

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)

November 2016 NewsletterUnitarian Church of Underwood

206 North Main Street Underwood

Phone: 218/826-6553 Website: www.ucofu.org

www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org

Sunday Services begin at 10:30 a.m. Return to Central Standard Time November 6, 2016

November 2016 November 2016 November 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Worship Committee 9:30 am @ Susan Groff's	2	3	4	5
6 CST Change! Cathy & Tina Stone "Elements of Paganism" Adult RE – The New Jim Crow 9:15-10:15 am Child Care	7 AA 7 pm	Battle Lake U Group 3 pm @ Joanne Cress'	9 Alexandria U- Group 7:00 pm @ Widseth, Smith & Nolting Office Bldg Safety Committee 6 pm @ church	10 Perham U Group 3:30 pm @ Louise Lovdahl's Finance Committee 7:00 pm	11	12
13 Michele Anderson, "Rural Creativity" "Ancient Religions" 9-10 am Children's RE 10:30 am	14 Speakers Committee 5 pm AA 7 pm	15 Fergus Falls U Group 6:00 pm @ Tere Mann's	16 Board Meeting 5:30 pm Communication s Team 4 pm	17	18	19
20 Sue Wika, "Deep Roots" Mindfulness/QQ 9-10 am Child Care	21 AA 7 pm	22	23	Happy Thanksgiving	25	26
27 Mary Jimmerson "Service Dogs Help with PTSD" Spong's Book of Matthew - 9:15-10:15 am Child Care	28 AA 7 pm	29	30 Membership Committee 6:00 pm	Notes:		



More about November Speakers

November 6 - Cathy & Tina Stone, "Elements of Paganism"

November 13 – Michele Anderson, "Rural Creativity in a Globalized World." Michele will address UU principals' 6 and 7:

- The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Michele Anderson, Rural Program Director for Springboard for the Arts in Fergus Falls, will share key takeaways from her recent participation in the Salzburg Global Seminar's Forum for Young Cultural Innovators. Specifically, she will share examples of exciting rural projects outside of Minnesota, and engage the audience in a conversation about the role of rural creativity in a globalized world – including the challenges and opportunities facing rural communities and artists in participating in international conversations.

The Salzburg Global Seminar was founded in 1947 to encourage the revival of intellectual dialogue in post-war Europe, and is a game-changing catalyst for global engagement on critical issues in education, health, environment, economics, governance, peace-building and more. The Forum for Young Cultural Innovators is a ten-year project launched by Salzburg Global Seminar to engage 50 of the world's most dynamic young cultural innovators every year. This year the McKnight Foundation sponsored Michele and four other Minnesota arts and culture leaders to participate in the Seminar, which took place in October 2016.

Michele Anderson is the Rural Program Director for Springboard for the Arts, a community and economic development organizations for artists based in St. Paul and Fergus Falls, Minnesota. Since 2011, she has managed Springboard's office in Fergus Falls, which has become a nationally recognized hub of thought and action about arts-based community development and creative place making in rural settings. Michele has her B.A. in Music from Lewis and Clark College, and her M.A. in Cultural Sustainability from Goucher College, where she was awarded the inaugural Rory Turner Prize in Cultural Sustainability in 2014. The award was for her creative nonfiction essay about Springboard's work in mobilizing artists to foster community interaction about the former Fergus Falls State Hospital. In 2015, Michele was selected by the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits for their Catalytic Leader Award. Michele is also a musician and a writer, and lives in Fergus Falls, MN with her husband, Spencer, and their cat Otto.

November 20 – Sue Wika & Students, "Deep Roots Farmer Development Program"

The Deep Roots Farmer Development Program is a UCU Empowerment Grant recipient and is an award-winning beginning farm educational program that is supported through the Sustainable Agricultural Association. Courses include Farm Skills 101, an intensive semester of skills training, as well as various short courses throughout the year. The UCU grant is providing scholarships/internships to course participants.

November 27 – Mary Jimmerson – "Use of Service Dogs for PTSD." Mary has lived since 1989 in the rural area between Underwood and Battle Lake. She is the mother of five adult children and is now widowed. Mary graduated from the University of Minnesota, Morris, in 1989 with a double major in Psychology and Liberal Arts in Human Services. She worked as a Displaced Homemaker Counselor for Otter Tail-Wadena Community Action Council and Region IV Council on Domestic Violence from 1989 to 1998. She is currently a child support officer for Otter Tail County.

Mary has PTSD, anxiety, depression and panic attacks and has found benefits for her illnesses through service dogs. She trained her first service dog, Gwynnie in 2009. Gwynnie worked to April 2012 when she retired herself. Her current dog is K D Colt from Patriot Assistance Dogs in Detroit Lakes. Mary, with helps from KD Colt, will describe PTSD, its effects and how a service dog works to help manage this condition. She will define the differences between service dogs and other assistance animals, talk about access rights, legal questions and service dog etiquette.

PTSD and service dog teams relate to the UU Principal #1, "the inherent worth and dignity of a person, justice, equality, compassion and acceptance" are an integral part of service dog teams in the community. Mary states: "We are not always accepted, are sometimes treated with distain, are bullied and denied services. We are just like everyone else except where I go, KD goes, and where KD goes, I go."

Note: The Underwood Thanksgiving Eve Community Service will not be held this year.



Remember to Vote

November 8!!

Monthly Adult Religious Education Classes

1st **Sunday Adult RE,** 9:15-10:15 a.m. – **John Minge** leads a discussion of *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander with references to *The Third Reconstruction* by Rev. William Barber. For

follow-up information as to what has happened since Michelle Alexander wrote The New Jim Crow, see: http://www.citylab.com/crime/2016/09/life-after-the-new-jim-crow/502472/

2nd **Sunday Adult RE** 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. – **Sandy Barnhouse** will lead studies on "Ancient Religions" (formerly "Women's Spirituality"). Men and women are invited and encouraged to attend.

3rd Sunday Mindfulness/Quaker Quiet, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Ellison Room

4th **Sunday Adult RE**, 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. –**Bob Worner's** class will continue the study of the New Testament using John Shelby Spong's book, *Biblical Literalism: A Gentile Heresy* with the emphasis on the Book of Matthew.

Children's Religious Education

This year, Katy Olson and Betsy Wells will be leading a kids' RE class on the second Sunday of each month, during the regular service time. Our theme will be creation stories – from a variety of cultures around the world, and the Big Bang theory. This will culminate in participation in a hilarious play on April 9, entitled *In the Beginning*, nicknamed, *Adam and Eve*. Bonnie and Lance Albers will be working with the kids on Oct. 30 and Jan. 29 creating masks and costumes and parts for the kids.

Kids RE is open to kids between the aged of 3 years and 6th grade. Younger kids are welcome if they bring along an adult.

Childcare will be available on the non RE Sundays.

Please contact Katy @ katyiolson@gmail.com or 218/495-3235 or Betsy Wells @ betsyanddougwells@gmail.com or 218/736-4469 if you are able to assist with Children's Religious Education.

Child Care

Child Care is provided on the Sundays when there is no Children's Religious Education. Thank you for bringing your children. They are vital to our church and are a joy to us all.

U-Groups

The Perham U Group held a House Concert with over 30 in attendance featuring Steve Berg and Linda Quigstad-Berg with stories and songs about Country Life. Funds raised will go to the Perham Kinship, Kayak project under construction by John Minge and Kinship boys. Thank you, Stan & Lisa Carignan for hosting, for Steve and Linda for their performance and to John for overseeing the kayak building!!

The Perham U Group's church project for the year will be assisting John Minge with the annual Curry Dinner and their community project will be coordinating the annual spring Chili Dinner. Other U Groups are in process of determining their yearly projects.

If you or others you know are interested in participating in a U-Group, contact Co-Facilitators: Connie Stigen @ dcstigen@gmail.com or 218/731-1443 or Tere Mann @ teremann@gmail.com or 218/205-4931.

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
- Battle Lake U- Group: 2nd Tuesday @ 3:00 p.m. @ JoAnne Cress' 846 Lake Shore Drive, Battle Lake; Faciltators: Bob Worner and Joanne Cress. When Joanne and Luke are gone for the winter, Kris Warhol will co-facilitate with Bob and the group will meet at another home.
- Fergus Falls U-Group: 3rd Tues @ 6:00 pm @ Tere Mann's, 1319 N Park, Fergus Falls; Facilitators: Connie Stigen/Mary Worner/Diana Ziesemer
- 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.

November Topic: "Blessings" – "We can learn to rejoice in even the smallest blessings our life holds. It is easy to miss our own good fortune; often happiness comes in ways we don't even notice." – Pema Chodron

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.

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

Note: The monthly Newsletters are included and many other items of interest are updated regularly and can be viewed at: www.ucofu.org.

Last Call – Order New Church Directory Note – Additions/Changes

If you were not pictured in the 2014 Church Directory or if you would like to include a more recent picture or if your contact information is incorrect or changed, please contact Mary Anderson so photo taking arrangements or corrections can be made: maryanderson8380@msn.com or 218/346-6638.

Mary and JoAnn Larson will be at a table in the Ellison room following services November 6 and 13 where you can place your new directory orders (\$10 per copy) and sign the photo authorizations. Or you can mail the authorization and your payment to: UCU, Box 58, Underwood, MN, 56586. The plan is to have the Directories published sometime in late November or early December.

Note: The Authorization for Use of Pictures/Audio/Video has been revised to include the UCU Directory, Newsletters, Web Site, Facebook, brochures, flyers/etc. There is the option to opt out of one or all, completing a form for each member of your family or indicating exceptions.

The Authorization form is at the end of this Newsletter or copies are available from JoAnn. Please return your completed form to JoAnn or place in the collection plate.

Stewardship Report

The 2016-17 budget projected collections needed to meet our expenses for the first 6 months of the fiscal year at \$21,885. From April 1 through September 30, actual collections were \$22,409.87. Thank you for your generous giving!!



UCU Foundation

A Legacy of Welcoming
A Legacy of Free Thinking
A Legacy of Principles
Honoring Our Past with a Legacy of Generosity
Impacting Our Present with a Legacy of Giving
Ensuring Our Future: What is Your Legacy?

The Unitarian Church of Underwood Foundation was organized in 2014 to provide an enduring and flexible mechanism by which the Unitarian Church of Underwood can address its current and future needs and to provide an opportunity for donors to transfer resources of various kinds to the UCU.

Because of the generosity of past givers, UCU was able to remodel the aged building; is able to award annually Empowerment Grants, and was able to purchase Sverdrup Suites. We are also able to draw from these resources to meet large expenses that would be difficult to meet from

our annual operating budget. Benefactors can decide that funds donated be designated for a specific area or define them as undesignated for use to be determined by UCU. Completing a bequest form is not a commitment but rather a statement of intent. That intent can be relayed to your next of kin but is up to them to honor after your demise.

To make your bequest, complete the form at the end of the Newsletter and return to Dave Sanderson, Chair of the Foundation Advisory Committee. If questions, talk to Dave or any of the other Foundation Advisory Committee members: Stan Carignan, Donn Siems, Connie Stigen, Kris Warhol, Mary Worner.

New Member Welcomed

On October 2, we welcomed New Member, Edward Wise, who we know best as John Miersch's uncle who moved back some months ago from Wisconsin and now lives in Fergus Falls.



New member, Edward A. Wise

"Hello, I am happy to be a new member of the Unitarian Church of Underwood. I was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1926 and spent the majority of my life there. I had two older sisters and later nine nieces and nephews who now live all over the country. I was baptized in an Evangelical and Reform church and as I grew up studied The Heidelberg catechism. Before moving to Fergus Falls in March 2016 I was a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brookfield, Wisconsin.

For sixty years I studied and played pipe organ without pause, mostly working in Lutheran and Methodist churches. In addition, I conducted both sacred and secular choral groups. I studied and later was on the faculty of the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music in Milwaukee. I received my Master in Music from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. After my Masters, I studied pipe organ in Salzburg and Vienna as well as some independent study in Paris. I was a docent for 14 years at the Charles Allis Art Museum in Milwaukee after retirement.

If you see me in church, please stop and talk to me." Edward

Unitarian Universalist Association Board: Annual Program Fund will move to percent-of-budget model

Formula and timeline still in the works, but UUA will switch from permember to percent-of-budget funding model.

The Unitarian Universalist Association's fundraising staff and Board of Trustees have been working for at least five years toward changing the funding relationship between the UUA and its member congregations. They are still testing and refining a new model, but its central feature has now been approved.

At its October meeting, the board endorsed the recommendation of the Annual Program Fund Task Force to move from asking most congregations for a fee per member to asking them for a percentage of their congregational budget.

The task force has not yet proposed the specific formula for how much the UUA will ask congregations to contribute, nor has it set a timeline for switching to the new model.

"We are doing pilots this next year and that will help us determine how we move this out," the Rev. Mary Katherine Morn, the UUA's director of Stewardship and Development, told trustees. "We are working closely with the leaders in each of the districts/regions to determine what is best where."

Most congregations currently give based on the \$60-per-member rate. Some congregations with more than 550 members now give 4.3 percent of their operating budget instead of a per-member contribution. And congregations in four of the UUA's five regions contribute to their districts or regions as well. The APF is the most significant source of annual giving to the UUA and comprises 71 percent of UUA fundraising, including the "crucial piece" of unrestricted giving, Rimes said.

The Southern Region moved to the <u>percent-of-budget system</u> in FY2014, asking congregations to contribute 7 percent of certified expenditures to the UUA and no longer collecting separate district or regional dues. Some congregations in the Southern Region saw their ask increase while others experienced a decrease.

Rimes said that 65 percent of congregations would see their ask go up if the UUA took the Southern Region's approach nationally, asking for 7 percent of each congregation's budget instead of asking for a per-member fee and separate district or regional dues. One in three congregations would see a decrease. But Rimes said the administration hopes that congregations entitled to a smaller gift would choose to remain at least level in their giving.

For the full report, see: http://www.uuworld.org/articles/board-report-2016-10

Note: We have been waiting for this change. Based on the current Fair Share Assessment to congregations of \$60/member to UUA and \$25/member to the MidAmerican Region, UCU's Fair Share Assessment for Fiscal Year 2016-17 is \$5950 or almost 14% of our annual operating budget.



Greeters are always needed for Sunday services. Please contact JoAnn Larson @ redswilds@gmail.com or @ 218/405-0752. This is an easy and fun way to serve and to get to know other UCU members and friends.

Help with Children's RE. Please contact Katy @ katyjolson@gmail.com or 218/495-3235 or Betsy Wells @ betsyanddougwells@gmail.com or 218/736-4469 if you are able to assist with Children's Religious Education.

Sign Up to Bring Treats, Set-up, Serve and Clean-up – It is no secret that we like our treats after services so if you wish to bring some for all to enjoy, please sign the list on the kitchen counter. On your sign-up day, come ½ hour early to set out your treats, make coffee and arrange dishes, etc. Enjoy the time visiting behind the counter as you serve and clean up after. Treats for the freezer are always welcome to fill in for those Sundays when no one does sign up. On the Sundays of freezer treats, jump in to help set-up, serve and clean-up. Some of the best visiting and fun times go on in the kitchen!!



Yes, It Means Something!

It is our habit to have members sign cards during hospitality hour for those we hear are ailing or have other concerns. Just to underscore the value: Three year old Precious, after her recent hospitalization, received a card by mail from the members. The first thing she did was pick off all the stickers affixed (by Sequoia!) to the envelope and stuck them on Grandma's wall. Then

she and Grandma found her name on the card, reviewed all the other names and messages on the card, identified the butterflies that were striped and those that had polka-dots, drew hearts and more butterflies, talked about words like "hoping" and "healing" and "caring." So a few seconds on your part grew into a large happening and learning for Precious who is back to her healthy self. Thank you!



Photo Courtesy of Connie Stigen



Phot Courtesey of Norm Kolstad

Florance & Mikkel Thompson provided the dried autumn floral to enhance the worship area.

Thank you, Florance & Mikkel!!

Shan Schools Thank You!



"Dear Friends at UCU Underwood,

Many, many thanks for your generous donations to Schools for Shan Refugees. I was not expecting a check as large as \$1,060.00 from the bike ride and from JoAnn's concert and other efforts.

The teachers are wanting to start another school and are already teaching there completely as volunteers. This money should put us over the top, so we can pay for it!

Please extend our gratitude to the entire congregation. I know many people helped and I have only a few e-mail addresses. I received the check yesterday and will take it to the bank tomorrow.

Mary Worner, I received the additional bags today. They are so cute! The little ones love the softness of flannel, and I'm sure the little girls will love that kitty print! I sent the first batch with Josh, so I won't get those till January. I may buy some---not as cute---bags in Chiang Mai and give them together with this batch to some of the children before the others arrive. Just because I'm eager to see their reaction. (I will fill them with goodies first.)

Thank so much you for your thoughtfulness!

Sincerely, Bernice Johnson, director Schools for Shan Refugees"

Note: Bag makers included: Bonnie Albers, Mary Anderson, Chanda Brandes, Ellen Eastby, Katy Olson, Betsy Wells, Mary Worner. Bike riders were featured in the August Newsletter. JoAnn and Sequoia Larson made extra efforts on their own to raise money for the Shan Schools by hosting a house concert and selling produce and Shan products. Good job, all!!



Smells and Noise!!

The Facilities Committee has investigated and determined that moisture issues surrounding the outside of the church may be the culprit for moisture and the musty smell within the lower level. These issues will be addressed through landscape fill, repairs to the back entry, and new gutter installation and redirection away from the building. They will be obtaining further estimates for repair costs and submit them to the Board of Directors for approval.

Meantime, the Board authorized the purchase and installation of acoustical panels for the lower level expected to reduce the noise level when there are larger gatherings. The Facilities committee (Susan Groff, Katy Olson, Kris Warhol, John Miersch with assistance from Tere Mann), have contributed significant time, thought and effort to resolving these matters. Please thank them accordingly!

Advance Planning: Preparing Agents for Their Role Free and Open to the Public

Lake Region Foundation brings to the community, Deborah Laxson, the founder of the Health Care Agent Literacy Project and author of the award winning book *The Gray Zone: When Life Support No Longer Supports Life.* A health care agent is the person who would speak for you in a medical/emergency crisis in which you would not be able to speak for yourself.

Where: YMCA Community Room

When: Monday, November 16 @ 7-8 p.m. or Tuesday, November 17 @ 9-10 a.m.

Where: Fergus Falls YMCA Community Room

October Speaker Notes

October 2: Shannon Smith's talk, entitled "Living Life as a Poem" presented many of the ideas that Naomi Shihab Nye had shared in her July conversation with Krista Tippett's "On Being" show.

Here is a summary of her points:

- 1. Living life as a poem allows us to be the conscious observer of our lives. By being in the moment, we can feel and experience, but do not have to explain.
- 2. Living life as a poem allows us to be comfortable with experiencing and expressing ourselves. If practiced daily, this can allow us to see connections and patterns, and to embrace the community of our own internal voices.
- 3. This will allow us to recognize the spiritual mysteries and connections in our lives.
- 4. Also, living life as a poem allows us to take part in a conversation with the larger world across cultures, and helps us all to be more connected and bonded.

Shannon included blank sheets of paper in the bulletins. Following her words, we were given a few minutes to compose a poem. Many people shared theirs, which was great fun.

October 9: "A Celebration of Scandinavian Music" with Susan Groff, Anders Persson & Mikkel Thompson. The "Samband" trio performed a number of Norwegian Traditional songs: some robust, some haunting, some waltzes and at least one, originally composed by Mikkel. Mikkel led the kids in a short dance. He performed with two melodians (two harmonicas in a box, one in the keys of G & C, the other the keys of D & A). Anders played the fiddle and Susan the piano. They told the stories behind the songs and about other Norwegian/Swedish musicians they'd known and/or played with. When asked how they had come together, they relayed the interfamily relationships (Anders and Mikkel are brothers-in-law. Florance Thompson and Roger Thompson are parents to Mikkel and Ander's wife, Val) and how they were introduced to Susan at the Unitarian Church when Mikkel (in the 90's) and Anders (about 7-8 years ago) each first came here to visit. Susan's father had been a fiddler (until he lost a finger) and some songs they played were from among his favorites. They led the congregation to sing in Norwegian, their last song, "Nidelven."







Esme, Seguoia, Amari, Alex - Mikkel

October 16: Stefan Jonassen's talk was entitled: "The Good We Seek for All." He began by describing how he loved to play with Matchbox vehicles when he was quite young. He would create roads and towns – in the dirt between concrete paving stones, or on taped together 'bristol' boards. In retrospect, he realized that he was creating a society in which he would want to live through his imagination. If we, as adults, could be as creative and imaginative as kids, we could imagine and create a better, just society. A lack of imagination and creativity is one of today's biggest problems.

John Kenneth Galbraith described <u>The Good Society</u> as a place where every member has access to a rewarding/fulfilling life; where everyone is usually treated fairly; everyone can contribute something of value to society. This is not a utopian ideal and is not perfect, but it is achievable if we had the aspiration to make it happen.

We need to be mindful of ancestral traditions, experience, and wisdom. Religious traditions are the custodians of higher ethical aspirations.

While we hear messages that charge that we (U.S.) are in dire straits, we need to recognize that there are things that have improved over the past several years – such as GLBT issues and race relations. However this progress is fragile and tentative; we cannot take it for granted. We are plagued by ignorance – of the issues and of the complexity of the issues. We do have the capacity to understand both of these. We need to have empathy of others and awareness of our common humanity.

Stefan said that Canada 'knows' the U.S. It knows that how the U.S. is portrayed this year really doesn't reflect the overlying good of the U.S.; that every political party has empathetic, decent representatives. We need to accentuate what unites us, not what divides us. We need to embrace a spirit of unity. This spirit of decency is not complicated – 'we need to love what commands our lives, and we need to love our neighbor as ourselves' (In other words, to stop being jerks to one another).

October 23: Yahya Fredrickson on the "101's of Islam"

Bio: Yahya is a Scandinavian born on Christmas; currently an assistant professor at Moorhead State University where he's been teaching since 1999. He has a PHD from the University of North Dakota and a Master of Fine Arts degree in poetry from the University of Montana. He is a former member of the Executive Committee of the Islamic Center in Fargo-Moorhead. Yahya grew up in Moorhead, served in the Peace Corp in Yemen, came back to Moorhead and discovered that there was a mosque serving the Fargo/Moorhead area, further studied Islam and recited the Shihadatayn, the two testimonials, in December of 1990, thus converting to Islam. For more see: http://web.mnstate.edu/mcmdwest/Frederickson/Frederickson.htm

Yahya, in personal terms, shared for us the beliefs of the Muslim faith. "Islam" means "the voluntary submission of one's will to the will of God (creator)". The five pillars of the faith are:

- 1. Shahadah –the creed and testimony of belief (what you say, believe, and do)
- 2. **Salah** prayer. Prayers are said 5 times a day before dawn; at midday; midafternoon; sunset; and an hour after sunset. Believers face Mecca during their prayers. Often this is to the east, but in some places such as MN, this can be to the northeast that follows the shortest route (via great circle) from MN to Mecca.
- 3. **Zakah** charity. Zakah means purification. Through charitable giving of 2.5%, Muslims believe we share the wealth of our lives (that we have jobs, that we can work, etc.)
- 4. **Sawm** means fasting. The month of Ramadan is the 9th month of the lunar calendar that Muslims follow. Believers refrain from food and drink during daylight hours. For Muslims, this is a holiday time of spiritual centering, and of sharing evening feasts and special foods.
- 5. **Hajj** –the pilgrimage to Mecca and the Great Mosque. If possible, believers are to make this journey at least once.

Beliefs -

- Believe in Allah = God, creator. Allah was not born, is eternal, does not have a plural, and has no gender. Allah is compassionate and merciful.
- Believe in angels which have brought the messages from Allah to messengers on earth (such as Jesus, Muhammad, Moses, etc.)
- Believe in books = things that are written or recited. In faith, these are 'transmissions'/ messages from many different messengers/prophets:
- Muhammad Quran
- Jesus his words (many of which are recorded in the New Testament)
- Moses 10 Commandments
- David the Psalms
- The messages throughout time have been similar.
- Qadar Our lives have been blessed with a purpose, as individuals, and for worshipping the Creator and creations.
- Judgment Day Muslims believe in a hereafter, and that someday, somehow, everyone who has ever lived will be judged.

October 30: Bob Worner spoke to the 3rd UU Principle, with his talk entitled: "Anger Management." During the 80's, he and two others conducted anger management sessions with farmers who, because of the severe drought of the time, were angry, in conflict and there were a number of suicides. First, the wives came to the sessions and later the men. "Anger is always with us." It is not limited to our times. He & Mary watched the movie, "Suffragettes" that portrayed women's struggles for the vote in Britain. They led protests, were jailed, lost jobs, lost custody of their children, acted in opposition to their husbands and still they went on. Then there was the Civil Rights Era: Rosa Parks, lunch counters, whites only, violence that sparked marches and movement. Anger can and does spark dark words and deeds. It can be constructive and destructive.

Anger covers being afraid. People justify their right to be angry:

- 1) Disagree with you, threaten that you'll be going to hell just want to save you.
- 2) "Well, anyone would be angry..."
- 3) "She was asking for it"
- 4) "I tried everything else"
- 5) "I wasn't myself it got away from me."

There can be justifiable anger when it is directed at incompetence, ignorance, indifference. It can come at a cost to mind, body, Spirit. It can come between family members. Meeting violence with the truth can mean that truth can also be met with violence.

We, from UU, must walk the walk, talk the talk, work for a peaceful election, not participate in polarizing or apocalyptic statements. If the worst happens, we must still honor the presidency without sarcasm or distain. We give to the worst a chance too. We are a "gentle, angry people" who live against the grain, trying to bring justice to bear. We are needed and we may not be applauded until long after. Anger covers fear but fear may also cover anger so rather

than huddling fearful in our basements, we "must put out fires from the roof tops," just like the English did during WW II. The world needs righteous justice.

Comments on the "us vs. them" mentality. Seems it can only be confronted when we think that everything is one and all connected. There is no separateness. "We have to conquer self to know the way."

Attendance: 42



Groundbreaking for Bright Sky Apartments was held on Monday, October 17, 2016 at 2 p.m. to celebrate the groundbreaking of Bright Sky Apartments, our 43unit permanent supportive housing development.

Churches United for the Homeless is the largest shelter in north western Minnesota and is the only shelter within 225 miles that is able to accommodate single men, single women, and both one and two parent families. We offer a safe haven to those most in need, a chance to reflect on the direction they wish for their lives, and the opportunity to utilize our community's many resources in achieving their goals.

We accomplish this goal by offering spiritual ministry and emotional affirmation to people who are homeless, furnishing a temporary shelter, and referring residents to appropriate services such as job service, social services, mental health services, and programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous.

Bright Sky Apartments will consist of 43 units- a unit mix of 18 efficiency apartments, 4 one-bedrooms, 9 two-bedrooms, 9 three-bedrooms, and 3 four bedroom units.

The development will provide permanent supportive housing for people coming directly out of homelessness.

All tenants will have rental assistance through local homeless housing programs.

The development will be located at 3305 3rd Avenue North, Moorhead, MN, near a variety of retail and employment opportunities. A bus stop is close by and a sidewalk connects to the extensive walking/bike path that runs along Highway 10.

Service partners include: Churches United for the Homeless, Clay County Social Services, Lakes and Prairies Community Action Agency, Clay County Housing Authority, the VA, Lakeland Mental,

Note: The Unitarian Church of Underwood gave a \$500 Empowerment Grant to Churches United this past year. The Board approved that UCU become a sustaining member to this program effective FY 2018. Contact Bob Worner for details.

Lisa Lipari at lipari@churches-united.org

http://www.churches-united.org/

UUA Common Read: The Third Reconstruction



The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement, by the Rev. Dr. William Barber II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove (Beacon Press, 2016), is the 2016-2017 Unitarian Universalist Common Read. UUs were electrified at General Assembly 2016 by Rev. Barber's call for building and sustaining a movement for justice for all people. The Third Reconstruction offers helpful, practical guidance for engaging with justice movements born in response to local experiences of larger injustices. Congregations, groups, and individuals

may purchase the book or find it in a public library and begin reading. A paperback edition will be available for purchase at <u>inSpirit: The UU Book and Gift Shop</u> in late September; bulk discounts for both hard cover and paperback are available. A discussion guide for UU

congregations, groups, and individuals will be available for download October 1. Visit the Common Read page for more information.

A Time for a Moral Revolution of Values Revival Held October 10 Plymouth Congregation Church in Minnapolis

Mary Anderson attended this event with a friend and this is her summary:

"Indigenous Peoples' Day, Native American Prayer to the Four Directions, Prayer from the Koran, Testimonials from those impacted by poverty & inequality, children's choir, songs led of battle and overcoming, lamenting, resolution to act were just some of the parts of the Moral Revolution Revival that I attended with a friend on October 10 at Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis.

"Expansion of health care is a pro-life issue!" "One Nation or No Nation!" "We won't be silent anymore!" "Gifts of the Creator destroyed by Racism." Red Cloud's words: "The Earth Must be Respected, Protected and Cherished." "15 Now!" "No Justice, No Peace." "If We Don't Get It, Shut it Down!" These were just some of the rallying cries to the (surprising to me) - predominately white audience that had gathered for the evening revival.

The songs and words rang out with the culmination of a resounding message calling for a moral awakening by Rev. William Barber. Dr. Barber is the author of *The Third Revolution*, Director of the NAACP, leader founder of Moral Mondays and the fusion movement in North Carolina to address voting rights, racial and economic inequalities and other social issues. He was a speaker at the Democratic National Convention.

Rev. Barber began with a reading from the Book of Ezekiel, Chapters 22 and 36. He had to keep reminding us that these words were from the Bible, not from yesterday's Wall Street Journal. The description of that nation THEN was comparable to OUR nation NOW. "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." Ezekiel 36:26 New International Version.

America has a HEART PROBLEM

- 1) "HTD" "Hypocrisy Theological Disorder" the focus of the Conservative Right is not on what composes the bulk of the Bible: justice, mercy, truth, love. The Bible talks about how you treat the POOR (a word that is unsaid these days). We must challenge how under public policies, we treat the POOR.
- 2) "IICA" "Inconsistent, Irregular Constitutional Arrhythmia": Our constitution has 7 principles: WE (the people) sought to establish justice: common defense, general welfare, tranquility, equal protection, freedom of speech, right to protect, right to vote. There is inconsistent reference to and irregular use of America's Constitution. ("Welfare" is not a dirty word- it is in the Constitution). Voting Rights are the Heart to Our Democracy.

3) "SSSR" – "Serious Septic Systemic Racism" is rampant within our democracy – coded language is used to describe Racism. "Entitlements" is the new "N" word. Public policy is "willfully deaf."

Dr. Barber noted that poor whites comprise the largest percentage of the poor in America and the city of Minneapolis has more poor people (48%) than even Birmingham, Alabama. What myths have been perpetuated to create fear and hate among people? What causes most poor white people to be against the very policies and programs that can help them when they are the largest group in need to receive them? Why are they led to chastise other poor non-whites or immigrants?

We need a movement from the bottom up. Rev Barber: "I believe that you believe." "To save a heart, you have to have a heart." "The Heart of the Nation has stopped. To resuscitate our Heart: "Call the Code, bring in the team, Start the defibrillator. Charge! Clear!! Can the Heart of what is America be saved?"

Can we be among those to help save it? Mary Anderson

The Revival Tour is sponsored by Repairers of the Breach, Healing of the Nations Ministries and Drum Major Institute. http://www.breachrepairers.org/

Repairers of the Breach, Inc.: Rekindling a Prophetic Moral Vision for Justice, Social Change and Movement Building - a nonpartisan and ecumenical organization that seeks to build a progressive agenda rooted in a moral framework to counter the ultra-conservative constructs that try to dominate the public square. Repairers will help frame public policies which are not constrained or confined by the narrow tenets of neo-conservatism. Repairers will bring together clergy and lay people from different faith traditions, with people without a spiritual practice but who share the moral principles at the heart of the great moral teachings. Repairers will expand a "school of prophets" who can broadly spread the vision of a nation that is just and loving.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. — Isaiah 58:12

Our communities are torn apart by hateful violence and words, often in the name of opportunistic and hypocritical interpretations of the world's oldest holy books and teachings. To repair the breaches caused by centuries old systems of racial and gender inequality, we need thousands of clergy and lay leaders who will dedicate their lives to rebuilding, raising up and repairing our moral infrastructure. They shall be called, "The Repairers of the Breach: The Restorers of Our Communities."

Note: Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs, Co-Minister of Unity Church-Unitarian, St. Paul was present on stage and named as one of the organizers. See: http://www.unityunitarian.org/index.html http://www.unityunitarian.org/in

Ashley Horan, Executive Director of the Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA) reported that she'd attended the afternoon session for clergy led by Rev. Barber.

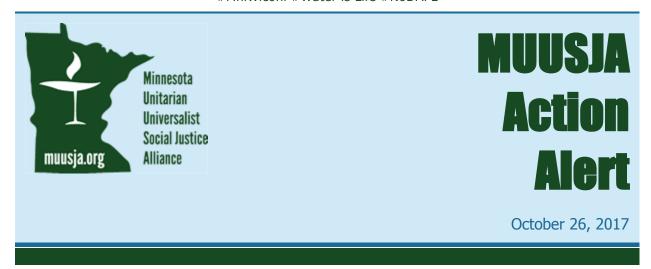
Other Sponsor - Drum Major Institute carries forward the social change legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by promoting economic justice, dismantling structural racism, and advancing an innovative civil rights agenda. See: http://www.drummajorinst.org/

Further Note from Mary: Throughout this event, I kept thinking about UU Principle 7: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are part." There were so many references that reminded me of what we are doing at UCU: John's Adult RE class now on the New Jim Crow and the Barber book, the Adult Religious Education classes of last year on the Prophets, the Protectors at Standing Rock, the U Group topics of "I am Racist" and "Civility," the circle we held revealing our concerns about white privilege and racial inequalities, our determination to do more in the areas of social and environment justice action, representation at this rally by St Paul Unity and the linking together of faith communities, the power of music, the responsiveness of those gathered to be there, to do something, the pending election issues we discuss at coffee. I am grateful to be at UCU where so many take seriously the depth of these moral issues we need/must address. And I am filled with hope, seeing that there are many others standing together to make it happen. I pretty much sat out the 2nd Revolution. I don't want to sit out the 3rd Revolution. *Mary Anderson*

Standing Rock Water Protectors

Sandy Barnhouse took the time and made the effort to collect blankets, food items and monetary contributions from UCU members and friends and drove to Standing Rock on October 24. We thank Sandy for these efforts.

#MniWiconi #Water is Life #NoDAPL



Showing UUp for Standing Rock: #NoDAPL

Dear Fellowship,

For several months, indigenous activists--led by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe--have been bravely showing up to resist the building of the Dakota Access Pipeline, which presents a huge, toxic threat to life-giving water, and the sacred lands of the Standing Rock Sioux. In recent weeks, militarized police and private security forces have been quickly escalating their attacks on the Water Protectors, bringing in police dogs, macing peaceful prayer



gatherings, and enacting violence and arrest against peaceful activists whose rallying cry is simply "Mni wiconi -- Water is Life."

In the last several days, the Water Protectors at Standing Rock have <u>re-issued a</u> <u>nationwide call for supporters to join them at the camps there</u>. As one Lakota leader <u>recently put it</u>, "We're asking for reinforcements to come stand with us, to pray, and to protect... Of all the times to take action, the time is now."

In response to that call, MUUSJA will be sending two delegations to North Dakota in the coming week: one group--led by Terri Burnor--will be leaving the Twin Cities this Friday, October 28, and returning on Sunday, October 30; the other--led by Rev. Kelli Clement--will depart on Tuesday, November 1, and return Thursday, November 3.

Our Unitarian Universalist faith reminds us that we are all inextricably and radically interdependent; that we are a part of an interconnected web of existence that encompasses all creatures and the earth. Following from those deeply held theological values, in 2012, the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association passed a resolution repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery, and calling Unitarian Universalists to work both locally and nationally in solidarity with native communities and to make reparations for the impacts of the colonization, genocide, land theft, and continuing harms perpetrated against indigenous peoples. If we are to follow through with our pledge, we must acknowledge that we are called and compelled to show up in solidarity with our indigenous siblings and kin to protect the earth that gives us life, and to resist the legacy of colonization and genocide of the native peoples on whose land we all live.

If you are not able to participate now, please know that there will likely be many opportunities to support this movement, and to travel to Standing Rock in the coming months as the Protectors prepare to settle in for the winter. MUUSJA is deepening our relationships with the <u>Unitarian Universalist Fellowship & Church of Bismarck/Mandan</u>, which has been acting in powerful solidarity with the Water Protectors; we have also begun collaborating with other national and regional UU social justice organizations to develop a national response from Unitarian Universalists around the country. We will share details about these partnerships with you as they emerge.

If you would like to make a donation to support a fellow Unitarian Universalist to

join our delegation, click <u>here</u> (please note "Standing Rock" in the notes field in Paypal).

In faith and solidarity,



Ashley

Ashley Horan, M.Div.
MUUSJA Executive Director
muusja1@gmail.com
http://facebook.com/ashley.a.p.horan
@ashley_horan

News from Our Friends at Northwoods' Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

From their October 2016 Newsletter And Congratulations on their Successes!!!

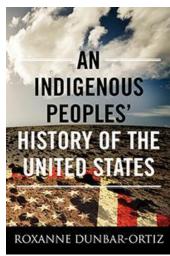
- On the March 1 Caucuses: For all of you who worked to submit resolutions in the March caucuses, the following text appears in the 2016-2017 Action Agenda of the Minnesota DFL Party Platform: "Support the creation and recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Day, on the second Monday in October, encouraging government entities, organizations, and other public and private institutions to change their policies and practices to reflect the experiences of American Indian people and our country's indigenous roots, culture, history, and significant contributions in order to close persistent and pervasive disparities." Many thanks and congratulations to all of you!!
 - On the MUUSJA Social Justice Award: Last week, NUUF was honored to receive the Social Justice Award from the Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance for our work on Native American issues, from our 2011 Resolution through our current campaign, Goodbye Columbus. Representing NUUF to receive the award, Pat, Barb, and Alison drove to the First Unitarian Society in Minneapolis to attend the annual meeting of the Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance. The meeting also featured a panel of Twin Cities activists speaking about the future of change: Council Member Alondra Cano (Minneapolis City Council, Ward 9), Dr. Nekima Levy-Pounds (Attorney & Social Justice Activist), and Rev. Steve Newcom (Founding Director, Kaleo Center for Faith, Justice, & Social Transformation). Thanks to MUUSJA for selecting NUUF for this honor, and thanks to all of you who have helped and continue to help work for justice in this area! For more information about NUUF's program, check out our "NUUF Initiatives" webpage and the "Goodbye Columbus" website.



inSpirit

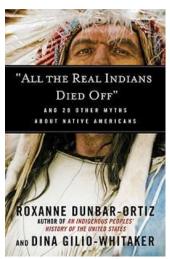
Your Search for Truth and Meaning Begins Here

Today in the United States, there are more than five hundred federally recognized Indigenous nations comprising nearly three million people, descendants of the fifteen million Native people who once inhabited this land. Honor Indigenous Peoples' Day and change the national narrative around Columbus Day and the larger history of Indigenous people with these important titles from Beacon Press. A discussion guide for An Indigenous Peoples' History is available for congregations and small groups from the UUA's Faith Development Office.



An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz Other Myths About Native Americans

Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz challenges the founding myth of the United States and



"All the Real Indians Died Off" and 20 by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz and Dina Gilio-Whitaker

shows how policy against the Indigenous peoples was colonialist and designed to seize the territories of the original inhabitants, displacing or eliminating them. and Dina Gilio-Whitaker tackle a wide Spanning more than four hundred years, this classic bottom-up peoples' history radically reframes US history and explodes developed. They deftly show how these the silences that have haunted our national myths are rooted in the fears and narrative. 2015 recipient of the American Book Award.

Purchase today.

Critically deconstructs persistent myths about Native Americans that have taken hold in the US. Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz range of myths about Native American culture and history and trace how they prejudice of European settlers and in the larger political agendas of the settler state.

Purchase today.

Give to the Max Day is November 17!



Each year, MUUSJA participates in Give to the Max Day, a 24-hour statewide event during which Minnesota donors support non-profits across the state, and organizations can win great prizes and spread the word about their work. MUUSJA's theme this year will be "Showing Up for the Long Haul: Sustaining Souls for Justice." More details to come soon, but please mark your calendars now and plan to include MUUSJA in your Give to the Max Day giving!

Green Gossip

Janell Miersch brings to our attention historic news on the fight against climate change. https://blog.epa.gov/blog/2016/10/hfcs/

Oct 15, 2016

A Historic Day in Our Fight Against Climate Change By Administrator Gina McCarthy Protecting the air we breathe and slowing the effects of climate change are a core part of EPA's mission. And today, I am proud to say that we, alongside nearly every country on Earth, have taken another historic step in carrying out that mission by cutting down on the use of damaging hydrofluorocarbons, or HFCs.

Countries, including the United States, have long used HFCs to meet their refrigeration and air conditioning needs. These greenhouse gases can have warming impacts hundreds to thousands of times more potent than carbon dioxide. In a nutshell, these HFCs cool our homes and chill our food, but they are turning up the temperature of our planet.

And over the next several years, HFC use is expected to not only grow—but multiply. Their emissions are increasing by 10 to 15 percent on an annual basis globally. That's why, this week in Rwanda, world leaders took a giant leap forward by agreeing to a global phase-down of these harmful gases.

As head of the U.S. delegation to the Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, I met with leaders from around the world who share a commitment to protecting the planet and scaling down these harmful gases. Together, joined by Secretary of State John Kerry, we agreed to take action and get the job done. And that's exactly what we did.

The Montreal Protocol, a successful global environmental agreement, is already putting the world on track to heal the Earth's ozone layer by mid-century. And this week, 197 countries agreed on an ambitious amendment that will help protect Earth's climate by significantly reducing the consumption and production of HFCs.

By acting now, we're avoiding up to a full half a degree centigrade of warming by the end of the century. This is a big deal, because our scientists say very clearly that we must keep our planet's temperature from rising 2 degrees above our normal temperature. And today's announcement brings us that much closer to avoiding that "point of no return."

We're also agreeing to devote more resources to finding and using safer, more climate-friendly alternatives. And we're building on the significant gains we've already made to protect ourselves and our children from the dangerous effects of climate change.

At EPA, we're doing our part to cut down on HFCs here at home.

Just two weeks ago, we finalized two rules that will reduce the use and emissions of HFCs. The first—under our Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) program—adds new alternatives to the list of acceptable substitutes for HFCs. It also sets deadlines to completely stop using HFCs in certain applications where safer alternatives are available. The second rule strengthens our current refrigerant management practices and extends them to include HFCs.

This week has truly been historic. Our global commitment to protecting our planet brought us to this moment. It's an exciting time for all of us who have worked so hard to get here. And while we have seen many significant successes under President Obama's leadership in tackling climate change, this day will be remembered as one of the most important. I was proud to represent the United States in Rwanda this week. There is no doubt in my mind that U.S. leadership was essential to reaching this agreement.

Yes, there will be challenges ahead. But the past week reminds us that when faced with clear science, when buoyed by the strong partnership of developed and developing countries working together, we can make great strides to protect the one planet we have.

Unitarian Church of Underwood Approved Board Minutes for September 21, 2016

Board members present: David Sanderson, Mary Anderson, Stan Carignan, Connie Stigen, Norman Kolstad and Alisha Piekarski. Absent: David Wass, Bob Worner, Kris Warhol, John Miersch. Also present: Administrative Consultant JoAnn Larson, Bonnie Showers.

The meeting was called to order at the church by Board President Mary Anderson at 6:39 p.m. Mary Anderson shared a reading/meditation.

The agenda was approved (Sanderson/Stigen).

The minutes of the August 17, 2016, meeting were approved as printed (Carignan/Sanderson).

Bonnie Showers gave a presentation on the UCU social media presence and possible improvements and opportunities.

Reports:

Treasurer: printed report.

Administrative Consultant: JoAnn Larson – program lineup.

Finance/Stewardship Committee: David Sanderson – collections on target.

Program Committee: Mary Anderson – Two child care providers will be paid \$30 per Sunday for up to three Sundays per month (Sanderson/Stigen). Volunteers needed. Four adult RE classes underway. There are four U-Groups plus the Alexandria group.

Facilities Committee: Mary Anderson – Quote received for noise abatement, tabled. Up to \$1200 authorized to purchase two air purifiers and one dehumidifier (Kolstad/Sanderson). E-mail vote on purchase of water heater for Sverdrup Suites was ratified (Carignan/Sanderson).

Safety Committee: Norman Kolstad – Apartment inventory.

Community Outreach: JoAnn Larson, Mary Anderson – Harvest Festival reviewed, God's Work, Our Hands suggested changes.

Membership: Mary Anderson – greeters needed, new member Sunday October 2, directory progress, Shan bags, Sunday attendance report.

Unfinished Business:

Lift repair progress, peace flag installed, Strategic Goals reviewed.

New Business:

Christmas day service plans, MUUSJA workshop, possible regional workshop in the fall.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 16, 2016 at 11:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Norman Kolstad, acting secretary.

Unitarian Church of Underwood (UCU) Foundation

A Gift for Today A Legacy for the Future

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Note anything else you would like us to kno	ow about your estate plans and the UCU Foundation.		
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Signature (1)		Date	
Signature (2)		—— Date	

Thank you for supporting the future of the Unitarian Church of Underwood

Return this form to:
Unitarian Church of Underwood
David Sanderson, Foundation Chair
PO Box 58
Underwood, MN 56586

Unitarian Church of Underwood

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