

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

Unitarian Church of Underwood

PO Box 58, 206 North Main Street

Underwood

Phone: 218/826-6553

Website: www.ucofu.org

www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org

Sunday Services 10 a.m.

June 2 – Ellen Eastby, “Spirituality:
How Does It Feel to You”

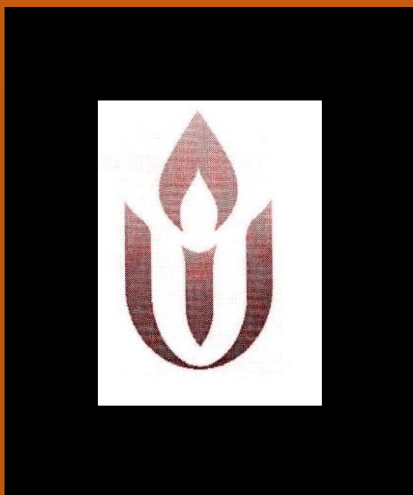
(Children’s Participation in program
& Open House)

June 9 – Sam Miltich, “The
Improvised Live...”

June 16 - Rev. Roger Parks,
“Universal Christ, Universal Love.”

June 23 – Cedar Walters, “There is
No ‘Away’...”


June 30 – Dr.Hilda Foster on women
and climate change



*“Dads are most ordinary men turned by love into
heroes, adventurers, story-tellers, and singers of
the song.” ~ Pam Brown*

June 2019 Newsletter

June 2019

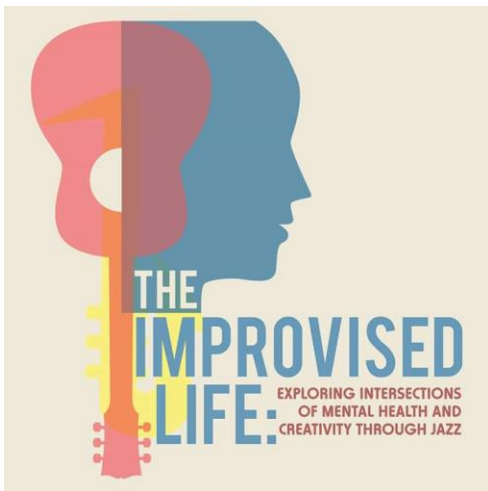
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					Bring your donations for annual rummage sale ----- 3-7 PM	1 
2 Ellen Eastby, "Spirituality... Children's Participation & Open House #300 Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Children's RE 10:00-11:15 am	3 AA 7 PM	4	5	6	7 Private Piano Salon 4-9 PM	8
9 Sam Miltich, "Improvised Life..." Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Children's RE 10:00-11:15 am	10 AA 7 PM	11 Battle Lake/Underwood U Group 3 pm @ Steve & Linda Bergs	12 Stewardship Committee 4 PM	13 Speakers Committee 3 PM @ #300	14	15
16 Rev. Roger Parks, "Universal Christ, Universal Love." Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Children's RE 10:00-11:15 am	17 AA 7 PM	18	19 Board Meeting @ 5:30 PM	20	21	22
23 Cedar Walters, "There is no 'Away'..." Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Children's RE 10:00-11:15 am	24 AA 7 PM	25	26	27	28	29
30 Dr. Hilda Foster Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Children's RE 10:00-11:15 am	<div style="text-align: center;"> Support Shan Schools June 1 – Underwood Annual Rummage Sale U Bicycling Every Sunday Following Services Coming in August – Thai Fundraising Dinner @ Roller-Olsen's </div>					

Speakers Coming in June

June 2 – Short Children's Religious Education presentation followed by Celebrant, Ellen Eastby on "Spirituality: How does it Feel to You?" Rev. Peter Morales asked, "How does spirituality feel to you?" He then goes on to say, "Spirituality is impossible to define and difficult to describe." And yet, we try. No matter what our own personal definition might be or how difficult it may or may not be to describe, spirituality is important in our lives. In relation to the third principle, which states that we covenant to affirm and promote acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregation, Ellen will speak about spirituality. She will discuss ways to define and describe spiritually and will also speak of its importance.

Note: Following the service, there will be a Children's Religious Education Open House @ Suite 300. Get your coffee and treats in the church lower level before or after visiting the children's hosting and showing of their space and their activities.

June 9 – Sam Miltich, "The Improvised Life: Exploring Intersections of Mental Health and Creativity Through Jazz."



As the stories were breaking on Kare 11 News and various newspapers, Sam lost hearing in his left ear. "The way I have gotten through schizophrenia and now hearing loss is knowing I'm a warrior." As his dad said. "Sammy, you're a warrior of the heart. You will get up tomorrow, you will suit up and show up."

Sam received a grant to tour "Improvised Life," taking his message of jazz and mental health to help educate on and destigmatize mental illness.

Exploring intersections of mental health and creativity through jazz, deepening our understanding of interconnections, his journey brings him to the Unitarian Church in Underwood where he will share the message with us.

Kris Warhol is leading the service with special readings and gratitude to welcome Sam. Wally Warhol and Mary Worner will provide special music throughout the service entertaining the entertainer. A delightful inspiring service awaits.

Sam Miltich is a self-taught jazz guitarist raised in the north woods of Minnesota. He has played from Iron Range towns to Minneapolis to the New York's Lincoln Center stage. Sam lives in Grand Rapids, MN. See more at: Wally Warhol and Mary Worner will provide special music throughout the service entertaining the entertainer. Learn more at: <https://www.sammiltichmusic.com/>

June 16 – Rev. Roger Parks, “Universal Christ, Universal Love.” We find in the life of Jesus an expression of the Universal Christ that is fullest manifestation of Universal Love. When this Spirit is alive in people, they *wake up* from their mechanical thinking and enter the realm of co-creative power. Roger is a regular who brings to us each summer a three-part series of talks. Watch for follow-up dates.

June 23 – Cedar Walters, “There is no ‘away’: consumption and waste from global and local perspectives.” Cedar is the Public Information and Education Officer for the Otter Tail County Solid Waste Department. She will give an overview of rampant consumerism and the global waste crisis, where your garbage goes locally, and how having less stuff is better for us and the planet. She will relate it to UU Principles 6: “The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all” and 7: “Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.” Round table discussion tentatively scheduled to follow the service.

June 30 – Dr. Hilda Koster is a Concordia College professor of Religion, Environmental and Sustainability studies. She is the co-editor of two books: *Planetary Solidarity: Global Women's Voices on Christian Doctrine and Climate Justice* and *The Gift of Theology: The Contribution of Kathryn Tanner*. Both books focus on women and climate change.

Monthly Greeting from Board President, Kris Warhol



What is your Passion? We need to talk. We can connect your passion to the goals you seek to accomplish. Our Church needs you.

Collaborative leadership is a commitment both informal and formal. Collaborative leadership develops activities by raising the bar to a higher level of inclusiveness and effectiveness.

Empowering leadership allows for developing creativity, innovation, productivity and satisfaction. Ask yourself what are your values and gifts? How do I choose to share my gifts in our Church?

This work is an opportunity for your personal growth as well as your spiritual growth. Collaborative leadership: Undertaking clearly defined tasks. Developing skills. Working on a team. Be encouraged to share ideas with others who share yours. Asking for training: opportunities abound for workshops. Committees are open to join.

A new day is approaching what are you going to activate yourself towards? We are calling you to serve. "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." *Margaret Mead*

The workings of a church motivate and activates members. Allowing a venue for expressing new ways in a partnership with the members. Think along the lines that you will play an integral role as we plan our future.

Pledge, Promise, Honor and Begin. This invitation for deepening your personal ministry is now. Today is a new day.

Reaching out to each of you as you reach out to one another. *Kris Warhol*

Note: New Board Officers elected for annual year 2019-20: **President – Kris Warhol; Vice President – Darryl Booker; Secretary – John Minge; Treasurer – Ron Roller.** Please give them and other Board members your questions, concerns and your thanks for their serving!

Congratulations to Our 2019 High School Graduates



Sadie Marty, daughter of Heidi Paulson and Granddaughter of Argyle Paulson and Skylar Swanson, daughter of Heather Czeck and great granddaughter of Mary Anderson

Surveillance – and just who are you?



Pretty suspicious looking characters - Marguerite Andrews and Precious Czeck (2014)
Photo courtesy of Heather Czeck

UCU Sunday Volunteers for June

If you see a slot open, please contact Mary Anderson to volunteer:

maryanderson8380@msn.com or 218/346-6638.

Volunteer Duty & Coordinator	June 2	June 9	June 16	June 23	June 30
Adult RE	Classes	Resume	In	September	
Mindfulness Sitting	9:15-10:15 a.m.	9:15-10:15 a.m.	9:15-10:15 a.m.	9:15-10:15 a.m.	9:15-10:15 a.m.
Children's RE (Mary Anderson)	Ron Graham/Cedar Walters		Ron Graham Cedar Walters Richard Kagan?	Richard Kagan	Cedar Walters Richard Kagan
Speakers (Betsy Wells & Kris Warhol)	Celebrant, Ellen Eastby/Children's Participation*	Sam Militch Improvising	Roger Parks "Universal Christ, Universal Love."	Cedar Walters	Hilda Koster
Service Leaders (Mary Anderson)	Ellen Eastby	Kris Warhol	Janell Miersch	Mary Anderson	Katy Olson
UCU in Action (Janell Miersch)			XXX		
Greeters (Kris Warhol)	Lee & Reed Becker	Amanda Boyle & Robb Sutter	Carole Mitchell & Diane Johnson	Kris Warhol	Donn & Marlys Siems
Kitchen Coordinator (Mary Anderson)	Mary Anderson	Alison Francis	Mary Anderson	Alison Francis	Mary Anderson
Treats (Monthly Kitchen Coordinator)			Roger & Bev Parks		
Hymn Accompaniment (Susan Groff Mary Worner)	Mary Worner	Susan Groff	Mary Worner	Marianne Bryan	Susan Groff
Special Music (Susan Groff/Mary Worner)	Ron Roller & Katy Olson	Wally Warhol Mary Worner	Brass trio with Thomas Grotberg, Sarah Grotberg & Ken Hamrum.	Mikko Cowdry	Terry Shaw
Technical Support (Amy Beckman)	Amy Beckman	Tere Mann	Melody Shores	Tere Mann	Amy Beckman
Celebrants (Ellen Eastby)	Ellen Eastby – talk				



Children's Religious Education

In celebration of over one year of weekly Children's Religious Education, the children will be part of the Sunday program on June 2. They invite you after the service to Suite #300 to visit their room and see all their handiwork of their learnings from the year.



On May 5, in celebration of Earth Day, Kris Warhol and Lee Hamness and Amari, their faithful student offered gratitude and skipped around town to pick up garbage. At the railroad park, Lee and Amari had a contest to see who could swing highest. There, they shouted to mother earth: "You're welcomed."

On May 12, Ron Graham and Richard Kagan had three kids with whom they did the usual opening and then reviewed Creation Stories/Bible. They discovered that Aymon is psychic - he accurately separated the red and black cards from a deck into two piles while seeing only the backs. After a discussion, we all decided that it did appear Aymon could do the impossible. But, as Unitarians, we asked if there could be another explanation and eventually voted 100% that it was a Ron magic trick even though the kids couldn't figure out how he did it. Unitarians want to know the truth about everything. They ended by making a present for our mothers using various colors of sand and glue to "paint" a picture on colored paper.



In excitement, the children are practicing for their participation in the church program. We are hoping to see many visitors to our space at the upcoming Open House, June 2.

Notes from April Programs

Until/unless this editor hears otherwise, the weekly church reports will no longer be duplicated in the monthly newsletter. If you are not on the email list to receive the weekly church reports, please notify Ellen Eastby @ eastofellen@hotmail.com.

May 5 - Bob Worner, "Acquainted with Grief." Podcast @

Podcast @: <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/acquainted-with-grief-bob-worner-20190505>

Attendance: 45

May 12 - "Motherhood and Parenting." To introduce the panel, **Diane Johnson** described her mother and presented her writing of a "Tribute to Mothers." **Shannon Smith** facilitated the discussion with **Bonnie Albers, Stan Carignan, Cathy Stone and Wally Warhol.** Podcast @:
Podcast @ <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/motherhood-parenting-panel-albers-carignan-stone-warhol-may-12-2019>
Attendance: 48

May 19 – Carole Mitchell, "Change a Thought, Change Your Life." Podcast @
<https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/change-a-thought-change-your-life-carole-mitchell-20190519>
Attendance: 35

May 26 – Katy Olson, "The End of Colonialism and the Rise of the Partnership Society"
Podcast @ <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/the-end-of-colonialism-and-the-rise-of-the-partnership-society-katy-olson>.

Note: Text of Katy's talk is included at the end of this newsletter.

UCU Search Task Force

May 28, 2019 from Mary Worner, Search Task Force Chair:

The Search Task Force has been meeting weekly beginning the end of March for the purpose of the administrative consultant replacement search. We presented a draft of the position description to the board at their regular May meeting and it was approved as presented (with the addition of one word).

At today's meeting the task force finalized the position posting, the ad that will go in papers and on-line. Complete information including how to apply will be available on our website at www.ucofu.org. Barring any technological (or other) issues, the posting will occur the first week of June.

Next for the Search Task Force comes developing the interview process, reviewing applications, checking references, and scheduling and holding interviews. The task force will select an applicant or applicants to recommend to the board. There will be a second interview of the recommended applicant/s scheduled with board members invited to attend.

Thanks to everyone that has helped with this process. General questions may be submitted to any task force member: John Miersch, Connie Stigen, Kris Warhol, Betsy Wells, Bob Worner, or Mary Worner



U Group Schedule (Meetings Monthly)

- Battle Lake U Group, the 2nd Tuesday @ 3:00 p.m. @ Linda & Steve Bergs. Facilitators: Bob Worner/Kris Warhol.
- Perham U Group Social Gathering @ John Minge's July 11 @ 6:30 p.m.
-

The Alexandria, Perham and Fergus Falls U Groups will resume meeting monthly again in September.

Facilitators needed. To learn more or join a group, contact Lead Co-Facilitators: Kris Warhol @ mwarhol7up@gmail.com or 218/205-1644 or Shannon Smith @ shannonsmith20@gmail.com Or 320/630-6229

Website:

www.ucofu.org

"Like" UCU on Facebook: see

www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org

**Sunday Talks available via
PodCasts @**

soundcloud.com/user-927528278

Religious Education

**Mindfulness Sitting continues each
Sunday from 9:15 -10:15 a.m. @ #300 of
Sverdrup Suites**

**Adult Religious Education Classes will
resume in September**

**Children's Religious Education will
continue each Sunday from 10:05 – 11:15
at #300 of Sverdrup Suites**

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/mailling: Ellen Eastby and Mary Anderson

Website: Ellen Eastby

Facebook: Melody Shores

Photos courtesy of Norm Kolstad & credited others.

**Monthly Newsletters come out on the 1st of each
month via email. They are also posted at
www.ucofu.org.**

**If you have ideas on how to shorten, change,
improve the newsletter, please contact Mary
Anderson.**

**Contact Mary Anderson @218/346-6638 or
maryanderson8380@msn.com for Sunday
announcements. Contact Kris Warhol @ 218/ or
mwarhol7up@gmail.com for local media
notifications. Betsy Wells is handling Sunday
announcements in the media.**

UCU Inner Workings

Given and Received in Gratitude

President Kris Warhol speaks above of the importance of volunteers to this church. What follows is a prime example of the number of volunteers involved just for the Sunday morning service.

To learn who is scheduled to speak on Sunday, you watch the announcements, read the monthly newsletter, look at the website and Facebook Page, read your local newspaper. You decide if you will come specially or show up regularly.

There are many who have worked long hours to assure that we each have a worth-while, inspirational, educational experience during the Sunday hour of service.

To get the speakers we do, Speaker Committee members start this quest months before with monthly meetings. They work to determine what speakers are desired, who are available and when can they be scheduled. The Sunday Service Coordination Committee meets regularly to evaluate the order of service and the smoothness of its delivery. The music team arranges for special music. The accompanist and service leaders select the hymns and responsive readings. The Technical Support team is notified of any special requests by the speaker and each Sunday sets up microphones, video and audio equipment.

Once the schedule is set and speakers are determined, the details decided, the Speakers Committee passes the word to the newsletter editor & bulletin maker (Mary Anderson), website administrator (Ellen Eastby), Facebook Page Administrator (Melody Shores), and Betsy Wells sends a write up to local newspapers.

Word has been passed and then it is Sunday morning. Bulletins are typed, copied and folded. Greeters appear. Musicians, the service leader and tech person appear. The speaker arrives, is greeted and made comfortable.

You show up to the clean and peaceful setting; the service begins with special music, candle lighting, sharing of joys and concerns, readings, the speaker's presentation. You listen, participate, absorb. Afterwards, you join in at the social hour where the treats have been provided and laid out. You sit at decorated tables, you socialize, you leave. Whether or not you attended, within the next day, you receive via email a summary of the service wherein you can review what you heard or catch up via the podcast on what you missed.

And all the above doesn't include the work of the Religious Education leaders for both adult and children's religious education also occurring on Sunday morning. That will be saved for another time.

Many heads and hands have made Sunday morning at UCU an enriching experience. We thank them all:

The Sunday Service Coordination Committee: Mary Worner (Chair), Amy Beckman, Ellen Eastby, Susan Groff

The Speakers Committee: Betsy Wells (Chair), Sandy Barnhouse, Diane Johnson, Richard Kagan, Carole Mitchell, Kris Warhol

The Communications Committee and Technical Team: Ellen Eastby (Chair), Mary Anderson, Amy Beckman, Tere Mann, Bonnie Showers, Norm Kolstad, Melody Shores, Wally Warhol.

The accompanists: Susan Groff, Mary Worner, Amy Beckman, Melody Shores and all the special **musicians** that have included at the least: Steve Berg and Linda Quistad-Berg, Lee Hamness, Ken Hamrun and Al Smith, Wally Warhol, Katy Olson & Ron Roller, Betsy Wells, Mikkel Thompson, Mikel Cowdery, Patty Kakec, Marianne Bryan

Janitor: Susan Groff

The Celebrants and Service Leaders: Ellen Eastby (lead), Deb Ferguson, Richard Kagan, John Minge, Katy Olson, Shannon Smith, Bob Worner; Mary Anderson, Tere Mann, John & Janell Miersch, Betsy Wells

The Treasurer, Ron Roller and **bookkeeper,** Tere Mann for depositing and recording the collections and making the payment to the speaker.


Table decorations: Mary Anderson & Florance Thompson

Kitchen Coordinators: Mary Anderson, Alison Francis, Janell Miersch, Bonnie Showers & Mary Worner

Greeters and treaters: Many!

It is with gratitude that we acknowledge the many talents and services given to and through the Unitarian Church of Underwood.

Memoir Writing Workshops with Glenda Reed



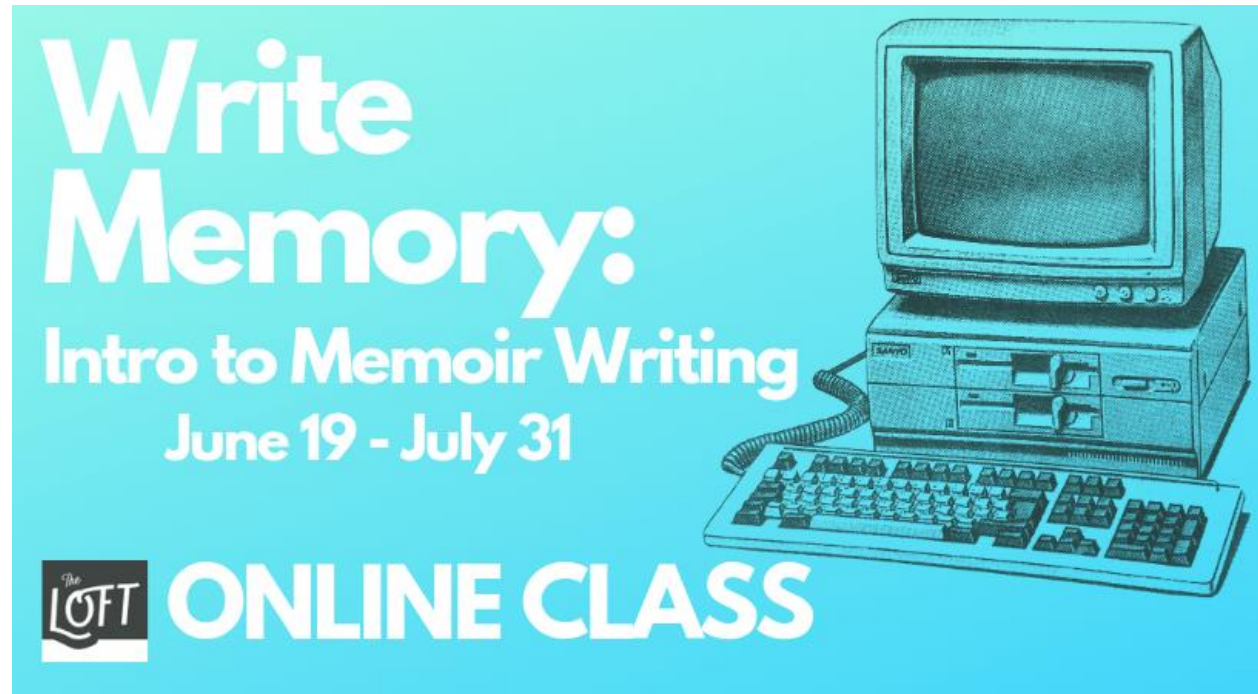
**Write
Memory:**
Intro to Memoir Writing

June 8th 10am - 12pm
June 12th 6pm - 8pm

Fergus Falls Public Library

Award-winning writer Glenda Reed is teaching a free workshop series, **Write Memory: Intro to Memoir Writing**, at the Fergus Falls Public Library on **June 8th** and **June 12th**. Register for **FREE** at: <https://springboardforthearts.org/write-memory-workshop-intro-to-memoir-writing/>

Can't make it on these dates? Glenda is also teaching a version of this workshop, **Write Memory: Intro to Memoir Writing ONLINE** as a **six-week online class** through **The Loft Literary Center** beginning June 19th. Register at: loft.org/classes/write-memory-intro-memoir



For more information and to register: 612-379-8999 (Loft education line) loft@loft.org or www.ucofu.org/facebook

Living Out Our UU Principles

Finding Common Ground

In late summer, a Party/Raffle is planned at Sandy's home (historic Barnhard School) for participants who report back to her that you have sat down together over coffee or lunch, to find common ground, although you have opposing political ideas. No need to talk politics, but it's OK if you do. Please send both names (or all, if you're a group), including email addresses, to artdome43@gmail.com, saying you have found at least one thing in common (or, preferably more). Doing this more than once, and sending in your name(s) each time will qualify you for another raffle ticket. Date and time to be surveyed in August. *Sandy Barnhouse*

Raising Funds for the Shan Schools

shanrefugeeschools.org/



**Underwood City Wide Annual
Rummage Sale
Saturday, June 1 from 8 a.m. – 2
p.m.**

Bring high-end items to church

Friday, May 31, 3-7 pm

Kris Warhol, Coordinator @

mwarhol7up@gmail.com or 218/826-

7540

Proceeds go to Shan Schools

U Bicycling Club



Sundays 12 Noon (weather permitting)

Meet outside church following the UCU

Sunday Service

\$30/fee per rider to join

Proceeds go to Shan Schools

Contact: Ron Roller, 218/770-0374 or Katy

Olson, 218/770-6681

Contribute to Shan Schools through your Amazon Purchases

Go to AmazonSmile.com when you shop on Amazon and sign up to donate to Schools for Shan Refugees, Inc. Part of each purchase you make will be donated to our education projects.

Thank you for helping Shan migrant children get an education!

Sincerely,

Bernice Johnson, President

Schools for Shan Refugees, Inc.



Twenty-six people listened to a webinar with Ali Tharp from Unitarian Universalist Ministry for the Earth May 23, 2019. The May guest speaker was Dina Gillo-Whitaker, indigenous researcher, activist and author of *As Long as the Grass Grows: The Indigenous Fight for Environmental Justice, from Colonization to Standing Rock*. She talked about the indigenous fights for environmental justice and referred to Executive Order 12898 signed into law by President Clinton in 1994 which states in part, "Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies."

As she stated, more than twenty years after the issuance of the Order, communities across the country continue to be unnecessarily exposed to toxic pollution that threatens their health and quality of life. It is not working for native people.

Here is a link to her talk: <https://www.uumfe.org/2019/05/07/as-long-as-grass-grows-the-indigenous-fight-for-environmental-justice-from-colonization-to-standing-rock/>

Submitted by Janell Miersch, Social/Environmental Justice Committee Chair



Calling young people! Join us for Youth N' Power Camp

The Youth N' Power Summer Camp is a three week intensive Environmental Justice camp where we will engage young people to become champions of climate solutions such as solar and energy efficiency. During our time together we will venture out into the community and visit solar job sites, wind turbines, recycling facilities and more. We'll build a solar village, role play what it takes to build a solar company, and learn all about what it takes to do an energy assessment of someone's home or business. We'll focus on leadership, job readiness, energy systems, communication, policy advocacy, and entrepreneurial tactics, all the while cultivating the kind of community our youth envision for the future.

Where: Camp will be hosted at my old stomping grounds: Redeemer Center for Life, located at 350 Logan Ave. N. Minneapolis, MN, 55405.

When: We will meet Monday-Friday from 9 AM-2 PM. Camp will run July 1-19 (excluding 7/4, 7/5).

Who: We are specifically looking to invite young people in grades 5-7 to participate in our camp track; and grades 8-12 to help to facilitate camp in more intensive leadership positions.

For more information go to the MNIPL web site – registration forms are available
<https://mnipl.org/2019/04/calling-young-people-join-us-for-youth-n-power-camp/>

ALSO: Monday June 24 – Friday June 28
Lake Itasca State Park
Departing from 4407 E. Lake St. Mon. 9am, returning Fri 3pm

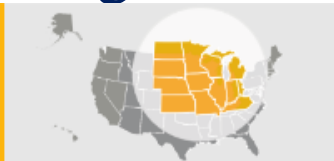
Youth in grades 7-12 are invited to participate in week full of outdoor adventure. We'll get to know and love the headwaters of the Mississippi River. We'll visit indigenous farms, meet with indigenous water protectors, and explore solar development on the Red Lake Reservation. Students will have a chance to meet with Native leaders and find their own voice in creating the world they want to see.

[Register here.](#) 10 spots available. Apply now, and you will be “accepted” within 2 weeks. Contact: Alina@mnipl.org for more information!
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdU9qfCplvhBpixR_7Cubg-3gk9zXsSbFm1baoT-sOQqJnR_A/viewform

We are Part of the Larger UU



MidAmerica
Region



*Welcome to the second email in a new series of UUA thought leadership messages sent monthly to all UU congregations and leaders to strengthen our connections and support shared learning.
Enjoy!*

Dear Congregation Members,

The UUA's annual congregational certification is in! Every year, congregations report their membership, religious education (RE) enrollment, budgetary figures, and much more. It's a helpful snapshot of what's happening in our congregations. And here's this year's headline: membership is steady, while religious education enrollment and average Sunday attendance continue to fall.

Adult membership is steady overall, coming in at 154,704, almost identical to last year. We have stabilized a downward trend in membership that had run 2010-2017, but beneath the headline we see substantial movement in membership

figures in congregations. Last year 43% of congregations grew their adult membership, and 30% grew their RE enrollment. Growth is coming largely from our smallest congregations – of the almost 400 members we added to brick and mortar UUA congregations last year, 70% were from congregations of under 150 members. Regionally there is also some variation. The Central East, New England and Southern Regions grew this past year, and the Southern Region in particular has been a source of growth over the past five years.

"There is still a hunger for the values of justice, equity, compassion and liberation to which our faith aspires. Advancing these values matters far more than any simple statistics can capture."

So, what do these numbers mean; what's going on here? First, it's important to note that Unitarian Universalists, like many faith communities, continue to be impacted by the tide moving away from religious involvement in the United States. We see this in the generational shifts in RE enrollment. And the fact that we are not losing members at the rate of some of our mainline Christian cousins attests to the relevance of Unitarian Universalism in our time, as we tread water against the current trends.

It's also important to acknowledge that the transition to the new formula for the Annual Program Fund, asking congregations to contribute to the UUA based on their ability to pay rather than their members, means we are not penalizing congregations for membership. The regions that grew this past year are the ones who have fully implemented the formula, and the remaining two regions – Pacific Western and MidAmerica – will complete their transition to the new formula next year.

Most importantly, what I see is that there is still a hunger for the values of justice, equity, compassion and liberation to which our faith aspires. Advancing these values matters far more than any simple statistics can capture. As we have engaged at a deeper level in the past two years in examining how systems of oppression have shaped our own UU institutions, we have not seen big changes in our membership, implying most folks are staying in the conversation. There is much more work to do to build "the power of we" in Unitarian Universalism, and I am glad to be on the journey.

In faith,

Carey McDonald

UUA Executive Vice President

Carey McDonald is Executive Vice President of the Unitarian Universalist Association.



UNITARIAN CHURCH OF UNDERWOOD
BOARD OF DIRECTORS approved MINUTES
MARCH 20, 2019

Board members present: Connie Stigen, Shannon Smith, Kris Warhol, Ron Roller, Bob Worner, Dave Sanderson, John Miersch, and John Minge.

Board members absent: Tim Lanz and Darryl Booker.

Also present (for part of the meeting): Tere Mann, the Church bookkeeper

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

1. Bob Worner opened the meeting with a reading.

2. Agenda: The proposed agenda for this meeting was approved with the understanding that some of the listed agenda items will be deferred to a future meeting. (Roller/Sanderson)

3. The Minutes of the February 2019 meeting were approved. (Sanderson/Stigen)

4. The Finance Committee and the Treasurer's Report: Ron Roller and Tere Mann made this joint presentation. (A) The proposed budget for the upcoming church year was presented and explained and adjusted in a few instances. This budget is to be presented for approval at the annual meeting of the Church in April. This proposed budget is quite similar to the budget for the current church year. The proposed budget was approved for presentation to the Congregation for its consideration and approval at the April 2019 Annual Meeting.

(Sanderson/Miersch) (B) A motion was made that John Minge be authorized to open a charge account at Central Market in Perham. (Smith/Sanderson) The motion was approved.

(C) Ron presented a written balance sheet for the period ending February 28, 2019, and a profit and loss statement for the same period. He made several points regarding said reports, including that church net income to date—in excess of \$5,000—looks good, that Sverdrup Suites net income to date exceeds \$4100 (which is also a good thing), and that we should end the church year in good shape.

5. Stewardship Committee Report: Dave Sanderson gave this report. Dave said that the "thanksgiving" event held a few weeks earlier went well. Specifically, he indicated that the responses received to "the four questions" were good and will be helpful in future planning." The UU Mid-American consultant will be consulted on the significance of the results of the event. And, finally, Dave asked whether or not the Church should be spending more money outside the congregation—i.e., that is over and above the empowerment grants. There was some discussion regarding this question and related matters but no action was taken.

6. The Strategic Plan: A motion to approve the written modifications of the current Five-Year Strategic Plan for the upcoming 2019-2020 church year was approved. (Roller/Worner) Those modifications have been presented to and discussed by the Board at previous meetings and

reflect the input of committee chairs, Church Board members, Church officers, and other interested persons. (These modifications may be presented for the approval of the congregation at the upcoming Annual Meeting.)

7. Community Outreach Committee Report: Some (unspecified) aspects of this report were deferred to a future Board meeting. Ron Roller presented in writing the recommendations of the Empowerment Grant committee regarding who should be awarded grants totaling \$10,000 during the upcoming church year. A motion to approve those recommendations passed. (Worner/Miersch) Again, it is anticipated that these recommendations will get passed onto the Congregation for final approval at the upcoming Annual Meeting.

8. Facilities Committee: The written "space plan" was received. No action on this plan was taken. It was noted that there are some line items for "facilities" expenses in the budget to be presented for approval at the Annual Meeting.

9. Membership Committee: John Miersch made this report. He indicated that Alison Francis will soon be (or very recently has become) a member of this committee.

10. Communications/Technical Committee Report: This is one of the items that was deferred to a future meeting.

11. Administrative Support: This has primarily to do with the replacement of JoAnn Larson. To date, the Church has been able to meet its needs in JoAnn's absence with the volunteer help of various individuals as the search for a new administrative person is being conducted. The hiring task force consists of Connie Stigen, Bob Worner, Mary Worner, and Betsy Wells. Kris Warhol, as Board Chair, is also a member of this task force. A motion to charge this task force as follows was discussed and passed: (a) to determine the process to be followed by the task force using the process suggested in writing by Mary Anderson as a guide but without being bound by that process; (b) to determine the job description of the position to be filled using the two alternative job descriptions suggested in writing by Mary Anderson as a guide but without being bound in any way to either of said descriptions; (c) to start with an in-house search; and (d) to select two finalists for the position and to present and introduce both of the finalists to the Board at its May 2019 meeting. It is expected that the task force will inform the Board of its progress at the April Board meeting. [NOTE: After the March meeting, it was suggested to the task force—by the undersigned—when it was informed of its charge that, if one candidate is “head and shoulders” above the others, it might not be necessary for the task force to present two finalists to the Board as no one wants to waste time on this process. The Board should consider the wisdom of this suggestion at its next meeting so as to avoid any confusion or problem that it might give rise to.]

12. The UU annual General Assembly (to be held in June 2019 in Spokane, Washington): A motion was made to approve \$1000 for each of two Church members to attend this event. There is money in the proposed budget that could be used to cover this event. There has been some interest in this event expressed by one individual to date. The motion passed. (Roller/Sanderson)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. The next Board meeting—which will be limited in scope—will take place after the Annual Meeting on April 14, 2019.

Respectfully submitted this 12th day of April, 2019.

By: John Minge, Secretary

Text of Katy Olson's talk of May 26, 2019

The End of Colonialism and the Rise of the Partnership Society

OPENING READING:

Die Könige der Welt sind alt - Rilke

The kings of the world are old and feeble.

Who are their heirs?

Their sons are dying before they are men,
and their pale daughters

abandon themselves to the brokers of violence.

Their crowns are exchanged for money
and melted down into machines,
and there is no health in it.

Does the ore feel trapped
in coins and gears? In the petty life

imposed upon it
does it feel homesick for earth?
If metal could escape
from coffers and factories,
the torn-open mountains
close around it again,
we would be whole.
We would be whole.
Peace means the beginning of a new world.
It means that nations are friends;
it means joy to the world.
Peace is quiet and calm; it is at rest;
It is silence after a storm.
It is love and friendship;
It is the world's dream of dreams.
Peace brings comfort and happiness;
It brings bread to the hungry;
It brings prosperity to the nations.
It means the strong respect the weak,
the great respect the small,
the many respects the few.
It is like spring after winter;
It brings sunshine into the world;
It is sweet music after harsh sounds.

When I told Mary the title for my talk she said, "Wow, you're taking on a lot!!" It is a lot to think about. How have we come to be on the brink of destruction of the very home, the only home that sustains our life? What kind of hubris could possibly account for the situation in which we find ourselves? I believe it is the cult of the individual & the power of domination, marry these to greed and it is a recipe for disaster. The wreckage is all around us. The din of alarm is deafening and yet too few heed the call.

I don't need to catalog all the ways that we have failed or tell you of the destruction our kind has wrought. It is as plain as the nose on our face. And yet, as I was talking with my daughter, Cedar about this reality she said, "why don't more people feel the panic and pain that I do about the loss of ecosystems, habitat and the crash of whole species?" I told her that the trees are leafing out and the grass is still green and that for many this gives a false sense of security.

When I tell my clients that the amphibian populations are crashing, they are surprised and not all that concerned. What effect, after all does the loss of frogs and salamanders have on their life as they rush from their jobs to leisure pastimes, running their children from this game to that activity. The fact that we are advised to not eat the fish in our own lakes, not to swim in the rivers of Minnesota, and to shelter in place with increasing frequency is only slowly

beginning to cause alarm. I tell them: the frogs and salamanders are the canary in the coal mine, they are telling us that we are next on the list. That if they don't survive, we may not either. I believe that the roots of our denial and our dilemma lies in the exploitive thinking of the colonizers.

The term colonization is derived from the Latin words *colere* ("to cultivate, or till"), *colonia* ("a landed estate", or farm"), and *colonus* ("a tiller of the soil", "a farmer"), then by extension "to inhabit". I think originally that was what colonizers did. They settled, mixed and mingled with the locals and got on with life. This was before the colonizers of the 15-18th centuries.

When my friend Terry Lynn Bryant, an Iroquois Seed Saver from Toronto was visiting us, we had a long conversation about the history of the colonizers and the "settlers." She had complimented me on how well we have kept the settler ways. I queried why she made that distinction? She said that colonizers were exploiters and settlers wanted a home, a place to belong and that they were used as pawns in the colonizer's take over of nations and resources. This distinction makes clear why there are good people, trying hard to make a good life, while Rome burns around them.

The historical phenomenon of colonization is one that stretches around the globe and across time. But the greed and desire for riches that drove the conquistadors was a philosophy of domination, not one of settling in with the natives. The use of biblical justification for domination of Man over animal, Man over woman and Man over man gave them a reason and a means to subjugate and rule.

Riane Eisler wrote brilliantly of this historical shift in her seminal work: *The Chalice and the Blade*. We can debate endlessly about where and when humanity took that turn but it does not change the fact that we took it and never looked back. I saw a bumper sticker this weekend that I feel is very apt for where we find ourselves: "Never have so few; took so much; from so many; for so long." But that has been the colonizer mindset from the beginning, take as much as you can and keep it for yourself. Never-mind who gets killed, tortured and starved in the process.

The language and practice of domination and exploitation is the same whether we are talking of nature, women or indigenous people. I see the legacy in the social ills of our times. The violence being wrought on children, women and minorities. The economic inequality and despair in our communities. The alienation of young men from their families. The spoiled and ruined land. We have arrived at the edge of this destructive mindset.

Many came looking for home, but they carried the seed of greed along with them and for a time it seemed that indeed all boats were lifting. Man's home was his castle and our private estates were gated and safe from the rabble outside. But the greed at the top is endless and so now even the privileged middle is feeling the squeeze. The economy is the new colonizer and it does not care about social ills and environmental degradation. I have observed the fencing off

of yards and land, the do not trespass signs and the castle on the hill of people enmeshed in isolationist thinking.

However, no amount of walls will protect us from the burning of the planet, the crash of societies or the destruction of our food systems. Rianne Eisler in *The Real Wealth of Nations* writes that what we need is a new economy. The word economy comes from *oikonomia* which is the Greek word for managing the household, and a core component of households is caring and caregiving. A radical reformulation of economics is needed for us to not only survive, but thrive.

What I want to tell you today is that it has arrived, here, in our time. I see many examples of humans turning away from the destructive and exploitive ways of the colonizers and a revisioning of how we might live with one other. Our economy in the last 50 years has been undergoing a radical shift. From the way we produce clothes, to the way we power cars, manufacturing is going green. Closed loop systems thinking is being adopted by industry and is now recognized as beneficial to the bottom line.

Green energy has the momentum to overcome even the most powerful of detractors. Sierra Club lists 215 mayors that have pledged to 100% clean energy by 2035 and Chicago is the 1st large US city to commit to 100% clean energy by that date. They joined a cohort of more than 100 mega cities around the globe making that pledge. Portland's buses run on 100% wind energy. London wants to be the first national park city, putting nature at the center of urban life. Asking residents to convert their grey spaces to green, turning half of London into green space by 2050. Ron and I have made the trip to Lanesboro, MN every spring for the last 10 years, this year we remarked about the explosion of solar and wind farms along our route in southern MN.

As with any technological shift there are winners and losers. In this present shift, like in the age of the great industrials, there is great concentration of wealth at the top. This is leading us to rethink our values. What we see in our daily news cycle is nothing less than these two visions of our future colliding and being hammered out. Partnership vs domination, inclusiveness vs exclusivity, which way will we turn in response to the threat of destruction of ourselves and our world?

The noise is deafening and if you only listen to the current news cycle you miss the underlying story. We are witnessing the end of domination. The rise of the rights of women, people of color, indigenous citizens and the environment are moving to the forefront of our consciousness as a society.

I love it when something that I have been talking about shows up in the New York Times. For some years now I have said that the end of dominator politics and policies is like a cornered wild animal. It fights hardest when the end is near. And so it is with our current dysfunctional

model, it is in a fight to the death. We stand at a tipping point, a juncture in our history when nothing less than fundamental change is needed!

Rianne Eisler writes that: "Giving greater value to caring and caregiving won't solve all our problems. But it is impossible to solve our current global crises, much less advance our personal, economic and global development needs unless we do. We can no longer make choices based on self-interest alone. What we value has been deeply influenced by the language of greed and domination. We need a new language to describe a society that values all of nature, people and labor as equal and reward it accordingly."

Derrick Jensen writes compellingly in his book *A Language Older Than Words* about violence as a pathology that touches every aspect of our lives and indeed affects all aspects of life on Earth. This chronicle of a young man's drive to transcend domestic abuse offers a challenging look at our worldwide sense of community and how we can make things better.

Susan Griffan gives voice to how language has been used to subjugate women, nature and minority communities. Both these authors assert that we need to affirm and adopt the language of caring, loving, and sharing in order to change the way we are in the world.

I have experienced this in my family of origin, how difficult it is to untangle the threads of abuse and how the language of love and forgiveness can repair the rent torn in the fabric of family life.

Partnership economics is a much more sensible and realistic standard for what is given economic value and what supports and advances human survival and human development. This isn't just theoretical; without bringing equity and value to the work of caring and caregiving, we cannot realistically expect a more caring peaceful, environmentally healthy and just society in which people can live meaningful and fulfilling lives. A partnership system supports mutually respectful and caring relations. One where our resources are used for the development of people to their fullest potential and away from an economics of domination where resources are given to jails, weapons and wars!

This work starts in the home. The Center for Partnership Studies found that the measures for the status of women is a better predictor of quality of life than GDP. The Works Values Survey found the belief that women and men should be equal goes along with a shift from authoritarian styles of child rearing to one with increased emphasis on imagination and tolerance as important values to teach a child. These shifts in attitudes about gender and child rearing, in turn are linked with greater interpersonal trust, less reliance on outside authority and a rising sense of subjective wellbeing.

(RE) 21% of home-based caregiving is now being done by stay at home Dads. This shift has benefited both women and men as strict gender roles are giving way to more fluid and

personalized home structures and work arrangements. In Ron, I have found a man completely committed to the partnership model of marriage & child rearing, he has a deep ecology in his relationship with his natural environment and a gentle way in the world.

The emancipation of men from toxic masculine models is imperative if women and men are to be fully free to engage in equal partnership households, work models and family caregiving.

As the old song, *As We Go Marching, Marching* says "The rising of the women means the rising of the race." Women are moving into higher economic occupations and running for office in greater numbers than ever before. Nevada has more women than men in its state house! Uganda has 66 women in their parliament!

And studies of nations where there is parity between women and men in government show that they have a higher quality of living, better health outcomes, and a higher literacy rate, lower infant mortality and a greater percentage of resources devoted to human concerns.

Across the world women are rising up to take control of their own economic futures, politics, and reproductive rights. This moves all of humanity toward a more equitable future and the rise of true partnership societies. Greenland just passed a wage equity law and is the first nation to do so, it is now illegal in Greenland to pay a woman less than a man.

Repairing the harm done by colonialism is critical if we are to finally have peace and prosperity for all. Here are some examples of that reckoning that I see in the news: Internationally, Mexico demanded that the Pope and Spain apologize for the destruction of the Indigenous culture, mass genocide and environmental devastation caused by the colonization of Mezzo America by Spain and the Church of Rome. Maine replaced Columbus Day with Indigenous Day, The Ecuadorian government wanted to drill for oil through seven million acres of land in the Amazon. However, their efforts were stopped thanks to the Waorani people of Pastaza, who won a historic court ruling against the government. New Zealand recognized the innate rights of a river as equal to human rights. Northwest Indigenous tribes have won the protection of rivers for salmon and the destruction of dams that destroy river ecosystems; tribes in Montana have won the right to hunt and gather on ancestral lands.

We must recognize that rebuilding indigenous sovereignty comes from within. For indigenous people as well as for colonizers. An article I read in the Guardian talked about how self-reflective revitalization of traditional values, principals, and cultural practices have given rise to Indigenous Communities assertion of treaty rights, the right to practice cultural ceremonies and demands for the protection of the sacred places central to their worship.

The story of colonization from the perspective of the colonized is being told by many emerging indigenous writers. Just as the writing of Black authors has illuminated the blight wrought by slavery on our society, these stories are critical for our understanding of what was lost and how we might help to repair the damage.

I believe that those of us who are descendants of settlers and colonizers must be especially willing to look at what in our own lives we can do to further the cause of restitution. There are many examples of what individuals are doing; from sharing their homes and land with native families to building tiny homes in backyards for homeless people to changing city policies that discriminate against people of color. Cities are creating community land trusts to keep the cost of housing within reach for people of color who would be priced out of their neighborhoods by gentrification. There is a renewed desire to live in community from shared extended multi-generational and multifamily households to co-housing communities. Elder care shared-living is a model of caring for elderly people by pairing young folks in need of affordable housing with elders in need of light assistance to stay in their homes.

Weavers and Builders of Community is a movement that is working to weave isolated young men back into the fabric of their families and communities. Bikers have brought 30,000 meals to feed migrants at facility in New Mexico. Compassionomics is a new movement to bring the value of compassion into healthcare companies. Studies show that recovery rates from illness is improved by 40% if the healthcare worker is trained in and employs compassionate care and is given the time and resources to do so.

The vision of our future is being created by the children of the baby boomers. More than any previous cohort since the late 1800 to early 1900's the Millennials are tremendous entrepreneur's and community builders. They have embraced the values of their great grandparents and are moving back to their hometowns in record numbers to manifest their destiny.

Millennials have given rise to community sourced and locally placed tool libraries, bike shares, car shares, labor shares, open sourced software, crowd funding, crowd sharing, daycare pools, seed libraries, clothing swaps, little free food pantries, the buy nothing project, bike repairs coops, and bike rickshaws for elderly transport in cities.

(YES) Even here in our own Fergus Falls there is a bike rickshaw and you can sign up to peddle an elder around the community! Millennials value, on the street, in the neighborhood relationships, between friends, non-monetized and self-employed economics. They value re-gifting, bartering, moonlighting, informal lending, self-provisioning, under the table and not for market economics. From food shares to community free potlucks from donated food to feed the homeless and poor, they are changing the way America does business and the way we live with each other.

They intend to de-power money. They recognize the power of community to heal our hearts and minds. Every aspect of living is being revision-ed, even the end of life is being reclaimed

with green burials. The way we eat and produce food is responsible for up to 29% of global greenhouse gas emissions – and are therefore driving the climate instability that is itself the greatest threat to future agricultural productivity. The farm to table, sustainable farming, and local food movements are changing the way we eat. Gardening city lots, greening the alleys with food production and creating social justice by teaching felons to farm and helping them learn to market their produce in the food deserts of the inner cities are just a few of the ways that our food systems are being reimagined. How we eat has real consequences. Eating local is more than a slogan, it is a solution to eliminate a large portion of greenhouse gas production and revitalize our crop lands. Buying local, eating local, living local and dying local is the way of the future.

We are witnessing the rise of the Resistance, or as I say, the map for how we get there from here, for by no means is the battle won. We are on the forefront of this paradigm shift. The conversation is being challenged and changed with *carpe diem*; seize the day politics that are taking root with change makers all around the globe.

There are three aspects to *carpe diem* politics; First, seizing opportunities on a mass scale such as; The Woman's March on Washington, Black Lives Matter protests, the Occupy Movement, and School Walkouts. Second, spontaneous mobilization facilitated on social media, and third a carnival spirit. As Mother Jones said, "If I can't dance, I don't want to be a part of your revolution." Roosevelt's New Deal was in response to mass street marches of unemployed workers, starving children, and war veterans. We must all demand the world we want to live in and large visible protests force the issue into the broad light of the day!

No one should be surprised when Extinction Rebellion Activists engage in mass civil disobedience. No one should be annoyed when School children start leaving classes enmass. No one should be surprised when New Green Deal authors demand the overhaul of American Society. In fact, we should be deeply grateful, they understand the scope of the problem and are willing to put themselves on the line for the radical change that our times are calling for. (YES Magazine)

I say we must stand with them. While I sit on my porch enjoying the amazing variety of birds that have returned to fledge their young and enjoy the fragrance of the fruiting trees, I too can be lulled into a false sense that all is well with the world. But I do not want to sleep through this time, I want to say that I stood on the side of those who had the courage to speak truth to power and fight for the future of our children and our world!

The solutions to our problems will not come from top down politics, it is coming from grassroots movements that are dismantling the structures of power and replacing them with community-based models. Perhaps if enough people recognize the clear connection between mental and emotional wellbeing and our socioeconomic environment, we can create a sense of urgency to move beyond corporate capitalism to

an economic system that values community and environment and realize true partnership societies. As one wise person said; the roads of the future will be the paths between our doors.

Post script;

While I was writing this talk, an email came to my in-box and while I am not officially endorsing Pete, I do think his bid for president is right in line with the trends that I see, He writes:

“Hi, my name is Pete Buttigieg. I am a proud son of South Bend, Indiana. And I am running for president of the United States.

I recognize the audacity of doing this as a Midwestern millennial mayor. It’s more than a little bold — at age 37 — to seek the highest office in the land. But the forces of change in our country today are tectonic. Forces that help to explain what made this current presidency even possible. That’s why, this time, it’s not just about winning an election — it’s about winning an era.

This is one of those rare moments between whole eras in the life of our nation. Change is coming, ready or not. Such a moment calls for hopeful and audacious voices from communities like ours. And yes, it calls for a new generation of leadership. We stand on the shoulders of optimistic women and men. Women and men who knew that optimism is not a lack of knowledge, but a source of courage.

It takes courage to move on from the past.

If you and I rise together to meet this moment, one day they will write histories, not just about one campaign or one presidency but about the era that begins here today. So, with hope in our hearts and fire in our bellies, let’s get to work.”