

## Unitarian Church of Underwood July, 2013 Newsletter

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.

**Reminder: Sunday Morning Service begins at 9:30 a.m. in June, July and August**

### Coming Up in June

#### **Sunday Morning Service Begins at 9:30**

July 7 – Bob Worner – *A Midsummer's Day Dream* – UU Principle #6

July 14 – Chris Hyslop - *Part 3 of Conundrum Series: Responsibility to Protect*

July 21– Sarah Lysacker - *Tsunami Relief in Ishinomaki, Japan*

July 28 – Roger Parks - *Divine Unfolding of Life*

#### **Sunday Morning Meetings Begin at 8:15**

July 7 – Adult RE

July 21 – Board Meeting and potluck following Sunday Service

### Worner's Annual Potluck

Sunday, July 14 after church, everyone is invited to a summer potluck at Bob and Mary Worner's home at 28424 Water Street Road, Underwood. Children, houseguests, and dogs are welcome.

You are welcome to drive out after church or after coffee. The meal will be put out about noon. Worner's will provide meat and beverages. For driving directions, call Bob or Mary at 218-826-6998.

### UU Quote

“Life must have its sacred moments and its holy places. We need the infinite, the limitless, the uttermost – all that can give the heart a deep and strengthening peace.”

~ A. Powell Davies

## Sunday Morning Speakers

**July 7** – Bob Worner - *Midsummer Day's Dream* - UU Principle #6 - The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all. It will talk about the dreams we defer and those we dare to live.

**July 14** – Chris Hyslop - *Part 3 of Conundrum Series: Responsibility to Protect*

Chris Hyslop will return for third installment of his "Conundrum Series." This talk will examine the responsibility to protect people trapped by war. The "Responsibility to Protect," or R2P, emerged out of the Balkan Wars and Rwandan Genocide as a means to ensure civilians affected by conflict could depend on legal protection from either their country, or failing that, protection from an outside force. R2P has since been championed by the international community and has become the driving idea behind "humanitarian intervention." But what happens when calls to protect civilians, in Syria for example, are used for political ends? What is the impact on the international state order when one state intervenes in another's affairs? How do you decide on a humanitarian intervention? What is the price of intervening to protect people? What is the price of inaction?

**July 21** - Sarah Lysacker- *Tsunami Relief in Ishinomaki, Japan*

**July 28** – Roger Parks – *Part 2: Evolution as the Divine Unfolding of Life*

In this two part series, I will be working with the writing of Brian Thomas Swimme and Bruce Sanguin as they outline the epic story of the emergence of the universe and the community of life, with a new vision for how we might bring forth a vibrant Earth Community. Because of the new advancements in science and theology we can tell the story of the emergence of the universe, and of life in its totality here on earth in a new way. This approach weaves the findings of modern science together with the enduring wisdom found in the humanistic traditions of the West, Asia and indigenous peoples. In the first talk on June 30 I will focus on the Journey of the Universe from it's beginning to the emerging reality that is still unfolding. In the second talk on July 28 I will focus on evolution as the Divine Unfolding of life. As always I look forward to the dialogue that we can have following my opening words.

## A Little UU Humor

Harold Scott once declared that when a Unitarian Universalist is about to vote with the majority, the UU reviews the opinion.

## Summer Read

The Unitarian Universalist Association of Churches chose the book *The New Jim Crow: Mass incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander as their Common Read for the 2012-13 year. After seeing some interest to read and discuss this book by a few members of our congregation, a Common Read was organized at UCU. Two of us read the first couple of chapters of the book and met to discuss them.

Just to fill you in, the first chapter tells about the history of black women and men in America in a way that is different from any history class most of us have ever attended. The second chapter talks about the current culture of the justice system with particular attention to race. Both of these chapters are eye opening and shocking. They left us with a feeling of “now what?” We felt our first step was to encourage others to read the book. To do that, we are creating a Summer Read.

The Summer Read gives everyone time to read the book. We will come together September 22 at 9:15 to begin to discuss the book, perhaps extending the discussion over two or three sessions. (Look for more details in the September Newsletter.) The book can be purchased at the UUA bookstore at <http://www.uuabookstore.org/>. Please read the book and join us for a discussion.

“We could choose to be a nation that extends care, compassion, and concern to those who are locked up and locked out or headed for prison before they are old enough to vote. We could seek for them the same opportunities we seek for our own children; we could treat them like one of “us.” We could do that. Or we can choose to be a nation that shames and blames its most vulnerable, affixes badges of dishonor upon them at young ages, and then relegates them to a permanent second-class status for life. That is the path we have chosen, and it leads to a familiar place.”

— Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*

## UU Quote

“There are trailblazers working today, heroes I you will, that we are not even aware of. They labor often in obscurity, spreading a message that is often unpopular or, at best, accepted in a lukewarm fashion. The sacrifices these people make are many. They don’t have the best jobs with the highest notoriety and reputation. The heroes of tomorrow are likely obscured from our vision.” ~ Reverend Richard Hood, PMUC’s Minister Emeritus

## UUA President Issues Statement on Historic Decisions on Marriage Equality

Press Release Issued June 26, 2013 – taken from the UUA website-  
<http://www.uua.org/news/pressroom/pressreleases/287446.shtml>

The Rev. Peter Morales, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), issued this statement following the U.S. Supreme Court's historic decisions on marriage equality:

“Today, the U.S. Supreme Court, the highest court of our country, stood on the side of love with its decision in *United States v. Windsor* declaring that the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is unconstitutional as a deprivation of the equal liberty of persons that is protected by the Fifth Amendment.

This is a proud and momentous day for all who have suffered under this law and felt discrimination based on their sexual orientation. It is a victory for the principle that civil rights belong to all.

In the Proposition 8 case of *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, the Supreme Court dismissed the appeal over same-sex marriage on jurisdictional grounds, essentially paving the way for marriage equality in California.

While I am disappointed that the Supreme Court did not declare the freedom to marry as a constitutionally-protected “equal protection” right that would apply to all states, I applaud this historic step towards equality.

The [Unitarian Universalist Association joined two amicus curiae briefs](#) in these cases with other religious organizations in support of marriage equality. In both cases, the UUA argued that a broad cross-section of religious denominations recognize the dignity of lesbian and gay people and their relationships, recognize the necessary distinction between civil and religious marriage, and recognize that civil marriages of same-sex couples will not impinge upon religious beliefs or practices, but rather will prevent one set of religious beliefs from being imposed on others through civil law.

Unitarian Universalists have been vocal supporters of marriage equality for decades. I thank them for their dedicated commitment to our Unitarian Universalist principle of affirming the worth and dignity of every person.

There is still so much work to be done to ensure equal protection for all who live and love in our country. As we know, marriage equality strengthens families, protects children, and ensures the basic rights of citizenship for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender couples.

It remains my fervent hope that soon marriage equality is afforded to all in this country. Unitarian Universalists will continue to stand on the side of love with all families.”

## **U-Groups News**

U-Group Facilitators are winding down the past year and winding up for the coming season of new U-Groups which will start in September. Another series of topics are being developed and we anticipate having about four groups again this fall. That is truly amazing for a church our size.

We welcome the interest of additional people to become U-Group co-facilitators. Training will be provided. It is more than a rewarding job, it is a gift we bring to each other and to our church. Inquire with any of the current facilitators listed below or Steph Sanderson (218-736-2616) or Ron Graham (218-739-5669).

Ron Graham and I would like to give a very heartfelt thank you to our facilitators. You are generous, talented, dedicated, and a joy and inspiration to work with. Thank you Mary Anderson, Mary Worner, Bob Worner, Florance Thompson, Connie Stigen, Deb Ferguson, Diane Johnson and Carole Mitchell.

## **Unitarian Universalist Book Club**

A discussion and review of the book *Journey of the Universe* by Brian Thomas Swine and Mary Evelyn Tucker, will be held on Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church of Underwood. Reverend Roger Parks referred to this book in his message during Sunday Service on June 30<sup>th</sup> and will use more information from the book during his message on July 28<sup>th</sup>. Each person is responsible for buying their own book. Feel free to bring a bag lunch. For more information contact Diana Zieseimer at 218-739-4190.

## **Kati Sasseville Memorial Service**

The memorial service for Kati Sasseville will be held on Tuesday, July 16, at 10:30 a.m. at A Center For The Arts in Fergus Falls.

## **The Unitarian Universalist Association Elects New Moderator, Rallies for Energy Change at Annual Meeting**

June 25, 2013

For more information, contact: UUA's Public Relations Director - (617) 948-4386 (office) - [pr@uua.org](mailto:pr@uua.org)

Louisville, KY-The 2013 General Assembly (GA) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) closed Sunday night, June 23, in Louisville, KY. Over 3,400 people attended the annual meeting which featured worship, educational workshops, public witness, and UUA business.

Highlights of the meeting include:

- The election of Jim Key as the new UUA Moderator for a six-year term.
- The re-election of the Rev. Peter Morales as UUA President for a second four-year term. He ran unopposed.
- A worship and rally for environmental justice that drew over 2,000 participants.
- Many wonderful speeches from guest speakers including Wendell Berry, author, environmental justice activist, economic critic, and farmer; Tim DeChristopher, UU activist; and renowned interfaith leader Eboo Patel.

Delegates at GA 2013 overwhelmingly approved a Statement of Conscience regarding "[Immigration as a Moral Issue](#)." In addition, delegates voted on and approved three Actions of Immediate Witness on Sunday, June 23 including:

- "Support the Proposed 28th 'We the People' Amendment to the Constitution: Corporations Are Not Persons and Money Is Not Speech"
- "Condemn the Mass Incarceration, Killing, and Mistreatment of Young Men of Color by Police"
- "Consider Divestment from the Fossil Fuel Industry"

The collection from the Sunday morning worship service was given to Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light (KIPL). KIPL's mission is to "protect God's creation by mobilizing a religious response to global warming through conservation, efficiency and alternative energy."

Detailed coverage of the agenda, justice work, and worship at GA can be found on [UU World's General Assembly coverage blog](#).

*The [UUA](#) is a faith community of more than 1,000 congregations that bring to the world a vision of religious freedom, tolerance, and social justice.*

## Eden

The Garden of Eden is within me. God walks with me in the cool of the day. Divine laughter rings through the Garden and the voice of creation says, "It is good!" Let my Self arise from the quiet peaceful place in the Garden, knowing that simplicity, harmony, consciousness, the walk with the One are my destiny. My lion and my lamb repose together. I taste from the Tree of Knowledge. The snake coils in every cell, awake, knowing. In the Garden is also the Tree of Life. Taste of the Tree of Life for we are in the eternity of the present.

I am eternal as the cosmos. I am the witness, the observer. I am timeless and unchanging. I am pure consciousness. I am in I AM. When the breath of this life leaves me, even as I return to earth that I am, I am received into the infinite. What greater comfort than the rhythm of that endless cycle, what greater joy than resting in the bosom of that creative universe. I ask of the cosmos no heaven of streets paved with gold. Only let me be in the full, complete harmony of the endless rhythm of the universe. That is my eternal bliss. Blessed be I AM.

*Stephanie Sanderson*

## UU Quote

"However many more breaths are left in me to breathe, to aspire and conspire, I know that with my final breath, I will be in the middle of learning yet another life lesson. That makes life all the more precious." ~ Jane Bramadat, Unitarian Universalist Minister

## Links You'll Want to Check Out

Stand For Food - <http://standforfood.com/>

UU Bingo - <http://fmuu.areavoices.com/2013/06/30/uu-bingo/#>

UUA - <http://www.uua.org/>

## Unitarian Church of Underwood

Visit our website at [www.ucofu.org](http://www.ucofu.org) and on Facebook at Unitarian Church of Underwood - <https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/216475333813/>. We have a new email address. It is [ucofu@ucofu.org](mailto:ucofu@ucofu.org).

## Minutes of the May 15, 2013 Underwood Unitarian Church Board

Board members present: Ellen Eastby, Norman Kolstad, Alisha Piekarski Mary Worner, David Sanderson, John Miersch, and Mary Anderson. Absent: Dave Wass, Don Siems, and Dave McRoberts.

Others in attendance: Administrative Consultant JoAnn Larson.

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Ellen Eastby at 6:35 p.m.

The board was reorganized for FY2014 by retaining the same officers (Miersch/Sanderson):

Chair: Ellen Eastby

Vice Chair: Donn Siems

Secretary: Norman Kolstad

Treasurer: David Wass

The agenda was approved (Worner/Anderson).

The March 20, 2013 minutes were approved as printed (Anderson/Miersch).

The April 14, 2013 minutes were approved as printed (Anderson/Miersch).

### Reports:

- Treasurer: no report
- Administrative Consultant: no report
- Program Committee: no report
- Outreach Committee: no report
- Membership Committee: no report
- Facilities Committee: JoAnn Larson and John Miersch

### Old business:

Chair Eastby appointed herself, Stephanie Sanderson, and Norman Kolstad to a committee to produce an agenda for a special board meeting to set the next year's strategic plan based on the five-year plan adopted at the annual meeting.

Wes Binner will be hired for up to 15 hours at \$30/hours to help implement the Planned Giving program (Worner/Sanderson).

UCU will be hosting a cluster event of area UU churches in the fall.

Chair Eastby will name a committee to organize a 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

Other topics: historical documents archives, water leak, ditch clean-up, annual meeting feedback.

New business:

Chair Eastby appointed the following committee chairs:

Facilities: Dave McRoberts

Program: Mary Worner

Outreach: Alisha Piekarski

Stewardship: David Sanderson

A motion passed to change the church email address (Worner/Sanderson).

UCU is to be recognized as an Apostle Build contributor in the next Habitat for Humanity project (Anderson/Miersch).

By request, the recipient of the Sustainable Food Production Empowerment Grant was changed to Clean UP our River Environment (CURE), a 501c-3 corporation (Sanderson/Anderson).

The next meeting was scheduled for Jun 19 at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Kolstad