

Newsletter November 2020

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.

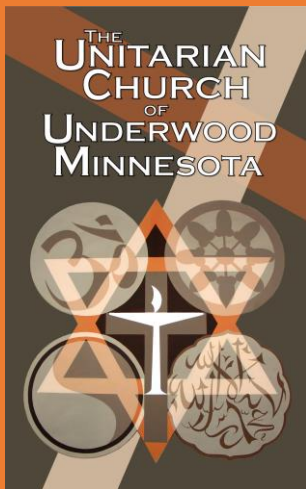
Unitarian Church of Underwood

PO Box 58, 206 North Main Street
Underwood, MN 56537

Phone: 218/826-6553

Website: www.ucofu.org

www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org



Vote on or before November

Due to continued precautions against the spreading of the COVID-19

In-person church services, meetings & activities are conducted via Zoom.

Watch for ucofu@ucofu.org messages, the Sunday “[UCU Weekly](#)” and check: www.ucofu.org or www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org

Watch for information on special events and other offerings via the ucofu.org announcements with the Zoom links provided.

Stay^oinformED

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

U Group Zoom Meeting Schedule

- Alexandria U Group: 4th Sunday each month @ 7 p.m. Facilitators: Lee Becker/Susan Sanford
- Battle Lake U Group: 2nd Tuesday each month @ 3 p.m. Facilitators: Bob Worner.
- Perham U-Group: 2nd Thursday @ 6:30 p.m. Facilitator: Mary Worner

You are welcome to join a U Group – watch for the Zoom links.

For details or questions, Contact Lead Facilitator, Luce Reese @ lucereese@gmail.com or 218/495-2449

Gifts in Gratitude

To Contribute to UCU:

Sign up for automatic funds transfer or
Mail your check to: UCU
Attn. Treasurer
PO Box 58
Underwood, MN 56586

Building Access

For safety and sanitation purposes, if you access or need to access the church building, please call or text Susan Groff (Janitor) @ 218/205-0439.

UCU Weekly

Watch for these and other ucofu@ucofu.org email messages.

Participate in the **ZOOM** invitations for Sunday service, social hour & other meetings

Note: Send Announcements for UCU Weekly and monthly newsletter to newseditor@ucofu.org. As appropriate, some will be forwarded for inclusion @ www.ucofu.org and Facebook Page.

Need help with Zoom?

Email: techhelp@ucofu.org

Want to volunteer to be part of the Tech Help Team?

Also email: techhelp@ucofu.org

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

Please submit your ideas, articles and photos to:

Writer/Editor: Mary Anderson @

newseditor@ucofu.org

Editing: [Stephanie Sanderson](#)

Emailing/mailling: [Ellen Eastby and Mary Anderson](#)

Website: [Ellen Eastby](#)

Facebook: [Melody Shores](#)

[Photos courtesy of Norm Kolstad & credited others.](#)

[Credited Articles](#)

Note: For security, personal telephone numbers and email addresses will not be used within the newsletters except with the express permission of the individual.

UCU Weekly:

Designed and written by Ellen Eastby



**Daylight Savings Times Ends Nov 1.
Set your clocks back the night of October 31.**

Church Happenings

Message from Board President, Norm Kolstad

The Seven Principles of Unitarianism



Our church's post-election Sunday service, on November 8, will include a brief review of our seven Unitarian principles to remind us what we value as moral guidance. Our UCU Connections Task Force decided that, in the wake of a political campaign that has been so very divisive, we each may need guidance to reflect on our common humanity and how we can continue to exhibit our Unitarian values.

The year 2020 is the 35th anniversary of the adoption of the seven Unitarian principles by the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly.

These principles are usually printed on the back of each Sunday bulletin but, since our services have gone virtual, the opportunity to read them has been limited. As you may know, most of our church activities - our Sunday speakers, Empowerment Grants, Children's Religious Education, and others - are all encouraged to promote one or more of the seven principles in their lessons and activities.

UU's do not all believe the same things, but they do agree on these principles. That fact is a testament to the determination of the leaders of 35 years ago who provided a document that is a unifying force for a diverse group searching for meaning.

In a UU World magazine article called "Shared Values" published in 2000, author Warren R. Ross looked 20 years into the future: *"In 2020 our current Principles and Purposes may also be perceived to have inadequacies that demand radical rewriting. And therein lies our genius. It's a process that is rightly called renewal or regeneration. And that is what has not changed and, let us hope, will remain unchanged 20 or even 100 years from now."*

May it be so.

The Seven Principles

- **1st Principle**: The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

- **2nd Principle:** Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- **3rd Principle:** Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- **4th Principle:** A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- **5th Principle:** The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- **6th Principle:** The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- **7th Principle:** Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

***The Time is Critical
VOTE November 3rd!!***



**Faith. Love. Action.
Together.**

Vote Love# Defeat Hate#

*Join in the groundswell of Unitarian Universalists
working to #VoteLove and #DefeatHate.*

UU the Vote is a non-partisan project of the Unitarian Universalist Association
<https://www.uuthevote.org/>

Save the Date

Safe Post-Election Place

Wednesday, November 4, 2020 11:00 AM - 1 PM

Join Zoom Meeting by clicking:

<https://zoom.us/j/93577761062?pwd=TjRYQWVHc0dBaEIVVHBkZU5WT2RKUT0>

9

Meeting ID: 935 7776 1062

Passcode: 514128

One tap mobile
+13126266799

*UCU's Social Justice Interest Group is holding a safe space
during Wednesday's lunch hour.*

*Please join us and share your post-election fears, frustrations,
joys, ideas, poems, writings, recipes, reflections, and
encouragement.*

Additional information can be found on UCU's Facebook page and group
pages, or by calling Alison at 218-457-0929

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



"No matter the results of the election this year, we know we will want to gather in community. Please save the date and join the UUA, UU the Vote, Side with Love, and UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray for this event. Hosted on Zoom, Facebook Live, and YouTube."

<https://www.facebook.com/1074489092565383/posts/3927844127229851/?d=n>

As Unitarian Universalists, it is important to remember that our commitment to democracy is not just political or moral, it is fundamentally theological. It grows from our affirmation of the inherent worth and dignity of every person and the Universalist understanding that we are all part of one creation, interconnected. These theological values of human dignity

and interdependence are why we know everyone needs a voice in the matters that affect their lives.”

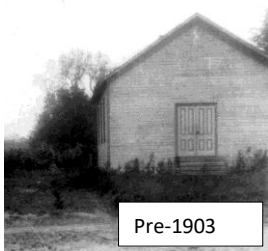
Here's the full text of the letter from UUA President, Susan Frederick-Grey dated Oct. 22.
<https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/theology-and-democracy?fbclid=IwAR2dZr7pNEFSCQzHTt3i3zNzPVkgY5luAcGHvNh2j1SDQLnXPLqt9Pon7a4>

October Board Meeting Highlights Unitarian Church of Underwood

(1889-2020)

Viable Future Initiative

With these rapidly changing times, the Board of Directors has commenced an initiative to review and refocus the mission and vision of the Unitarian Church of Underwood. The “Viable Future Initiative” is to assess who and where we (UCU) are, what we can improve/change, and how we move to meet the challenges and opportunities to fulfill our mission and vision and assure UCU’s viable future. This will involve opportunities for member and friends’ input via a questionnaire and focus groups; leadership participation in an Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI); and a retreat for the church leadership to evaluate the findings and determine recommendations that will be presented to the annual meeting of the membership.



Pre-1903



1927



Pre-2004



Current

As this initiative moves forward, we welcome your comments.

Board members: Norm Kolstad (President), Shannon Smith (Vice President), Mary Anderson (Secretary), Ron Roller (Treasurer), Amy Beckman, Tim Lanz, John Minge, Wally Warhol, Mary Worner.

Intercultural Development Inventory

To help determine UCU commitment to being a more inclusive organization, one of the suggestions from the Racial Justice Task Force, now Social Justice Interest Group was that UCU church leaders participate in the Intercultural Development Inventory facilitated by the Otter Tail Family Services Collaborative.

Administration of the IDI is one step in the Unitarian Church of Underwood's Board's Viable Future Initiative to determine:

- What we are doing/can do
- Where and what we can improve
- Member aspirations
- How we plan to meet the challenges and opportunities to maintain and/or expand our mission and vision.

What is the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI)

The Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) is a tool to help an organization and its individuals assess intercultural competence - the capability to shift cultural perspective and appropriately adapt behavior to cultural differences and commonalities. It is one means of determining where we are in our collective thinking and where we might want to be.

Collaborative Coordinator & IDI Qualified Administrator (QA) Troy Haugen commented early in discussions with him that information shows that collectively over two thirds of the population minimizes difference, which is incredibly dangerous for people of color and diverse others. EVERY group has collectively landed in minimization, and nearly (if not all) groups think they operate in acceptance or adaptation, sometimes thinking they are doing good when they are really doing harm.

Troy cautioned that for those who choose to opt in, "you are opting into a process that is uncomfortable and will take time, a process that starts with internal reflection and change. I don't want to sound doom and gloom, but I am not going to sugar coat either – this is not easy work."

How the IDI is administered:

Invitees who opted in individually completed the inventory prior to the groups debrief on October 28th led by Victoria McWane Creek, IDI Qualified Administrator. The debrief determined where we stand as a leadership group and steps we can take collectively if we wish to make changes. After the group session, participants will have a time scheduled with the QA to go over their individual results.

The Speaker Committee is planning for one of the IDI Qualified Administrators to speak in December or January about the IDI and its implications for our congregation. *Sponsored by the Board of Directors & Social Justice Interest Group.*

Unitarian Church of Underwood Viable Future Questionnaire

[click here](#)

We need your input as we review the mission and ministries of the Unitarian Church of Underwood and look at viable options for the future. UCU has existed over 131 years and continuously changed over time to meet the interest of the membership and the times. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, we continue to provide Sunday service and other offerings. As we continue to grow and serve our membership and the community, we will be asking for information from you to help us assess where we are, what we can improve, and how we may plan to meet the challenges and opportunities to fulfill our mission.

What we want to know:

- Membership Composition
- Effect of COVID-19 Restrictions
- Member/friend Participation Levels
- Member/friend satisfaction with UCU
- Member/friend aspirations for UCU

The Questionnaire is now available as an on-line survey. To respond to the Questionnaire, please [click here](#). It takes about 15-20 minutes to complete. The Questionnaire will be mailed to those known to not have electronic access. The more of you whom respond, the more complete our information will be to help us in these assessment and planning purposes. Please complete and submit the Questionnaire by November 20, 2020.

After the questionnaire responses are compiled, there will be opportunities for discussion through Focus Groups. The details will be determined, and announcements made of the schedule via the UCU Weekly. Watch for these announcements.

We value your thoughts and insights.
UCU Board of Directors

The Unitarian Church of Underwood now has a Public Calendar. It is available on our website at www.ucofu.org or [click here](#)



Commented [ma1]:

**Speakers for November Sunday Services
Via Zoom
10:00 a.m.**

(Check in 9:45-10:00 a.m.)

See the ucofu.org emails and Weekly for link specifics)

November 1 – Celebrant, Katy Olson, “Is There a Tent Big Enough?” addressing the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Katy will use her COVID lock-down journey experience of exploring our collective racist history. Katy describes herself as “a radical, liberal, iconoclast, homesteader, wife, mother, daughter, sister, friend, nana, care giver, human interested in how we got to this moment in history, claiming to have no special expertise.

November 8 – Dennis Slattery, Part 1: “The Value and Characteristics of Knowing One's Personal Myth.”

November 15 – Dennis Slattery, Part 2: “Call Me Ishmael: Herman Melville's Classic epic, Moby Dick and the Call of Destiny.” Dennis Patrick Slattery has been a core member of the Mythological Studies Program, Pacifica Graduate Institute, in Carpinteria, California. He is the author, co-author, or editor of 18 books and over 300 essays on scholarly and cultural topics as well as book and film reviews.

His works include *-The Idiot: Dostoyevsky's Fantastic Prince; The Wounded Body: Remembering the Markings of Flesh; Grace in the Desert: Awakening to the Gifts of Monastic Life; Depth Psychology: Meditations in the Field; Casting the Shadows: Selected Poems; Day to Day Dante: Exploring Personal Myth through the Divine Comedy; and Riting Myth, Mythic Writing, Plotting Your Personal Story.*

His interests include exploring the nexus between poetry, depth psychology, myth, and spirituality, and he offers writing retreats on personal myth through the work of Joseph Campbell in the United States and Europe. When not writing and teaching, Dennis Slattery and his wife ride their Harley-Davidson Electra Glide Classic through the ranch roads of Texas.

Note: The Social Justice Interest Group Members will facilitate the after-service conversations to provide opportunity for UCU members and friends to reflect upon the 2020 election.

November 22 – Sally Abrams, “Judaism on One Foot.” Sally is with the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas.” She will address the beliefs, values and religious traditions upon which the Jewish faith is based, the common roots of the three (3) Abrahamic Faiths, introduction to Torah, holidays, ritual objects, ethical principles, connection to Israel, Jewish diversity, life cycle events, kosher, as well as the importance of social activism and community.

November 29 – Mel Duncan (of Nonviolent Peace Force”) – watch for details in Weekly.

Notes from October Virtual Sunday Services

October 4 – “Community: Its Power, Its Compassion” by Ellen Eastby

“Power” can have either a negative or a positive connotation. A community is powerful, more than any single individual. Being a part of a community is both a privilege and a responsibility.

To keep the power of community in check we must understand our responsibility to use compassion; it is our strongest asset. No power for change is greater than a community realizing what they care about.

Unitarians are empowered by each other and by living out the Seven Principles through which they put their faith into action. This can be done through social justice work. Also, it can be done through the UU Vote Initiative = Voting your Values.

Ellen also shared that she has completed a course through the UU Leadership Institute on "Spiritual Care Training for Congregational Leaders." Spiritual Companionship is defined as "being the presence of the congregation with intentional compassion within a set of healthy boundaries in times of joy and sorrow." This is not giving advice or counseling. It is "pastoral care" – based on compassionately listening to and reflecting back to individuals.

Attendance: 29

October 11 – The NUUF is reading *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*, by Roxann Dunbar-Ortiz as a book discussion. Member **Barb Kaufman** shared several thoughts and insights from Chapter 2 "**Culture of Conquest**" about attitudes that contributed to conquest mentality.

1. One can trace the conquest/colonization philosophy that ultimately ended in the 'settling' by Europeans of the Western Hemisphere back to the 13th century Crusades. The Crusades were aimed at expelling and resettling the Muslims and Jews from Europe and controlling trade routes.
2. Until the 16th century, peasants could own land to maintain a subsistence existence. This changed and peasants were forced to work in factories.
3. Embracing a philosophy of White Supremacy, rulers felt justified in their conquests.
4. "Terminal narrative" is the theory that what allowed the settlers to take over Indigenous lands was disease that the settlers brought with them, and to which the indigenous peoples had no resistance, rather than aggression against them. It ignores many other factors.
5. There was a fervent search for gold in the late 15th century. (Oddly, gold is a relatively useless material.) In this race to claim land and its gold, The Treaty of Tordesillas divided the newly-discovered lands outside Europe between the Portuguese Empire and the Spanish Empire, along a meridian 370 leagues west of the Cape Verde islands, off the west coast of Africa. The western ½ was claimed by Spain, and the eastern ½ by Portugal.

Missy Hermes, a local historian, shared some thoughts about several sights around Otter Tail County that are examples of cultural appropriations. These include many examples of names and stories told about the past. She discussed the Chief Wenonga statue in Battle Lake; Minnesota Woman in Pelican Rapids; a resort on Dead Lake that has a "Pocahontas Beach"; and the name "Little Chief" of a gas station in Fergus Falls. This insensitivity continues today with a lack of representation in collections, artifacts, etc.

Attendance: 43

October 18 – Pastor Danny Givens, Message – Pastor Danny Givens “Unearthing Humanity.”

Takeaways:

1. 2020 has been a time of growth and revelation.
2. Connecting with the larger community, seeds of love and justice have been sown.
3. There has also been a sort of “pulling back of the curtain”. What is in people’s hearts is being revealed. Sometimes this is inspiring, and sometimes it is appalling.
4. We should try not to be derailed by those not ascribing to a message of love and justice. Instead, we can try to let it inspire us to love more, although perhaps at a distance where it can build positive energy.
5. We are on a long path towards love and justice. We can learn by channeling our ancestors. It is important to know the history of issues.
6. We can learn to ‘lean into the moment.’ We need to ‘hold fast to our own truth,’ and guard our own hearts with diligence, but keep them open.
7. Several times, Pastor Danny quoted his grandmother. One was that the most powerful organ in the body is not the heart or brain. It is the stomach – which can hunger for food but also for identity, justice, etc.
8. A question was asked about Danny’s thoughts about ‘defunding the police.’ He answered that he understands this to mean reallocate some resources to sources that might be more effective in some situations/neighborhoods – such as Social Services, mental health services. He described a project that he researched and developed, that is being launched in St. Paul called Healing Streets Project. This is a community-based response to violence with three legs to it – prevention, intervention, and healing. While the current police structure works well for whites, it doesn’t work for people of color.

Attendance: 37

See below for more from Pastor Danny Givens and Jim Bear Jacob, speaking about their project [Healing Minnesota Stories](#).

October 25 – Mai’a Williams “On Survival.” Mai’a Williams has lived in many places around the world, including the West Bank (Palestine), Egypt, Ecuador, Standing Rock, and Berlin (working with refugees from Syria and Africa). She has observed conflict and social movements. She has asked, “How can deep social transformation succeed?” The answer she has found, all over the world, is that survival, not just physical, but with a group’s culture, occurs only when affirmation and sustaining life is at the core of the movement. She calls this Revolutionary Mothering – the recognition, valuing and nurturing of everyone in a community. For some, this is an instinct, but it can be learned by anyone. During the pandemic, we are finding who the ‘essential workers’ really are. In order to survive, we need to abandon our ‘rugged individualism’, and care and support each other while changing the world.

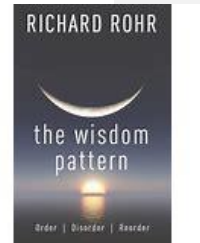
Attendance: 31

Wisdom Class starting November 4



The first of six sessions studying the book *The Wisdom Pattern: Order, Disorder, and Reorder*, will be held on Wednesday, November 4, at 2:30. It will be led by Rev. Roger Parks on Zoom. The class will meet every other week with breaks for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

There are a few spaces left. If you would like to participate contact Mary Worner, Program Coordinator, by email at maryworner@gmail.com (or by phone at 218-826-6998) for the study guide, schedule, and Zoom connection.



Teaching Macbeth

Enjoy Ozzie Tollefson's experiences in teaching in his column at the Fergus Falls Journal: https://www.fergusfallsjournal.com/opinion/reflections-on-teaching-macbeth-to-jersey-students/article_92c88f8e-12d7-11eb-820b-dbd5e12665f.html

Living our UU Principles

Schools for Shan Refugees

Thank YOU

The closing event of the SSR (Schools for Shan Refugees) fundraiser, a virtual Thai dinner, was held Saturday, October 17. Everyone had a good time enjoying the meal they had prepared. Bernice Johnson was our special guest. She told stories of her work with the Shan. John Miersch had spent time exploring Thailand when he was in the armed forces and it was fascinating to hear him and Bernice comparing their stories.

We celebrated exceeding our goal of raising \$3,000; the total to date is \$3,310. Every dollar is needed as, due to the pandemic, we could not hold our fundraiser in Minneapolis this year.

Thank you to each person who contributed this year. One of the things I learned at our Thai dinner was that most of the mothers of the Shan children can't read or write. That means the children we are supporting are of the first generation to be educated. Your dollars go a long way to give hope to these families, especially the children and teens, living in migrant camps in Thailand. *Mary Worner, SSR board member*

And from Bernice Johnson, Vice President

Schools for Shan Refugees

Dear Friend,

If you have not yet signed up to give to a charity every time you buy from Amazon, now's the time! Your donations, however small, are very important to the education of Shan youth in Thailand. Simply shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/80-0284986 or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app and AmazonSmile donates to Schools for Shan Refugees Inc.



Thank you for helping deserving Shan youth get an education!
Sincerely,
Bernice



NOVEMBER HEALTH TIP FROM THE WELCOME PLACE

November is coming fast...faster than I thought! We've already had several days of snow and more is forecasted for this week. That means upcoming holidays, gatherings, etc. All in a continuing COVID world. Follow the health rules we've all been made aware of...masks, distancing, avoid crowds. Until there's an effective COVID vaccine, we have limited options if we want to protect ourselves and others. Don't forget your flu shot!

Protecting ourselves is an issue, though. How many of us have cancelled or postponed routine health screenings? Statistics show many have. This has the potential to increase the impact of COVID related problems. I was reminded of this when I looked at the schedule for monthly health observances and realized that October is breast cancer awareness month. I noticed some football players on TV with pink on their uniforms too, so they remembered. I didn't!

So, here's a reminder...call to schedule a mammogram. The clinic will give you multiple instructions on how to effectively go to a routine appointment. If follow up is indicated, do it. If other tests need to be scheduled, schedule them. We don't help anyone if we don't help ourselves. This is doubly true for family caregivers. I know some agencies have been unable to send workers into homes so that's put an additional burden on family caregivers. However, those agencies are usually able to help you plan for getting the care you and your loved one needs.

Finally, ask for what you need...your church may have ideas. I saw on Facebook that Faith Lutheran was able to get a crew together to help people complete their fall work. I'm sure other churches have done similar activities. (sidewalks are already in need of shoveling!)

The online church activities have been a blessing to those who feel unable to go out and we all owe a debt of gratitude to the technology experts who have made that possible. Thank you to all! *Katherine Jordahl, RN*

The Welcome Place Update

1 Peter 4:10 *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."*

In this time of uncertainty and COVID-19 restrictions, the Welcome Place has adjusted our method of service much like many other organizations. Group and social gatherings are not taking place at the Welcome Place. Yes, we are still here and yes, we are prepared to meet the needs of our community. The faces, names and processes have just changed a little bit.

New are: Dawn Finn, a Certified Family Development Specialist and Instructor, who works with individuals and families with setting specific, measurable goals providing an opportunity to improve life skills and achieve self-determined objectives. She is also teaching a select group of individuals to learn these family development skills; therefore, expanding the opportunity for us to touch more lives in Pelican Rapids and our county.

Ashley Pickner, office specialist and front desk person. And the addition of a local Pelican Rapids graduate of Somalian descent who is also helping with the administration of the Family Development Program.

We are very thankful for all you do to help make us successful. Everyone is welcome to stop in and visit on our office days of Monday and Thursday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Of course, masks are required and as a reminder stay home if you are sick.

Submitted by:
Kris Thompson, Board Co-chair
The Welcome Place
Box 431
26 W Mill
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572
218.863.2260
welcome26wmill@gmail.com

Note: UCU Member Barbara Honer also serves on the Welcome Place's Board of Directors.



Staying Connected....

The following Mailing was sent to 85 UCU members and friends by Membership Committee Members, Mary Anderson, Janell Miersch, Gayle Nelson and Bonnie Showers



Stay home. Stay healthy. Stay connected...

When we don't see you, we miss you! Your recipe to stay connected to UCU -

Watch for emails from ucofu@ucofu.org

Join Sunday Services via Zoom on computer or phone link @ 1 312 626 6799

Join UCU discussions, events, other virtual gatherings or host one via Zoom

Get help with Zoom @ techhelp@ucofu.org

Check out www.ucofu.org/Facebook Page for inspirational resources

Contribute money by signing up for automatic bank transfers, or mail checks to the address below.

Call or text a UU friend.

Social Distancing Tapenade

1 cup mixed olives, pits removed

¾ cup of oil packed sundried tomatoes

1 clove of garlic

2 teaspoons of lemon zest

2 teaspoons of lemon juice

¼ teaspoon of rosemary

Add all ingredients to food processor and pulse until roughly chopped. Serve with a baguette or crackers and share at a safe distance.



Unitarian Church of Underwood

PO Box 58

Underwood, MN 56537

Voicemail @ 218/826-6553

Watch for ucofu.org announcements for other upcoming social and environmental justice activities that may be of interest to you.



Confronting Racism in West Central Minnesota Film Festival

Zoom Discussion Recurring Link:

<https://bit.ly/3keC3mE>

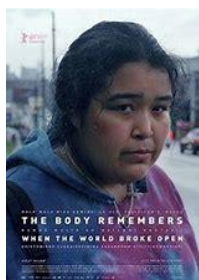
Meeting ID: 943 1047 4851

Passcode: 577607

Click [app.bitly.com](https://bit.ly/3keC3mE).

Discussion begins at 6:30 p.m. on each date

The UCU Social Justice Interest Group is sponsoring a series of discussions following viewings on culturally diverse, thought provoking films. View the films at your convenience through with your media viewing accounts and join the scheduled discussions via Zoom.



November is Native American Heritage Month so the film festival discussions will begin **November 2 with: *The Body Remembers when the World Broke Open* (Available on Netflix)**: Inspired by a very real and transformative moment in the co-director Elle-Máijá Tailfeather's life. The film weaves an intricately complex, while at the same time very simple, story of a chance encounter between two Indigenous women with drastically different lived experience, navigating the aftermath of domestic abuse.

The discussion will be facilitated by Anne LaFrinier-Ritchie. Anne is an Anishinaabe woman, born and raised on the Fond Du Lac reservation, and whose family is from the White Earth Reservation. She has worked in tribal social services and advocacy and anti-trafficking work. She currently works as a Regional Navigator with Someplace Safe in west central Minnesota. Anne is a strong proponent for social justice causes and bringing awareness to historical trauma, adverse childhood experiences and their lifelong effects. Anne holds a bachelor's degree in liberal arts for the human services, with a focus on Native American issues. Anne's professional work with tribal communities began with an internship in the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate tribal historic preservation office, and she has continued to work with tribal youth and families for the past 9 years. Anne is a graduate of NHTTAC's Human Trafficking Leadership Academy Cohort 5, developed recommendations on how culture can be a protective factor in preventing human trafficking of Native youth.

November 23, *The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson* (Available on Netflix).

Transgender Crime Advocate with New York City's Anti-Violence Project, Victoria Cruz investigates the mysterious 1992 death of black gay rights activist and Stonewall veteran, Marsha P. Johnson. Johnson died in 1992 and the police declared it a suicide. Marsha, a drag queen, friendly, extroverted, outrageous, lived the sort of itinerant life common to trans people in New York in the '60s, '70s, and beyond. She lived in poverty but at the same time floated with the so-called Beautiful People, including the Warhol crowd.



Using archival interviews with Johnson, and new interviews with Johnson's family, friends and fellow activists who believe with Cruz that Marsha P. Johnson did not kill herself as Cruz pursues this cold case in "Justice for Marsha."

December 14, *Get Out* (Available on Hulu and Amazon Prime Video), a suspense thriller of when a young African-American man visits his white girlfriend's family estate and becomes ensnared in a more sinister real reason for the invitation.

"Sense of Place"

UCU Member, Joan Vorderbruggen, Board member of Glendalough State Park recently has written articles for the Glendalough Tracks and Trails newsletter that were picked up by the Battle Lake Review. As Joan describes it, the articles called "Sense of Place," began as a desire to help educate us all on the local Indigenous People whose life stories and histories from the last few hundred years are practically non-existent. Joan began Part 1 writing about the formation of the land and features that created a rich environment for plants, animals, and early inhabitants. To speak of Indigenous People, "I had to speak of the land." She then moved onto Part 2, which was based on archaeological findings in and around the park, and the prehistoric people who lived in the area.

In Part 3 In Part 3, Joan explored the lives and cultures of the Dakota and the Ojibwe people who lived in what we now call Glendalough State Park to help us learn more about how their sense of place and deep connection with the land is relevant and experienced by most of us even today.

Admittedly only scratching the surface, Joan was able to find information regarding more recent Indigenous People who have occupied our area. To do so, she is making connections with Natives and non-Native allies who can help her. Luckily, the Board of Directors at Glendalough created a committee for her to really focus on this quest: The Cultural Interpretation and Education Committee – currently she is the sole member! To encourage or join Joan, contact her at: joan.vorderbruggen@ucofu.org.

See:

Sense of Place, Part 1: https://www.morethanatrail.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Track_and_Trails_Winter_2020.pdf

Sense of Place, Part 2: https://www.morethanatrail.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Track_and_Trails_Spring_2020.pdf

Sense of Place, Part 3 – to be published in Track and Trails Spring 2021 edition. Or by subscription, see: <https://battlelakereview.com>.

To get out and appreciate nature, its sights, sounds, smells, and silence, remember that Joan is also a certified guide for Forest Bathing. For details, contact joan.vorderbruggen@ucofu.org.



Photos Courtesy of Susan Groff from her daily "Serenity Walks"



Otter Tail County Starry Skies



Joan Vorderbruggen also brings to attention, a non-profit organization called Otter Tail County Starry Skies. She bets that there are nature lovers at the UU who would probably really love to hear more about it! The group's mission is to promote dark sky restoration and preservation in Otter Tail County. "It's shocking to look at a light pollution map (lightpollutionmap.info) and realize that our entire county is affected by light pollution." For more information see: <https://starryskiesotc.org>.

Excerpts from: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNDNR/bulletins/2851a49>
"Much of the land managed by Minnesota State Parks and Trails presents amazing [opportunities for finding stars](#), even with a naked eye. Keep lights low and look up. Take a night hike. "Come together" with a loved one by observing the same stars from different places. Expand a child's curriculum with hands-on astronomy or a quick lesson in [map-reading skills](#).

Whatever activity brings you to the great outdoors, remember: Stay healthy, six feet away from others, and be kind—always."

Reflections

Ozzie Tollefson writes for the Fergus Falls Journey. See his latest article at: https://www.fergusfallsjournal.com/opinion/reflections-on-teaching-macbeth-to-jersey-students/article_92c88f8e-12d7-11eb-820b-dbd5e12665f.html

We Are Part of the Larger UU



Opportunity for Unitarian Universalists in northern Minnesota: Being a Good Relative: An Online Learning Series on Indigenous Solidarity. Thursday, October 15 - 6:30 – 8:00 pm weekly on until Nov 13, 2020

Join us for an online learning series as we explore the intersections of environmental justice, Indigenous sovereignty and UU principles. Over this 5-week series, we will connect with the U.S. history of genocide and erasure and support the ongoing call for Indigenous Sovereignty. This series is an opportunity for Northern Minnesota congregations to connect, learn, strategize, and act!

[Register here](#) for this Webinar held on Zoom

October 15th: Deconstructing Settler Colonialism- Placing ourselves in history and showing up in the present.

October 22nd: Reflecting Before Resisting- Breaking down the barriers to understanding and action.

October 29th: Guest Presenter Jacob Johns on Authentic Partnerships between UU congregations and Indigenous lead movements.

November 5th: Strategies for building authentic partnerships and Indigenous solidarity in Northern Minnesota.

November 12th: Reflections and Resistance- Turning our learnings into community action.

Session two above ended with this clip, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dXeQ3DJTNmY> featuring Jim Bear Jacob and Pastor Danny Givens, speaking about their project [Healing Minnesota Stories](#). It's a beautiful reminder that stories are powerful and are all around us, all the time. To understand the world, we must understand the stories we tell about it, and of ourselves in it.

Here are some recommended resources to ground your own understanding of the stories we tell ourselves about settler colonialism:

[Mark Charle's Ted Talk](#) - used in lieu of Ana's land acknowledgement
[Article about what it means to be human](#) – a non-settler colonial logic
[Settler Fragility](#) – an article that defines and explains

This series is a collaboration of UUCD, MUUSJA, and UUSC. It is an invitation for congregations and UUs in northern Minnesota as we seek to strengthen the networks of pipeline resistance and solidarity in the area. If you would still like to register, here is [this link](#).

Brilliant Bits from Boston: GA 2020 Available on Demand

The [2020 GA On Demand Library](#) is now available to the



public on Video. In addition to the major GA worship services, business sessions and reports, the library includes the Ware Lecture, featured speaker

presentations, learning stage presentations and huge number of workshops all previously available to GA registrants only. Enjoy and share widely!

Unitarian Church of Underwood Board of Directors Meeting Minutes September 16, 2020

Attendees were: Norm Kolstad, Mary Anderson, Amy Beckman, Tim Lanz, John Minge, Ron Roller, Shannon Smith, Wally Warhol, Mary Worner. Also, in attendance: Bonnie Graham, Congregational Administrator and Ellen Eastby.

The meeting was called to order by President, Norm Kolstad at 6:35 p.m. with reference to the Covenant of Guiding Values.

The Board Agenda was approved (John Minge/Wally Warhol).

The Board Minutes of August 19, 2020 were approved as published (Ron Roller/Amy Beckman).

Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Ron Roller presented the financial report. Ron attended a meeting of UUA investors made up those wanting to assure investments are considered social and environmentally justice friendly and those more focused on profit making. Ron noted they are coming closer together. The advice is "Stay the Course." Ron last month paid one half (1/2) the dues to the UUA Annual Program Fund (APF). Investment income is up. Ron plans to call a meeting of the Finance Committee in October/November to determine options for ongoing investment strategies. Collections to date are down in meeting the annual budget. \$13 -15,000

in Empowerment Grants has/may be returned. Sverdrup continues to provide monthly income. The UCU website may be incompatible with installation of Givelify for on-line collections. If so, another provider will be found. Ron will schedule a meeting of the Finance Committee for October or November to determine options for ongoing investment strategies. The full financial reports are available on Google Suites shared drive.

Congregational Administrator Report: Norm Kolstad reported that Bonnie Graham has accepted the employment terms of agreement at 10/hours/week effective September 1, 2020. Mary Anderson reported that training and instructions via an administrative handbook are in development with Bonnie. Bonnie Graham reported that she has spent her time working on Google Suites membership data, Zoom instructions for the Technical Support Team, identifying and implementing tasks to secure speakers through the Speaker Committee, and the Google Suites Calendar for public and internal access.

Lay Pastor, otherwise known as Spiritual Companionship:

Ellen Eastby arrived to present her proposal regarding Lay Pastor, better referred to as Spiritual Companionship. Ellen recently completed an intensive UUA course on this reflective listening process. The Board moved to accept Ellen Eastby's offer to provide Spiritual Companionship Services to the church. (Mary Anderson/Amy Beckman). Referral is made to the Membership Committee to work out the details with Ellen on when and how these services will be provided.

Reports continued:

Records Committee: Norm Kolstad, Committee Chair reported that work for record keeping continues with the implementation of Google Suites. The Board approved that the Records Committee proceed with review and recommendations for amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws for presentation to the Board by February 2021 and the membership at the annual meeting of 2021. The Board also gave consent to Mary Anderson, Records Committee member, to proceed with revisions to the UCU Policy and Procedures Manual.

Community Outreach:

Community Outreach Co-Coordinator Amy Beckman reported that she has had contact with Troy Haugen, Executive Director at Family Services Collaborative at Lakes Country Service. They discussed if Lakes could provide the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) to the UCU Board members, Social Justice Committee members and others interested. This inventory is provided free to Otter Tail County organizations and is conducted by Lakes Country Service facilitators. It provides an assessment of individual and collective acceptance and adaptation of other cultures. The Board gave consented that the Social Justice Committee proceed with plans for the IDI at UCU. Amy further reported that the Underwood Restorative Justice conversations are successfully moving forward. Ron Roller commented that the circle and talking stick methods used in the meetings are very effective.

Facility:

Norm Kolstad had no report other than Wally Warhol's report that with one exception, all fire extinguishers at the church and Sverdrup Suites have been checked as working.

Membership Committee:

Mary Anderson requested that Board members be part of the group of callers to members and friends for "circle of care" calls. A mailer was delayed pending the installation of Givelify but will be reconsidered for more immediate mailing.

Pending return to normal church on-site attendance, the Board approved that an individual may make written request to become a voting member (Mary Anderson/Ron Roller). Upon return to the building, the new member shall be asked to sign the "silver" membership book.

Stewardship Report:

Mary Anderson will work with Tere Mann and/or Bonnie Graham to develop an on-line form for automated funds transfer to encourage increased use by members and friends.

Racial Justice Task Force:

Mary Anderson, Co-Chair of the Task Force reported that the Racial Justice Committee has completed a plan to address becoming anti-racist. The Task Force is recommending that they be disbanded, and a Social Justice Committee be established. The Board approved establishment of a Social Justice Committee (Mary Anderson/Amy Beckman)

Program Coordination:

Program Coordinator Mary Worner reported that 1) all is going well with the UCU Connections Task Force; 2) Roger Parks has agreed to conduct an Adult Religious Education class starting in November and hold a weekday afternoon class for potentially three months.

Mary shared her notes from the talk of Rev. David Pyle, UUA Program Manager for Congregational Governance, Lesson 3 Policy Generation (see notes below). Comment: "It is important to stay in covenant with each other."

Unfinished Business:

After long and extensive hours of work, the Personnel Committee presented their recommendations for the adoption of the Personnel Policy. Adopted (Amy Beckman/Tim Lanz).

The Personnel Committee also presented a terms of agreement proposal for Bookkeeper. Motion made (John Minge/Mary Anderson) to increase payment to Bookkeeper to \$100/month. Following discussion, the Board approved the motion to table the previous motion to the next Board meeting (John Minge/Mary Anderson).

Mary Anderson reported that she had received no further information on how to register for the MidAmerica Webinars for which the Board had approved 3 attendees with registration fee

of \$150/each. Note: Bonnie Graham later checked and informed Board President and Secretary that “The Midwest leadership school filled up September 2.”

New Business:

Discussion item on the need/potential to involve congregational members in discussions and planning for the church future and growth vision. Mary Anderson, Ron Roller and Amy Beckman volunteered to follow up on the ideas of how this may best be done.

Next Meeting: October 21 @ 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
Executive Team – October 14 @ 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anderson
Board Secretary