

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

Unitarian Church of Underwood

PO Box 58, 206 North Main Street

Underwood

Phone: 218/826-6553

Website: www.ucofu.org

www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org

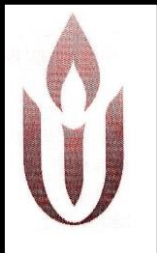
Sunday Services

November 4 - Ben Schierer

November 11 - Janell Miersch ++

November 18 - Jane Smith

November 25 - Althena Kildegaard



As part of our commitment to our 5th principle, "the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large," we encourage folks to take part in voter registration, support education on issues of concern, help with voter turn-out, and vote.

November 2018 Newsletter

Reminder: Daylight Savings Time ends November 4, Turn your Clocks Back one hour!!

November 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 
4 Ben Schierer, "Shining Cities.." Adult RE & Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Children's RE 10:00-11:15 am	5 AA 7 pm	6 	7 Records Committee 5:30 pm @ #300	8 Perham U Group 6:30 @ Stan Carignan's	9	10
11 Janell Miersch +, Citizen's Climate Lobby Adult RE & Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 am Children's RE 10:00-11:15 am	12 AA 7 pm	13 Battle Lake/Underwood U Group 3 pm @ Joanne Cress'	14 Speakers Committee 3:30 Finance Committee 5:30 #300 Alexandria U Group 7 pm @ Widseth... Office Bldg/	15 FF U Group 6:30 pm @ Diana Ziesemer's	16	17
18 Jane Smith, "Joining Together with Multiple Truths" Adult RE & Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 Children's RE 10:00-11:15 am	19 AA 7 pm	20	21 Executive Committee 4:30 pm #300 Board Meeting 5:30 pm	22 	23	24
25 Althena Kildegaard, "The Grace of Gratitude" Adult RE & Mindfulness Sitting 9:15 Children's RE 10:00-11:15 am	26 AA 7 pm	27 Perham U Group serving lunch at Welcome Place Pelican	28	29	30	



Speakers/Events



November 4 – Ben Schierer, Mayor of Fergus Falls, "Shining Cities on the Prairie." Ben Schierer was first elected to the Fergus Falls City Council in 2004. He was elected as mayor in 2016. Ben and his wife, Tessa, along with their five children own and operate Union Pizza & Brewing Company in downtown Fergus Falls.

From John Winthrop to John Kennedy to Ronald Reagan, America has often been compared to the "City on the Hill" that Jesus spoke of in his Sermon on the Mount. Does our current political rhetoric reflect this exalted aim? Can our local governments, communities, and churches foster the conversations and rebuild the trust necessary to return us to a society based on respect, civility, and the lifting of a common good worthy of this lofty aspiration?

November 11 – Janell Miersch & Friends: Beth Monke and Patty Shol of the "Citizens Climate Lobby." As our planet continues to be pummeled with 100-year storms/hurricanes, earthquakes, raging fires, and other disasters, we all search for causes. Citizens' Climate Lobby is a non-profit, bi-partisan, grassroots lobbying organization focused on national policies relating to climate change. But the organization cannot move forward without legislators to champion climate solutions. These three women who are members of the Fergus Falls chapter of Citizen's Climate Lobby will explain the origins and purpose of this international group. They will talk about how our Unitarian Principles call us to join with others to mitigate the impending effects of climate change with just and ethical responses. We will focus on:

[1st Principle](#): *The inherent worth and dignity of every person* and [5th Principle](#): *The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large* in this bi-partisan legislative effort

[4th Principle](#): *A free and responsible search for truth and meaning* when some are denouncing climate change

[7th Principle](#): *Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part* as we accept our responsibility to remedy and mitigate climate change

November 18 – Jane Smith, "Joining Together with Multiple Truths"

Boundaries allow individuals to have their own personal truths, while acknowledging and respecting the truths of others. There is respect, acceptance, and affirmation of others, but also holding on to personal beliefs. We can see the need for boundaries in our theologically diverse UU denomination and in our need to work across political boundaries when organizing for social justice. Different beliefs can act in unison for a common cause.

Principles 1, 3 and 6.

Jane Smith recently received her Master of Divinity from Meadville Lombard Theological School. In June, she also completed a two-year internship at First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis. Jane currently serves as a chaplain at Omegon Residential Treatment Center in Minnetonka, working with teenagers struggling with mental illness and addiction.

November 25 – Althena Kildegaard, "The Grace of Gratitude," referencing UU Principles 1 & 7. Thanks to social media we're good at "liking." Thumbs up for cats and goats and babies! Gratitude is surely a different thing--liking with gravitas. There's no grace to hitting Like, but there's grace in gratitude. Athena Kildegaard will explore this idea with the help of a few poems.

Athena is the author of five books of poetry, most recently *Course*. She's been a recipient of grants from the Lake Region Arts Council and the Minnesota State Arts Board. Her poems have been read by Garrison Keillor, set to music by the McKnight Artist of the Year Libby Larsen, and nominated for the Pushcart Prize. She teaches at the University of Minnesota, Morris.



Children's Religious Education

Children's RE volunteer leaders and parents met on October 21 to discuss what has worked well this first six months of every Sunday RE and what we might want to improve or change.

What is Working Well:

- Having fun
- Unified theme – connecting to theme of “Home” so lessons fit together. Have included uua.org Chalice Children, lessons on home; home church with principles and sources: what UU believes, the symbols; homes in different cultures, Habitat for Humanity homes, animal homes, etc.
- Attendance – children look forward to Sundays
- Dedication, creativity and reliability of the volunteers as solid anchors who are FRESH to kids.
- The gender balance with male leadership
- Cards from children to members/friends showing care and support
- Snacks
- MUSIC!! Recorders, songs, guitar
- Logistics and scheduling process working well

- Have good format/structure/balance
- Making educating fun!

We reviewed the lesson format and discussed some ways to improve the program that included: Ground Rules, consistent snack time AFTER the lesson, communication between leads, scheduling and logistics.

The children will be presenting the program on December 16. Bonnie Albers, with the help of Lance and others, will coordinate and direct the program. The theme will be a traditional nativity enactment, melding with our UU teachings. Plan now to attend – you just may find yourself one of the characters!!

Many, Many THANKS to parents/grandparents for bringing your kids; thank you to all who volunteer to lead Children's Religious Education!! If you wish to volunteer to help with Children's RE, contact Mary Anderson @ maryanderson8380@msn.com or 218/346-6638 or Kris Warhol @ mwarhol7up@gmail.com or 218/205-1644. Mary Anderson/Kris Warhol – Coordinators.

November Children's Religious Education Schedule

November 4	Jon Solinger	Ron Graham	UUA "Home," lesson #6
November 11	Kris Warhol	Wally Warhol Ron Graham	Principles & Sources
November 18	Bonnie Albers	Lance Albers	Kids Dec program Preparation
November 25	Bonnie Albers	Lance Albers	Kids Dec program preparation



Monthly Greeting from Board President, Kris Warhol

People are so quick, almost eager, to prepare you for the worst. If we give you nothing else here at UCU, we shall prepare you for the best. And maybe, just maybe you'll believe it's OK to hope for it, work for it, wait for it, and embrace it when it comes. We will be on the sidelines saying to you the best could happen and what if it does, what if it does!

Gratitude is not determined by circumstances. It is through your own attitude you give yourself. All existence is around "Getting." What do you want to get? Today, we ask you to pause and give thanks for today; give thanks for your health, for friends, for all that you are and do in your own lives, and for the

lives of others. This November is a time of abundance. We gather together celebrating the harvest, a delicious feast to fill our bellies, and the time to feel the fullness of life well lived.

The season is soon drawing near to reach out and share the abundance with those less fortunate. We invite you to share your gifts. We are a Church that gives through Empowerment grants, through community service, through volunteering, through sweat equity and financial donations. Please find in your daily lives an opportunity to give and to make a difference.

Frederick Buechner said, "The place God calls you, the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." Share the best you are willing to give.

Stay informED

Wi-fi Now Available at UCU

See Bulletin Board for Password

To be included to regularly receive weekly church reports and monthly newsletters, or to remove your name from the list, please contact Ellen Eastby @ eastofellen@hotmail.com

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

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

**Website:
www.ucofu.org**

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

Cancellation/Postponement Due to Weather

Cancellation/Postponement Due to Weather: for weather related announcements, tune to Lakes Radio Family of Stations – 103.3, 96.5 FM and 1020, 1250 AM or online at www.lakesradio.net under "News." You can also check the UCU website at www.ucofu.org or the Facebook page. If you do not hear a cancellation announcement, please use your best judgment on making a safe trip to church.

Newsletter Submissions due prior to Issuance the 1st of each month

Please submit your ideas, articles and photos to: maryanderson8380@msn.com or maryleonaanderson@gmail.com
Editing: Stephanie Sanderson
Emailing/ mailing: Ellen Eastby and JoAnn Larson.
Website: Ellen Eastby
Facebook: Melody Shores
Photos courtesy of Norm Kolstad & credited others.

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

Newsletter comes out on the 1st of each month via email. They are also posted at www.ucofu.org.

Nurture Your Spirit ...

U Group Schedule (Meetings Monthly)

- Alexandria U-Group: 2nd Wed @ 7:00 pm @ the office building of Widseth, Smith & Nolting Office Bldg., 610 Fillmore, Alexandria: Facilitators: Lee Becker/Susan Sanford
- Battle Lake U Group, the 2nd Tuesday @ 3:00 p.m. @ home of Joanne Cress and Luke Anderson. Facilitators: Bob Worner/Joanne Cress.
- Fergus Falls U-Group: 3rd Thursday @ 6:30 pm @ Diana Ziesemer's, 934 W. Linden St., Fergus Falls. Facilitator: Jacob McKnite/Melody Shores.
- Perham U-Group: 2nd Thursday @ 6:30 p.m. alternating between homes of Stan Carignan or Mary Anderson. Facilitator: Stan Carignan. Serving lunch at Welcome Place in Pelican Rapids, November 27 for community project.

Each group holds an empty chair for anyone who wants to come and join the group.

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

Adult Religious Education Classes

1st Sunday of the month, 8:45 - 9:45 a.m. – John Minge leads discussion.

2nd Sunday of the month, 8:45- 9:45 a.m. – Sandy Barnhouse leads the Ancient Religions Class.

3rd Sunday of the month – Stan Carignan will lead new class using the book, "*Seeing, Knowing, Being*" by John Greer as a text to explore what mindfulness is, how it can be achieved, and what it does for a person. We will discuss a couple of chapters each month, followed by 20 minutes of mindfulness practice.

4th Sunday of the month, 8:45-9:45 a.m. Bob Worner leads the discussion.

Each Sunday of the month, 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Stan Carignan leads Mindfulness Sitting @ #300 Sverdrup Suites.

Intellectually, I know America is no better than any other country. Emotionally, I know she is better than every other country. Sinclair Lewis, 1930

Leadership is persuasion – and conciliation – and education – and patience. Dwight Eisenhower.

Notes from October Speakers/Events

October 7 – Richard Kagan spoke on “The Historical Origins and Current Themes in each UU,”

Making the following points:

1. Over the centuries, the symbols of Unitarianism, Universalism, and the UUA have evolved.

The Unitarian symbol contains a chalice with a flame, within 2 overlapping circles.

(From Wikipedia: According to USC director Charles Joy, symbol designer Deutsch took his inspiration from the chalices of oil burned on ancient Greek and Roman altars. It became an underground symbol in occupied Europe during World War II for assistance to help Unitarians, Jews, and other people escape Nazi persecution.)^[1]

The chalice is off center. This was taken from the Universalist symbol, the Off-Center Cross. The interpretation of the Off-Center Cross is that, while Universalism is based in Christianity, there is room for the Love and Wisdom of other religions.

The two overlapping linked circles surrounding the off-centered chalice with the outside circle symbolizing the world itself and the inner circle for Unitarian – not to take over but to come within the circle. Wikipedia gives a quote from the poet and life-long Universalist, Edwin Markham, "He drew a circle that shut me out -- Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout. But Love and I had the wit to win: We drew a circle and took him in!"

2. Along with the other Celebrants, Richard recently read a book on Unitarian Universalism. There is more history about the Unitarians than about the Universalists, so Richard researched further. He described the contributions particularly of Kenneth Patton, a humanist and Unitarian minister, who worked with Frank Lloyd Wright to design the church building of the First Unitarian Society of Madison, WS. The design and artwork contained in this church celebrates our relation to the world and to the Universe. Patton also wrote many of the readings and words for hymns found in our hymnal.
3. Civilization was taken to mean the Christian church. In the late 1800's and early 1900's, Unitarianism evolved. P.T. Barnum and Horace Greely are credited with incorporating humanism; that humans create humans (not a divine creator). Humanists saw joy and purpose rather than sin, heaven and hell. Study of the atom contributed to information that all matter is made of physical matter and energy (spirit).
4. As Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, he was inspired by Joseph Priestley, a Unitarian minister, to include the words “unalienable rights such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”; emphasizing the right to be happy.
5. Richard further researched the symbol created for our church by Charles Beck over 10 months in 1965-66. There were various universalist multi-religious symbols that may have inspired Beck to include his symbols of the cross, the chalice, the star of David, the Hindu Aum, the Yin-Yang, Islam inscriptions and the Buddhist Wheel.

6. The Universalists were dying out and tried to merge with some other synods when in 1962, the Unitarians agreed to cooperate and the two UU's consolidated to form the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Podcast at: <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/the-historical-origins-and-current-themes-in-each-uu-richard-kagan-october-7-2018>

Attendance: 42

October 14 – Stan Carignan, Executive Director of the Fergus Falls Habitat, “It’s a Wonderful Life,” referencing Principles 1 & 2.

Stan showed a 5-minute film of Habitat for Humanity families with each member telling what is most appreciated. The Hermes family was one featured. This was followed by a 10-minute video by the owner of another house. 170 volunteers of all religious beliefs working together.

Stan explained how the Habitat annual 500-mile bike ride not only raises funds but draws attention to Habitat projects in communities the ride encompasses.

The challenge today is that contractors cannot build a “starter” home anymore. What could be built for \$168,000 - \$200,000 per home now ranges between \$212,000 - \$218,000.

Property managers outbid “regular” people on low-priced, affordable homes (profit for a few, not the community).

The last house sold for \$125,000 by Habitat for Humanity. The family has two mortgages: the first is paid by the family; the second most times is forgiven if the family lives in the home 15 years. USDA has funds available for rural building.

Habitat not only results in a home for the family but in giving stability and hope to the family, the kids do better in many ways.

Fergus Falls Habitat holds 23 mortgages: the families pay the mortgage with a range of \$100-\$150/month.

The aim of Habitat is to “demonstrate the love of Jesus.”

Stan presented two golden hammer medallion awards: one to **Kris Warhol, UCU Board President** for the contributions made by the church; the second to member, **Tim Lantz** who has faithfully been on board for three builds.

Comments included that there are older, cheaper houses in Elbow Lake for persons in need of homes, but that the location distance to jobs creates problems. There are also “positive neighborhood effects” of Habitat homes.

Attendance: 41

October 21 – Rev. Thomas Schmidt, “Could You Be a Pagan Without Knowing It?”

Thomas has been involved with interfaith ministries in California, Texas, South Carolina, Florida and now lives with his partner, Rita in Bemidji where they are involved with environmental groups and the Universalist movement.

Some two decades ago when Thomas first attended UU, he thought it was too perfect and was suspicious if they’d really want him. He led out his “secret” to a fellow member that he was a “closet pagan.” He was surprised that she wasn’t shocked. Instead, she told him about the Covenant of UU Pagans where he found like-minded thinkers.

If we go far enough back, we may find that we are all pagans- with the celebration of seasonal cycles, what people did, not what they were led to believe. People fear what they don’t understand but with time and conversation, we learn to understand. So now he describes himself as “inclusive of paganism, but not exclusively pagan. It is not the labels but the experience of connection with all that is., a communion with nature. To go beyond the abstract and experience the reality of inter-connectiveness, the web of life... when we don’t see any barriers between ourselves and all that is.

Emerson in Transcendentalism led the spiritual unity of all forms of being with God, man and nature – all sharing a universal soul. Paganist traditions of Europe and the middle east found in each of the religions have a foundational story and reminders of earth’s cycles, rhythms, relationships with nature so that we remain aware of how they are working with us. We are nature, itself. Technology has separated us from the rhythm, so we have less touch with our roots. Christ couldn’t erase all so overlaid new over the old. The Celts celebrated Samhain, when the veil was the thinnest between the living and the dead. Our pagan roots connect us to a living story. Before technology, we told stories around the fire. Fire helps us listen. Listening is better than talking. We are invited to be skeptical of our own skepticism. You can’t judge if you’ve never experienced. We may all be pagan without knowing it. Suspension of our disbelief gives power, strength to appreciate the symbolic representation of aspects of the gods’ and goddesses’ aspects within ourselves.

So, go into the forest, let go, get out of the box for the magic to happen. Make a commitment and practice to get out of our own heads. Be like the wild geese heading home again, find your place in the family of things, inviting us to love what we love. So be it, blessed be, Amen.

Attendance: 51

Podcast link: <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/could-you-be-a-pagan-without-knowing-it-rev-thomas-schmidt-october-21-2018>.

October 28 - Bob Worner entitled his talk, “The Rowboat Society” referencing UU Principle

#4. The rowboat in society has these characteristics:

- 1) Self-propelled – here at UU we are free of society’s and church creeds. We all dip into the “water of life,” using what we’ve been given, understanding that others before us built and launched the boat for us. They are replaced by us at the oars. We are not alone. We have MUUSJA, other UU churches, etc.
- 2) Knows the Waters – Titanic was lost when they dismissed the icebergs; Kayakers were lost on Lake Superior for misjudging its storms. Right now, “you,” the church, the country, the world, are all affected by the politics of the time. Some may drown if we aren’t there to bring them to safety through our principles of liberty, justice and compassion.
- 3) Moves slowly, thoughtfully, and sometimes silently. Account for the effect of our actions. Learn through others, engage, take in, recognize what we have/what we need and where we are going.
- 4) Moves forward, looks backward. Looking back on our history keeps us going. We have excellent leadership, have gone even beyond the goals of our Strategic Plans; have possibilities to expand, to feel the power of a small congregation. Watch out for bickering. Unitarian Universalists at the time of our founders were the largest denomination but fights among themselves caused great losses.
- 5) Stays afloat – face the challenges, don’t rock the boat, work on social justice daily, be a guide to others. Through this we will:
- 6) Move toward destiny, arriving at our destination.

Attendance: 46

Podcast at: <https://soundcloud.com/user-927528278/the-rowboat-society>.



Stewardship

Your generosity showed the first six months (April – September) of the current fiscal year (April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019). Collections for the six-month period totaled \$27,621.58, exceeding the projected operational budget needs for that same period of \$23,206.95. Some

members/friends pledge with an annual gift, others give as they attend. About one-fourth of collections come in through automatic bank withdrawal transferring funds regularly from the individual's account to the UCU account. To sign up for automatic payment, forms are available at the church office. See JoAnn Larson to get the form.

There were large expenditures made in October that included half the annual fair share dues to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and property taxes on Sverdrup Suites. Those will be included in the report for the coming quarter.

We are grateful and appreciative of your generosity and continued commitment. Your giving in time, talents and dollars is how and why the Unitarian Church of Underwood fulfills our vision, mission and outreach in dozens of ways within the congregation, our communities and the world.



Adopt a Highway

Thank you to Roadside Clean-up Volunteers!!

Dave McRoberts, Ron Graham, Betsy Wells, Bob & Mary Worner



New Members Welcomed

Molly Delabre – Molly grew up in Alexandria and went to a liberal Lutheran church where she was an active volunteer. She is the mother of seven children; the older ones remain active in their traditional church. Molly was involved for years with the Church of the Larger Fellowship. She searched the web to find a church close to home that met her values and beliefs. Where could she find fellowship, paganism, interest in sustainable farming, social justice, a gathering place of others who thought like she thought? Walah! Goggle directed her to the Unitarian Church of Underwood that is close enough to their home in Ashby.

Molly had her three younger children dedicated earlier this summer as her husband, the older children and many of her family members looked on. Some years ago, she was involved with the sustainable food program where then unknowingly, she had met other UCU members. She found them again when she found UCU. She brings 11-month old Mabel, 22-month old, Louise, and three-year-old Lorelei, the one with perfect attendance at Children's RE. Sometimes, 8-year-old Chloe also comes along. The Children's program grew substantially just with the addition of the Delabre children!!

Molly is so grateful to have found this community! Her passion is social justice. She says she feels like a born-again in her ravings about finding this church in Underwood.

Audrey Dittberner – Audrey first became aware of the Unitarian Church of Underwood back in 2002 when she was involved with the Standing for Peace movement. She met several attendees of this church and came sometimes with her daughter. The next time she came was immediately following the 2016 election to seek solace with like-minded folks. When she came the next year, who did she run into, but an old friend, Shirley Spanhanks. Audrey and Shirley had traveled together to Europe in 1976. There they stayed with family friends in Vienna and traveled for a month. Over the years, they lost contact, so now it is so fun to once again be engaging, now as couples.

Audrey is delighted to join UCU and has already volunteered to help with Children's Religious Education. She is looking for other ways to be involved as well. She is also long-time friends with Tere Mann and Bert Whitcombe so the fact that Audrey, Shirley and Bert are welcomed as new members at the same time just shows in its own way the interconnections that we celebrate.

Shirley Spanhanks – Shirley became a member last year, but she and her husband left for the south before the October 2017 welcoming. Shirley and Gerry, professional musicians known as "Blue Wolf Duo" have provided us special music and we hope they'll do so often. They spend their winters in Texas.

Albert Bertrand Whitcombe, V (AKA – BERT) is of Welsh/English descent coming from a family that encouraged curiosity, questioning and multiple interests. Bert says he had a "wild hair" even when young and he has continued to investigate and try many things over the course of his life time. He came to Otter Tail County initially and to the Unitarian Church of Underwood because both give him "comfort" and return him to his values.

Two of the newcomers introduced above were not newcomers to Bert. He had worked with Audrey and Lowell Dittberner as far back as 1973 when they were in the Christmas Tree Sales business together (yet today continued by the Dittberners). He met Molly Delabre through the sustainable food growing program. Food is a center piece for Bert as he is an avid bread maker going so far as to cultivate his own yeasts.

Bert was unable to participate in the New Member Welcoming Ceremony, but you will see him about often, waiting to query you about your life and tell you about his. They don't come much more interesting than Bert!!

Note: To become a member of the Unitarian Church of Underwood, you simply ask to sign the silver membership book. New members are officially welcomed the 1st Sundays of March and October.



UCU Records Recall

The Record Maintenance Committee is requesting that any/all holders of church information, including photos, items of historical interest, news articles, etc., find and bring to church these items ASAP. The Record Maintenance Committee will review these items and determine what/how they should be maintained and preserved.

The Committee has also obtained a registry to record marriages, deaths, child dedications and new members welcomed. These have either been tracked informally by the Celebrants or other recorders, so now we hope to have the information long-term in one book.



Save the Dates

*Welcome the holiday season with Concert & Sing-along
@ M State that
features Handel's Messiah and traditional holiday
carols*

MN State Community Choral Concert, Friday December 7 @ 7:30 p.m.

The Friday evening concert will feature the Concert Choir, Voice Ensemble, Camber Choral and Community Chamber Orchestra performing selections from the Messiah.

Friday concert tickets: Adults - \$9 in advance, \$11 at the door; Student - \$7 in advance, \$8 at the door. Tickets available at MState box office @ 218/736-1600, online @ mstatetickets.com or at the door.

Community Sing-along, Saturday, December 8 from 10 a.m. - noon

To follow the Friday night concert, members of the choirs and the orchestra will join community members to welcome the holiday season with Saturday's Community Sing-along at the Fergus Falls campus of Minnesota State Community and Technical College.

For the first hour, singers are invited to join in Legacy Hall to perform the traditional holiday music from Handel's Messiah, said M State Director of Choral Music Teresa Ashworth. The Community Chamber Orchestra will accompany the sing-along, and all singers will be provided the music for "Messiah" when they arrive, or they may bring their own. Five choruses will be sung by participants, and soloists will include Sue Kilde, Kim Blumberg, Everett Jacobson and Carol Tornquist.

Holiday refreshments will follow the Messiah performance, and the sing-along will then move to Waage Theatre for more traditional holiday music. M State Director of Bands, Jim Iverson will lead the M State Concert Band in several Mannheim Steamroller holiday selections, followed by holiday caroling for community members of all ages.

“This is a wonderful way to begin the holiday season, and all levels of singers are welcome,” Ashworth said. “Singing with the Community Orchestra and M State Concert Band will be a memorable experience.”

The M State sing-along is free and open to the public. Singers are invited to bring a non-perishable food item to support area food shelves.

Living out our Principles

UUA PRESIDENT RESPONDS TO SHOOTING AT TREE OF LIFE SYNAGOGUE

Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association, released the following statement in response to the mass shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh:

We grieve with those who are mourning the horrific mass shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh.

We grieve the lives lost to senseless violence at the hands of domestic terrorism. We grieve for those who were injured in body and spirit during this shooting.

In our grief, we will also speak truths that need to be named. This was anti-Semitism. This was extremism. This mass shooting was a hate crime. This mass shooting reflects unapologetic bigotry that we are all called to denounce and resist.

May Jewish communities, both within and outside of Unitarian Universalism, feel especially held in tender love and care today and in the days to come. We are in this together.

May we all hold each other especially tight, knowing this life is tender and precious, and love will help us find a way.



“UU Social Justice Outreach in Challenging Times”

UU Cluster Meeting at St. Cloud Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

On October 13, Mary Anderson, Molly Delabre (and Mabel) and Ellen Eastby were among the 31 individuals from six fellowships that attended the UU cluster meeting hosted by the St. Cloud Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Along with the Unitarian Church of Underwood, six other UU Fellowships were represented including: Northwoods UU Fellowship (Brainerd),

Grand Forks UU Fellowship, Itasca Unitarian Fellowship, UU Church of Willmar, Church of the Larger Fellowship from Bemidji, and most attendees from the hosting St. Cloud UU Fellowship. Rev. Ashley Horan and Pastor Danny Givens from the Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA) were featured presenters.

We had forwarded our planning materials for hosting the 2017 workshop to the St. Cloud UU and it was noteworthy in how much they had replicated.

Workshop take-aways:

St. Cloud UU has an active and involved Social/Environmental Justice Committee. They are involved with the Housing Authority to address housing for ex-offenders; are a member of the St. Cloud Area Faith Leaders; live in the midst of a predominately Somalian neighborhood and have made efforts to “Meet their Muslim Neighbors”; sponsored and supported the annual Pride Festival; participate in “laundry love,” a program to provide laundry supplies, coins and weekly meals at a local laundry mat for the homeless and poor so they can do their laundry and have clean clothes. The St. Cloud presenters’ advise was to look to our personal relationships for potential connections to opportunities; build community relations; involve ourselves in local issues; educate our members; create involvement opportunities; speak with a collective voice; involve ourselves in community events and partnerships to advance the common good; make our values visible to the community (i.e., outside banners); help promote systemic change.



Molly’s take-aways from the workshop were how St. Cloud creates its own framework for social justice living within a predominately Somalian neighborhood and building collaborations with other faith and community organizations. She was especially taken with Ashley Horan’s example of fractals in nature. Note: A fractal is a natural phenomenon or a mathematical set that exhibits a repeating pattern that displays at every scale. [Some Examples:](#)



Ashley and Danny from MUUSJA led us in exercises to help define our Fellowship’s fears, defects, assets, wild ideas surrounding social justice. “Be ready to show up – say ‘Yes.’” “Put one foot in front of the other and lead with love.” They had recommendations for us to read Adrienne Marie Brown’s *“Emergent Strategy”* and/or Robin DiAngelo’s *“White Fragility.”* Both books are available at UUA’s In Spirit Books store or at Amazon.

Shan Schools

Dear Friends of Shan Refugees:
Amazon Smile is having a promotion. If you have not already done so, please register Schools for Shan Refugees as your charity of choice at [AmazonSmile.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile)
For a short time, Amazon will double the amount it donates to the charity for each purchase.
Many thanks for your help! We and the Shan children we support are grateful for your support.



Bernice Johnson, President
Schools for Shan Refugees

Note: AmazonSmile is increasing the donation rate 10x from Oct 29 – Nov 2. Go to smile.amazon.com,

Follow the Habitat for Humanity Fergus Falls Build on their website at:

www.fergushabitat.org or www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org



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Interested and concerned about fresh water in Minnesota? You might want to visit this exhibition, a community engagement initiative of the Smithsonian Institution's Museum on Main Street program. Organized by the Minnesota Humanities Center and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in cooperation with four other state agencies, *We are Water MN*, will be housed at the Institute on the Environment on the St. Paul U of MN campus. The exhibit is a popular statewide traveling show exploring the connections between the humanities and water. Visitors are invited to reflect on local stories regarding the meaning and experiences of water in Minnesota and add their own stories to the mix. Other key partners at the University are the Institute for Advanced Study and the Water Resources Center/Water Resource Sciences graduate program.

October 15 – November 26 Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Institute on the Environment

Learning & Environmental Sciences Building

1954 Buford Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108

Commons Meeting & Art Space (Room R350)

For future locations for the exhibit, check their website at: <https://mnhum.org/we-are-water-mn/>

Our Youth, Our Future

On October 29, 2018, twenty-one young plaintiffs brought the US federal government to court, stating that: "Our government has known about the dangers of climate change for more than fifty years. Despite that knowledge, the United States has continued to pursue reckless and dangerous fossil fuel development, harming the health of our communities and threatening our futures. We want a federal Climate Recovery Plan that is in line with both the best available science and climate justice."

We are Minnesota youth, and to show our support for [#YouthVGov](#), we rallied on October 28 at the MN Federal Courthouse. [Visit the Facebook event here](#) .

We Are Part of the Larger UU!

In Spirit UU Gift & Book Store

www.uua.org/bookstore

Celebrate the contributions of the LGBTQ community and look to the future with selected titles as the fight for equality continues. See their full collection of LGBTQ resources [online](#). They especially like to highlight resources for children and teens!



Have a Conversation!

Sandy Barnhouse has challenged us to talk to those we don't necessarily agree with by having coffee together with at least one of those individuals twice a month. For your participation, Sandy is offering a raffle with one of her art pieces as prize. Here's some resources to help you initiate those conversations that are available via Amazon and/or UUA Inspirit Bookstore:

Nonviolent Communication by Marshall Rosenberg. Description from Wikilinks: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nonviolent_Communication. "NVC proposes that people identify shared needs, revealed by the thoughts and feelings that surround these needs, and collaborate to develop strategies that meet them. This creates both harmony and learning for future cooperation."
Recommended reading by Shirley Hanks and Carole Mitchell

How to Be Less Stupid About Race: On Racism, White Supremacy, and the Racial Divide by Crystal M. Fleming

Your essential guide to breaking through the half-truths and ridiculous misconceptions that have thoroughly corrupted the way race is represented in the classroom, pop culture, media, and politics. Combining no-holds-barred social critique, humorous personal anecdotes, and analysis of the latest interdisciplinary scholarship on systemic racism, sociologist Crystal M. Fleming provides a fresh, accessible, and irreverent take on everything that's wrong with our national conversation about race.

White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism by Robin DiAngelo illuminates the phenomenon of white fragility. Referring to the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. These behaviors in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue. DiAngelo explores how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality and what

we can do to engage more constructively. *Recommended reading by Ellen Eastby and Mary Anderson.*

Unapologetic: A Black, Queer, and Feminist Mandate for Radical

Movements by Charlene A. Carruthers that draws on Black intellectual and grassroots organizing tradition to challenge all of us engaged in the social justice struggle to make the movement for Black liberations more radical, more queer, and more feminist. This book provides a vision for how social justice movements can become sharper and more effective through principled struggle, healing justice and leadership development.

Newsletter Editor confession: As you are likely aware, I “borrow” from other sources and often from the Northwoods Fellowship Newsletter, the small Pequot Lakes/Brainerd Fellowship that has an amazing monthly newsletter. I thank their editor for her work! It makes mine so much easier! Here’s some “borrowed items”:

From MidAmerica Region UUA Volume 6, Issue 3 October 2018

The MidAmerica Messenger staff has begun a focus on several issues of freedom, equality and tolerance, including **White Supremacy**, **Transgender Inclusion**, and **#Me Too** among others. They will meet one time a month to discuss these issues. There are opportunities for us to study and discuss these too.

- Monthly a MidAmerica staff member will share a favorite resource on Dismantling White Supremacy. The first from Rev. Phillip Lund is the UUA’s **Dismantle White Supremacy** webpage (<https://www.uua.org/justice/dismantle-white-supremacy>) and the Definition of white supremacy found there: “*White supremacy, as defined is the idea that white people are better and more deserving of wealth, power, and privilege than people of color. White supremacy pervades our culture, institutions, and relationships. It is a self-perpetuating system that continues to fuel colonialism, exploitation, oppressions, inequities, and brutalities that people of color experience.*”
- <https://www.transformingheartscollective.org/online-courses/> a comprehensive, six-session online course for individuals, groups, and congregational teams that are committed to transformation, offered by two trans UU faith leaders: Rev. Mykal Slack and Zr. Alex Kapitan. The six sessions each include a 45-to-60-minute pre-recorded lecture, reflection questions, and additional resources. Find out more and sign up: **Transgender Inclusion in Congregations**, a new UU course.

- The subjects of **Religious Freedom**, and of **Bullying** presented in a section below should also be included in this area of discussion.

These discussions can take place in our homes, congregations and the other areas where we gather.

From the Unitarian Universalist Association October 2018

WHAT IS THE FUTURE?

We know at least three things about the future of Unitarian Universalism:

1. Organized religion is changing at breakneck speed as more people look for forms of spiritual community that better meet their needs for meaning, personal fulfillment and companionship.
2. Our Unitarian Universalist tradition and principles speak directly and powerfully to many of these people, even if our traditional ways of being in community do not.
3. Unitarian Universalist leaders of all types are pioneering new ways of being in community, worshiping, educating, expressing creativity, leading social justice and starting up social enterprises that give exciting expression to our faith.

Make an Impact in Communities

The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) will be sending more than 890 holiday cards to CLF members experiencing incarceration, many of whom are particularly lonely and without support at this time of year. Could your congregation help?

Note: Contact Ellen Eastby @ eastofellen@hotmail.com or 218/731-0803 for important "Do's and Don'ts" for preparing your cards. Ellen has been actively engaged in this correspondence for several years.

National Bullying Prevention Month

**A campaign in the United States founded in 2006
by PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center.**

Unitarian Universalist children around the country are suffering from bullying and shaming by their fundamental religious peers for their (or their parents') UU beliefs. Our children are told that they are "going to hell," and that they are "nothing," because of prejudices passed on by the parents and churches of their schoolmates. Children are bullied when they are repeatedly exposed to negative

words or actions by others that damage their self-esteem, their place amongst their peers, or their physical bodies. This includes being told that they are going to hell if they don't accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. It includes being excluded from group activities on the playground, or after school, such as not being invited to birthday parties. Bullies have a sense of superiority or entitlement and create an imbalance of power between themselves and their victims. Support Your Children. Parents are the most significant support for children in this situation. Listen to your children. Believe them. Take it seriously. Children who are being bullied need support & protection from adults. Encourage children who are being bullied to:

Always talk to a responsible adult. -- Try not to get caught alone by bullies, stick with others who support you. -- Try to get involved in activities with other kids. -- Walk away if you can. -- Don't try to argue or reason with a bully. They do not want a discussion. -- Don't try to debate religion with bullies. -- Talk to other supportive adults, such as your minister, Director of Religious Education, or a mental health professional. Bullied children need help and support.

DO NOT tell them to: -- Handle it yourself; you can work it out. -- Try to ignore them. -- You need to stand up for yourself. -- Just treat it like a joke. -- Don't be a tattletale. -- What are you doing to make this happen? Promote Pride in Unitarian Universalism. As Unitarian Universalists, help your children to understand and appreciate their unique theology -- not to argue religion with their bullies, but for their own spiritual support system.

Source: This resource and other information is located at-Resources for parents: https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/150627_413_parents.pdf

Policies that criminalize people disproportionately impact youth of color, LGBTQI students, Muslim students, and youth with disabilities or cognitive differences. So long as school districts rely on excessively harsh discipline and the presence of law enforcement on campus, they will continue to place their immigrant students at risk.

Other Websites and online programs that address bullying

www.readwritethink.org Classroom Resources › Calendar Activities

[Stop Bullying](#) website of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

[Committee for Children](#) creator of the "[Second Step](#)" violence prevention program

Pacer Center's [Teens Against Bullying](#)

National Crime Prevention Council's [Anti-Cyberbullying Campaign](#)

Catalog of anti-bullying resources

[Free Spirit Publishers](#)

<https://www.uusc.org/expanding-sanctuary-schools/>

Books

Don't Pick on Me by Susan Eikov Green (Oakland, CA: Instant Help Books, 2010)

Living with Peer Pressure and Bullying by Thomas Paul Tarshis (New York: Checkmark Books, 2010)

Sticks and Stones: Teens Write About Bullying, Keith Hefner and Hope Vanderberg, eds. (New York: Youth Communication, 2009)

Bullying Beyond the Schoolyard: Preventing and Responding to Cyberbullying by Sameer Hinduia and Justin W. Patchin (Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press, 2008)

LOVE
RESISTS

[View this email as a web page](#)

Dear Unitarian Church of Underwood,

This week we're watching some of the world's most vulnerable and courageous people - escaping violence from both organized crime and their own government - banding together in a migrant caravan to support each other in the pursuit of safety and freedom. Yet so much of the media coverage and political rhetoric paints them as if they were the threat, not the ones at risk.

As Honduran families, mothers, siblings, children take the risks necessary to migrate north through Guatemala, Mexico, and the U.S. border, may we again answer the call to leverage what we have - our stories, our voice, our resources, a spare bed, our role in our workplace - for justice.

[Here are five ways to respond with love.](#)

If you can only do one thing: **Share your personal and professional perspective as comments on the public record [against the indefinite](#)**

detention of the children of asylum-seekers and against the 'public charge' proposal which would discriminate against legal immigrants based on income and class. Each comment needs to be individual (not a "form letter") so speak from the heart.

We may be overwhelmed by the onslaught of confusing, heartbreaking news about new forms of family separation and the dismantling of the legal asylum process. May we dig deeper and find the strength to love harder. Reconsider what we might have called impossible. Because love resists.

P.S. There will soon be more specific calls to action to support the caravan members, including an urgent need for volunteers on the border in Arizona and Texas to support local organizations welcoming asylum seekers and fighting the detention centers. If you think you may be able to go, e-mail hhafter@uusc.org.

Love Resists is a joint campaign by the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

www.loveresists.org

**UNITARIAN CHURCH OF UNDERWOOD
Minutes of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SEPTEMBER 19, 2018**

Board members present: Tim Lanz, Connie Stigen, Bob Worner, John Miersch, Shannon Smith, Kris Warhol, and John Minge.

Board members absent: Darryl Booker, Ron Roller, and Dave Sanderson.

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

1. Bob opened the Meeting with a reading.
2. Tim was welcomed as a new Board member.
3. Agenda: The proposed agenda for this meeting was approved. (Miersch/Smith)
4. Minutes of the previous meeting: There are no minutes from the August, 2018, Board meeting as there was no quorum and no actions were taken.
5. Administrative Consultant's Report: There was no report from JoAnn Larson (who was not present at the Board meeting and is not expected to be present at each Board meeting) Kris

said that she meets with JoAnn periodically and that things are generally going well.

6. Treasurer's Report: Ron was not present and no Treasurer's Report was presented. It was moved and seconded that the Treasurer prepare and submit a written report consisting of a profit-and-loss statement, a budget statement, and a balance sheet (all in the same manner that has usually been done in the past) in time for each monthly Board meeting even if not present at the Board meeting. (Worner/Minge) The motion passed.

7. Foundation Report: Connie reported that there had been an Endowment Committee meeting on September 6, 2018. To date, nine confirmed statements of the intention to make bequests to the Church's Foundation have been received. These statements do not show anything (such as an anticipated amount) other than the intention itself.

8. Speakers Committee Report: Kris reported on some of the upcoming speakers and expressed enthusiasm for the activities and energy of this Committee.

9. Adult RE: John (Minge) and Bob briefly talked about what they are doing in their classes.

10. Kids RE: Kris reported that there is to be a meeting regarding Kids RE.

11. Membership Committee Report: John Miersch reported that there is to be new membership orientation on September 30 after the morning service. New members will be welcomed on October 7. It is expected that three new members will be welcomed into the Church. A written report signed by "Mary" was also presented and is attached to these Minutes.

12. Treats for Sunday mornings: People need to be signing up more than they have been.

13. Outreach Committee: Kris reported. The community fundraiser raised \$1500 for the Shan schools. \$112 was raised by the rummage sale and may be used for religious education purposes. No Board action has yet been taken on the rummage sale proceeds. Community activities have included Habitat for Humanity. No specifics were provided regarding what has been done in recent months with Habitat. The Church also participated in the Underwood parade.

14. Facilities Committee: Darryl was not present to make a report. Two areas of concern were mentioned by others at the meeting—that there was no rear entrance/exit to the church building and that the air quality in the church is not as good as it should be. A letter signed by "Susan" was provided to the undersigned and is attached hereto. It consists of a list of things to be done in and around the Church facilities. \$600 was spent on a new water heater for Sverdrup Suites. A motion was made that this action—not previously authorized by the Board—should be ratified. (Stigen/Miersch) This motion passed. There was discussion regarding whether or not there should be a method regarding spending money on maintenance and repairs to the facilities without the need for Board approval. There seemed to be a consensus that the needs of the Church and the needs of the tenants of Sverdrup Suites are different and that there would be a need to be able to move quickly with regards to the needs of the tenants is present. There also seemed to be a consensus that there should be an Board-approved way of dealing with the needs of the tenants of Sverdrup Suites should be established. And there was discussion regarding whether or not expenditures under a certain dollar amount—yet to be specified—should be allowed without the need for Board approval. It was suggested that these issues be referred to the Facilities Committee for its consideration and recommendation(s).

15. Old Business: Ron (who was not present) has indicated that he would like to move \$20,000 out of the checking account (which bears little if any interest) and into a CD. Connie suggested that this should be referred to the Stewardship Committee for its review and recommendation. It was agreed that that would be the appropriate course of action and is to be done.

16. New Business: The 2018-2023 Five Year Plan. The topic of this five-year plan—adopted by the Board on March 21, 2018—was briefly discussed. A copy is attached hereto. The Board was encouraged to review it. There was some discussion as to whether or not the Board should

systematically—perhaps at each Board meeting--regularly over the course of the current church year review this plan to make sure that those things stated in the plan as goals are being worked on. A concern is that, if such an effort is not made, less progress in meeting the goals will be made.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Dated: October 5, 2018.

John Minge, Secretary