

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
June 3 - Stephanie
Sanderson - "Shall
We Pray?"*

*June 10 - Rev.
Stefan Jonassen -
"How Much False
Witness...."*

*June 17 - Rev.
Roger Parks - "In
Search of Our
Light"*

*June 24 - Rev.
Laurel Hallman, "I
Have Walked
Through Many
Lives"*

Effective Immediately Children's Religious Education Every Sunday!!



***June 2018
Newsletter***

June 2018						
◀ May						July ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Bring your donations for annual rummage sale -----	2 
3 Stephanie Sanderson, "Shall we Pray?" Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Kids RE- 10:00 am	4 Executive Committee 4 pm AA 7 pm	5	6	7	8	9 Sale Continued a Second Saturday!!
10 Rev. Stefan Jonassen, "How Much False Witness Can We Bear?" Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Kids RE- 10:00 am	11 AA 7 pm	12	13 Speakers Committee 3:30 pm	14	15	16 Alexandria U Group @ Susan Sanford's 6 pm
17 Rev. Roger Parks – In Search of Our Light" Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Kids RE- 10:00 am	18 AA 7 pm	19	20 Board Meeting 5:30 pm	21	22	23 Music in the Woods 3-5 pm
24 Rev, Laurel Hallman, "I Have Walked Through Many Lives." Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Kids RE- 10:00 am	25 AA 7 pm	26	27	28	29	30

Coming in



Underwood City Wide Annual Rummage Sale

Saturday, June 2 from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The Unitarian Church of Underwood will once again participate in the Underwood City Wide Rummage Sale on Saturday, June 2 from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Donations for the church sale should be dropped off at church on Friday, June 1 between 4-6 p.m. Please do not bring clothes, non-working items or appliances with plugs. You can contact Kris Warhol, Annual Rummage Sale Coordinator at mwarhol7up@gmail.com or 218/826-7540. Proceeds this year will go for Honor the Earth Pipeline / Water is Life. See: www.honorearth.org. This is the organization founded by Winona LaDuke who spoke to us in March. **Note: Because of the amount of donations already, Kris & helpers will run the sale a second Saturday, June 9.**



Cedar Walters, Volunteer Leader with the Kids!!

Photos courtesy of Norm Kolstad

Effective Immediately

Children's Religious Education will be EVERY SUNDAY!!!

With parents and volunteers so rapidly stepping forward and providing leadership, we are now offer Children's Religious Education every Sunday. And just in: June 17th – Kids' Water Activities at the nearby lake!!

Goals for UCU's Children's Religious Education:

- Community and support – teaching ethics and how to be a good person
- Religious literacy – teaching that there are many religions, Christianity one of them – recognizing and respecting other beliefs.
- Learning what Unitarian Universalism is.

- Involving older kids (10+) in bi-monthly adventures, calling on more male mentoring volunteers.
- Promote activities that are gender neutral.

Classes:

- Children will gather at church and then be dismissed with their Sunday leaders to Sverdrup Suites #300 for lessons/activities until 11:15 a.m. when the leaders will return them to church. They may be picked up earlier by parents.
- 1st Sunday of month, we will use lessons from: UUA Tapestry of Faith: <https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/home>.
- Other Sundays, the theme of “home” will be continued through focus on our home church with our Principles, heritage history, practicing silence, navigating the labyrinth created by Jon & Violet Solinger, singing songs and hearing/sharing stories.
- We will encourage the use of music/songs for each session.
- For learning repetition and to reinforce expectations, we will use a set format for class structure each session with a litany of songs and exercises.
- Each session will include chalice lighting and extinguishing safe, battery operated candles.
- Healthy snacks will be provided.
- Two adults will be present to give our children more individual attention and to relieve any one adult of having to do everything. This also meets our safety requirements.

Curriculum:

For the curriculum, based on Jon Solinger’s research, parents have selected the **UUA Tapestry of Faith materials, “Creating Home.”** This program helps children develop a sense of home that is grounded in faith. The children will be asked questions about the purpose of having a home and the functions a home serves, for us as humans and for other animals. The program speaks of home as a place of belonging and explores the roles each of us play in the homes where we live. The program introduces the concept of a “faith home”—your congregation—which shares some characteristics with a family home. Like a family home, a faith home offers its members certain joys, protections, and responsibilities.

Creating Home is not about the outward appearance and material worth of our homes. In these sessions, children explore the deep sense of sacredness, the beauty of hospitality, and the gift of loving relationships that a home can represent. As participants actively explore the concept of home, they create a community home in your meeting space. Watch for small differences in children’s respect for one another and their engagement with the wider congregation as they learn to identify their Unitarian Universalist congregation as a home.

Safety:

Safety Plan provisions are posted on the bulletin board in the Kids’ Room. Child information forms are there as well for parents to complete and return to the RE Leads.

Schedule:

If you wish to volunteer for one Sunday or more to lead or assist, please contact Mary Anderson at maryanderson8380@msn.com or 218/346-66638. The monthly schedule will be published in the newsletter each month. Just like Bert Whitcomb, you can pencil yourselves in well advance of the month ahead!

June Schedule:

Date	Lead	Assistant	Activity
May 27	Cedar Walters	Richard Kagan	Garden/creatures' homes
June 3	Tina Stone	Cathy Stone	Curriculum lesson #2
June 10	Bonnie Albers	Richard Kagan	Church home symbol
June 17	Stan Carignan	Dave Sanderson	Kids ADVENTURES
June 24	Ron Graham	Cedar Walters	TBD
July 8	Robbyn Navatto		
July 15			
July 22	Robbyn Navatto		
July 29	Bert Whitcomb		Walk About
September 9			God's Work, Our Hands with Sverdrup Lutheran Church
September xx	Bert Whitcomb		Cooking with Bert
Oct – March	Jon Solinger 1/x month Cathy & Tina Stone 1/x month Wally Warhol- music 1/x month		
December Children's Program	Bonnie Albers	Lance Albers, others	To be decided

In addition to those above, other volunteers so far will include: Alisha Piekarski, Joanne Cress, Mary Worner, and **YOUR NAME GOES HERE.**

As Ron Graham says, *"A small step for each of the many who have signed up but a large leap for our Church."* Our children say thank you to all the parents, grandparents and volunteers of our church home!!!

June Speakers

June 3 – Celebrant, Stephanie Sanderson, "Shall We Pray?"

Thich Nhat Hanh is a Vietnamese Buddhist monk whose writings are familiar to many of us. In his book, *The Energy of Prayer*, he offers five questions about the practice of prayer, all of them

good: Why pray? Does prayer work? Why is prayer successful at sometimes and not others? If prayer doesn't bring a visible result, is that because our faith is weak? Who is the person to whom we pray?

We will explore the teachings of a few of the greatest spiritual leaders from Taoism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Christianity to learn how their practices came to illuminate their lives and inspire others. Stephanie will address the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 7th principle; and the first three of our sources, especially the "Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and openness to the forces which create and uphold life."

June 10 – Rev. Stefan Jonassen, "How Much False Witness Can We Bear?"

According to author, Damian Thompson, counter knowledge is "misinformation packaged to look like fact – packaged so effectively, indeed, that the twenty-first century is facing a pandemic of credulous thinking." As barefaced lies have been rebranded as "alternative facts," we may have reached a tipping point in the spread of misinformation and willful disinformation.

June 17 – Rev. Roger Parks, "In Search of Our Light." This will be the first in a series of three talks with the theme, **"This Little Light."** Roger will be addressing the issues of discovering the inner light, sharing that light in our relationships and finally, joining others in being the light for the world. Next talks: **August 12 – "Letting our Light Shine"; September 16, "Becoming a Lighthouse for the World."**

June 24 – Rev. Laurel Hallman, "I Have Walked Through Many Lives." This line from a Stanley Kunitz poem is Laurel's theme for Sunday's sermon when she will reflect on 37 years of UU ministry. It began in Underwood.

In the early 1970's, Laurel Hallman came to Underwood with her small son to practice preaching, usually on Easter Sundays. The visits ended when Laurel decided to leave St. Paul and attend Meadville/Lombard Theological School in Chicago.

She officially retired from the UU Ministry in 2009, but in 2016 accepted an invitation to be the Interim Minister at the UU Fellowship of Falmouth, MA. She was very surprised when she visited there with Avis and Marvin Grosslein and discovered that Avis' sister, Marguerite Andrews is a member of the Church in Underwood and that Marguerite remembered Laurel's visits to the UCU.

Also, in 2016 Laurel was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award at the General Assembly, and as part of her acceptance speech, told the story of connecting with our congregation at the beginning and again in this amazing way, at the end of her my Ministry. She said that she needed to go back to Underwood and tell us how important we were in her life and ministry. She comes with her good friend, Laurel Lein whose daughter, Alias is married to John & Janell Mierschs' son, Jeff.

Stay^oinformedED

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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.

Newsletter Submissions

Issued 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 & Bonnie Showers

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.

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

Nurture Your Spirit ...

Summer U Group Schedule

- Alexandria U-Group: June 16, 6 p.m. @ Susan Sandord's; 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.
- **The Fergus Falls and Perham U Groups will resume meetings in September.**

If interested in serving as Lead Co-Facilitators for 2018-19, please contact Board President/ Program Coordinator – Kris Warhol @ 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*

**Children's Religious Education
Sundays, 10-11:15 a.m.**

EVERY SUNDAY!!

See Article above

June 3 – Tina & Cathy Stone

June 10 – Bonnie Albers & Richard Kagan

June 17 Kids' Water Adventures – Stan Carignan, Dave Sanderson & other guys!

June 24 – Ron Graham & Cedar Walters

Sunday Volunteers 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!!



Notes from May Speakers/Presenters



May 6 - Celebrant Bob Worner spoke on "Learning to Speak Unitarian-Stand by This Faith." We are guided by the UU Principles but most often, we don't tell what our principles mean to us. There are Unitarians all around us, but they don't know they are Unitarians. We haven't told them. Kris Warhol tells everyone "come and see" and Marguerite greets and welcomes them at the door.

Too often UU's are reluctant to use traditional language and have abandoned or avoided traditionally religious words. However, there really is no other language to communicate spirituality. We need to use traditional language and redefine it/reinterpret it. We don't carry banners proclaiming our UU principles when we are out there doing social action. But maybe we should.

Spong, Cox, others are teaching that the Bible is not literal but contains teachings that the people knew were not real but explained the spiritual in metaphorical and poetic terms.

The child asked the teacher, "Where does God come from?" The teacher asked, "Where do you think?" to which the child responded, "God's mommy created God and her name is Hope." Metaphorical, poetic!

The UU Principles written in 1985 use ethical language but not the words that speak of spiritual depth and mystery: "Faith, Hope, Love." *Faith and hope* that our actions will make a difference;

blessed with experiences to share; *resurrection* showing as new life; *bearing witness* what is vital to ourselves and available to others; *telling the story* of our spiritual adventure, persuading others that our acts/actions can make a difference. There is no word in Hebrew that means “believe”; the words used translate: “to know.”

Our children are witnesses to whom we are and what we do and learn when we use spiritual language speaking with honesty and listening. A bird sings because it has a song. We can share our song by telling others, sharing what our principles mean and that we stand by this faith.

<https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/learning-to-speak-unitarian-bob-worner-may-6-2018>

Attendance: 42

May 13 - UU Minister, Wayne Hromatko, who visited UCU for the 2017 Area Fall Workshop, talked about the **“Original Purpose of Mothers’ Day and its UU Origins”**

Ann Jarvis, a Methodist, social activist during the Civil War era and mother of 12, is recognized as the mother who inspired Mother’s Day and her daughter, Anna Marie Jarvis (1864–1948), is recognized as the founder of the Mother's Day holiday in the United States. But, honoring of mothers goes back to the era of ancient Greek and Roman celebrations.

Julia Ward Howe, an advocate for abolitionism and social activist, particularly for women's suffrage is probably best known for writing, “The Battle Hymn of the Republic.” Worthy to note is that Howe issued an appeal for women (later known as “Mother’s Day Proclamation”) to unite for peace in the world, a reaction to the carnage of the American Civil War and the Franco-Prussian War. Both mothers seemed motivated to act out because of these war events impacting their lives and their children’s lives.

Wayne was coming of draft age in 1965 during the Viet Nam era when his grandmother shared with him stories of their family and their involvement from the Civil War to World Wars I and II. Wayne went to college instead but was prepared, if called to serve either as a medic or as a chaplain. Mothers everywhere still teach their sons and daughters to love, to share and not to fight. And yet mothers are still called upon to send their children unendingly to war.

Link to podcast: <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/original-purpose-of-mothers-day-its-uu-origins-wesley-hromatko-may-13-2018>

Attendance: 44



May 20 - Dr. Wayne Barnhouse, from the University of North Dakota's Department of Physics and Astrophysics spoke on **"Gravitational Waves to Unveil the Universe."** Gravitational waves are significant to diagnosis the universe's state. There was basically a revolution with scientists when in 2017, the Nobel Prize in Physics went to Kip Thorne, Barry Barish, (project manager), and Rainer Weiss, founders of LIGO.

Around 1916-19, as a last prediction in his general theory of relativity, Einstein had theorized that there are undulations in space with stretching and squeezing. That an object with mass, warps or deforms the space and time around it; the changes in the curvature of space time is due to acceleration of masses in certain circumstances that propagate outward in the form of waves at the speed of light.

But how could you detect gravitational waves? And what produces them? In the 1960's Joseph Weber pioneered research that led to the development of lasers and the detection of gravitational waves, but the technology was not yet sensitive enough, so detection was not confirmed.

Scientists kept moving forward. In the 70's Hulse-Taylor Binary, named after its discoverers is a pulsar (a radiating neutron star) which together with another neutron star is in orbit around a common center of mass, thus forming a binary star system. The stars' rotation sends out a beam of light with a burst of waves sending out a pulsing emission. This discovery opened new possibilities for the study of gravitation. The discovery of the system and analysis of it earned Hulse and Taylor the Nobel Prize.

Technology further advanced resulting in the building of two observatories in the US, LIGO, Laser Interferometer Gravitational Observation – one in Washington state and one in Louisiana. In 2015, they were able to detect gravitational waves with six detections total so far with colliding neutrons of stars that emit light during the merging process. Black holes are detected though they emit no light and there is no signature. The sound of detection is a "chirp."

Now more observatories are being built in Europe, Japan and possibly India. There is talk of putting detectors in space where they would be isolated from vibrations of rumbling trucks, pecking birds, etc.

Gravitational waves happen all the time but we are only able to detect the phenomenal events. Amazing!!

Link to Podcast: <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/whispers-in-the-night-gravitational-waves-dr-wayne-barkhouse-may-20-2018>

Attendance: 43



May 27 – “Me Too,” organized by Sandy Barnhouse and Robbyn Navatto was a panel (Sandy, Robbyn, Deb Wallwork and Barb Honer) and audience discussion about the “Me Too” movement. The “Me Too” movement (or “#MeToo”), is an international movement against sexual

harassment and assault. The phrase was first promoted in use by actress, Alyssa Milano.

Sandy opened the program by reading a list of questions that an anonymous church member had sent to her:

1. Should people like Garrison Keillor or Al Franken have gone down over what they were accused of? Shouldn't the punishment be in proportion to the crime?
2. How can both men and women better communicate their true wishes and feelings?
3. Sometimes women have gotten into my space and made me uncomfortable. Should they face the same consequences as men, or be given a pass?
4. Women often do more of the household chores – housework, childcare, etc. Women would contribute more if they took on more leadership roles. What could we all do to facilitate this change?

Sandy also shared a set of revised questions that evolved out of these 5. From here, many people shared personal stories and opinions, author summarized:

Robbyn –When do interactions cross boundaries of comfort and power?

Deb –This should be a conversation about barriers – sexual, emotional, physical. Harassment is not about sexuality, but about power. Why are women often silent? Much of Deb's documentary career has focused on issues related to Native Americans, in part because of some bullying she witnessed when younger. How does one reconcile within when one has experienced harassment?

Barb has been involved with RAINN, the largest national anti-sexual violence organization. A statistic she shared is that out of 1,000 rapes reported, only 6 men were incarcerated. Related to the question about 'severe consequences', she feels that men should be held accountable for their actions and not be perceived as victims of accusations. Men and women often have different perceptions about situations.

Katy pointed out that women are the victims – not just of the crime of rape, but also because they must pay for the cost of rape kits, for court costs, etc.

Nancy experienced harassment when she started college planning to become an engineer. Because of this, she changed her major to elementary ed. (a traditional woman's profession).

She shared that a high percentage of women who become addicts of drugs or alcohol have been victims of rape.

Bert said, "Me too". He was the victim of sexual assault in the military. Sexual assault/harassment is an issue about power.

Connie said that she experienced sexual violence at 18, after growing up with no exposure or experience at home. Schools need to do more education to make everyone aware that sexual violence is not acceptable by anyone.

Tere said that *Resilience* about the effects of abuse on adults was recently shown at the C4A. This Tuesday, *Paper Tigers* will be shown that deals with similar issues.

It was suggested that we have a Sunday service follow up, involving men. The Speaker committee will work on organizing this. If you are interested in being involved, let Betsy Wells know.

<https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/metoo-sandy-robyn-may-27-2018>

Attendance: 52

Adopt a Highway
Spring Roadside Clean-up Done!
Thanks to Dave McRoberts, Sheryl Olson, John & Janell Miersch, and Betsy Wells!



Space Planning Task Force

The Space Planning Task Force met and reviewed UCU's current and future space needs and opportunities. Working with the Facilities Committee and Technical Team, modifications have been made for equipping and using Sverdrup Suites #300. Thank you to: Darryl Booker for donating an easel stand, Katy Olson for a white board, Kris & Wally Warhol for a TV/DVD. Only Kris Warhol would remember that we had a CD player available to be used by the kids that had been left to the church by Jim Gray over 10 years ago.

The Technical Team will assist with the purchase of a sturdy, moveable TV cart. The Facilities Committee will purchase additional chairs for the conference room.

If or when the Sanctuary is overcrowded, the Technical Team have adjusted the sound system and the camera and lower level TV so that the Ellison Room and Lower Level can be used to more efficiently accommodate increased attendance.

Sverdrup Suites was purchased to meet our needs for children's activities, meetings and storage. Suite #300 now provides us with: Kids' Room (former living room), Conference Room (former front bedroom), Mediation Room (former back bedroom) and Sunporch. The Sunporch is in progress of being finished and can be used seasonally for meetings or as a social gathering room. There is also ample storage room between the available closets and garage. Whew! What a plus after dealing with cramped quarters for so long!

With these accomplishments underway to meet current needs, the Space Planning Task Force has looked to future needs. They determined that concentration be on two large projects: 1) Replacement of the sanctuary windows with new, custom built, energy efficient windows and 2) Building/Grounds Expansion/Enhancements. For number two, Darryl Booker will lead a sub-team of fellow member architects to develop design options. The desired plan will address: a second emergency exit from the sanctuary, a connecting structure between the church and the apartment, sidewalk accesses, and development of the grounds to give serenity/silence/reflective opportunities and yet be children friendly and environmentally friendly.

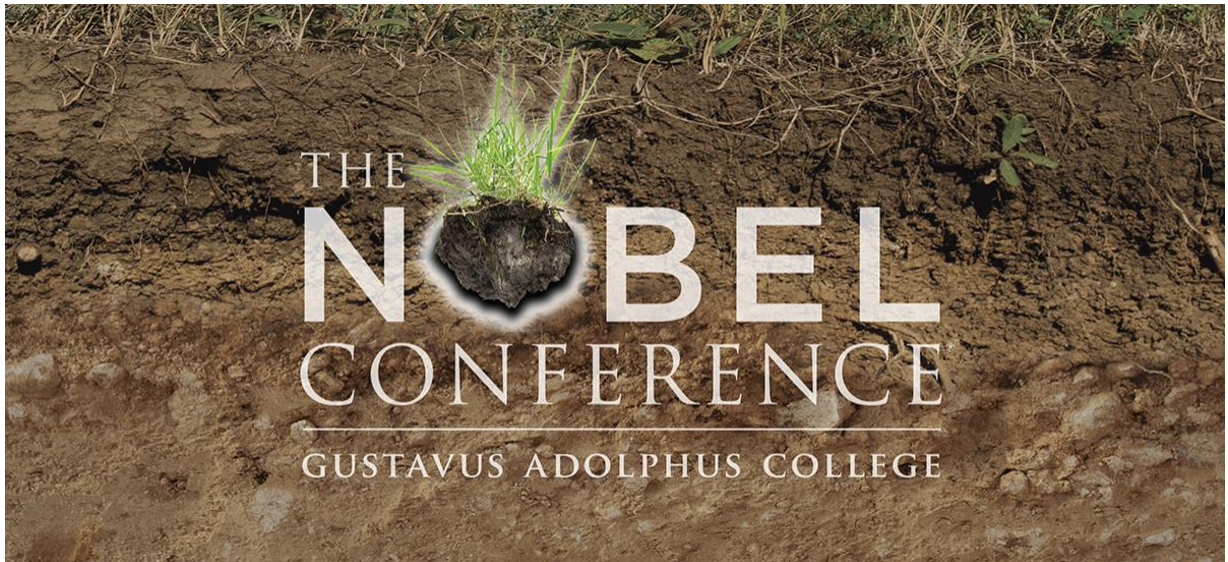
Once the design plans and cost estimates are developed, the Task Force will make recommendations to the Board of Directors and the church membership on how best to proceed with implementation.

Thank you, Space Planning Task Force members: Mary Anderson (chair), Sandy Barnhouse, Darryl Booker, Stan Carignan, Susan Groff, Norm Kolstad, Katy Olson, Florance Thompson, Mary Worner.

Help Heal the World!

Environmental Justice

From Janell Miersch, UCU Connector with Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light (MNIPL), "I would like to share this promotional info on the 2018 Nobel Conference at Gustavus. If you've never been to a Nobel Conference there, I have heard it is an AWESOME opportunity to hear some the world's most renown scholars on the selected topic for any given year."



Scoop up some soil in your hands and consider there are more organisms in that handful of soil than humans who have ever lived. Soil is a living entity in its own right, a community of micro- and macro-organisms that interact with the earth's mineral resources to create this complex entity that undergirds all life on the planet.

The 54th Nobel Conference, *Living Soil: A Universe Underfoot*, invites participants to consider the vast diversity and complexity of soil, and to ponder the challenges we face in protecting this most fundamental resource.

Here is a two minute conference [preview video](#) to get you excited about soil.

[The Nobel Conference is October 2 & 3, 2018 at Gustavus Adolphus College.](#) Ticket prices range from \$45-\$120. New this year, buy two tickets and get one free (use discount code FRIEND). Tickets may be ordered at on our [website](#) or by calling 507-933-7520.

For more information on the conference, visit our [website](#).

See you in October. The conference promises to be great!

Dr. Lisa Heldke

Nobel Conference Director

Professor of Philosophy

The Citizen's Climate Lobby (CCL) with UCU liaisons, Judy Carpenter and Janell Miersch are encouraging you to call Congressman Collin Peterson on June 5. Message: "Support Fee and Dividend. Join Climate Solutions Caucus." The Washington DC office phone is: (202) 225-2165 Detroit Lakes office: Phone: 218-847-5056. The number of calls in support matter.

www.citizensclimatelobby.org.

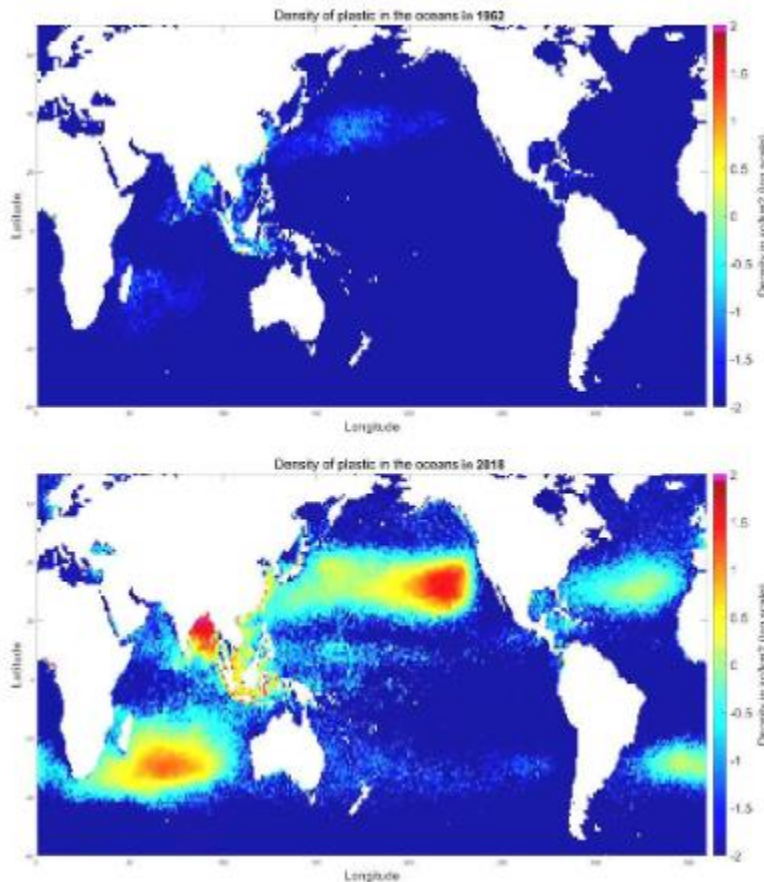
Ocean Conservancy works for trash-free seas

Each month, Citizens' Climate Lobby hosts an online meeting featuring a guest speaker to educate listeners on topics related to climate change and our Carbon Fee and Dividend proposal.

www.citizensclimatelobby.org

National Citizen's Climate Lobby (CCL) May 2018 guest speaker was Julia Roberson, Vice President of Communications for Ocean Conservancy.

Ocean Conservancy is a national nonprofit organization that has been focused on ocean health for 47 years. They have a robust network of 130,000 members and 875,000 “online ocean activists,” whose efforts are supported by staff presence in places like Washington, D.C., Alaska, California, Texas, Florida and more. Because our oceans and waterways face a variety of complex challenges, Ocean Conservancy has programs focused on many topics: Arctic health, restoration after the BP oil spill, healthy fisheries, ocean acidification and more.



To hear more from Julia, including some Q&A with CCL volunteers, watch the entire May meeting on [YouTube](#) or listen to the [podcast](#). Follow Ocean Conservancy on [Facebook](#) and Twitter at [@OurOcean](#) and Julia Roberson at [@juliaroberson](#).

Note: The UCU Water Resource Group postponed their meeting at Cedar Walter's and Amy Beckman's. Watch the church announcements.

Social Justice

Shan Refugee Update

Bernice Johnson updates us in her most recent newsletter of the appalling ongoing events in Myramar. For full access to her newsletters, please go to: www.shanrefugeeschools.org

“Civil rights reports coming out of Myanmar/Burma are horrendous. ... The enduring persecution of the Shan people does not minimize the appalling situation for Rohingya (Muslim) people, 700,000 of whom who were recently driven from Burma after their homes were burned, women raped, and children killed. They suffer now in makeshift camps in Bangladesh, which UN representatives fear will be washed into the sea with the coming monsoon rains. Read more about the Rohingya and their horror story here:

<https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2018/03/04/obama-rohingyagenocide-myanmar-burma-muslim-syu-kii-217214>.

There is also an ongoing military campaign against the Kachin people, who live north of Shan State, many of whom fled years ago to an Internally Displaced People (IDP) camp in the far north. Kachin land is rich in jade and gold—at bottom this is a resource war.

See Voice of America video here: <https://www.voanews.com/a/kachin-idp-camps-myanmar/4338779.html>.

The only positive thing to be said about the Burmese army's war against its people is that they do not discriminate by religion: The Kachin are primarily Christian; the Rohingya are Muslim; and the Shan are Buddhist as are most ethnic Burmese. All fall to the soldier's guns when they want their land.

Shan Schools does what we can to help, focusing on the Shan people, because they are the ones we have closest connection with, the people Bernice taught the English language to during parts of 2002, 2003, and 2004, Charm Tong's people. Our programs include supporting three schools in migrant workers camps and furnishing scholarships to approximately 200 Shan students so they can attend Thai schools from grade school through vocational training.” *Bernice Johnson*

Watch for upcoming late summer visit by Bernice Johnson. Contact Mary Worner (Shan Schools Board Member) with ideas for this event @ maryworner@gmail.com or 218-826-6998.

Foster a Child

Are you or do you know someone who would be a great Foster Grandparent?

Maybe we can't be a Bernice Johnson setting up our own schools in a foreign land but there is another opportunity right at home to help! Catholic Charities Central Minnesota Foster Grandparent Program is recruiting older adults for fostering children who need extra assistance.

The program places older adults in non-profit sites where there are children who need extra assistance- be it academic, social-emotional, or a mix! Most of the volunteers are placed in schools and preschools.... although “grandmas” and “grandpas” have been placed in juvenile correctional facilities, treatment programs, women’s shelters and more.

When a FG comes into the program, they are trained on FGP policies and procedures and are subject to back ground checks and finger printing. They are then matched with a site that *will fit their requests* and meet the sites’/children’s needs. They are trained at the site/school on their policies and procedures. The schools/teachers/program directors decide which children need the extra help from our volunteers. The FGs do NOT go outside of their sites with the children they serve unless it might be a school field trip, etc. Everything is done within the school or site.

The program looks for the volunteers- ages 55+ and they look for the non-profit sites where there are children ages birth up to 21. The majority of the FGs assist in school classrooms (preschool- 6th grade).

Social services isn’t involved. The name FOSTER Grandparent is misleading! We “foster” positive, supportive mentoring and tutoring relationships ON SITE- not anything in-home.

CCCMFGP have FGs in Alexandria, Garfield, Elbow Lake, Perham and Fergus Falls now! Plus, many more locations. Areas covered include: Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Wilkin, Pope, Stevens, Traverse, and parts of Stearns and Todd Counties.

CCCMFGP is *always* recruiting and can start new people at any time during the school year, but there is better timing of having new Foster Grandparents ready to start in September –*many typically want to start when school starts*. It can take up to 8 weeks to get finger print results back, and they have a very flexibly scheduled 20 hours of preservice training while waiting for the print results.

The first steps are-

1. Completing the application form
2. Scheduling an interview with Pat Scherf (see below)
3. If the person and Pat both think it is a good fit **for them**, proceed with finger printing, paperwork, and training....

Pat lives near Osakis, MN, working out of her home and is based out of their main office in St. Cloud.

Pat Scherf, Area Supervisor
320-293-0682
pscherf@ccstcloud.org

Please like and follow on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cccmfgp

Catholic Charities Central Minnesota Foster Grandparent Program

www.ccstcloud.org/fgp

MN Senior Corps=Community Solutions, under the direction of the Corporation for National and Community Service, Support Senior Corps and the CNCS.



*Shelter and Support
in a Spiritual Setting*

Churches United for the Homeless

Sheltered Jan - April: 237 People

Housed in Bright Sky Jan - April: 17 Adults and 24 children

Picnic/Talent Show August 7th

CHURCHES UNITED's GOT TALENT!" – Great Free Picnic and Calling for Acts of All Kinds!

This year's **2018 Annual Community Picnic and Inaugural "Churches United's Got Talent!" Show**, will take place on **Tuesday, August 7th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at Gooseberry Park Large Shelter in Moorhead**. In addition to our favorite traditional summer event, we'll be trying out our first-ever live talent show. We are looking for acts by shelter guests, Blue Sky Apartment residents, your church's children, youth, adults & seniors, Churches United's staff and volunteers—and the sky's the limit: anything from live music groups to karaoke heroes to stupid pet tricks to magicians to original skits...you name it, we'll love it. First Prize: A \$250 Target Gift Card! We also hope to have some artwork on display by several of our talented guests at the event. **Free-to-the-public inflatable games plus hot dogs, sloppy joes, summer salads, chips and ice cream will be complimentary for all and as always – the event is all ages, no-cost and everyone is welcome!** To register, contact Lisa lrichmond@churches-united.org

We are looking for some help with donations to get us in the mood for these warm summer months; swim suits 👙 for the children, and flip flops/sandals 🩴 of all sizes.

All donations can be dropped off at 1901 1st Ave North in Moorhead, MN. Any other questions, please reach out to Brady at bmcclaflin@churches-united.org.

For their community project, the Battle Lake U Group will help serve lunch one day soon at the Shelter.

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 Janell Miersch, Ellen Eastby or Kris Warhol so they can coordinate 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.

"In the cause of transformation, each of us draws the face of her own fear. Fear of contempt, of censure, of some judgement, or recognition of challenge, of annihilation. But most of all I think we fear the visibility without which we cannot truly live...Time is vitally necessary for each one of us to establish or examine her function in that transformation." (Lorde, 1984, p. 42).

"What is required of us is that we love the difficult and learn to deal with it. In the difficult are the friendly forces, the hands that work on us. Right in the difficult we must have our joys, our happiness, and our dreams: there, against the depth of this background they stand out, there for the first time we see how beautiful they are." (Rilke, 1945, p. 181)

We are Part of the Larger UU Community

All Are Called: GA 2018

Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly 2018, June 20-24, in Kansas City, Missouri! This year's theme is "All Are Called" as we dive deeply into questions of mission for our Unitarian Universalist Association, for our congregations and communities, and for each of us as individuals.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

For complete information on GA 2018, visit <https://www.uua.org/ga>.



Note: Ellen Eastby will attend the UU General Assembly. Ellen will report back to us her learnings so we may all benefit from her experience.

Have Fun and Celebrate!!

Four old-time dances

With square dances, polkas and waltzes in OTC this summer.

From Deb Wallwork: "We've been talking for almost a year with Chris Schuelke of the Otter Tail County Historical Society about how to include music history into the Sesquicentennial, or 150th birthday of OTC.

The Historical Society sponsored two grants I wrote for a series of square dances. One was to the Lake Region Arts Council for a project grant, and the second was to Springboard for the Arts to be part of the year of Play.

Red Herring Stringband is what you might call a pick-up band, with musicians from both the Tickwoods and Trad & True. We all play dance music. John Heine is a dance caller, so he'll be teaching dances. We'll be calling squares and teaching the couples, waltzes and polkas, bringing together old and new generations.

The first is at the Star Lake townhall in June 9th at 7 PM. The next will be in New York Mills at the Cultural Center. We'll have one at Dalton in September and one at the Eagles in Fergus Falls later in the fall."

The dances are funded in part by the Otter Tail Historical Society, and by the Lake Region Arts Council, through a Minnesota State Legislative appropriation. This activity is also part of the Fergus Falls Year of Play, a partnership between the Department of Public Perks, Springboard for the Arts, and PartnerSHIP 4 Health with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The first will be:

Star Lake Town Hall
Sat., June 9, 7-9 p.m.
free and open to the public



For more info. debmn1.wixsite.com/redherring

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.

JUNE 23, Saturday, 3-5 pm Please come!



Ethan Adelsman and crew are returning for the third year, from Chicago, to share their extraordinary talents with Swing, "Hot Club" or Gypsy Jazz, made popular in 1930's Paris, France, by Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli.

Next Concerts:

JULY 14 -- Mikko Cowdery & Friends

Love Celtic music, stories, humor, and jigs?

JULY 28 - To be announced

back
wide



August 11 -- Dave & Jon are with OSCAR-HELEN, a 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.

