

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

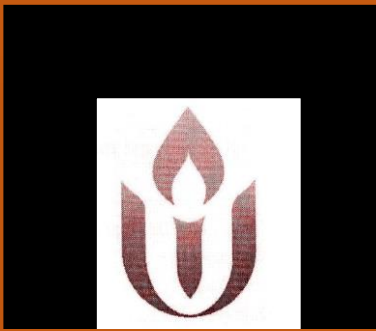
Underwood

Phone: 218/826-6553

Website: www.ucofu.org

www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org

Sunday Services
July 1 - Peggy
Maxwell, Bhutan
Insights
July 8 - Bob
Worner,
"Beginning & the
End"
July 15 - Chris
Hyslop-
July 22 - Men's
Discussion "Me
Too"
July 29 - Jim Laine



Flowers from the Gardens of Bev Parks
Photo Courtesy of Norm Kolstad

July 2018

Newsletter

July 2018						
◀ June						August ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Peggy Maxwell – Insights from Bhutan Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Kids RE	2 Stewardship Committee 5:30 pm Finance Committee 6:30 pm, both @ #300 Sverdrup Suites AA 7pm	3	4 	5	6	7
8 Bob Worner, “The Beginning and the End” Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Kids RE	9 AA 7pm	10 Battle Lake U Group 3 pm @ Joanne Cress’ & Luke Anderson’s	11 Speakers Committee 3:30 pm	12	13	14
15 Chris Hyslop, “Do Two Rights Make a Wrong?” Board Meeting 11:30 Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Kids RE	16 AA 7pm	17	18	19	20	21
22 Men’s “Me Too” Discussion Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Kids RE	23 AA 7pm	24 Perham U Group Social Gathering @ Tim Lanz’s	25	26	27	28
29 Jim Laine, “MetaReligion..” Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Kids RE	30 AA 7pm	31				

Coming in *July*

July 1 – Peggy Maxwell, long-time UCU member, who we welcome back each summer, will share with us her insights from her trip to Bhutan with ZaChoeje Rinpoche, Director of a Tibetan Buddhist Cultural Center in Phoenix.

July 8 – Celebrant, Bob Worner – “The Beginning and the End” addressing UU Principle #7.

July 15 – Chris Hyslop will speak on “Do Two Rights Make a Wrong?” Chris will look at the current situation in Myanmar, specifically the situation of the Rohingya people. Last October, following a series of concerted insurgent attacks on Myanmar police forces, the government launched a security operation resulting in around 800,000 people - the total population of Minneapolis/St Paul - fleeing to Bangladesh. They remain there in refugee camps. The situation has resulted in two dramatically different perspectives: the national population fearing terror attacks and supporting their leader and Noble Peace Prize laureate, Aung Sang Su Kyi, the international community decrying human rights abuse and institutionalized discrimination. Both views hold truth, both communities have a stake, and both are needed to resolve the problem. What happens when opposing perspectives are both right?

Chris Hyslop grew up in Fergus Falls. He and his family spend their summers on Swan Lake. He has been working overseas since 1995, first as a US Peace Corps volunteer then a humanitarian aid worker in the former Soviet Union, the Balkans, Asia and Africa. For over ten years he has served in the United Nations in Iraq, New York, Sudan and now Myanmar (formerly Burma).

July 22, (Tentatively scheduled) – A continued discussion of “**Me Too**” with some men’s perspectives on the conversation begun May 27. That began a discussion held by a panel of four women and the congregation regarding their “Me Too” experience in response to questions posed by a UCU member.

July 29 – Jim Laine, “MetaReligion: The Authority that Makes Religious Tolerance Possible.” Drawing from the main argument of his book, *MetaReligion: Religion and Power in World History* (University of California Press, 2014), Jim will argue that the idea of pluralism and religious tolerance that arose in the eighteenth century and is assumed by many people today, depends upon a taken for granted “meta-religion” that stands in for the sort of absolute authority that religions like Islam and Roman Catholicism once claimed.

Jim Laine is Arnold H. Lowe Professor of Religious Studies Department at Macalester College. He has spent his career teaching and writing about India and comparative religion, and has been especially interested in issues of religion and national identity, religion and empire, and

the history of Hindu and Muslim encounters in South Asia. He has traveled and lived in India a dozen times since 1977.

He is the author of four books: *Visions of God: Narratives of Theophany in the Mahabharata* (Vienna, 1989); *The Epic of Shivaji: Kavindra Paramananda's Sivabharata* (Orient Longman, 2001); *Shivaji: Hindu King in Islamic India* (Oxford University Press, 2003); and *Meta-Religion: Religion and Power in World History* (University of California Press, 2014). His work on the Indian hero Shivaji caused major uproar in India, leading to a book ban and indictment, but he was exonerated by India's Supreme Court in 2010. During the summer of 2017, Laine directed an Institute on the challenges of teaching world religions for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The institute brought together thirty scholars from all over the United States to work on curriculum development in this area.

He studied at Harvard from 1974-84 and received his doctorate while working and living at Harvard's Center for the Study of World Religions. He has also done research in Austria, England, Japan and Bangladesh. He is married to Joy Laine, a professor of philosophy at Macalester College and Iyengar yoga teacher for the past forty years. They have four children.



U- Kids Making Cards to Show They Care!
Photo courtesy of Kris Warhol

Children's Religious Education Every Sunday 10-11:15 a.m.

Because of the weather postponement, the lakeside water activities during Children's RE are rescheduled for Sunday, July 29. After leading the kids, Kris Warhol commented: "The kids were absolutely adorable today. Lorelei? Warmed up after seconds. Wally had fun too!" *Kris Warhol*

There are suggestions for lessons and a lesson format, but we are looking to the leads for their creativity in planning the activities. Each Sunday, the children routinely have a candle lighting and extinguishing time to share their joys and concerns. They are in process of learning songs that they'll be sharing with us one Sunday. As Ron Graham describes it, working with the kids is like winning the lottery. To get your lottery ticket for a day with the kids, contact Mary Anderson @ maryanderson8380@msn.com or 218/346-6638.

Schedule for July Sundays

July 1	Cedar Walters	Ron Graham	UUA "Home" Lesson #3
July 8	Ron Graham	Robbyn Navatto	New songs to learn!
July 15	Bert Whitcomb	JoAnn Larson	Walk About
July 22	Robbyn Navatto	Ron Graham	Our Church Home
July 29	Dave Sanderson Stan Carignan	Wally Warhol	Water Activities

Stay^oinformED

Website:
www.ucofu.org

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

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

To be included to regularly receive
weekly church reports and monthly
newsletters, please contact Ellen Eastby
@ eastofellen@hotmail.com

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

**Sunday Talks available via POD
Casts @ soundcloud.com/user-927528278**

**Newsletter Submissions due prior to
Issuance the 1st of each month**
Please submit your ideas, articles and photos to:
maryanderson8380@msn.com.
Editing: Stephanie Sanderson
Emailing/ mailing: Ellen Eastby and JoAnn Larson.
Website: Ellen Eastby
Facebook: Melody Shores
Photos courtesy of Norm Kolstad & credited
others.

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

Summer U Group Schedule

- Alexandria U-Group: July 9 Habitat for Humanity Work Day. Facilitators: Lee Becker/Susan Sanford
- The Battle Lake U Group will continue to meet the 2nd Tuesday @ 3:00 p.m. @ home of Joanne Cress and Luke Anderson, 846 Lake Shore Drive, Battle Lake. Snow birds and new members are welcome! Facilitators: Bob Worner and Joanne Cress.
- Perham U Group Social Gathering July xx @ Tim Lanz's.
- **The Fergus Falls and Perham U Groups will resume meetings in September.**

Kris & Wally Warhol will serve as Lead Co-Facilitators for 2018-19. For information, contact Kris @ @ mwarhol7up@gmail.com or 218/205-1644

Adult Religious Education Classes will resume in September

Mindfulness Sitting - Each Sunday of the month, 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. led by Stan Carignan

New Mindfulness Class will also begin in September on the 3rd Sunday

"This coming fall, we will offer unstructured quiet time on the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Sundays. On the 3rd Sunday, our RE Sunday, we will use 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. We will discuss a couple of chapters each month, followed by 20 minutes of mindfulness practice. These texts have been purchased by the church and are available to anyone who desires to participate." *Stan Carignan*

Heartfelt THANKS --- **TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!**

In this lay-led, all volunteer church, we can't say thank you often enough to all those who continue to give so much: Kris Warhol and helpers for their work on the annual rummage sale; the now many volunteers who are making weekly Children's Religious Education happen; the treaters, the greeters, the service leaders; the Celebrants; the Board of Directors; the many committee's and task force members; Mary Anderson for revisions to the Policy and Procedures Manual, orientation for new members and the Board of Directors, the monthly newsletters; Mary & Florance for their seasonal tablecloths; Norm Kolstad for his updates and maintenance of Google.Docs; the Technical Team's support; the musicians; our own speakers/presenters; Ellen Eastby for maintaining the ucofu. website and getting out the podcasts; Melody Shores for updates and maintenance of the Facebook Page; JoAnn Larson for her administrative services; Susan Groff for her cleaning; Dave Wass, Susan Groff & Kris Warhol for apartment managing; Stan Carignan for Mindfulness sitting, Stan & Luke Anderson for acting this past year as lead Co-Facilitators for the U Groups; John Minge, Sandy Barnhouse, Bob Worner for leading Adult Religious Education and John, for his delicious curry dinner and chilis; U Group Facilitators & Hosts. Put your name here!! _____. It is the generosity of our many members' and friends' giving that returns to us the gift of the Unitarian Church of Underwood, our Community in spirit and doing.



**Two of our Favorite Greeters!
Marlys & Donn Siems**

Thank you, All!!

And YES, Sunday Volunteers Continue to be Always Needed!!
Please contact JoAnn Larson @ redswilds@gmail.com or @ 218/405-0752.



Greeters are always needed for Sunday services. This is an easy and fun way to serve and to get to know other UCU members and friends.

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!! Janell Miersch is Kitchen Coordinator for the month of July.



Notes from June Speakers/Presenters



June 3 –Celebrant Stephanie Sanderson with the message, “**Shall We Pray?**” relating to UU Principles 1, 2, 3 and 7 and the first 3 sources from our living tradition.

As a little girl, Stephanie remembers her mother sharing with her and her siblings before bed, popcorn, stories, a song and bedtime prayers and so Stephanie “felt warm and safe and comforted, all through the night.”

Since then, Stephanie has come to a different understanding of prayer, more in communion with Rabindranath Tagore, who, in his book *The Heart of God* writes: “Be still, my heart, these great trees are prayers.”

Or of Thich Nhat Hanh, the Vietnamese Buddhist monk, who refers to God as the Ultimate Reality, albeit we call it God, or Allah or Creator, but no names can define it. They are not strong enough “to contain the wonderful reality that is the Ultimate Dimension.”

Some years ago, Stephanie took a course with the Hesychia School for Spiritual Direction at the Redemptorist Retreat Center in Tucson, Arizona. Hesychiasm is the tradition of the prayer of

the heart of the Desert Fathers and Mothers. A Lutheran kid, this was her first experience with the mystics from all the major religions who sought, above all else, the union with God.

In his book, *The Way of the Heart*, Henri Nouwen, a priest who taught seminars at Yale University on Desert Spirituality, says “For many of us, prayer means nothing more than speaking with God, a one-sided frustrating affair. If I present a problem, I expect a solution; if I formulate a question, I expect an answer; if I ask for guidance, I expect a response. The dialogue with God is in fact, a monologue. To whom am I really speaking, God or myself?”

Or shall we rather pray as the monk striving to let his prayer remodel the whole of his person. Steph’s conclusion: “I don’t know if prayer changes things, but prayer changes us.”

So, “Why pray?” and “Who is the person to whom we pray?”

From Thich Nhat Hanh: “The most important matter for a (spiritual) practitioner is to be able to break through the veil of the material plane to enter the ultimate dimension and the interconnection between us and all other phenomena in the world around us.” – This our 7th Principle.

These great spiritual teachers dwell in the presence of the unseen, that which is beyond all existent things, to know how to live NOW. They invite us to do the same.

To whom do we pray?

Thich Nhat Hanh says, “the one who prays, and the one prayed to, are two realities that cannot be separated from each other.” “The goal is to go beyond the cycle of birth and death, to realize the unborn and the undying.”

When we pray, this Buddhist monk says, we are looking for the Kingdom of God, nirvana. “In Christianity,” he says, “prayers, songs and the reading of psalms are directed at the aspiration ‘Thy Kingdom Come’, the aspiration that the Kingdom of God is present in this very moment.” The Kingdom of God is not something yet to come. It is immanent, it is present in every moment, in this very moment, and it exists within you and among you.

Thich Nhat Hanh says, “If we can be deeply in touch with the pine tree, we are able to be in touch with one mind, with God.”

Stephanie’s expertise is “pasture bathing” where she hangs out in her lawn chair with her two horses where “I come to join with you – to feel life breathe softly on my skin and to feel the color of sky in my bones.”

What is Prayer to Stephanie: “Pure, sweet vibration; a resonance that I can feel in my body, and the feeling becomes love, and awe and gratitude; an opening of the heart to the cosmic; sweet synchrony; realization of all that is; pure and beautiful; without beginning or end.”

“The big question that remains is: How long can I hold that?”

In ending, Stephanie shared a Buddhist traditional story about a devout man who went to the mountaintop to meditate until he reached enlightenment. Years passed until it happened. Going down the mountain on his excited, hurried return to his village, a goat herder and his goats blocked his path. The man became frustrated and spoke angrily to the goat herder. Suddenly, he became aware of what he had done. He turned around and headed back up the mountain.

And yes, we will return to the mountain over and over but perhaps with a deeper wisdom and clearer vision to incarnate that inspired knowledge of our oneness with the universe.

We then had the opportunity to sing #386, “Alleluia Chaconne” accompanied by Susan Groff on piano, Wally Warhol on trumpet and Melody Shores on violin with singers leading us.

Attendance: 62

Link to podcast:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/shall-we-pray-stephanie-sanderson-june-3-2018>



June 10 – To preface his talk, “**How Much False Witness Can We Bear?**”, **Stefan Jonasson** shared a reading from the Buddha on the basis of “right speech”: Abstain from false speech; do not tell lies or deceive; Do not slander others or speak in a way that causes disharmony or enmity; Abstain from rude, impolite, or abusive language; Do not indulge in idle talk or gossip.

His second reading was from *Counterknowledge* by Damian Thompson.

Stefan with some Canadian friends had vowed not to come to America again, but the church of Underwood is his exception. We should remind ourselves of what made America great in the first place.

There are any number of ominous threatening signs of complicity in America, but the focus of his talk is on the inability to be truthful. These falsehoods have a corrosive impact on public discourse. There is meaner, coarser language, less defined and less truthful that at its root is greed, hatred and delusion. Unwholesome speech (Counter language) creates invisible ignorance that is turned into opinion. The time is unprecedented with the deceptions. Deception that we are losing out, creating a perception that: Americans are falling

behind, despite the fact that one fourth of the world's income is concentrated in 5% of the world's population – America's.

Regarding trade agreements – this is an effort to convince the American people otherwise than that they are actually being fleeced by people in their own country. This deception exploits working people everywhere,

There is tail-bearing – gossip. Conspiracy theories are gossip. There is an on-going investigation by Mueller that will bring facts together and be based on evidence, but the report will make most people unhappy – the report will go beyond gossip, but the gas lighters will come to challenge its outcomes. (Note: Wikipedia definition of gas lighting: manipulate (someone) by psychological means into questioning their own sanity).

There is a prevarication of conspiracy theories that 1/5 believe in. These theories are simply distractions that do not unite or encourage coming together.

We should avoid harsh language – ask if it is true? If it is fair? Harsh language can be used when applicable but should only be used as the right words to describe what we see.

Internationally, if a person claims refugee status, it is never illegal. These persons are claiming that they are vulnerable if returned to their home country. They may be wrong in their assessment, but it is not illegal to claim such status,

There are outrageous slanders using demeaning terms. One example is not referring to Serge Kovalski by name, instead as that “disabled reporter” that Trump mocked.

Vain talk is inane. We have the right to speak important truths and spread what we know to be true.

Stefan has yet to decide if Donald Trump is a pathological liar or a masterful huckster: a talented entrepreneur determined to make a profit.

This unprecedented, contagious untruthfulness is a social epidemic at work.

Stop it! Learn to use right, precise, “best” words to bend the arch back. UU's believe that what we believe should be empirically verified. The telling of untruths is a threat to liberal democracy that would be tragic if lost.

We cannot bear this much false witness. “Be careful out there.”

Attendance: 48

Podcast @ <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/how-much-false-witness-can-we-bearrev-stefan-jonasson-june-10-2018>



June 17 – Rev. Roger Parks, with the first of three talks, **“In Search of Our Light,”** referencing the song, “This Little Light of Mine.” Roger sees the current narrative as an explanation of Christian faith as a radical contrast to the teachings of Jesus. He often refers to Richard Rohr who describes that historically the religious voice was aligned with the power elite and reduced most people to perpetual slavery. He believes there is a cultural shift in the narrative that is now driving some of us. It is time to update the narrative of Jesus.

The light comes from creation, flows in community and takes us to discussion. Each generation discovers and rethinks what it means to be alive; be the best we can be; “I’m going to let it shine.”

Life, truth, self-integrity, vocation are who we are. The word, “vocation” comes from the Latin, “voice” – the calling I hear. If it truly is your vocation, you’ll do it for free. Be who we are born to be. Accept and be the person you are to fulfill self. We are already light- it comes from creation. Thomas Merton said, “we are planted as sentinels on the world foundation. Howard Thurman asks what makes you come alive? Do that. Let it shine.

How do I know light? Through the practice of contemplation, listening, quieting ourselves. Science shows that walking in nature extends the quality and length of life. Listen and discern, rather than think you have to save the world. Connect with our source. Stand as sentinels to overcome darkness and strive for justice, compassion, understanding.

Next time: “Everywhere I go, I’m Going to Let it Shine.”

Comments: How to find the light? Let your life sing. Spend time in silence to clear the space. It can be through music, gardening, photography, whatever.

The SE Unitarian Universalist Institute selected a year ago for this year’s conference theme, “Light of Mine”.

As an individual, we may be anxious for light. How do we put our lights together? Come to the further talks.

Attendance: 47

<https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/in-search-of-our-light-rev-roger-parks-june-17-2018>



June 24 – Rev. Laurel Hallman told us that she lived in Minnesota from 1965 – 1977. Several times, in the 1970's, she spoke at UCU on Easter Sundays. She also remembers going out to the sugar bush run by Marguerite and Budd Andrews on one of these Easters.

During her talk today, she reflected on parts of her life journey during which she has preached messages that reflect the ambiguity and incompleteness of UU's knowledge...with grace. Some of her earliest work was done in Underwood, and now, in Underwood, she is nearing the end of her career. She began her sermon titled "I Have Walked Through Many Lives", by reading Stanley Kunitz' poem "The Layers" (which will follow this summary).

In 1977, Laurel decided to move to Chicago, to attend seminary after deciding that her identity was in the pulpit. She found empowerment in this calling came from several sources – history, an inner voice, her own gifts, and heredity (her grandfather was a preacher, albeit in a more fundamentalist tradition). Her career took her to several positions including as an interim pastor in the Fallmouth, MA UU Fellowship where Marguerite's sister attends. She also has led retreats for spiritual journeys that are centered around poetry.

Laurel's journey this week has involved several reunions. She was appreciative of being able to visit us today.

Now, she is more contemplative in life – gardening, saving a wooded area nearby, paying attention to today. She reminded us that the most important journey is our internal one; and that as we go through life, we cannot escape pain. It is important to learn skills of resilience so that we can learn from pain and from all of life's experiences.

The Layers

BY STANLEY KUNITZ

I have walked through many lives,
some of them my own,
and I am not who I was,
though some principle of being
abides, from which I struggle
not to stray.

When I look behind,
as I am compelled to look
before I can gather strength
to proceed on my journey,
I see the milestones dwindling
toward the horizon
and the slow fires trailing
from the abandoned camp-sites,

over which scavenger angels
wheel on heavy wings.

Oh, I have made myself a tribe
out of my true affections,
and my tribe is scattered!
How shall the heart be reconciled
to its feast of losses?
In a rising wind
the manic dust of my friends,
those who fell along the way,
bitterly stings my face.

Yet I turn, I turn,
exulting somewhat,
with my will intact to go
wherever I need to go,
and every stone on the road
precious to me.

In my darkest night,
when the moon was covered
and I roamed through wreckage,
a nimbus-clouded voice
directed me:
“Live in the layers,
not on the litter.”

Though I lack the art
to decipher it,
no doubt the next chapter
in my book of transformations
is already written.
I am not done with my changes.

Attendance: 56

Link to Podcast:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/i-have-walked-through-many-lives-rev-laurel-hallman-june-24-2018>



Members from the 20th Century, almost all with us still today!

Back: Norm Johnson, Bonnie Ebert Bell Albers, Ron Roller, Roger Thompson, Katy Olson, Val Thompson
Front: Mary Worner, Bob Worner, Gerry Ziesemer, Marguerite Andrews, Wally Warhol, Kris Warhol, Susan Groff



Underwood City Wide Annual Rummage Sale Huge Success!!!

Kris Warhol reports that the annual rummage sale was again a huge success with the regulars coming out again to shop. This is also a huge amount of work so thank you, Kris, Alisha Piekarski, all the other helpers, donators and shoppers!

We are Part of the Larger UU Community

All Are Called: GA 2018

Celebrant, Ellen Eastby attended the UUA General Assembly June 20-24 in Kansas City, Missouri. This year's theme was "All Are Called," diving deeply into questions for our Unitarian Universalist Association, for our congregations and communities, and for each of us as individuals.



Ellen shares with us the high of her experience and links so we can be a part of it:

At 6:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 20th I and 2 members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Willmar left for UUA General Assembly held in Kansas City, Missouri. After a thankfully uneventful trip to KC we checked into our hotel, rested for a short while and made our way to the convention center a block and a half away to attend the MidAmerica Region annual business meeting. After that was the Welcoming Celebration and General Session I. During that first session there was one very powerful song that left us unable to applaud, at least for a

while. You can hear that song on YouTube at about 57 minutes. Here's the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hvy7e0f0qDM>.

Thursday morning it was announced that Westboro Baptist church intended to protest outside of the convention center where GA was being held. They asked that only a small group, a few dozen or so, go out in a counterdemonstration. They wanted as many people as possible to continue with GA activities and not allow Westboro Baptist Church to disrupt our Assembly. (Unitarian Universalism must be doing something right if Westboro is protesting us.) I was one in that small group who took to the street corner singing and chanting messages of love, hope, and joy. One arrest was made, but it wasn't a member from our group or from Westboro.

The highlight of Thursday was during General Session III when Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray gave her president's report. It was outstanding. She received a standing ovation. There were two speeches given that you shouldn't miss. This was one of them. You can find it on YouTube here: **<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9DX72TWCbw0&t=18s>**.

Friday and Saturday the General Sessions, our business meetings, continued. I thought those sessions would bore me to tears, but I actually found them very interesting. There were a few Bylaw changes. 1. The second source was changed from "women and men" to "people." 2. Credentialed Religious Leaders, employed as such, became delegates, automatically. 3. There will now be two youth trustees on the board, with full voting rights. 4. Gender neutral pronouns were adopted. "They" and "their" replaces "he," "she," "his," and "hers," in much of the Bylaws.

On Saturday night, I attended the Ware Lecture. I was told by a friend that if I were going to attend one thing at GA, it should be the Ware Lecture. He was right. It was phenomenal. The speaker was Brittany Packnett. I don't know that I have ever heard a speaker who spoke with such intensity and passion. The topic was dismantling white supremacy. (As was the focus of most of GA.) This is the other speech that you shouldn't miss. She received a standing ovation that went on for close to two minutes. You can watch Ms. Packnett's moving and honest speech here: **<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WkV2fNuN1C4>**.

The other thing I want to mention is the Action of Immediate Witness or AIW. There were 7 or 8 different AIWs proposed. For them to make it into the selection process, they needed to have at least 150 delegate signatures, from at least 25 different churches, representing at least 5 different districts. Through a process, they were narrowed down to six and then to three. The three AIWs were brought before the delegates during a general session to be voted on. If GA delegates adopt an AIW, then the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), other UUA leaders, congregations, districts, and Unitarian Universalists organizations may use it as a basis for public statements on the matter and are urged to act on it. The three that were approved were: 1. End Family Separation and Detention of Asylum Seekers and Abolish ICE. 2. End Prisons for Profit: Dismantle Predatory Medical Care Practices in Prisons. 3. We Are All Related: Solidarity NOW with Indigenous Water Protectors. I stepped out of my comfort zone in a big way by when I volunteered to approach delegates and ask them to sign the AIW to End Prisons for Profit. Every person I approached was eager to sign this AIW.

Sunday morning, as every morning, I attended worship. The theme for the worship services was All Are Called. The sermons and readings were incredibly inspirational, and the music was out of this world. If you want to be moved you can go to YouTube, search using "UUA GA 2018" and you will find many videos of what I experienced.

There is so much more I could write about, but there just isn't time to do that. So, to sum it up, if I could go to GA every year, I would. I came home on a GA high and I am still riding that high. I am more knowledgeable, inspired, and ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work than what I have been in quite some time. I hope to be able to share more with you all very soon.

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION CONDEMNS FAMILY SEPARATION AT THE U.S./MEXICO BORDER

"The policy of this administration to separate children from their parents at the border is immoral, inhumane and indefensible," says UUA president, the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray. "These families arrive desperate for safe-haven, seeking asylum having fled violence and disruption in their own homeland – and instead of safety, they are further traumatized, victimized and criminalized at the hands of the U.S. government."

Those who are fleeing violence and seeking safety for themselves or their families should find support and reassurance at the U.S. border, not the criminalization and separation of their communities.

Compounding this travesty is the Trump administration's **use of religion to justify separating families at the U.S. and Mexico border.** This is nothing short of religious malpractice. ... As people whose religious tradition calls us to seek justice, we will continue to side with those most in need and most vulnerable, building on our decades of commitments to support the dignity of immigrants and displaced people. Through our **Love Resists campaign**, we will continue to help those seeking sanctuary and safety. We will also continue to follow the lead of organizers and organizations most impacted by these immoral immigration policies....

For complete article see: <https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/unitarian-universalist-association-condemns-family-separation-us/mexico>

UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray shares an important video message at <https://www.uua.org/giving/areas-support/friends/message-president>

I invite you to make a gift to [Friends of the UUA](#) today and help us realize the possibilities ahead for our collective UU faith. Every gift, at every amount, matters and makes a difference in what we are able to do and who we are able to be together.

Thank you for how you show up for UU values. We will all continue to show up, speak out, and live proudly our truths in love, as we move toward becoming the religious people we are called to be.

Many blessings and thank you for your support of the UUA. *Susan Frederick-Gray*

Unitarian Universalist for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC) Webinar Series Second Thursday of Every Month @ 8pm ET

NEXT UP: A General Assembly Debrief
Thursday July 12, 2018 @ 8:00 p.m. eastern



Join us to share highlights and inspirations from General Assembly. New changes to the AIW process, our Annual Meeting, Networking Session, Table Talk and more. Connect with other justice-seekers for our collective work ahead.

Plus: learn how you can join our working groups and become more involved. For Webinar Log-in information, visit our web page: <http://uujec.com/webinars>

Help

Heal the World!

Embodying Integral Nonviolence on Our Path to a Livable Future A One-Day workshop with Chris Moore-Backman

Sunday, July 8: Doors open at 8:30AM, program starts promptly at 9AM, ends at 5PM, pay what you can. East Side Freedom Library, [1105 Greenbrier St. St. Paul, MN 55106](#) This workshop explores Gandhi's theory and practice of nonviolence, highlighting its holistic balance of self-transformation, constructive program (the work of social uplift and renewal), and direct, bold resistance to empire. Through small group work, personal reflection and inquiry, mini-lectures, video segments, and readings, participants will wrestle with the radical nature of Gandhi's social change vision, and consider what it has to teach us about the living of our lives, and the building up of principled-strategic movements in the present day United States. [Click here for more info and registration.](#) Average donation for this event is estimated at \$60.

Firelight: Wisdom to Support & Inspire is a bi-weekly email with poems, prayers, songs, and articles to nourish our souls and ground our climate justice work. We hope this will also serve as a resource for you to use in meetings and gatherings as invocations and reflections to ground the work you are doing with others in the heart and relationship. [Click here to see all past editions on our website!](#)

Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light

As our liaison to MNIPL, Janell Miersch writes the following:

"On June 28th the Public Utilities Commission overruled the guidance of the Department of Commerce, overruled the voices of indigenous people, overruled the hopes of future generations, overruled perhaps the leanings of their own hearts and unanimously handed Enbridge a Certificate of Need for Pipeline 3.

At times like this when it seems forces of darkness have overcome the light we need to remind one and other that we are faith-based people not only of light but power. The following quotes are ones that I have turned to again and again in my life.

Weep

*Weep for the youth whose future looks dark;
Weep for the endless trail of tears and broken promises;
Weep for the rice and the water and the bones of ancestors bound
to be disturbed;
Weep for those who took pen in hand, marched, spoke, called, and
spent hours in action;
Weep, weep, weep.
Teddie Potter*

UCU Water Conservation Project Environmental Justice in Our Own Backyards



Karen Terry from the University of Minnesota, Morris and UCU member, Janell Miersch, both water specialists pictured with Cedar and Chris Walters (and Hera) at their home along with Diane Johnson.

Photos courtesy of Bert Whitcomb

Janell Miersch continues to keep us up to date on the Water Conservation Project efforts:

“Do you remember the UCU talk given in January by Karen Terry, University of Minnesota Extension educator? She reminded us that as natural prairie and forest change to hard surfaces due to buildings, concrete, etc., deep infiltration into the ground decreases. So, some congregants gathered in April for Water Conservation “classrooms” to discuss what we could do to decrease runoff at home. The group wanted a continuation of environmental action, so we scheduled site visits in June and July.

On Tuesday, June 19, a group gathered at Cedar and Chris Walters’ house located on Lake Alice to discuss issues and remedies. Karen began by sharing a map of the Lake Alice watershed, pointing out that the Walters’ issues are not unique to them.

Cedar had listed three main issues of concern on their property:

1. Large volume of meltwater collecting in a sunken driveway in spring.
2. Storm water/meltwater runs to Lake Alice.
3. Water behind the garage created a channel.

The group walked and talked about downspouts, French drains (also known as a trench or channel drain), berms, raingardens, terracing, native planting and rain barrels. We looked at

neighboring yards to learn from them. We discussed what was wise, the cost, challenges, and the planned outcome. Although the Walters' have much that could be done to address their concerns, the group gave them ideas to work on that will lessen runoff and impact to Lake Alice. None of the ideas was a quick fix, but phased work might make the job easier and spread the cost over time.

The group moved to Janell Miersch's house for a potluck followed by a site tour of the 410 ft shoreline and rain barrels, among other things.

The next group "tour" to observe, learn and pool good information will be Monday July 16 beginning at Amy Beckman's house at 6:00 p.m. to be followed by a visit to UCU owned properties.

If you missed Karen's message, please go to the UCU website to listen to the podcast. Resources for earth friendly landscaping are available through University Extension to help you establish some remedies on your land at www.extension.umn.edu.

If you are interested in joining us on July 9, contact Carole Mitchell @ cmcarolemitchell@gmail.com."



Other June 19th Site Attendees: Tere Mann with Karen Terry and Cedar Walters and Carole Mitchell



*Shelter and Support
in a Spiritual Setting*

***Churches United for the Homeless
Shelter Nurse Needs Help!***

Hello!
My name is Pat,

I am the shelter nurse at Churches United for the Homeless. I am putting out a request of items that I use regularly to our community and friends; I need your help!

I am out of the following items:

Gatorade

o Frequently used for treating the flu, dehydration in the summer, and community members that haven't been eating

Glucerna

o Used for individuals with diabetes that are having reactions from uncontrolled diabetes

Over the Counter Medications

o Antibiotic ointments and cortisone creams for infected wounds and bug bites

Anti-histamines

o Use for summer allergies

Homeless individuals do not have access to any of the above products. *I would so appreciate your help with any of these products or a 5 to 10 gift cards to any store.*

You are welcome to come and visit me at the shelter to see what I do for our guests and community members. I can be reached at pbrawders@churches-united.org or on my work phone at (218) 236-0372 ext. 234.

Summer is here!

Monetary gifts and volunteers have slowed down! If you have time to volunteer or wish to donate monetary gifts, please contact Brady at bmclaflin@churches-united.org or 218-236-0372 ext. 225



**Join the 2018
Habitat 500 Bike Ride
July 15-21, Starts at Becker**



2017 Riders: Stan Carignan (5-day rider), Dave Sanderson, Katie Olson, AJ, Susan Groff

Fergus Falls Area Habitat for Humanity, Stan Carignan, Executive Director, and Paul Shol, Community Outreach Coordinator have a goal of raising \$10,000 through the Habitat 500 Bike Ride. 100% of your tax-deductible donation will help build affordable housing in our community. Please consider supporting the new family build their house at 907 Aurdal Avenue, Fergus Falls.

By Supporting the Habitat 500 you:

- ☐ Build affordable housing in Fergus Falls
- ☐ Help Megan and Frank build their home
- ☐ Help Stan and Paul meet their fundraising goals
- ☐ Raise awareness for affordable housing in Minnesota

Ways you can donate:

- ☐ Online

Stan: <https://2018habitat500.greatfeats.com/stanley-carignan>

Paul: <https://2018habitat500.greatfeats.com/paul-shol>

- ☐ Check

Written out to "Habitat 500" in the memo "Fergus Falls Habitat for Humanity".

Send to: Fergus Falls Habitat for Humanity, 421 W. Fir Ave., Fergus Falls, MN, 56537

If you wish to participate in the July 15th-21st bike ride, the schedule for Habitat's 26th Annual Habitat 500 Ride is:

- ☐ July 14-16: Becker
- ☐ July 16-17: Becker to Royalton
- ☐ July 17-18: Royalton to Alexandria
- ☐ July 18-19: Alexandria to FF back to Alex
- ☐ July 19-20: Staples
- ☐ July 20-21: Pierz
- ☐ July 21: Becker—Finish line

Getting close to build time....

Paul Shol further informs us that CHR construction will begin excavating soon on the Aurdal Avenue lot. After excavating, concrete will get poured for the foundation. They will be looking for volunteers to help with the build soon.

Stan Carigan, Executive Director
Paul Shol, Community Outreach Coordinator
Fergus Falls Area Habitat for Humanity
218-205-5739



Pelican Rapids Friendship Festival
Saturday, July 21, 2018, 11 am—4 pm
Sherin Park and Campground

Ethnic Food Booths –American, Bosnian, German, Mexican, Scandinavian,
Somali, Vietnamese, Nepali

International Kids Activities— Bouncy house, face painting, henna hand
painting, fabric painting, archeological dig, oobleck walk, tissue paper
flowers, Loteria, piñatas

at 12:30, 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30

World Music and Dance:

Presentation of Colors—VFW

White Earth Nation dancers and drummers

Folklorico Guadalupano - Mexican dancers

Tickwood String Band—old time American music

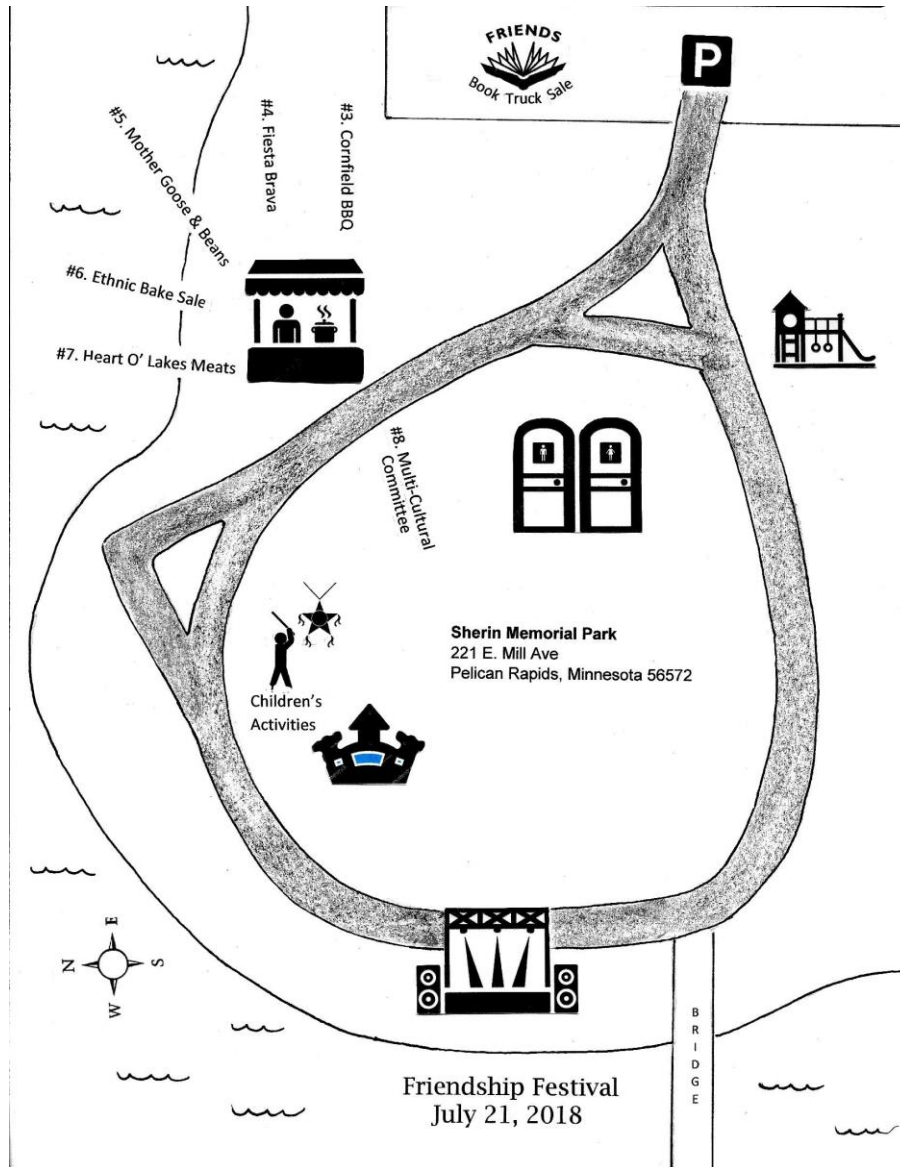
Somali Cultural Museum Dance Troupe

Mariachi Jalisco de Minnesota

As in life, all of the above events are subject to change and will go on rain or
shine. Bring a chair or a blanket.

Sponsoring Merchants

Pelican Rapids VFW-Lake Region Electric-Lakeland True Value -Mercantile on Main-Larry's Supermarket-
Lake Region Arts Council-



Other Sponsors: Coldwell Banker Preferred Partners-Pelican Rapids Area Community Development Committee- La Mariposa Market-Fiesta Brava; Pelican Rapids VFW-Lake Region Electric-Lakeland True Value -Mercantile on Main-Larry's Supermarket-Lake Region Arts Council; Coldwell Banker Preferred Partners-Pelican Rapids Area Community Development Committee- La Mariposa Market-Fiesta Brava

Further information: Joan Jarvis Ellison

Author, Shepherdess

joan.jarvis.ellison@gmail.com

218-863-5904

www.sheepnotes.blogspot.com

Note: If you're able to volunteer for even an hour or two that day, contact Barb Honer @ bahoner@yahoo.com.



Somalis + Minnesota Exhibit at the Minnesota History Center.

Joan Ellison also is pleased to inform us that Kate Roberts at the Minnesota History Center spent some time in Pelican Rapids interviewing Somalis, some of whom are featured and quoted in the Somalis + Minnesota exhibit opening June 23 at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul.

**EXHIBIT OPENING DAY, SATURDAY, JUNE 23 • 10 am to 5
pm • MINNESOTA HISTORY CENTER**
Free admission, programming, and food!

Please share this information with family and friends--we have a lot planned for the day and want to make sure word gets out!



Love Resists

A partnership between the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, the Love Resists Campaign is activating people of faith and conscience to resist the criminalization of our neighbors and communities, and create a safer, more just, welcoming, and sustainable world. The campaign offers a prophetic approach to responding to this political moment in the United States, helping to build the wider movement of resistance. To learn more, visit the Love Resists Campaign [online](#).

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Take Time to Have Fun!!



July 7, 7 p.m. - New York Mills Cultural Center (24 N. Main)

September 9, 2:30 p.m. - Dalton Opera House (109 Summit)

October 6, 7 p.m. – Fergus Falls Eagles Aerie (120 S Peck)



Music in the Woods at Erhard-Hills

Saturdays, 3-5 p.m.

Carole Mitchell and Cindy Johnson sponsor these concerts by professional musicians because they believe the arts are life-sustaining. Please be generous in the donation boxes, in which all proceeds go to the artists.

Bring your friends, we are family friendly. For your comfort, bring a folding chair and BYOB if you wish. NO rsvp, just drive on in: 33928 County Highway 27. We never cancel unless it's the end of the world. In the spirit of community, simple snacks/food to share are most welcome.

Provided: filtered drinking water, tableware, electricity (crockpots) and a clean biffy on-site. For more information, contact Carole @ 218/205.4828 or cmcarolemitchell@gmail.com.

JULY 14 -- Mikko Cowdery & Friends
Love Celtic music, stories, humor, and jigs?





August 11 -- Dave & Jon are back with OSCAR-HELEN, a wide variety of favorites & original tunes.

AUGUST 25 -- The Tickwood String Band returns for the 6th year! Always enjoyable, come hear heartfelt story tunes from American folklore.



Art of the Lakes 

STUDIO TOUR

July 20-22, 2018
Friday & Saturday 10-5 p.m.
Sunday 11-3 p.m.

LARGEST ART CRAWL IN RURAL MIDWEST!!

Save the Dates!!

Community Project with Sverdrup & Tingvold Lutheran Churches

"God's work - Our hands."

September 9, 2018



UCU will work with Sverdrup's GWOH committee on how we can be a part of this project. Please give your ideas to Kris Warhol so she can coordinate efforts with Sverdrup Lutheran Church.

Social Justice Workshop
“Outreach in Challenging Times”
St. Cloud Unitarian Church

October 13, 2018

10-3 p.m.

**With Guest Speaker Danny Givens, MUUSJA, speaking at their Sunday service on
October 14.**

Note: Members from the St. Cloud Unitarian Church attended the UCU 2017 Fall Workshop and now they have stepped forward to host in 2018. Hopefully, many UCU members and friends can attend to show our support and commitment to our fellow UU church and to social and environmental justice actions. Contact Judy Foster @ jfoster58@charter.net or Mary Anderson @ maryanderson8380@msn.com.

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF UNDERWOOD
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Approved MINUTES—MAY 16, 2018 MEETING

Board members present: Kris Warhol, David Sanderson, Shannon Smith, Connie Stigen, Bob Worner, John Miersch, Ron Roller, and John Minge. (Ron Roller was not present when the meeting began but was present by the time that the Treasurer’s Report was made.)

Board members absent: Darryl Booker and Stan Carignan.

The Meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by Board President Kris Warhol.

1. Bob Worner started the meeting with a reading.

2. Agenda: The proposed agenda for this meeting was approved. (Motion to approve made by John Miersch and seconded by Dave Sanderson).

3. Minutes of the March 21, 2018, Board Meeting were approved. (Motion to approve made by Shannon Smith and seconded by Dave Sanderson).

4. Minutes of the April 18, 2018, Board Meeting were approved. (Motion to approve made by Shannon Smith and seconded by Connie Stigen).

5. New President’s Goals and Expectations. Kris Warhol reported that she is excited about the upcoming church year and spoke briefly and generally about what lies ahead and what she hopes to see happen. Among other things, outgoing Board President Mary Anderson is to do an orientation for new Board members.

6. Treasurer’s Report. Ron Roller reported that:

- The real estate taxes for Sverdrup Suites were increased due to the price that the Church paid for the property.
- Ron indicated that he would like to be able to “autopay” Church bills. A motion to authorize that passed. (Motion made by Dave Sanderson and seconded by John Miersch.)

- Ron presented the Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Statement for the month of April, 2018.
- The need to clarify who can sign what at the Underwood Farmers State Bank was addressed. The action taken by the Board on May 16 regarding this matter is reported in the Partial Minutes of that meeting which are hereby incorporated by reference into these Minutes. (Those Partial Minutes were signed by the undersigned on May 20, 2018.) However, those Partial Minutes do not mention that those who might still have the authority to sign at the Bank in behalf of the Church but who were not explicitly authorized by the action taken on May 16 to do so no longer have said authority. Their authority to sign on any document pertaining to Bank business was terminated by the action taken at the May 16 meeting.

7. Stewardship Committee Report. Dave Sanderson gave this report. He said that this Committee was to be increased in size to five members and that one of its members will be on the Finance Committee. He's looking for someone to become the fifth member of this Committee. The Committee will try to have regular meetings that are scheduled to take place on the same day as the Finance Committee meetings and right before the Finance Committee meetings.

8. Children's Religious Education (RE) and Programming. Kris reported on this. Children's RE is growing and is expected to take place every Sunday morning. There is strong support for Children's RE, and there have been a number of individuals who have stepped forward as volunteers to help this happen.

9. Sverdrup Suites management. Kris reported on this.

10. The Facilities Committee. Kris reported that she is off this Committee.

11. Safety Committee Report. Dave Sanderson made this report. He and Norm—with the help of others—have developed the new safety protocol manual. It is still being touched up.

12. The Membership Committee Report. John Miersch reported that a meeting of this Committee is scheduled for May 23, 2018.

13. The Communications Committee and the Space Planning Committee Reports. No one was present to report on the actions/activities of these committees.

14. Unfinished/Old Business. Dave Wass is working on the annual audit.

15. New Business: John Miersch reported that he's been in contact with the Church's piano tuner who is retiring. A replacement is being sought. John would like to find someone in the area. There was some discussion regarding this matter. John suggested that it might be smart to try to encourage someone who is local and interested to check into this as a business. John thinks that there is enough business in the area to support a piano tuner.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Dated: June 11, 2018.

/s/ John Minge _____
John Minge, Secretary