to live up to my intention at times but, with all my heart I choose Love and that helps me see the good and bad in myself and all my sisters and brothers on this planet instead of applying superficial labels onto groups of fellow humans. If you cannot see yourself as you are, shadow and all, (e.g. "*better than*" someone else) you will benefit from working to open your eyes and seeing the reality of yourself and others with eyes of compassion." *Kathleen Oettinger*

"The birds they sang at break of day / Start again I heard them say / Don't dwell on what has passed away or what is yet to be / Ring the bells that still can ring / Forget your perfect offering / There is a crack in everything / That's how the light gets in." *Leonard Cohen*

"At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us."
Albert Schweitzer

Note: above "swiped" by this Editor from the Christmas letter of Carole Mitchell and Cindy Johnson.

Sharings from Welcome Place Pelican Rapids

The Perham U Group served lunch at the Pelican Rapids Welcome Place in November and plan to do so again as it was an easy and worthwhile community project for the group. Katherine Jordahl, the Faith Community Nurse there followed up with a thank you and an offer to provide a monthly health related topic article as she does for other area churches for their newsletters. Usually, it is related to a monthly health observance (breast cancer, heart disease, etc.) But this month she sends one less serious but "seriously" needed. Enjoy!

Twas the Month after Christmas

Twass the month after Christmas and all through the house
Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse
The cookies I'd nibbled, the egg nog I'd taste
All the holiday parties had gone to my waist
I'd remember the marvelous meals I'd prepared
The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared
The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese
And the way I'd never said "no, thank you please"
So away with the last of the sour cream dip
Get rid of the fruitcake, every cracker and chip
Every bit of food that I like must be banished
Till all the additional pounds have vanished
I won't have a cookie, not even a lick
I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick
I won't have hot biscuits or corn bread or pie
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry
I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore
But isn't that what January is for
Unable to giggle, no longer a riot
Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!
-anonymous

*Submitted by Katherine Jordahl,
Faith Community Health Nurse
The Welcome Place
Box 431
26 W Mill
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218.863.2260
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Living out our Principles

Report from MNIPL

Recipient of 2018 Empowerment Grant



Julia Nerbonne, Executive Director at Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light reported to UCU Empowerment Grant sponsor, Janell Miersch how they used the 2018 Empowerment Grant monies they received of \$1000.00. Julia was a featured Sunday speaker at church in xxx. MNIPL is an interfaith community co-creating a just and sustainable world working in partnership with faith communities to build

transformative **power** and bring the **lights** of people's unique gifts to addressing the climate crisis.

"Hello Janell!

Thanks for your note, and for stewarding this important grant. In general we reserve congregational grants to pay for our core programming, the stuff that doesn't get covered by fancy grants. This year your funds helped to cover Devon's (*Devon Cupery, Engagement & Development Manager*) time to write a newsletter each month, and supporting two Quaker Voluntary Service Fellows to work on supporting MNIPL Teams. Alina Yamen was assigned to work on the Pipeline Resistance Team and has been doing things like organizing the Headwater's event, coordinating with the MN Council of Churches to request meetings with DOC and Mark Dayton's staff. Taylor Wicklund worked on bringing together a policy team to support state policy work.

See our 2018 Highlights [here.](#)"

Julia Nerbonne
Executive Director
MNIPL
(612) 810-1577
julia@mnipl.org

Note: Janell Miersch was among the many at the Headwater event with article and photos in a previous newsletter. Janell is the UCU designated Connector to MNIPL.

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 at 218-329-2883 or bahoner@yahoo.com.

Film, "Before the Flood" **January 20, 2019** **2:00 p.m. at the Center for the Arts** **Fergus Falls**

There will be a free showing of the film, "Before the Flood", on January 20th at 2:00 p.m., at the Center for the Arts in Fergus Falls. Academy Award winning filmmaker Fisher Stevens and actor, environmental activist, Leonardo DiCaprio, collaborated on the project which presents the riveting account of changes now occurring around the world due to climate change. The

film follows DiCaprio as he travels to five continents and the Arctic speaking to scientists, world leaders, activists and residents to gain a deeper understanding of this complex issue and investigate possible solutions.

The filmmakers were able to obtain interviews with some of the world's most influential figures, including Barack Obama and Pope Francis, as they traveled from the Great Canadian Oil Sands, to Sumatra's palm oil fields, and on to Central Pacific islands, with major stops at locations in China, India, America and the Arctic circle. They also interviewed prominent international scientists who are currently playing key roles in understanding and combating climate change.

"Time is not a luxury we have," said DiCaprio. "Our natural world is quickly nearing unprecedented, irreversible and catastrophic change that threatens the very future of humankind. I didn't want the film to scare people, or present them with statistics and facts that they already know, but to focus on what can and must be done immediately so that we can leave our planet a livable home for future generations. We are quickly running out of time."

The film is being sponsored by the local chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby, a non-profit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization, focused on national policies to address climate change. Because of the current political divide on this issue, the CCL proposes a respectful nonpartisan approach to climate education by building upon shared values rather than partisan divides, and empowering supporters to work in keeping with concerns of their local community. Their primary proposal focuses on contacting representatives of congress on both sides of the aisle to consider enacting a carbon fee which would then filter down as a dividend.

The showing of the film will be followed by refreshments and an optional discussion for those who would like to learn more about climate change issues and what they might do to participate in a respectful, nonpartisan approach towards fair, effective and sustainable solutions. *Submitted by Diane Johnson, Dbjohnson1938@gmail.com. Telephone: 218-736-9001.*



Despite active legal challenges, Enbridge (a Canadian oil company) is starting the construction process for the Line 3 pipeline, stockpiling pipes and clearing trees along the route. Line 3 is an oil sands crude oil pipeline that runs from Hardisty, Alberta to Superior, Wisconsin including a

338-mile route through Minnesota. Although the agreement will remove the aging Line 3 pipeline from the Leech Lake tribal land, the new route will be placed on land owned by Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

On June 4, 2018, rabbis, imams, priests, pastors, deacons, elders, and others among thousands of people of faith and conscience joined together to oppose the Line 3 pipeline. Speaking with one voice, asking the Public Utilities Commission to reject the Enbridge Line 3 tar sands pipeline because of the harm it would do to the Anishinaabe people. Then in September, at the invitation of the water protectors, over 150 people gathered at the headwaters of the Mississippi River in Itasca State Park to honor our sacred waters.

Over 500 faith leaders from Minnesota and the surrounding area signed our written [letters](#) in opposition of the proposed Enbridge Line 3 Pipeline Replacement Project crossing the headwaters of the Mississippi River. The letters were delivered to Governor Dayton's office and Minnesota's Public Utilities Commission.

Line 3, one of the world's largest tar sands pipelines, is a threat to our communities and climate and **it's up to US (you and me) to provide a clear moral voice**. What can you do? Make a donation to "Honor the Earth" at their web site <http://www.honorearth.org>. You can also learn more about Enbridge and events you can attend to oppose Line 3 at www.stopline3.org. There are ongoing protests and public gatherings. Stay informed about this topic.



*Save these February Dates
Watch for Further Information*
Celebrate in Gratitude
Date to be Announced

The Stewardship Committee will be sponsoring an after Sunday service appreciation dinner to celebrate with gratitude all that we receive and all that we give to the Unitarian Church of Underwood. Further details will be in the February Newsletter and other announcements.

"Love Reaches Out"
Phil Lund, MidAmerica Consultant at
Willmar UU Sunday Service, February 17

(Workshop afternoon February 16)

**Someplace Safe
Celebrating 40 Years
16th Annual Tea Fundraiser
Saturday, February 16, 2019**

If interested in helping serve, please contact Kris Warhol at 218/205-1644 or mwarhol7up@gmail.com.



2015 Servers



2018 Servers



2012 Table

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



**Unitarian Church of Underwood parish on the north and church probably taken around 1950 because it appears there is excavation going on for the Rolfson steps installed about that time.
Photos courtesy of Meadville Education**



Entitled "Our Social Service Committee on church steps with parsonage to left." Recognize any of them? Let Norm Kolstad, our Historian know if you do. Church interior taken some time after 1966, known because Charles Beck symbol at front was created in 1965-66.

This year, 2019, the Unitarian Church of Underwood celebrates 130 years! This and upcoming issues of the newsletters will provide features on our history. If you have some to share, please send it!

Kris Warhol had the foresight already back in 2002 to engage the services of Hilma Bjornstad, granddaughter of one of the original founders, to translate the earliest recorded minutes from 1888 – 1923 from Norwegian to English. Norm Kolstad, Ellen Eastby and Amy Beckman are also

descendants of early founders, Christian and Anna Kolstad. Norm has scanned these original handwritten documents into Google.Docs. The hard-copies will be preserved for safe-keeping. The typed versions are included below for you to contemplate as we near the 130th year of this church that was established in 1889. See if you are struck by a couple humorous mentions recorded in the minutes.

Record Maintenance Committee: Norm Kolstad (chair), Mary Anderson, JoAnn Larson, John Minge, Kris Warhol.

Articles of Incorporation Filed for Record August 13, 1889 at ?? Register Information 10269

Articles of Incorporation of The Free Christian Church of Underwood Minnesota

Whereas the undersigned Hans P. Bjorge, Petter Jenson, Martin Q. Nass, Christian O. Kolstad, Anne O. Kolstad and Josefa Medjaa, all of Underwood County of Otter Tail and State of Minnesota and members of a certain religious society, deem it advisable to have said society created and organized a religious corporation within this state, for the purpose and with the powers specified in the Statutes of the state in such case made and provided and have associated with themselves certain other persons for that purpose, also members of the aforesaid religious society.

Therefore know all men by these presents that we Hans P. Bjorge, Petter Jenson, Martin O. Nass, Christian O. Kolstad, Anne O. Kolstad and Josefa Medjaa, do hereby associate ourselves together for the purpose of becoming incorporated under the manner and for the purpose hereinafter stated pursuant to the provisions of Title four (4) Chapter thirty four (34) of the General Statutes of 1878 of this state and we do hereby adopt and sign the following Articles of Incorporation.

Article 1

The name of this corporation shall be: The Free Christian Church of Underwood Minnesota, and the place of its location shall be Underwood in the County of Otter Tail and State of Minnesota.

Article 2

The general purpose of this corporation shall be to take charge of and manage all the temporal affairs of the said church or religious society, to take charge of and hold property, real and personal, that may at any time or in any amount come to or vest in that corporation for any purpose whatsoever, whether by purchase, gifts, grant, devise or otherwise and, to mortgage the same, bargain, sell, convey and otherwise dispose of it as the necessities or advantages of this corporation may require.

Article 3

The officers of this corporation shall be a president, a vice president, a secretary and a treasurer. These officers shall be elected on the first Tuesday in January each year and serve for the period of one year or until their successions are declined and qualified. There shall also be five trustees who shall serve as follows: One for the period of one year, two for the period of two years and two for the period of three years or until their successions are elected and qualified, except as follows, that it to say: At the next annual election for the election of officers as above stated, one trustee shall be elected for one year, two for two years and two for three years, and at each subsequent annual election, trustees shall be elected for three years to fill the places of those trustees whose terms of office then expires.

Article 4

The said trustees shall constitute a board in which shall be vested the management of all the temporal affairs of said church. The other officers shall perform the duties incident to the office of each of them.

Article 5

Any person pledging him or herself to live an upright and honorable life shall become a member of this corporation upon applying to one of its officers, and all members over eighteen years of age shall be entitled to speak and vote at the meetings and elections, but members less than eighteen years old shall not vote.

Article 6

Special meeting may be called when so desired by not less than five members who are entitled to vote. At all meetings nine members entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum.

Article 7

If a vacancy occurs in any office, it may be filled by an election at any special meeting.

Article 8

If a faction should arise among the members of the church and such faction should withdraw from the church the property which the church may then own shall then be divided between the corporation or church and such faction in the manner provided by a constitution of the church adopted by the present members thereof.

Article 9

Until the next annual election to wit: until the first Tuesday in January 1890 and until their successors are elected and qualified as above provided, the officers of the church shall be as follows: President Hans P. Bjorge, Vice President, John Trondson, secretary, Otto Wilsby, Treasurer John O. Kolstad, Trustees Petter Jenson, Martin O. Nass, Christian O. Kolstad, Anne O. Kolstad and Josefa Medjaa.

In Witness Whereof said parties hereunto set their hands and seals this day of –

A.D. 1889

Signed sealed and Delivered in presence of
Christ Robertson, - Jens Jensen

Hans P. Bjorge (seal)
Peder Jensen (seal)
Martin O. Ness (seal)

**Unitarian Church of Underwood
Old Minutes as Translated from Norwegian
By Helma Bjornstad, 2002**

(typed by Mary L. Anderson 10/18 with spellings & punctuation as recorded in Hilma Bjornstad's writings)

May 22, 2002

I wish to thank the members of the Underwood Church for allowing me to translate the Norwegian minutes of their Congregation. They go all the way back to Jan. 13, 1889. Their first Secretary was Otto Nilsby, my grandfather. He was my mother's father. They called themselves "The Free Christian Congregation" at that time.

It was a special privilege to read Grandfather's lovely Spencerian hand writing, I do hope the old records will be preserved for future generations to see. The book is especially frail and should have a special place for storage because of its historical value.

Sincerely,
Hilma Bjornstad

Sunday, Jan 13, 1889 first meeting
1st Pres.- H P. Bjorge
1st Sec. Otto Nilsky
Name of church - The Free Christian Congregation.

Second Meeting - Sat. Oct 12, 1889 Christofer Johnson visitor
Discussion how to raise funds for the congregation. Met at Union Hall.
Decided to have Kristofer Jonson come once in Nov. and once in Dec.

Met at Hall on Sept 7th 1889
Mrs. Anna Kolstad, Mrs Medjaa, Pedar Jensen, Martin Nass, Kristian Kolstad as trustees. Johan Trondson V. Pres. Johan Kolstad Treas.

Tuesday Jan. 14th at Union Hall
Annual Meeting. All elected for definite terms.

Met May 1, 1890 to purchase cemetery Lot from Ole Foss - 1 acre for \$20.00. Each head of family pay \$1.00.

Met 21st Sept 1890. Decided to have Student J. Braute of Meadville to help go back to school and Otto Nelsby & H.P. Bjorge to fill in on other occasions during late fall and winter. H.P. Bjorge was directed to get a surveyor for the cemetery Lot.

Jan. 13, 1891 Annual Meeting

Pres. - Otto Nilsby

V. Pres - Johan Thronson

Sec. H.P. Bjorge

Treas - John O. Kolstad

Decided to have Kristofer Janson come 6 times a year

May 13, 1891 Decided to have J. Braute for 1 year Sal. \$100 jointly with Fergus Falls.

July 5, 1891 with Braute as Pastor

First Sunday School Picnic on Gunderson's farm near Turtle Lake. Committee - Jonette Bjorge, Alma Trondson, Josepha Medjaa, Emelia Gronner & Anna Jensen.

Annual Meeting Jan, 4th 1892

Six new members- Eric Holte, John Grommer, Emelia Gronner, Nils Eliason, Evan Sether & Henndreck Sether. All officers reelected Closed meeting by singing "Fader vi take dig" "Father We Thank Thee"

H.P. Bjorge Sec.

Jan. 11, 1892 First discussion of having a church building of their own. Otto Nilsby Pres president.

Committee selected to investigate

John Gronner, Johon Trondsen, J Braute, Miss Anna Jensen, Mrs. Medjaa & Mrs. Kittson

Established a Church Fund

1893 - Met at Union Hall to discuss possible pastors to come to Underwood. Were advised to write Rev. Norman of Mpls. That maybe he could come by on his trips to North Dakota.

10th Jan. 1893 Annual Meeting

Jan. 16, 1894 Having a hard time to find pastors who could serve them. After much communication with A.U.A. It was decided that Branti was to become Pastor 2 times a month for 1 year. Visited by Pastor Norman of Mpls. Student Samuel Garborg from Meadville, PA. John L. Eriksen from Crookston. First death in congregation was Johan Kolstad.

1895 - Cemetery Committee appt.

H.P. Bjorge, John Thronson, Otto Nilsby

Decided to build arch over cemetery gate - Otto Nilsby was to conduct services the first Sun. of every month. Six, was instructed to correspond and try to get John L. Eriksen from Crookston and Rev. Norman from Mpls at various Sun. every month.

1897. Pastor Erikson present for meeting gave a special sermon.

Officer elected. Pres - Peder Jensen

V. Pres N.O., Bondelid

Sec - Hans Olson

Cashier John Gronner

S.School Supt. Jonette Bjorge

Learner - Otto Nilsby

New members welcomed were Brede Tildal, Nels Bondelieb and families are welcomed.

Committee formed to see what it would cost to build a church.

1898 Annual Meeting. Jan. 11, 1898

New Members - Anna Jensen, Marie Jensen, Nils Anderson, Jens Jensen & family, Peder

Habbeck & family, Mrs. Chris. L. Mae & family

Hans Olson Sec.

Oct. 16, 1898 Pastor John S Erickson

H.P. Bjorke elected Sec. Pastor Haugrad recommended Pastor Norman promised to be here on Jan 15th.

Oct 31, 1899 - Letter from Pastor Haugrad read and a letter to H.P. Bjorge from the Unity Church at St. Cloud. H.P. Bjorge to state Annual meeting in Duluth the 20-27th. Bringing report to conference of what was happening in Underwood.

Jan. 8, 1900 - V. Pres. N.O. Bondelid presiding. Sec. John Trondson. Letter read from Pastor Herman Haugrad of Hudson, Wisc.

Officer elected:

Pres - Peder Jensen

V Pres - N.O. Bondelid

Cashier - John Gronner

Sun. School Supt - Mrs. Anna Kolstad

Teachers - Miss Anna Jensen Hans Olson - Otto Nilsky Theo, Skjoldal

First request from A.U.A. for contribution to Mission Fund.

First mention that the women entertained after meeting and that Otto Nilsby entertained with something humorous and they all left feeling they had a wonderful time.

1901 Wrote to Rev. Norman to see if he could come and later Rev. Peterson of Duluth. New Member Dr. Jargens and Charly Hagbergh.

Also Odin Loseth took back a false rumor about Rev. Peterson of Duluth as having an eye out for women. He apologized to our Congregation. J.J. Stordalsvold of Mpls. Mrs Alma Trondson passed away. Selma Thronson became Sun. School Supt.

1902 - A.U.A. donated \$100 and Rev. Peterson of Duluth came six months of the year as Pastor.

1903 - Paying for Hall

1904 - Bjorge & Sjoldal Hall

Request from Mission Fund

Committee to see if they should purchase Union Hall. Mmrs. Bjorge, Miss Anna Jensen Otto Nilsby, John Bronner, H P. Bjorge.

Purchased Union Hall 15th Nov. 1904 for \$300. New members Jens P. Larson and Marie Larson.

18th Jan 1905 – Served by Rev. Norman and Rev. Erikson. Named committee to see that the Hall was redecorated.

9th Jan. 1906 Pastor L. Hagerup Nissan was to come the 1st & 3rd Sundays Congregations at Minneapolis, Hanska and Hudson, Wisc. ?? to socialize by sending delegates to those other congregations. Elected 3 delegates to go to St. Pau Scandinavian Congregations of the Northwestern Conference. Delegates chosen were – Peder Jensen, Hans P. Bjorge & Otto Nilsby.

Dec. 28, 1908 G.G. Moen called meeting to order. New officers elected were: Pres. G.G. Moen, V. Pres – Hans Olson, Sec. Otto Nilsby, Treas – John Gronner

1909 – Decided to divide cemetery into lots. Committee named – John Gronnor, G.G. Moen, C. O. Kolstad, Theo. Sjordal & Otto Nilsby as leader.

1910 – Decided to have cemetery lots fenced in.

1914 – Elof Hagen – Pres. Mrs. Rolfson Sec. Otto Nilsby Treas. Decided to have women give yearly reports on their meetings. New members: Mr & Mrs. Roffson, Mr. & Mrs. Hagen, Mr. & Mrs Alfred Gronnor Nils Norgren. Try for pastor once a month.

1915 – Committee named to see if a basement could be made under the church. Women's Group would pay for it.

1919 – Rev. Oswald E. Helsing first came to Underwood.

1923 – Wanted Rev. Helsing to start classes for older children and prepare for confirmation. Mrs Rolson – Sec.

History Mysteries

The Record Maintenance Committee had heard that the UU organization had historical records on Underwood, so Kris Warhol made contact. John Leeker, Associate Director of Library and Archives at Meadville Education promptly responded with an email providing the photos from their archives that you see above.

Perhaps even more interesting, John also included a lengthy letter dated January 29, 1942. The letter summarized an ongoing dispute on behalf of the church of Underwood and the AUA (the Unitarian predecessor to the UUA). The letter is evidently a copy and carries no signature of the sender, but only the initials FME.T. It was addressed to Miss Mary Babcock Abbott in St. Paul. It gave detailed explanation as to why the AUA had decided to no longer contribute grants for the minister. Apparently, Underwood had a minister, John Flint, who served from 1929 until 1940. AUA records showed that they had paid out \$12,379.95 in direct grants to his salary and that the Underwood church had paid toward three years of his support by “member subscription of \$586 and from Sunday collections only \$246.29.”

The sender gave a lengthy history to explain their actions because she said Miss Abbott, to whom the letter was directed, had used “fairly strong language in expressing her disapproval” of AUA’s decision to cut off further support to Mr. Flint. The letter was a summary of all AUA had done and why they made their decision to cease support for the ministry of Mr. Flint. It was their expectation that “Mr. Flint’s gift as a preacher and Evangelist would be utilized for the advancement of our faith.” Evidently, “Mr. Flint had hopes and plans for extension work in a larger region surrounding Underwood” and he had not proved successful. The letter sender knew Mr. Flint personally and she went on to state that it was her and other’s opinions that “only a church of Scandinavian background would provide the right setting for Mr. Flint” and that the “number of such churches in our fellowship is very small indeed, so there was little likelihood of Mr. Flint’s finding another church.”

Mystery questions: Who was the letter sender? Who was Miss Abbott and why was she so involved? Why was it that Mr. Flint could only serve Scandinavian churches? What happened to Mr. Flint?

** Some answers to the mysteries from Norm Kolstad: Click on: [Rev. Flint had a colorful career](#) and/or [He did not shy from politics.](#)

Norm further knew that Flint became pastor at the UU Church in Kent, Ohio from 1943-1962 and that he had died in 1976.

Norm doesn’t recognize the name, Mrs. Mary Babcock Abbott, although he says there are people in this area named Babcock and Abbott.

Norm doesn’t recognize the ladies in front of the steps, but surmises that the photo was taken between 1930 and 1950 “because the church steps look like wood, and they were replaced by the “Rolfson” steps just prior to 1950.”

To see the letter for yourself: https://meadville-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/library_meadville_edu/EniuoQBD98RPnkm736xkZgwBnhsVhRIYZjobcl0ocmIpg?e=AZnvmT

**UNITARIAN CHURCH OF UNDERWOOD
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES—NOVEMBER 21, 2018, BOARD MEETING**

Board members present: Tim Lanz, Connie Stigen, Bob Worner, Shannon Smith, Kris Warhol, Ron Roller, Dave Sanderson, and John Minge. [Ron arrived at 6 P.M. just before the Adult RE report.]
Board members absent: Darryl Booker and John Miersch.

The Meeting was called to order at 5:28 P.M. by Board President Kris Warhol.

1. The Meeting was opened with a reading. Bob read “The Last Word” by Peter Morales from The UU World.

1. Kris stated, after some discussion, that there would be no Board meeting in December as there was no need for one.
 2. Agenda: The proposed Agenda for this meeting was approved. (Worner/Sanderson)
 3. Minutes of the October, 2018, Board meeting were approved. (Sanderson/Smith)
 4. Stewardship Committee Report. Dave reported that the Committee had met the week before. It's looking at the book "Celebration of Giving". An event focusing on stewardship is being considered for either January or February of 2019. (January 27, February 10, or February 17 are possible dates.) It will focus on giving, receiving, and gratitude. The event might be a dinner after a Sunday church service. Dave also reported that a brochure on all aspects of stewardship is being put together in lieu of sending out a stewardship letter.
 5. Speakers Committee Report. Kris reported that speakers continue to be lined up for future church services. There was some discussion about trying harder to get "big name" speakers. Kris asked the Board members to come to the next Board meeting with such speaker suggestions as well as possible topics.
 6. Adult RE Report. Bob reported that attendance at his class has been very poor and that he might discontinue his class. John reported that his class is "bumping along"—that the attendance has not been great but that there have been three or four people who continue to show up. Kris reported that the Children's RE program has been succeeding beyond expectations and that those involved have really enjoyed it. There are at least four or five children every Sunday. The committee for the Children's RE met on October 21.
 7. Treasurer's Report. Ron submitted a written balance sheet for the period ending October 31, 2018, as well as a written profit and loss statement through the same period of time. The Church's investments have been fluctuating in value in recent months and are down a bit now. With regard to spending, the Church is a little under budget at this time. Ron also reported that, once the supporting Board minutes are presented to the bank, he would be moving some of the Church's money into an interest-bearing CD as previously authorized by the Board.
 8. Empowerment Grants. Ron reported that empowerment grant applications for the upcoming year will be ready in January, 2019. They will have to be completed and returned to the Church within just a few months. He said that the Board would have to set the amount to be granted. That amount has been \$10,000 for the last several years. An event—maybe a dinner—may take place for the purpose of recognizing what the grantees have done.
 9. Facilities Committee Report. Susan Groff prepared a written report that was presented to the Board by Kris. Kris reported that the cost of the mold study (previously approved by the Board) is \$700. A recommendation regarding what (if anything) should be done about mold is to be received once the study has been completed.
 10. Safety Committee Report. Kris made this report. She asked if a "de-escalation" training should be done at the Church. Dave said that he thinks that that is already part of the current Five-Year Plan. Connie said that such a training is very important. And Kris said that such a training is available free of charge from the County Sheriff's Department.
 11. New Business. Kris said that we are doing everything that is required by the current Five-Year Plan. She asked all of the Board members to review it and to comment on the progress that is being made in meeting the goals of the Plan. [NOTE: After the Board meeting, it was realized that we might be looking at the wrong plan—i.e., not the current Plan. Kris is going to go over this and make sure that we are looking at the current Plan.]
- The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 P.M. by Kris.
- The next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2019, at 5:30 at the Church.
- Respectfully submitted this 18th day of December, 2018.

/s/ John Minge_____