



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.



(Photo courtesy of Susan Groff, October 2015)

May 2017 Newsletter **Unitarian Church of Underwood**

206 North Main Street
Underwood

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www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org

May 2017						
◀ April						June ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  AA pm	2	3 Communications Committee 4 pm Fall Workshop Planning TF 5:30 pm	4	5	6
7 Stefan Johansson Adult RE-New Jim Crow 9:15 am CC	8 AA 7 pm	9 Battle Lake U Group 3 pm @ Groff/Wass's	10 Executive Committee 5:30 pm Speakers Committee 3:30 pm Alexandria U-Group 7:00 pm Widseth Bldg	11 Perham U Group 3:30 p.m. @ Louise Lovdahl's	12	13
14 Bob Worner "We are the Seeds" Ancient Religions 9:15 am CC	15 AA 7 pm	16 Fergus Falls U Group 6:00 pm @ Tere Mann's	17 Board 5:30 pm 	18	19	20
21 Rebecca Davis Mother's Day Mindfulness Sitting 9:00 am CC	22 AA 7 pm	23	24	25	26	27
28 Willard Yellow Bird Adult RE – Spong's Study of Matthew Children's RE Picnic/Church Potluck @ Phelps Mill	29 AA 7 pm	30	31	Notes:		

Note: Effective June 4, 2017 Sunday Services will begin year-round at 10:00 a.m.

May Programs & Speakers

May 7 – Stefan Johansson - TBA

May 14 – Bob Worner, “We Are the Seeds,” UU Principle #7

May 21 – Rebecca Davis, “Music for a Sunday Morning”

Rebecca Davis is an acclaimed concert pianist who has performed in Russia, China, Brazil, Austria, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Switzerland and throughout the United States. She began her studies at age four and debuted with the Philadelphia Orchestra at age thirteen. She has won top honors (First Prize, Second Prize, Music Critics’ Awards, Audience Favorite Performer Awards, finalist) at international competitions held in Paris, Vienna, Berlin, New York and Washington, D.C.

After receiving a Bachelors and Master’s degree from The Juilliard School, she was awarded a Teaching Fellowship at the conservatory, and subsequently became an Ear Training/Theory faculty member in the Pre-College Division. While attending Juilliard, Ms. Davis also participated in the Lincoln Center Program, which sends young performing artists into the New York public school system. She is well known for her exceptional master classes and continues to teach piano privately at her home in rural Minnesota.

In addition to performing and teaching, Rebecca has served on several boards, most recently, the Minnesota State Arts Board (Vice Chair) and the Lake Region Arts Council. A recipient of a McKnight Fellowship and a Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant, she was also awarded a Minnesota State Arts Board Certificate of Merit “in recognition of being an arts leader in Minnesota.” and continues her lifelong commitment of giving underserved audiences access to classical music performances whenever possible. Frequently serving as a juror or panelist, she also mentors many young artists.

Before moving to Minnesota, Rebecca became the first African-American producer/host of a prime time classical music radio program called “Commuter Classics” which was broadcast on National Public Radio at KUSC in Los Angeles.

The Battle Lake U Group will be serving a brunch following Sunday service as a free will donation fundraiser for the United Way Back Pack program.

May 28 -Willard Yellow Bird - TBA

Sunday School Picnic and Church Potluck @ Phelps Mill

Newsletter Submissions

Please submit your ideas and articles for the Newsletter to: maryanderson8380@msn.com. Editing is provided by Stephanie Sanderson and emailing/ mailing is provided by Ellen Eastby and JoAnn Larson. Mickie Edmonds usually provides one of her paintings each month for our appreciation! When you have photos of a UCU event and are willing to share, please forward them to Mary. Norm Kolstad provides most/many of the photos used.

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

Note: The www.ucofu.org website is updated regularly to include the monthly newsletters and other current items of interest.

U Groups

The Perham U Group helped coordinate the annual chili dinner on March 31. John Minge, chief chili chef, is a member of the Perham U Group. The Battle Lake U Group served brunch for the annual meeting on April 23. The Fergus Falls U Groups plans to serve lunch following service on May 21 to raise funds for the United Way’s Back Pack program.

Both Tere Mann and Connie Stigen will be resigning as Co-Facilitators. They will continue until new co-leaders are trained for fall. Stan Carignan has volunteered as one leader. If you are interested in acting as Co-Facilitator of the Facilitors’ group, please contact Connie at dcstigen@gmail.com or Tere at teremann@gmail.com.

The Perham U Group plans to have social get-togethers over the summer months. This may be a good way to get acquainted before joining our group when the regular U Group resumes in September. For details, contact Louise Lovdahl at Ashiko47@sbcglobal.net or Stan at Stanley.a.carignan@gmail.com. Other U Group summer schedules will be in the June newsletter.

U Group Schedule

- Alexandria U-Group: 2nd Wed @ 7:00 pm @ the office building of Widseth, Smith & Nolting Office Bldg. Facilitators: Lee Becker/Susan Sanford.
- The Battle Lake U Group, the 2nd Tuesday @ 3:00 p.m. @ Susan Groff and Dave Wass’s. Facilitators: Bob Worner and Joanne Cress. When Joanne and Luke are gone for the winter, Kris Warhol co-facilitates with Bob.
- Fergus Falls U-Group: 3rd Tues @ 6:00 pm @ Tere Mann’s, 1319 N Park, Fergus Falls; Facilitators: Diana Ziesemer/Connie Stigen/Mary Worner.
- Perham U-Group: 2nd Thursday @ 3:30 p.m. @ Louise Lovdahl’s, - 42720 490th Ave., Perham; Facilitators: Stan Carignan/Louise Lovdahl.

Each U-Group holds an empty chair for anyone who wants to join with a group.

May Topic: “The Art and Science of Knowing.” In this age of misinformation and fake news, maybe we ought to look how and where we search out our information.

Second Sunday Adult Religious Education: Ancient Religions

The Ancient Religions class has been looking at (1) indigenous religions around the world; (2) the recent surge of feminist research on ancient cultures and religions; (3) the ancient religion of Greece, including Jung’s approach to archetypal psychology; (4) the ancient religions of western Europe, including the persecution of the ancient knowledge of Wicca, or witchcraft. Still to come: We’ll be looking at early Hinduism and Judaism (the only surviving modern religions that were originally indigenous); Zoroastrianism; Mithraism, and other Mesopotamian

religious groups; ancient Egypt. There also is the intention of studying First Peoples of North America and their indigenous religious customs, as well as the indigenous religions of Scandinavia/Norway. One intention is to provide a pagan ceremony at the Phelps Mill program in June, and next year there may be a procession of ancient gods and goddesses for the women's history program (not yet developed). *Sandy Barnhouse, Leader*



Sound Support

The Technical Team is primarily responsible for sound and other technical supports for Sunday mornings. Tere Mann and Wally Warhol have been covering most Sunday mornings but they need help!! If you are interested and could be available one Sunday/month, please contact Tere @ teremann@gmail.com or 218/205-4931.

Underwood City Wide Rummage Sale

Saturday, June 3, 2017 8 am-2 pm

The Unitarian Church of Underwood will once again participate in the Underwood City Wide Rummage Sale on June 3 from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Donations for the church sale should be dropped off at church on Friday, June 2 between 4-6 p.m. Please do not bring clothes, non-working items or appliances with plugs. Kris Warhol is coordinator. You can contact Kris at mwarhol7up@gmail.com or 218/826-7540. Proceeds this year will go for additional playground equipment at the Underwood Centennial Park. Come to donate! Come to shop!!



Chili Dinner

The annual chili dinner held March 31 that raises funds for the Underwood Senior Nutrition Program, involves many volunteers and brings in community members to visit and feast together. This year brought out about 133 chili connoisseurs from the area. After expenses, \$702.76 was raised for the Underwood Senior Nutrition Program that supports the area's meals on wheels. It takes hard work but it is a lot of fun participating in this event so thank you all!!



Chief Chef- John Minge



Sous Chefs – Tim Lanz & Dave McRoberts



**Ticket Takers- Barb Graham
& Florance Thompson**



There's more than Chili!!



Steve Nagle & David Wass



**"How do we...?" JoAnn Larson,
Maggie Meehan, Marlys Siems**



**"Now we got it!!" Maggie Meehan,
Marlys Siems and Wally Warhol**



**"Dish it up!" Joan Vorderbruggen &
Darryl Booker**



And Enjoy!!

Notes from Our April Programs

April 2 Celebrant Shannon Smith spoke on “Meditation-Traditions and Revival in the West.”

Meditation, regarded as contemplative prayer, is not much talked about in current Christianity. It is considered important in other religions: Buddhism (focus on breathing and breath-awareness, inner self as observer); Hinduism (mantras & yoga to train the body, mind and consciousness for health, tranquility and spiritual insight); Chinese Taoism (living in harmony); mystical Judaism (Kabala-understanding divine); Islamism, Bahaism – all have some aspects of meditation practices.

Christianity has come not to focus on reflection on God through meditation or contemplative prayer but rather to follow the authority of the church. There is little instruction on meditation. But there is history of meditation in Christianity in earlier centuries and there is a re-emergence of meditation to get away from dualism thinking (either/or) to non-dualistic consciousness – inclusive, quiet consciousness within, oneness with divine mystery, cooperativeness. Contemplation goal is to practice continued reconnecting.

Shannon follows the daily readings of Father Richard Rohr with the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. There are numerous Smart phone app and media sites available to follow and practice meditating.

Note: You are Invited to join the UCU Mindfulness sitting on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Attendance: 46

April 9 – Play “In the Beginning

God and the creatures of Eden careened through time to give us alternate facts on the story, *In the Beginning*; a funny, thoughtful retelling of the creation story told in Genesis. Author, Lois Reff is a member of the Fergus Falls Writers’ Group and when fellow-member, Diane Johnson heard the play, she thought it would be a great production for UCU. Bonnie Albers took it from there and with local stars produced and directed the play presented April 9th. Thank you to the amazing cast and crew for thoroughly entertaining us with this thought provoking work!



Play Written by Lois Reff, Directed & Produced by Bonnie Albers

Starring:



Accompaniment – Susan Groff



GOD – John Miersch



Cheeta – Diane Johnson



Dachshund – Cathy Stone & Mole – Janell Miersch



American Eagle & Sound – Sandy Barnhouse



Sleepy Adam – Lee Hamness



Adoring Eve – Lee Becker



"Adam, "You're so brave & strong"



(and exasperating!)

Supporting actors: Violet, Sequoia & Amari



The Full Cast

Attendance: 53

April 23 – Kris and Wally Warhol presented a program about the Rastafari movement, Haile Selassie, and the music of Bob Marley.

The Rastafarian movement started in Jamaica, and is based on the belief that Haile Selassie, the last emperor of Ethiopia, was the Messiah (second coming of Jesus). Nearly 8000 miles separate Ethiopia and Jamaica but after Selassie's coronation as emperor, a link was formed by poor Jamaicans who regarded Selassie as the second coming of Jesus; the fulfillment of the prophecies of Isaiah - Chapter 9, verse 6: their savior, their redeemer. Kris talked about the connection and gave several quotes from Haile Selassie. Salvation for Rastafarians is an earthly idea, rather than heavenly. *(For complete text, see end of this Newsletter).*

Wally performed several of Bob Marley's songs. Many of the lyrics originated with words/teachings of Haile Selassie. Some of the songs Wally shared were "One Love" and "No Woman, No Cry" and "Stir It Up".

The Battle Lake U Group served a delicious brunch with pancakes and all the fixings. The annual meeting was held after the brunch (see below).

Attendance: 47

April 30 – Mary Anderson – "Finding Home," in celebration and recognition of the many UCU volunteers. The Membership Committee served a pasta lunch with treat bags and special recognition to the many UCU volunteers.

Attendance:

*Each of us brings a separate truth here.
We bring the truth of our own life. Our own story.
We don't come as empty vessels.*

*But rather we come as full people,
people who have our own story and our own truth.
We seek to add to our truths and to our stories.*

*This room is rich with truth, rich with experience.
All people are here. Needy, joyful, frightened, anxious, bored,
We all bring our truth with us.*

*May we all recognize the truth and the story in everyone's life.
And may we hear and honor the truths that we all bring as we gather together.*

Together we have truths.

Together we have a story.

Together we are a community.

Penny Hackett-Evans- UU Church in Eugene Small Group Ministry Program

UCU Annual Meeting

April 23, 2017

There was excellent and enthusiastic attendance at the UCU Annual Meeting on April 23. Prior to the meeting, the Battle Lake U Group served a pancake breakfast with all the trimmings. Two new members signed the membership book so they could be eligible to vote! For the reports, click on each of these individually to find at Google Docs: [annual reports](#), [strategic goals and objectives](#), [the 2017 year-end balance sheet](#), and the [2017-18 budget](#). The amended by-laws are also [on google docs here](#).

The membership voted that effective June 4th, Sunday services will begin at 10:00 a.m. year-round. Signage and announcements will be changed and reserved speakers will be contacted to alert them to this change.

Elected to the Board: Kris Warhol (2nd 3-year term), Ellen Eastby (three-year term), Bob Worner (appointed last year and now elected to three-year term), Connie Stigen (appointed last year and now elected to two-year term). Board members are: Mary Anderson (2nd term ends 2018), Stan Carignan (1st term ends 2018), Norman Kolstad (2nd term ends 2018), John Miersch (2nd term ends 2019), David Sanderson (2nd term ends 2019), Connie Stigen (1st term ends 2020), Kris Warhol (2nd term ends 2020), David Wass (2nd term ends 2018), Bob Worner (1st term ends 2020). Thank you, Alisha Piekarski for five years of service on the Board.

The Board of Directors met immediately following the annual meeting to elect the 2017-18 officers. They are: President - Mary Anderson; Vice President - Ellen Eastby; Secretary - Norm Kolstad; Treasurer – Dave Wass. Thank you, Dave Sanderson for serving the last year as Vice President and to John Miersch for serving on the Executive Committee as past president.

Note: Draft minutes of annual meeting at end of Newsletter.

Stewardship Committee Report

2016-17 collections equaled \$42,481, very close to meeting the projected collections income needed of \$42,515. Our projected collections for the 2017-18 budget is \$45,000. We're confident we can meet our increased costs. Thank you everyone!! Stewardship Committee: *Dave Sanderson, Kris Warhol, Mary Worner.*



Volunteer Appreciation

The Membership Committee made it a very special occasion on April 30th to recognize and honor the many volunteers that contribute to the workings and spirit of the Unitarian Church of Underwood. The Membership Committee provided a delicious pasta dinner with salad, breads and desserts. Special candies were provided by Louise Lovdahl. Special treat bags "in appreciation" made up by Bonnie Showers, Alisha Piekarski and Mary Worner, were handed out to adults and kids." The newly installed tack board was filled with pictures and names of the volunteers with photos by Norm Kolstad and lay-out by Mary Anderson. John Miersch acted as MC and wrote a special poem. Thank you to the Membership Committee for this recognition event and thanks again to all of you who volunteer to serve our church community and the larger community. *Mary Anderson, John & Janell Miersch, Alisha Piekarski, Bonnie Showers and Mary Worner*



Area Workshop

Many Volunteers will be Needed!!

October 20-21, 2017

Save the Date letters have been sent to 11 other area UU churches with the invitation to attend the 2nd area fall workshop to be hosted by the Unitarian Church of Underwood. The theme of the workshop is Growing in Presence, Growing in Justice, Growing in Spirit. Rev. Ashley Horan, Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA) will facilitate the Friday afternoon workshop. We'll be asking UCU members to provide a Friday evening potluck supper followed by enrichment circles. On Saturday, attendees will be invited to attend an early Mindfulness/Quaker Quiet Time sitting. The remainder of the day will comprise break-out sessions under the topics of: Growing Membership, Growing Social Justice, Growing Environmental Justice, Growing Presence. Rev. Ian Evison from the UU MidAmerica Region is invited to be our Sunday service speaker on October 22. He will be accompanied for the week-end by Rev. Phil Lund, also from the MidAmerica Region. As planning progress continues, we

know we'll need many volunteers to make the workshop a repeat success. You will be invited to participate in numerous ways!!

Workshop Planning Task Force: Mary Anderson, Ellen Eastby, JoAnn Larson, Louise Lovdahl, Janell Miersch, Alisha Piekarski, Bonnie Showers, Bob Worner, Diana Ziesermer, Kay Slacum from Willmar UU, Janis Cheney from Bismarck-Mandan UU, and Judy Foster from St. Cloud UU.

Shan Teachers' Gift to Mary Worner



Mary Worner Wearing Jacket from Shan Teachers

Mary Worner received a lovely surprise when she attended the Shan Schools Fundraiser in Minneapolis on April 1. The Shan teachers had found and sent for Mary a beautiful jacket in navy, much like one she had admired on Bernice Johnson two years ago. Mary is on the Board of Directors for the Shan Schools.

A silent auction was part of the fundraiser. Included in the auction were two Minnesota baskets containing items contributed by our congregation including three plants from JoAnn Larson.

Mary said people from Minneapolis would come up to her and ask if she was from the church in Underwood that Bernice tells about. Bernice and the Board highly appreciate the support they receive from our grants, our local fundraising and contributions by individuals to Schools for Shan Refugees.

**RESISTANCE & RESILIENCE: SUSTAINING FAITHFUL
ACTION FOR JUSTICE & SOLIDARITY IN A HURTING
WORLD – MUUSJA WORKSHOP, MAY 19-20**

FIRST UNIVERSAL CHURCH OF MINNEAPOLIS

Conference Registration – \$100.00

Full conference registration includes access to all events, plus admission to Friday opening reception and Saturday Lunch. Saturday breakfast NOT included.

Conference Registration + Saturday Breakfast – \$110.00

Full conference registration includes access to all events, plus admission to Friday opening reception and Saturday Lunch. \$10 additional fee for Continental Breakfast on Saturday morning.

Right Click [here](#) for details and registration.

How are we--progressive people of faith--called to respond to the urgent needs of this political moment? Why does it matter that we approach our work as religious people, and as members of congregations and faith communities? What does solidarity look like with people who are most directly impacted by injustice? How do we speak authentically, morally, and rootedly from our many diverse religious traditions about why justice is our moral imperative? And how do we sustain our spirits, our energy, our communities when there is so much to drain us and fill us with despair?

Join MUUSJA, in partnership with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, for *Resistance & Resilience: Sustaining Faithful Action for Justice & Solidarity in a Hurting World*. We will explore these questions and more, with the help of local and national organizers, religious leaders, artists, musicians, and activists. The program will include moving interfaith worship, plenary discussions with religious leaders and political visionaries about the spiritual-political times we are in, collaborative strategizing for action and impact, a wide variety of workshops led by experienced justice leaders, and opportunities to build relationships with one another through reflection and discussion. Confirmed presenters include Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, Alex Kapitan, Nora Rasman, Rev. Sean Dennison, Rev. Kelli Clement, Rev. Steve Newcom, Liz Loeb, Arif Mamdani, Rev. Ashley Harness, and Rev. Ashley Horan -- with more presenters being confirmed soon!

This event is open to all people of faith who are interested in building skills, relationships, theological grounding, and power to transform the world for justice. In particular, we encourage Social Justice teams from congregations around the state to consider traveling together to participate in this powerful, connective, capacity building event!

Scholarships will be available for those who need financial assistance; if you'd like to request a scholarship, please register for the event, and select the cash option at checkout. Please email Rev. Ashley Horan at muusja1@gmail.com to request a partial or full scholarship.

FRIDAY:

4:30-6:30pm - Registration

5:30-6:30pm - Opening Reception & Social Hour (included in registration)

6:30-7:00pm - "Singing for Our Lives:" A Community Sing with Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout

7:00-8:00pm - Opening Worship

8:00-9:30pm - Opening Plenary

SATURDAY:

8:00-9:00am - Continental Breakfast (additional \$10/person)

8:30-9:00am - Morning Practices for Resistance & Resilience

9:00-10:00am - Panel Discussion & Small Group Breakouts

10:00-10:15am - Break

10:15 - 11:45am - WORKSHOP I

11:45am - 12pm - Break

12:00 - 1:00pm - Lunch (included in registration)

1:00 - 2:30pm - WORKSHOP II

2:30 - 2:45pm - Break

2:45 - 4:15pm - WORKSHOP III

4:30 - 5:30pm - Closing (worship, small group discussion, reflections)

Note: The UCU Board encourages members/friends to attend this workshop. If interested, please notify Mary Anderson at maryanderson8380@msn.com or 218/346-6638 or Ellen Eastby at eastofellen@hotmail.com or 218/731-0803.



Friends, Music Lovers!

Cindy Johnson and Carole Mitchell will again offer yet another summer of SATURDAY CONCERTS in their amphitheater, 33928 County Hwy. 27, Erhard.

Mark your calendars now.

June 17 **Poetry and Jazz** by the multi-talented professors.

July 8 **Mikko Cowdery & Friends** for superlative Celtic tunes, sing-a-longs: fun for ages 1-100.

July 22 **The Tickwood Stringban:** Betsy, Doug, Katy, Ron always please our attendees.

August 5 **Bowmanville** from Chicago, Swing ("Hot Club") Jazz. Another concert you must not miss!!

August 12 **Oscar-Helen**, Dave Johnson & Jon Nordman: *The Band to Irishman*
Foy Vance; *Kristopherson* to *Mayer*, plus some originals.....



Social Justice in Action

A small group met on April 2 to discuss further what can be done in the way of social justice. We've developed a Social Justice Resource List of what each of us might do to become involved. [The Resource List can be found here](#) (right click, open hyperlink to Google Docs). If you have information on an opportunity that was missed or new information, please email Mary Anderson at maryanderson8380@msn.com so that it can be added.

Pelican Rapids Multi-Cultural Actions

Joanie Elison (long-time UCU Member) and Barbara Honer (Newcomer) both of Pelican Rapids, began their new "adventure" on Friday evening, March 31 to find out what they could do in Pelican with the diverse population living there. They were very pleased with the response to their invitation to gather. Twenty people came out to talk: four new immigrants, social service workers, police department and school personnel, farmers, businessmen and concerned liberals. The obvious topics that were discussed at the first meeting were: improved communications among and between the cultures; more ESL opportunities, (the Giving plus

Learning Program in Pelican is looking for mentors and students); more housing, as in houses in Pelican; and more immigrants working in local businesses. They didn't even get to the question on their questionnaire "How are you being treated?" They agreed to meet again to continue the discussion.

Joanie says the thing that pleases her most is "that people are standing up and trying to make changes." John Peter, an ESL instructor attending said, "Trump has given me an opportunity to talk about racism with my friends at church. We are the opportunity!"

"We are the opportunity!" I love it! It is right on. The opportunity for us to show who we are. The opportunity to do something positive for our neighbor, fellow citizen or immigrant in the community." *Diane Ziesemer*

Note: The Pelican Rapids Multicultural Center is one of the Empowerment Grant recipients for 2017-18. With this award, the Center hopes to obtain 501(c)3 status.



Ride for Refugees

Plans are underway for the 2nd bike ride from Underwood to Glendalough to raise funds for the Shan Schools. Each rider sponsored pays for the school year for one Shan child. The 30-mile bike ride is scheduled for September 30 from 1-4 p.m. We will keep you posted on details as the date nears.

Churches United for the Homeless Shelter Update as of 3/31/17:

Sheltered Today:

53 Adults
22 Children

Year to Date Sheltered:

Children = 46
Adults = 202

Households Turned Away: 35

More of Minnesota's Elderly are becoming homeless.

As extracted: "In Minnesota, the increase of homeless people older than 55 is similar to that age group's increase in the general population, according to the Wilder Foundation, which has conducted a [statewide one-night count of the homeless](#) every three years since 1991.

“With our currently limited social safety net ... anybody could become homeless. A lot of it doesn’t happen overnight,” Hustings said. “You might have savings, might stay with family. There are a lot of steps that people who are financially secure will go through before they end up on the streets and in the shelters.”

But when the unexpected happens — like a medical emergency or an eviction — it becomes difficult to decide between paying medical bills, making rent, and buying something to eat, Dorothy Day director Gerry Lauer said.

Some people who end up at Dorothy Day haven’t seen their primary care physician for years. Some haven’t gotten a new pair of glasses in a decade and can’t read forms or signs because their vision has deteriorated, Lauer said.

“You’d be amazed how many people we see here who would never have dreamed that this could happen to them because they’re always been able to take care of themselves,” McArdle said. “We have people in here who have master’s degrees, were nurses, worked for the state, and they were able to stay on their feet.” Until, suddenly, they couldn’t.”

For the full article, see: <http://www.twincities.com/2016/09/02/minnesota-homelessness-among-aging-increases/>



Book Read

Recommended by Diana Ziesemer

With Writing by David Lawrence Grant

UCU Guest Speaker, March 2017

In this provocative book, sixteen of Minnesota’s best writers provide a range of perspectives on what it is like to live as a person of color in Minnesota. They give readers a splendid gift: the gift of touching another human being’s inner reality, behind masks and veils and politeness. They bring us generously into experiences that we must understand if we are to come together in real relationships.

Minnesota communities struggle with some of the nation’s worst racial disparities. As its authors confront and consider the realities that lie beneath the numbers, this book provides an important tool to those who want to be part of closing those gaps.

Essays that challenge, discomfort, disorient, galvanize, and inspire all of us to evolve now, for our shared future. Available from the Otter Tail County Historical Museum or Amazon.

Environmental Justice

Sverdrup Lutheran Church celebrated Earth Day with their youth leading the service and afterwards making cement stepping stones for their yards or gardens using plastic containers for molds and personalizing the stones with decorative colored stones, leaves and other items. We celebrate that our neighbor church is also interested in actions to recognize our environment.

Green Gossip

Members Experience on Energy Conservation

“We have been using a geothermal system for over 8 years. There were major incentives to install it from both Otter Tail Power and tax rebates. But, even without these, we have easily saved the cost of the system AND the energy saving changes recommended (free) by an Otter Tail Power consultant. For our woods cabin, I was delighted to discover that the price of a small (300 watt) solar system (about \$600) made it possible to have lights, radio, organ, charge electronics. etc. totally off the grid. Bottom line is that new technology makes it possible to help our planet and save money. I would love to do a show and tell for anyone interested.” **Ron Graham**

Lee Hamness saved energy by typing on his manual typewriter this report: “It has been my moto in life that it is not so important ‘how much you make’ but ‘how much you don’t waste.’ With that in mind, I got real excited when I first heard about the new LED technology.

With LEDs replacing incandescent and C.F.L bulbs, we reduced our electric usage by 20 to 25%. We also utilize power strips on small appliances to shut them down when not in use.

I have not gone solar, YET. But I do have one small solar panel on the dock to charge the battery for the electric trolling motor.” *Lee Hamness, German Lake*

Note: Lee Hamness, on his own volition and at his expense, replaced many of the light bulbs at church with LED bulbs thus, saving UCU money on electricity.

From **Betsy and Doug Wells**: “In 2007, we installed a geothermal heat pump, which runs at an off peak electric rate. Prior to 2007, our heat was provided by a fuel oil furnace (which is now our backup).

The system is ‘3 ton’, closed loop geothermal heat pump. A nontoxic fluid circulates through three 300’ loops that were buried 8’ underground. The heat is distributed around the house through the forced air ducts, by the furnace fan. When it is very cold (below zero) and the geothermal can’t produce enough heat, an electric booster kicks in as a supplement. We have been very satisfied with its ability to adequately heat our house.

The initial cost of the system was \$15,000, and we had to do some electrical upgrades. We received an OTP rebate of \$435 and a federal tax credit of \$300.

The first year we had it, we figured that our heating costs were \$1-2 a day (average. \$30/month), compared with \$1000 for the season with fuel oil.

We have had a few repair issues. One of the horizontal loops developed a small leak, and was replaced, under warranty, with a vertical loop. We also had to replace some of the technical boards a couple of years ago. Some of this was covered under warranty.

An additional benefit of this system is its cooling capacity in the summer. We use it fewer than 10 days a year but it is a 'godsend' on hot, humid days and when we are canning or freezing."

Betsy Wells

March for Science



Alexandria Science Day March Participants: Nancy Schuelke, Kay & Bob Honeman, Judy Carpenter, Diane Johnson, Carole Mitchell. In attendance but not pictured: Shannon Smith, Sandy Barnhouse & Lowell Carpenter. John Minge attended the march in Moorhead where there was an estimated crowd of 2-300.

Otter Tail County Civic Resistance Updates and Events

May 4th 7 pm @ The Lake Region Healthcare Public Forum, Fergus Falls

Location: lower level conference room at the Lake Region Hospital.

Speakers: Dr. Patricia Lindholm and Larry Schulz, CEO Lake Region Hospital

Worried About Healthcare? Public Forum offered on Fixing our Healthcare System

Due to the GOP's proposed American Health Care Act to replace the ACA, there has been increased interest to improve access to healthcare. Mavis Flemmer, the event organizer, said "Many people have been voicing concerns about their health care coverage and access to healthcare. Are they going to lose their coverage? What changes might be made that would bring improvements to the current system? What changes might worsen their

health care situation? This is a forum that will address what is working and what fixes are possible.”

This nonpartisan forum will be held featuring Dr. Patricia Lindholm, past president of The Minnesota Medical Association. She will talk about Personal Care as it relates to fixing the ACA. Also presenting will be Larry Schulz, CEO of Lake Region Healthcare. Mr. Schulz will address the ACA's Impact on Rural Hospitals. Comments and questions will be welcome at the end of the presentations.

May 13th 6-8:30pm @ The Spot, Fergus Falls

Speaker Avonna Starck, Former Legislative Assistant: Leading us through the process! Avonna's experience includes working at the Minnesota Legislature where she was the legislative assistant for DFL Senator Kent Eken. As an LA for the DFL caucus she provided strategic legislative support and worked closely with constituents. She had an impressive background in working with legislators and will provide strategies in how you can make an impact on our legislators and important legislation.

Please e-mail the people below if you have Events or current Legislation to share.

Carole Mitchell, OTCR cmcarolemitchell@gmail.com

Shannon Smith, OTCR shannon.smith20@gmail.com

Judy Carpenter, OTCR Natural Resources/Climate Change judymcarpenter@gmail.com

Mavis Flemmer, OTCR Health Care [218-842-5372](tel:218-842-5372)

Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light

Dear Unitarian Church of Underwood,

This week the EPA Chief recommended that the United States withdraw from the Paris Climate Accord. This unprecedented move promises to set us back, undermining our hard-fought wins. Let's not take this sitting down. **Help us send a strong message to the administration that we stand for climate justice and a clean energy economy.**

During Faith Climate Action Week we urge you to bring two petitions to your community. First, sign a statement supporting the Paris Climate Accord. [Click here to sign](#), or [here to download a printable version to bring to your community](#). And then make an individual commitment to live out the values of the Paris Accord in your own life. We call this the **“Beyond Paris” Pledge** which commits each person to creating their own plan to lower carbon in their lives 50% by 2030.

The People's Climate Marches held April 29th sent a strong message to the world that the US will not back down. Join with thousands of faith communities across the country spreading the word about climate change and inviting their communities to take action on this urgent moral issue. There are many more opportunities to act by clicking here: <http://mnipl.org/take-action/faith-climate-action-week-2.html>.

Together we will rise and get the job done.

Julia

Julia Nerbonne

<http://mnipl.nationbuilder.com/>

Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light - 2104 Stevens Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55404,

Note: Efforts are underway by the Speaker's Committee to schedule Julia as a Sunday speaker at UCU in October 2017.

Other News from Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (MNIPL)

<http://mnipl.org/>

MNIPL is hosting a new series of storytelling circles in Muslim spaces, open to the interfaith community to celebrate unique family and environmental ancestries. These circles will be hosted by Muslim youth from the MNIPL Youth Leadership Team and will highlight stories the youth will collect in interviews with their family members about their family history. Through these stories, youth will showcase their own traditions and customs and how their family historically relates to the land. Youth will learn to celebrate their own voices in such a way that they are able to see how the unique voices of others are also valuable. This series will culminate during Ramadan at MNIPL's Interfaith Iftar at the Northern Spark festival on June 10th.

The annual overnight Northern Spark festival falls during Ramadan, a season of fasting and reflection for Muslims all over the world. We invite you to join us for a community Iftar, to break bread with our Muslim brothers and sisters and enjoy conversation, connection, and festive celebration. Our evening together will begin at sunset with a wonderful and poetic call to prayer (Adhan). More details

[Be the Spark for Environmental Justice](#)

5 PM Wednesday, May 24 until 12 PM Friday, May 26, Pilgrim Point Camp, 2059 Pilgrim Point Rd, Alexandria, MN. Using stories, the arts, video, and hands-on learning opportunities, this workshop will equip participants to mobilize their communities around local and global issues of environmental justice. Pastors, church members, educators, seminary students, and members of communities of faith beyond the United Church of Christ are all encouraged to attend. [Registration Deadline](#): May 15, 2017.

Times and Seasons

by Michael and Jill Gallina

All the Earth is a garden,
Where all nature is free.

The birds, the beasts, and the flowers,
Live side by side in harmony.
Trees grow tall in the forest,
Rivers rush to the sea.
For everything there's a purpose,
And we must learn to let them be.

Times and Seasons,
Rhymes and reasons;
Everything has a place you see.
'Cross the nation,
All creation can live together peacefully.

Times and Seasons,
Everything has a place you see.
'Cross the nation all creation
Can live together peacefully.

UUA News Alert

In the wake of the 2016 election and President Trump's "law and order" agenda to deport from the United States millions of undocumented immigrants, Unitarian Universalists (UUs) across the country came together in search of a meaningful way to respond.

Based on conversations with communities and partners across the country, including those most likely to be criminalized because of their identities, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) have launched a joint campaign to protect both the values of our democracy and the humanity and rights of individuals and communities most at risk.

Love Resists was born out of this sense of urgency and need for vigilance. In an impressive show of support, more than 860 clergy members, 40% of UU congregations, and nearly 15,000 individuals have to date endorsed a [Declaration of Conscience](#), pledging to stand on the side of love to protect the most vulnerable, defend core values that are under attack, and commit themselves to speak out and to act in support of basic human rights.



Love Resists is the next phase in translating this declaration of values into action. We've gathered a rich collection of online resources at LoveResists.org to help ground us in powerful principles as we do this work: to expand sanctuary, grow in solidarity, and raise our voices. Get involved in the campaign by [signing the Declaration of Conscience](#), exploring our resources, and taking action to support sanctuary and solidarity in your community.

Share your stories of justice and solidarity with us! Tweet using #LoveResists and follow the hashtag to get inspiration from others. Follow the [UUA](#) and [UUSC](#) on Facebook for updates on the campaign.

UUA BOARD OF TRUSTEES ANNOUNCES INTERIM CO-PRESIDENTS

UUA Board of Trustees Announces Interim Co-Presidents
April 11, 2017

On Monday, April 10, 2017, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Board of Trustees voted unanimously to appoint the Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, the Rev. William G. Sinkford, and Dr. Leon Spencer to serve as interim Co-Presidents of the Association until June 24, 2017 when a new president will be elected at the Association's annual General Assembly. This decision was necessitated by the resignation last month of UUA President Rev. Peter Morales. Information on Morales' resignation and other staff changes can be found in [UU World](#) articles.

The Rev. Dr. Betancourt is the Assistant Professor of Theology and Ethics at Starr King School for the Ministry and will serve as Interim Co-President for the Commission for Institutional Change. The Rev. Sinkford, Senior Minister of the First Unitarian Church of Portland, Oregon, served as UUA President from 2001-2009, and will now serve as Interim Co-President for the role of President as described in the UUA bylaws. Dr. Leon Spencer is Professor Emeritus in Leadership, Technology and Human Development at the University of Southern Georgia and will serve as Interim Co-President for Constituent Outreach.

We are grateful to these leaders for their commitment to Unitarian Universalism and their willingness to lead in a time of significant reflection and change at the UUA.

UUA News Alert

The Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA) Interim Co-Presidents, the Revs. Sofia Betancourt and William Sinkford and Dr. Leon Spencer, shared this message following the recent UUA Board of Trustees meeting:



Last Friday and Saturday we attended - two of us (Sofia and Bill) in person and one (Leon) virtually - the first meeting of the UUA's Board of Trustees since we were appointed interim co-presidents. We wanted to take this opportunity to report some observations about that meeting as we begin our work.

In our report to the Board, the three of us discussed our understanding of the charge we received from the Board and engaged in some initial reflections on how we will engage with that charge. We informed the Board that we envision a two-stage process for this work. The first stage, already underway, will review UUA hiring policies, practices and outcomes, and put in place a set of interim policies to ensure that hiring decisions move us toward our vision of the Beloved Community.

The more important second stage - called the Commission in our charge - will address the central question of how the culture of white supremacy operates in Unitarian Universalism, what truth needs to be told, what reconciliation we need to seek, and what vision needs to shape our work together. The three of us are meeting face-to-face for the first time this week to begin planning for how the Commission will address these issues. We already know that the work of the Commission must involve an invitation to our congregations and the larger UU community to engage in discernment about how our aspirations for the Beloved Community need to be embodied in staffing and leadership throughout Unitarian Universalism.

The three of us were also gratified by the Board's continued support for its decision to allocate funds to Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) and were pleased to hear that BLUU feels supported in their work by the Board.

We have heard clearly that trust in UUA leadership has been severely compromised. We understand that beginning to repair this broken trust is part of our leadership challenge. But we also firmly believe that this situation should be viewed as an opportunity, not just a set of problems to be solved. We have an opportunity to reaffirm the hope that is at the center of our faith. As we set about the task of institutional change, we commit as well to a process of healing that leads to spiritual renewal.

This statement is available on [UUA.org](https://uua.org).

Unitarian Church of Underwood
Approved Annual Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2016

Board members present: John Miersch, Dave Sanderson, Mary Anderson, Lee Becker, Norm Kolstad, Diane Johnson, Dave Wass, Kris Warhol, Stan Carignan. Absent – Alisha Piekarski. Also present: Joann Larson. Congregation members attending: 32 members present.

Meeting was called to order by President, John Miersch at 11:26 a.m. Lee Becker shared a meditation/reading.

Agenda was approved (Roller/Sanderson); Addition to the agenda: Ride for Shan Refugees; Betsy Wells Report.

Minutes of 3-16-16 approved as corrected - typo (Anderson/Olson).

REPORTS: Handouts are attached - Presidents Report (John Miersch), Treasurer (Dave Wass), Administration Consultant (Joann Larson), Celebrants, (Ellen Eastby), Stewardship (Dave Sanderson), Foundation Advisory (Dave Sanderson), Membership (Mary Anderson), Worship (Mary Worner), Technology (Tere Mann), Communications (Mary Anderson), Program (Lee Becker), Speakers (Betsy Wells), Children's RE (Katy Olson), Child Care Project (Mary Anderson), Adult Ed. (Lee Becker), UU Groups (Tere Mann), Facilities (Susan Groff), Safety (Norm Kolstad), Outreach (Kris Warhol), Empowerment Grants (Ron Roller), Green Committee (Mary Anderson).

OLD BUSINESS:

Ron Roller reported on Solar information study (see attached information from TruNorth Solar). Motion to install in one year (Olson/Edmondson). Katy Olson withdrew motion. The issue was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mary Anderson introduced Strategic Plan Goals (attached).

The fiscal year 2017 budget (attached) was approved (Bob Warner/Janell Miersch).

Mary Anderson introduced Plan to Grow Findings (attached).

Mary then went on to present information on the Property Expansion and Purchase of Sverdrup Suite Apartments, located at 101 Woodlawn, Underwood MN, parcel #8000990036000. (Information attached). Motion was made to 1) accept the counter offer of \$240,000; 2) authorize the Board to negotiate for a lower price if the appraisal comes in at a lower value than the \$240,000; 3) Direct the Board to negotiate the best terms of finance for a mortgage. Paper vote by congregation – Yes, 30; No, 5; 1, abstain; 1 marked “??.” Motion carried (Dave Wass/Maggie Meehan).

NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD: John Miersch and Dave Sanderson, each for 2nd terms. Slate carried (Ron Roller/Susan Groff).

BIKE RIDE FOR SHAN REFUGEES (information attached) Katy Olson. Sponsorship approved (Mary Anderson/Janell Miersch).

SOLAR PROJECT: Motion for action on solar: 1. Contact all potential parties to investigate potential larger solar community project. 2. Apply for lottery for solar program (January). 3. If community solar project seems unlikely, commit to solar installation by or before summer of 2018. 4. If community solar project seems likely, continue in planning for the larger project and form special task force for project. Motion carried. (Cedar Walters/Bonnie Bell)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Diane Johnson, secretary

**Unitarian Church of Underwood
Annual Meeting
Draft Minutes
April 23, 2017**

Board members present: John Miersch, David Sanderson, Mary Anderson, Alisha Piekarski, Norman Kolstad, Connie Stigen, David Wass, Kris Warhol, Stan Carignan, and Bob Worner. Absent: none. Thirty-three total congregation members were present.

The 128th congregational meeting of the Unitarian Church of Underwood was called to order by President Mary Anderson at 11:51 a.m. John Miersch shared a meditation/reading.

The agenda was approved (Janelle Miersch/Donn Siems).

The minutes of the April 17, 2016 were approved as printed (David Sanderson/John Miersch).

Reports. Following remarks by President Anderson, these committee reports were received (attached): Treasurer (David Wass), Stewardship and UCU Foundation (David Sanderson), Administrative Consultant (JoAnn Larson), Membership (Mary Anderson), Communications (Mary Anderson), Technology (Tere Mann), Area Fall Workshop Planning (Mary Anderson), Program (Kris Warhol), Speakers (Betsy Wells), Celebrants (Katie Olson), Worship (Mary Worner), Adult RE (John Minge, Sandy Barnhouse, Stan Carignan, and Bob Worner), Children's RE (Betsy Wells), Child Care (Mary Anderson), U-Groups (Tere Mann), Hospitality (Kathy Stone), Community Outreach (Kris Warhol), Empowerment Awards (Ron Roller), Facilities (Katie Olson), Sverdrup Suites (David Wass), and Safety (Norman Kolstad).

Old Business. A motion passed (John Minge/John Miersch) amending the 2016 action regarding solar panels as follows: 1) To eliminate the 2018 deadline, and expand the type(s), size, and location of energy-efficient projects that the UCU would consider that could also serve as a

public statement of the UCU's commitment to encourage energy efficiency; 2) That the Environmental Committee report back to the Church - or its Board - no later than the 2018 annual meeting, and 3) That the Environmental Committee submit any recommendation to engage in an energy-efficient project to the Finance Committee for its review and comment before the submission of recommendation to the Church (or its Board if ready for submission before the next annual meeting).

New Business. Sunday church services will begin at 10:00 am year-round starting June 1, 2017 (Katie Olson/Reed Becker).

The 2017-18 Strategic Goals and Objectives document was available for inspection.

The fiscal year 2018 budget was approved as presented (Katie Olson/John Miersch).

By-laws. The published proposed revision of the Church by-laws was amended (Norman Kolstad/Janelle Miersch) to strike the word, "past" in article IV, section 2; add to article IV, section 6 that Robert's Rules of Order would govern meetings; change article VI, section 4 from "committee will be responsible for presenting" [candidates] to "committee will be consulted to fill the committee." A resolution to adopt the revised by-laws was passed by the requisite 2/3 majority (Mary Worner/Katie Olson).

Election of officers. With no nominations from the floor, the following slate of candidates from the Nominating Committee was accepted: Kris Warhol, Bob Worner, and Ellen Eastby for 3-year terms and Connie Stigen for a 2-year term (Reed Becker/John Miersch).

A motion to install Wi-Fi at the church (Sandy Barnhouse/Katie Olson) was tabled and referred to the Technology Team (John Minge/Ron Roller).

The meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Norman Kolstad, secretary

Peace on Earth Good Will to All – Kris Warhol, Presenter, April 23, 2017

The Rastafarian Movement has been one of the most important of our time. Violence is not the only way to deal with troubles or get what you feel you deserve. Rasta's provided a system of faith and following for close to a million people across our Globe. A social, political and religious explosion with as few negative connotations as possible, Rasta is just about as good as it gets. It was a cultural political narrative ideology in the politics of Babylon. As a member of the Solomonic Dynasty, Haile Selassie is a descendant of King Solomon of Israel and the Queen of Sheba giving him blood relations directly to the original twelve tribes.

In 1947, Haile Selassie, the Emperor of Ethiopia, addressed the United Nations and said this:

"Until the philosophy that all race is superior and another inferior is finally and permanently discredited and abandoned, there will be war. Until there are no longer first class and second class citizens in any nation, there will be war. Until basic human rights are equally guaranteed to all without regard to race, color or creed, there will be war. Until that day, the dream of lasting peace, the rule of international morality, will remain but a fleeting illusion to be pursued, but never attained."

A brief history: Haile served as Emperor from 1930 to 1974. Prior to being Emperor, Selassie was a regent. Also, he was chairperson of African Unity. May 25th, 1963. He was born in 1892 and died August 27, 1975 at 83. He never adhered to Rastafari. However, when he visited Jamaica in 1966, the fever of Rastafarians was increased as Jamaicans revered him as the second coming of Jesus.

Born Tafari Makonnen Ras means Nobel, and son of his father who was named Ras. Rastafari became a religion in 1930. Rastafari is an Abrahamic belief meaning "power of the Trinity." It developed in Jamaica in 1930 following the coronation of Selassie becoming Emperor. Its adherents worshipped him in much the same way as Jesus: as the second advent or as God the Father. It was prophesized in the Bible: King of Kings, Lord of Lords. Ethiopia is said to have the oldest Bible. Abrahamic simply means all religions come from one spiritual belief. Jewish, Christians, Islamic, and comparative religions, Indian, Iranian and East Asian.

His Father was a general and the Governor of a province in Ethiopia. He was the last reigning Emperor in an empire numbering 225 years.

Some other quotes by Haile Selassie:

"This is only fitting and proper for the Church as a symbol of Peace must follow the path of Peace in all parts of the world. For Peace can only be made abiding by the Grace of God through the prayers of the Holy Fathers. The truth of the cardinal fact is evident to all mankind."

"Wise men have always known the deep and pervading truth that it is better to give than to receive, for even as it conflicts with selfish and ambitious desires, it moderates and control them."

"Let us act as befits the dignity which we claim for ourselves as Africans, proud of our own special qualities, distinctions, and abilities. We must speak out on major issues, courageously, openly and honestly, and in blunt terms of right and wrong."
